



Suowari Tasks Varsity Administrators At 3rd Registry Day

“The Registry staff performs numerous weighty functions for the University. By the day, he takes routine and tactical decisions for the University. He is the institutional memory of the University. He is there when decisions are being made; he is there when rules and regulations are being drafted, debated, concluded and passed into laws and because he applies these rules and regulations always, he is the most reliable resort in these matters, reports Otokor Samuel.

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Side Bar

V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka inaugurated the Governing Board of the Centre for Logistics and Transport last Wednesday. Details next week. ~Editor



UniPort Weekly

Vol. 21, Edition 205

November 3 - November 10, 2014

ISSN: 1850-1859

For Information and Enlightenment www.uniport.edu.ng

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

112th Inaugural Language Enables Man To Conquer His World ~Prof Ndimele

By Humphrey Ogu

Ways of prioritising language teaching to boost the quality of education in Nigeria with a view to facilitating national development were the main thrust of the 112th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday. “Language is the instrument that enables man to conquer and rule his world, without which humans would remain unintelligible, impoverished and powerless, while society as we know it will remain static,” Ndimele submitted. He said that language contributes immensely to the sum of human knowledge, unifies everything, links environmental practice with cultural knowledge and transmits everything among different generations. Ndimele, whose lecture was titled: Nigerian Core Grammars in Global

Communication: Any Glimmer of Hope in this Looming Armageddon? identified a symbiotic relationship between language,

communication and development both at the individual and national levels,

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The works of Dr. Adam Fibersima again came alive at the Department of Theatre and Film Studies Lecture Hall, as notable soloists, choral groups and lovers of music converged there, penultimate Friday, to mark the 88th Posthumous birthday of the classical music maestro with a concert that held the bemused audience spellbound throughout the breathtaking performances.

Welcoming guests drawn from within and outside the University to the well-patronized concert, Head of the Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Onye Nwaokpa, who recalled how he met the ace musician in 1980, described him as a musical prodigy and creative giant of our time.

"I welcome you all to this concert under the auspices of the newly-established Adam Fibersima Music Conservatory, in honour of this creative genius and prolific composer, astute trumpeter and refined pianist/organist, band leader of *The Sky Rockets* and *West African Rhythm Brothers* and his great contributions to orchestral, operatic, piano and voice, choral and band compositions," Nwaokpa said, expressing hope that the concert would open doors for keen interest in research and training and collaborations amongst scholars and corporate organisations in the works and style of the great and incomparable Adam Fibersima.

In the Chairman's opening address, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, who commended the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, for his commendable effort in positioning the University as a leading institution in Music, also lauded the Department of Music for achieving so much in so short a time.

"This is a Department we expected for a very long time. We are happy to note that our Vice-Chancellor wholly embraced the arts and today, we have a very vibrant Department of Music," he said, promising to support the Conservatory in whatever capacity he could to perpetuate the legacy of the great music virtuoso.

On his part, the Vice-Chancellor, who recalled the celebration of a huge musical festival in Europe every October, hoped that concerted efforts would be made to achieve the same in the University and the city of Port Harcourt that would benefit from such cultural renaissance.

"There is an important music festival every October in Europe and it is a pleasant coincidence that we are also having our own October Festival of Music with the performances we have just witnessed in honour of a great musical icon, Dr. Adam Fibersima this evening. We intend to make this an annual event in this University and the city of Port Harcourt and we would like to thank the performers, especially the very senior ones, who have a great responsibility to



L-R: Ekimenete, Godswill, Essien, Okara-Schiller and Omuka during the performance

Music Virtuoso, Adam Fibersima, Resurrects At Conservatory Concert

By Humphrey Ogu

train and mentor the younger ones to attain perfection in the art of opera performance. We want you to transfer your rare performance skills to the young people so that the quality of music we enjoyed this evening will continue to grow from strength to strength for the benefit of everybody," Professor Ajenka said.

He stressed the need to support the Adam Fibersima Music Conservatory as a way of growing music in the University and the city of Port Harcourt, adding: "We want to identify Port Harcourt with the great Adam Fibersima, just as Mozart is synonymous with the city of Vienna in Austria. In this University, we are celebrating, Rex Lawson and Harcourt Whyte and I am very pleased that we are now able to add the great Adam Fibersima to this growing repertoire of musical acknowledgements."

Also speaking, famous Tenor singer, Precious Omuka, who is the Artistic Director of Adam Fibersima Music Conservatory, expressed gratitude to the guests, and chorists who performed at the concert, announcing plans by the Conservatory to offer

training in instrumentation and other aspects of music to interested music enthusiasts.

Major highlight of the concert, which featured solos and duets by ace soloists such as Timi Okara-Schiller, Peace Godswill, Emmanuel Essien, Otonte Ekimenete, Precious Omuka and Ihechi Achom, was the cutting of Adam Fibersima's 88th Posthumous Birthday Cake by his son, Amosi Adam Fibersima aided by some of the dignitaries at the memorable occasion. Other highlights were the musical performances of Fibersima's works, including excerpts from his classic operas such as *Opu Jaja* and *Ibini Ukpabi* that were professionally rendered by Adam Okara-Schiller, Peace Godswill, Precious Omuka and Otonte Ekimenete, respectively. Dignitaries at the event, which featured performances by UniPort Concert Chorus and *De Noble Choral Voices of Port Harcourt*, included the venerable Poet Laureate, Writer-in-Residence in the University and organizer, Dr. Gabriel Okara and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ekecheta Nduka, including other senior academics and guests from within and outside the University.

Dr. Henrietta Otokunfor, are expected to deliver another paper titled: *Contemporary Challenges in the Management of Nigerian University Libraries and the way forward*.

Dr. Nwodo disclosed that at the end of the 3-day event, the Library body would be able to make recommendations to the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (CVCNU) on matters pertaining to the general development of university libraries in Nigeria. "It would also consider other matters specifically referred to it by the NUC, CVCNU and other relevant bodies with a view to moving library services forward in the country," she disclosed. The University Librarian used the opportunity to invite staff, students and the general public to the landmark gathering, promising them unending excitement and take-home points at the end of it all.

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CULNU Meeting Opens In UniPort Nov 2

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

It is now set for the hosting of the bi-annual meeting of the Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities (CULNU) in the University of Port Harcourt from 2nd to 4th November, 2014.

No fewer than 129 universities are expected to participate in the crucial meeting which is expected to chart a way forward for the development of Library resources in Nigerian universities for effective service delivery to stakeholders. CULNU is a forum for the discussion of matters and formulation of policies relating to university libraries in the country.

Information made available to UniPort Weekly by the University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, indicated that an Opening Ceremony would hold at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park this morning with a Keynote Address on ICT, Copy Right Protection and Library Development in Nigeria to be delivered by Dean of the Faculty of Law, UniPort, Professor Kanike Ebeke.

National President of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA), Dr. Rikwanu Abdulmalim, is expected to deliver a paper on the *Role of International Organizations in the Development of Nigerian University Libraries*, while Dr. Nwodo and Information Services Librarian in the University,



Dr. Nwodo

Cont'd from p1

Suowari Tasks Varsity Administrators On Professionalism



V-C, Prof Ajenka (arrowed), Registrar, Mrs Nnodim, Keynote Speaker, Mr Suowari, Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus, Prof Anosike, other Senior academics, Registry staff and some Registrars from sister Institutions

He is the reservoir of records and the power-point of the institution. He advises, reminds and prods the system".

These were some of the submissions made by Registrar of Federal University, Otuoke in Bayelsa State, Mr. David Suowari, while delivering the Keynote Address titled: "Professionalism and Effectiveness: A Sine Qua Non for University Administrators in Present Day Nigeria," at the 3rd Registry Day of the University which held at the Ifeibini Hunko Auditorium, last Wednesday. Suowari, who served as Acting Registrar in the University of Port Harcourt and substantive Registrar of Niger Delta University, charged staff of the Registry Department to conduct themselves in a professional manner if they hope to be effective in the University system, describing effectiveness as the ability to discharge one's statutory responsibility with a sense of purpose.

"The University system is a special sector of the public service because it is very tightly regulated and very result-oriented. It is not like the Civil Service or the other sectors of the Public Service where things are done 'in due course'. Every operation in the University is time-bound and the goal of every operation is not achieved, if it is not accomplished within a given time," the Guest Lecturer said, adding that as a community of highly educated and free-minded people, managing the university system requires highly dynamic, versatile and forward-looking administrators.

He tasked administrators to imbibe good listening habit to their various clientele, acquire basic knowledge in the line of duty and ensure proper dressing in the discharge of their duties, advocating regular training of staff to enable them gain technical and conceptual skills that would lead to efficient decision-making, negotiating, bargaining and leadership skills on the job.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, described Civil Servants as a crop of employers that are civilized and cultured in their behaviour, stressing the need for them to render quality service to the University and humanity through the virtues of discipline and confidentiality. He stated that real discipline must come from within and not necessarily exhibited when the staff is under supervision or observation.

The Vice-Chancellor recalled that he met Mr. Suowari some years back when he delivered a Lecture on minute-taking and encouraged him to publish the Lecture in book form, expressing delight at the Guest Speaker's disclosure that such a book would be launched this November.

Professor Ajenka further stressed the need for mentorship in the University system to prepare the younger ones to effectively take over from the older staff when they finally bow out. The Vice-Chancellor announced that he cancelled other appointments to honour the Registry Department since this year's celebration would be his final participation as Vice-Chancellor, praising Mrs. Nnodim for introducing innovations in the Registry that contributed to the success of his administration.

"There is intensity of creativity and innovation introduced by the present Management, *UniPort Weekly*, for instance, is an innovation that has drawn attention to the University; people read it on our website and call us if the current edition has not been uploaded. The last Convocation also taught me a lesson that we have dedicated staff here and that anything we put our minds to can be achieved," the Vice-Chancellor said. He expressed gratitude that the University was also doing well outside the region, disclosing that Professor

Kimse Okoko, who recently retired from the Faculty of Social Sciences is Chairman of the Committee of Pro-Chancellors, the Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim is Chairman of the Committee of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (CORN), while he was elected Chairman of Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (CVCNU).

Earlier in her address, the Registrar had reiterated her commitment towards ensuring massive staff development through training and retraining of staff at all levels, announcing that the next phase of the training programme would commence on 10th November with some staff going to Abeokuta, another group would head for Lagos on 17th November, while Directors and Deputy Registrars would travel to Dubai, United Arab Emirates for their training. She expressed gratitude to the administration for supporting the activities of the Registry Department, pledging the readiness of the administrators to continue to give of their very best towards the accelerated development of the University. Chairman of the event, Emeritus Professor Emmanuel Anosike, who described the celebration an opportunity for Registry staff to reflect and relax, urged them to be proud of their achievements and devise possible ways of strengthening them, as well as taking on future challenges. He called on administrators to promote harmonious relationship that would enhance productivity.

Goodwill messages were delivered by Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, Registrars of sister institutions such as the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpoli; Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumolu; Federal College of Education (Technical), Omuok; Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Bonny and Rivers State Polytechnic, Bori.

UniPort Alumnus, Senator Paulker, Endows Sickle Cell Chair

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As a way of giving back to his *Alma Mater* in line with the University's drive for institutional support, a distinguished pioneer Alumnus of the University, Senator Emmanuel Paulker, who graduated from the Department of Biochemistry, College of Natural and Applied Sciences in 1981, has endowed a Chair in Sickle Cell Research aimed at continuing the excellent research work of late Professor Gabriel Ekeke.

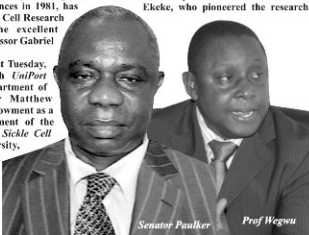
Making the disclosure, last Tuesday, during an interview with *UniPort Weekly*, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Professor Matthew Wegwu, described the endowment as a prelude to the establishment of the Gabriel Ekeke Centre for Sickle Cell Research in the University, expressing gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, for approving the proposal for the establishment of the Centre and appointment

of Professor Augustine Uwakwe as pioneer Chair Occupant.

"The Department's recommendation of Professor Uwakwe as Chair Occupant and Director was based on his outstanding research works in the area of Sickle Cell Research and his relationship with Professor Gabriel Ekeke, who pioneered the research

effort to unravel the disease that is believed to predominantly attack black people" the Head of Department said, adding that the Centre would consequently revive the activities of the once vibrant Sickle Cell Research and Awareness Group (SCRG) initiated by the late Ekeke. "The idea is that Professor Ekeke's work will not be allowed to die as concerted efforts are now being made to realize the lofty dream of the great Scientist, who brought hope to those suffering from Sickle Cell Anaemia," he stressed.

Reiterating the Department's desire to further expand Sickle Cell research activities, Professor Wegwu noted that late Professor Gloria Ibe was a member of the group, while Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi and himself served as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively. He commended Senator Paulker for accepting to endow the Chair in honour of Professor Ekeke, who pioneered a dietary supplement for the management of Sickle Cell Anaemia. "Paulker is the pride of the Biochemistry Department and we are forever grateful to him for the immense assistance so far rendered to us and those to be received in future to break new grounds in Sickle Cell research," he remarked.



Senator Paulker

Prof Wegwu



UPWA President, Mrs. Ajienka (arrowed) flanked by some Executive and other members of the Association

UPWA Fetes New Members In Grand Style

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

It was an atmosphere of fun and relaxation as President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) and Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Mercy Ajienka, enthusiastically led other members to welcome new and intending members to the Association.

The event which held at the poolside of the UniPort Senior Staff Club, Delta Park, penultimate Thursday, had an elated Mrs.

Ajienka handing over copies of the Association's Constitution to the new members to acquaint them with the operational rules governing membership of the body.

In her address, the President who commended the women for contributing to the advancement of the Association and the University, recounted the successes so far recorded by the women over the years, tasking them on the need to continually uphold the core values of UPWA to make it an attractive brand to identify with by intending members.

Describing the Association as an umbrella body of all senior female and wives of senior male staff of the University, UPWA Secretary, Mrs. Caroline Nnabuo, pointed out that membership of the Association is open to such category of persons without discrimination.

"UPWA is a character-molding Association. It is, therefore, mandatory that as new members, you represent the Association in a positive manner at all times and be of good conduct," she admonished the new members. Giving a brief history of the Association, Dr. Faith Ken-Aminikpo of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, noted that the Association was committed to contributing to the development of the University, promoting workplace excellence among female staff members of the institution and advocating holistic education for children to ensure a stable family setting.

A major highlight of the get-together which had plenty to eat and drink was a boisterous dance session that drew members to the floor, following which the new entrants and past Executive members were introduced at the gathering.

Stop Press

CGS 71ST DOCTORAL SEMINAR PRESENTATION

The College of Graduate Studies (CGS) has announced the 71st edition of the Doctoral Seminar Presentation holding this Thursday, 6th November, 2014 at the Seminar Room of the College. Time is 10:00am. Departments and Faculties are advised to convey the information to their Candidates.

Contact: College Secretary, Dr. Agatha Ataga.

In furtherance of its vision of bringing peace to the troubled Niger Delta region, the University of Port Harcourt has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP). The MoU is aimed at providing a platform for periodic dialogue and development of strategic policies aimed at strengthening the capacity of government, security agencies, civil society and the media to reduce the impact of violent conflicts in the area.

According to relevant provisions of the agreement, NSRP which is a five-year programme funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and managed by a consortium comprising the British Council, International Alert and Social Development Direct, would provide technical assistance and grants to support efforts aimed at ending violent conflicts targeted at promoting stability, peace and prosperity.

Speaking during the signing ceremony at the Committee Room, last Monday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who lauded managers of the programme for partnering the University in a joint effort aimed at reducing violence, restated the readiness of the University to collaborate with other development institutions for the advancement of society.

Programme Manager of NSRP, Dr. Ukoha Ukiwo, who assured the Vice-Chancellor, that NSRP would join efforts with other coalition partners to ensure a peaceful environment, stated the readiness of the organization to build a virile partnership with the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECs) in UniPort. He

UniPort, NSRP, Sign MoU To Promote Peace In N'Delta

By Otokor Samuel

praised the Vice-Chancellor for contributing towards the meeting of the Conflict Management Framework Alliance (CMFA) in Rivers State.

"NSRP will provide funds based on agreed budgets with UniPort to support implementation of meetings or activities agreed by both parties; 70% of these funds will be provided before the events and the balance 30%

would be made available when the reports and retirements are submitted," read part of the terms of agreement.

The Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, also signed the document on behalf of the University. Also present at the signing ceremony were the Niger Delta Regional Programme Officer, Wynnyfred Achu, Dr. Chioma Onyige and Dr. Fidelis Allen of the Conflict Management Framework Alliance.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka, signing the MoU, while Programme Officer, NSRP, Dr. Ukiwo watches

Mechatronic Engineering Dept Ready To Take-Off

By Otok Samuel

It is now set for the commencement of academic activities in the emergent Department of Mechatronic Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering in the College of Engineering next academic session with the admission of 50 students out of the 165 candidates that applied for the new programme.

Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Tobison Briggs, made the disclosure penultimate Friday, in an interview with this Correspondent in his office at the TETFund Lecture Theatre beside the Gas Engineering TETFund Building, University Park.

"We are starting in the next academic session with 50 students; 35 of them were selected from candidates who chose Engineering Courses of the University in their Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) examination and also sat for the Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (PUTME), while the remaining 15 slots were allotted to candidates from the School of Basic Studies Unit," Dr Briggs disclosed.

Making more disclosures about the new programme, the Acting HoD said: "Mechatronic Engineering is a cutting-edge and multidisciplinary engineering field. It is a synergy of mechanical, electrical, electronics and computer engineering and involves basic training in mechanics, electrical, electronics, pneumatics, hydraulics, sensors, controllers, robotics, CAD/CAM/CNC and ICT, as well as a combination of previous technologies to form factory or process automation manufacturing

facilities," stating that graduates of the Department could work in a wide range of engineering-based outlets, such as production and manufacturing industries.

The Acting Head of Department, who pointed out



Dr Briggs

that the benchmark for students to graduate from the Department requires sufficient academic background and practical experience, listed equipment which are available for training of students to include automotive can-bus system, sensors, and actuators, electricity and semiconductor module, automotive measurement, multipoint injection system, mobile robot, pneumatic systems, automation and process control and hydraulic systems, CNC milling and turning machines, basic and professional cooling systems. With a staff strength of 13 teaching staff, four servicing teaching staff, seven technical staff and five administrative staff who are well-trained and equipped to impart knowledge and relate with students in a professional manner, the Acting HoD expressed readiness to commence the programme, adding that the study of Mechatronic Engineering in Nigerian universities is the result of a directive from the National Universities Commission (NUC) to that effect to launch the country into the future.

"It is NUC that directed us to commence the programme in Nigerian universities, especially Federal Government-financed universities of which UniPort is one; but with the successful admission of pioneer students into the Department, we will go through the required accreditation processes which are already on. UniPort is going to be the second university in Nigeria to start the programme at the Undergraduate level. So we want to thank Management of the University for extending total support to us aimed at ensuring that full academic activities start in the 2014/2015 academic session," he said.

The University of Port Harcourt has continued to provide the much-needed intellectual content to the annual *Port Harcourt Book Festival* (PHBF), which started in 2008. In the 2014 edition of the Festival, which held from Monday 20th to Saturday 25th October, 2014, the Department of English Studies coordinated a well-patronized Symposium on *Literature and Legacy* at the Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.

This year's discussion focused on the significant contributions of Playwright, Novelist and Environmental Rights Activist, late Ken Saro-Wiwa, who used literature to draw attention to the monumental environmental despoliation and social deprivation suffered by the minority ethnic groups at the hands of the country's majorities.

In his opening remarks, Head of the Department of English Studies, Professor Nkem Okoh, described the fiery Ken Saro-Wiwa as a foremost African writer and environmental campaigner, who deserves the recognition accorded him in the literary and social spheres, urging the audience to participate fully in the Symposium as there were always new things to be learned from such programmes.

Professor Okoh described Saro-Wiwa's works as still speaking to the conscience of contemporary Nigeria, despite being brutally killed by an insensitive military government in November, 1995

on trumped-up charges.

Welcoming guests to the Symposium, Festival Director, Mrs. Koko Kalango, who spoke through Mrs. Judith Swaenodi, expressed joy that the University of Port Harcourt had remained a reliable partner in co-hosting the annual Festival since its inception in 2008, hoping that the Institution would continue to provide the needed support, especially in adding intellectual verve to the Festival as an attractive brand.

Delivering the Keynote Address on the topic: *Life and Works of Ken Saro-Wiwa: Possibilities for Nigeria*, a distinguished alumnus of the University, Professor Daniel Ogun of the

English Studies Dept Hosts PHBF Symposium

By Humphrey Ogu

Department of English Studies, who observed that "Saro-Wiwa believed that the writer could not be a mere storyteller, but one who must be actively engaged in shaping the present and the future of society, said: "The Niger Delta peoples have been forced into a paradoxical lifestyle of poverty amidst great oil wealth. Ken Saro-Wiwa wrote against injustice and the consequence was death by hanging aimed at silencing protest voices in the region."

Ogun, who noted that human destiny is not a matter of chance but a basic question of choice said: "Our choice is to align with Saro-Wiwa's vision of advancement through the principles of equity," regretting that "since the Industrial Revolution of the mid 18th century, which made it possible for machines to take over the duties of man; and even with the Cybernetic Revolution of the 20th and 21st centuries, which have wonderfully equipped mankind to inquire into space and time with astonishingly successful results; hardly anything has changed in the native way of life in the Niger Delta. "Natives still dig shallow wells with crude tools to fetch water. No native of the Niger Delta has probed the soil

deep enough to prospect for oil and gas with local technologies. No native of the Niger Delta or Nigeria has climbed higher than the height of a palm tree or a hill, unaided with foreign technologies. So a majority of the natives live on top of the liquid and gaseous wealth they know little about," he regretted, calling for an immediate change of mindset to reverse the sordid trend to save the people of the region.

In their separate contributions, Professors Okoh and Onyemaechi Udumkwa, Drs. Chinyelu Ojukwu, and Obari Gumba, who moderated the session, stressed the need for people of the Niger Delta to emulate the peaceful approach Saro-Wiwa adopted in his fight for minority rights, adding that literature has the potential of liberating society from ignorance and docility.

Also speaking at the end of the Symposium, which featured a question-and-answer session, a Lecturer in the Department, Dr. Margaret Nutsuko, expressed appreciation to the Keynote Speaker, staff and students of the Department and other guests for participating in the event, promising that the Department of English Studies would continue to lead efforts aimed at creating awareness about the liberating power of Literature in the midst of injustice.



L-R: Dr Gomba, Prof Udumkwa, Dr Ojukwu, Profs Okoh and Ogun at the Symposium

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Language Enables Man Conquer His World ~Prof Ndimele



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Ndimele (arrowed), some Principal Officers and Professors before the Lecture

arguing that the more literate the population of a country is, the more developed such a country was likely to be.

He described Universal Grammar (UG) as the common linguistic inheritance with which every normal human being is endowed to acquire the language spoken in his environment, pointing out that it defines a set of linguistic features of all human languages and lays the basic principles that enable each core grammar to select the parameters along which the principles are realized.

"Nations that are developed have taken deep-seated interest in making sure that language plays a pivotal role in all their cultural, socio-economic, educational and political activities. The reason behind this is that they realised that language is at the centre of all cognitive abilities, both in formal and informal situations, and it is the most vital tool with which man subdues his environment," he submitted.

"It is often said that no country can develop without industrialisation through science and technology. But the truth is that science and technology cannot create the desired impact if only a minute fraction of the population can read and write in the language which serves as the medium of imparting the knowledge of science and technology," the Professor of Comparative Grammar and Communications noted.

Citing language experts, Ndimele, who is the immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, observed that "if Nigeria must develop through unlimited access to quality education, there must be a language that is

adequately and generally understood in all its forms by majority of the population. What is, therefore, recommended for Nigeria is participatory communication. There can be no participatory democracy without participatory communication.

"No economic programme or theory will make any sense unless there is mass literacy of the active population of the nation through a commonly shared means of national or regional communication. We must eradicate illiteracy to achieve the desired economic prosperity in Nigeria by paying more attention to the role of language education," he pointed out, emphasising that "if Nigeria must fight corruption, then, we must raise a cohort of multi-skilled and talented population through mass literacy in a language that will not pose any barrier to quality learning. It is these people that will fight corruption."

Ndimele, who is Chair Occupant and Director of the *Kay Williamson Centre for Language and Communications*, noted that Nigeria is not faced with falling standard of education as it is believed in some quarters, explaining that "what we are witnessing is language failure. In other words, the language that is commonly used as the medium of instruction (i.e. English language) in most of our schools has failed us, as pupils and even their teachers have little or no oral as well as written proficiency in it."

The National President, English Language Teachers Association (ELTAN), expressed regret that English Language curriculum in the country is skewed more in

favour of methodology than subject-based courses. "The consequence is that teachers may be grounded in methodology, but with a pedestrian knowledge of the subject they ought to teach. What matters in the Nigerian curriculum is how to teach but not what to teach," he said, stressing that "no curriculum, no matter how well-designed, can

force the knowledge of the subject into the head of the teacher who has not been well-grounded in his teaching subject."

The Inaugural Lecturer, who decried what he described as the poor attention paid by educational policy makers to language education, noted that the minimum standard requirement by the National Universities Commission (NUC) is not suitable for teachers of English language-in-training, emphasising the need to review the curriculum in line with applicable global standards. He stressed the importance of documenting Nigerian languages to prevent them from going into extinction.

On his contributions to knowledge, Ndimele, who is a protégé of the late language prodigy, Professor Kay Williamson, listed over 25 books that he either authored or edited, disclosing his interest in Forensic Linguistics. He called for the establishment of a programme in the specialisation, stating that if approved, the University would be the first in not only Nigeria, but also on the entire African continent to consult for the judiciary, the security outfits and the telecommunication industry on crime investigation and prosecution.

Reacting to the Lecture, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who described the Inaugural Lecturer as 100 per cent UniPort content, hailed him for a well-researched and very engaging lecture, expressing willingness to consider the cost implication of establishing a Forensic Linguistics Laboratory in the University if it is tabled by Professor Ndimele.

NESREA D-G Lists Varsities' Role In Environmental Protection At CGS Lecture

By Otiok Samuel

Engaging relevant stakeholders to contribute knowledge in curriculum development, research, consultancy, expert advisory services and outreach programmes, have been identified as possible roles that tertiary institutions could play towards ensuring environmental protection and sustainable development in the country.

This was the position of Director-General of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Dr. Ngeri Benneh, while delivering the 8th Public Lecture of the College of Graduate Studies at the Ebilimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Tuesday. She also stressed the need for the establishment of international and local partnerships and network programmes to drive the process, adding that research outcomes should be made public for easy assessment by relevant ministries and agencies.

"Tertiary institutions have the capacity to give quick responses to different societal problems, including those relating to the environment. Beyond teaching and learning on environmental issues, there is emerging consensus that tertiary institutions can also model sustainable development by training and expanding young minds in researching solutions to environmental challenges," Dr. Benneh said.

The Chief Executive Officer of NESREA, who stressed

the need to evolve a formal environmental education system aimed at protecting the environment and managing natural resources, posited that "our tertiary institutions have critical roles to play in this regard. There is need for design and development of problem-solving and result-oriented environmental programmes in our institutions."

The pioneer Director-General of the Agency listed key environmental challenges in the country to include preservation of biodiversity, coastal and marine

environment, human settlements and urbanization, deforestation, drought and desertification, flood and erosion control, solid waste management and environmental pollution, urging tertiary institutions to embrace innovations in sustainable environmental education by proposing specific programmes that would suit their individual peculiarities and circumstances.

"The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) will be very willing to partner the College of Graduate Studies of the University of Port Harcourt in the implementation of environmental sustainability programmes in the University," the DG pledged, urging the University to register with NESREA as a corporate entity rather than the current approach of

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L-R: 5th V-C, Emeritus Prof Briggs, Prof Rene Willie Abbey, Provost, CGS, Prof Konyu, Dr Benneh, V-C, Prof Ajenka, Dean, Faculty of Law, Prof Ekeku, Prof Adelewa Dosunmu and Martin Ifeanchu and others

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor A. A. Uwakwe, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Chair Occupant, Emmanuel Paulka Chair of Sickle Cell Research*, effective 21st October, 2014.

Professor Samuel Ejieze, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Infrastructure Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed *Director, Centre for Geotechnical and Coastal Engineering Research*, effective 22nd October, 2014 to 25th October, 2016.

Dr. Chinedu Ogbuji, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Ag. Head of Department*, effective 23rd October, 2014 to 24th October, 2016.

Dr. Boniface Orij, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems, College of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 28th October, 2014 to 31st October, 2016.

Dr. John Ugebor, Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Infrastructure and Energy Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 28th October, 2014 to 31st October, 2016.

Dr. Joel Biebuna, Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 27th October, 2014 to 28th October, 2016.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor E. O. Ayoluga, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 1st June, 2014 to 31st May, 2015.

Professor A. B. Allison, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 1st September, 2014 to 31st August, 2015.

Stop Press

Variety Show for Friday, Nov 14

The Department of Theatre and Film Studies invites the University Community to a variety show tagged: "*Harvest of Laughter for November Icons*," at 6:00pm on Friday, 14th November, 2014. The event which will take place at The UniPort Arts Theatre—The CRAB, Delta Park, would be chaired by Chairman of the National Council for Arts and Culture, Professor Nelson Brambaila, as Guest of Honour, while the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, is the Chief Host.

NESREA D-G Lists Varsities' Role

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relating to academics in their individual capacities.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who stated that the establishment of various Centres and Institutes in addition to existing core Departments offering Environment-related courses were part of efforts by the University to tackle environmental issues. He solicited enhanced partnerships with industry players in teaching, research and supervision of students to provide hands-on knowledge to stakeholders.

Professor Ajienka announced that the Director-General had accepted to visit the University again as an Expert-in-Residence to further share her wealth of experience in the environment sub-sector.

"We have had a rare privilege to listen to a very knowledgeable expert. I believe that our Institutes, College of Graduate Studies, and especially the Faculty of Law which is to specialize in Environmental and Oil and Gas Law, will continue to work with NESREA and other relevant agencies to make the University a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Studies," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Earlier, Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konyia, who stated that the Public Lecture series was aimed at providing opportunity for ventilation of ideas, solicited support for the completion of the College building currently under construction and endowment of a Professorial Chair in Environmental Studies to advance quality research in the University.

"The College of Graduate Studies is now better

positioned to deliver on its mandate following innovations we have introduced to better run our affairs. The deadline of end of the 2013/2014 session for graduate students overstaying their residency period has further increased the number of PhD candidates that will graduate at the next Convocation.

"We had three Doctoral Theses that won NUC awards in three categories and our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom is active with a Doctoral candidate now on exchange programme in Birmingham. We recently issued cheques and certificates to the 3rd batch of 19 students on our scholarship scheme," she disclosed.

Professor Konyia, who expressed gratitude to Dr. Benbo for sharing her vast knowledge with the University, thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Principal Officers, members of the Board and staff and students of the College for their cooperation towards the overall growth of the University, pledging to do all within her limit to take the College to the next level of development.

Some dignitaries present at the well-attended Lecture included the 5th Vice-Chancellor of UniPort, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, who was Special Guest of Honour, Emeritus Professor Ebimegeri Alagon, Emeritus Professor Emmanuel Anosike, the Guest of Honour and Rivers State Commissioner of Environment, Dr. Nyema Well, who was represented by Mr. Emmanuel Oye and some officials of NESREA.

Highlights of the event were musical renditions and a playlet on the theme of the Lecture and presentation of the customized UniPort Muffler and Plaque to the Guest Lecturer.



Guest Lecturer, Dr. Benbo (arrowed), her husband, Mr. Setima Benbo (on her right) in a group photograph with some staff of the University, NESREA Officers and Graduate students

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 02 TO SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 2 NOV, 2014	32.0	24.0	72	NE	15.5	6:17 18:14	Widely scatter thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny and warm day expected.
MONDAY, 3 NOV 2014	33.0	24.0	68	N	8.4	6:17 18:14	A few rain showers expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY 4 NOV 2014	32.0	23.0	74	NE	-	6:17 18:14	Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
WEDNESDAY 5 NOV 2014	33.0	23.0	76	E	8.1	6:17 18:13	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day anticipated.
THURSDAY 6 NOV 2014	33.0	24.0	76	N	5.8	6:17 18:13	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Partly sunny and warm day expected.
FRIDAY 7 NOV 2014	31.0	24.0	75	E	3.5	6:17 18:13	Widely scatter thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny and warm day anticipated.
SATURDAY 8, NOV 2014	33.0	24.0	76	N	5.1	6:17 18:15	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.

DR GLADYS EMEKIE
ACTING HOD

DR PRINCE MMOM
AG. DIRECTOR, (CDROMS)

SERVICOM CORNER

HANDLING COMPLAINTS

Five (5) Golden Rules to help you become great at solving complaints:

- (1). The Customer is always right
Even when you know the customer is wrong, treat him/her patiently; explain how the system works—always with a smile.
 - (2). Listen to the Complainant
This means, shut up and let the customer speak. Even if he/she is yelling, just sit there and listen. Do not interrupt the yelling. Keep your cool.
 - (3). Offer solutions or redress
Be ready to offer apology for any mistake you might have made.
 - (4). Be courteous to all who need your assistance.
Be welcoming.
 - (5). Offer further options
If your solution is seen not to be enough, refer the complainant to higher authorities. This gives the complainant other options and takes the pressure off you.
- SERVICOM is here to ensure improved service delivery!
For complaints and/or comments, please contact us via:
servicom@uniport.edu.ng; 08033400064, 07038650174, 08063358445, 08034211712, 08155303412

Commissioning Of Seinye Lulu-Briggs Children's Park

The Seinye Lulu-Briggs Children's Park was commissioned on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, following which the University of Port Harcourt Foundation (UPHF) feted children on Campus at the Park as part of Nigerian's Independence Celebration on October 1. Our Cameramen, **HEADMAN ALU** and **MITCHEL EKIYOR** captured highlights of both events as shown below.



Dignitaries stand for National and UniPort Anthems



L-R: DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Ndaka, Mrs Seinye Lulu-Briggs, V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka and his wife, Mrs Mercy Ajienka



V-C, Prof Ajienka welcoming guests



Prof Ajienka (r) and Mrs Lulu-Briggs displaying an art work presented to her



President, University of Port Harcourt Women Association, Mrs Ajienka, (r) decorating and inducting Mrs Lulu-Briggs as Life Member of UPWA



Mrs Lulu-Briggs cutting the tape to mark commissioning of the Park



Mrs Lulu-Briggs flanked by Staff and Pupils of Gladys Cooky Day Care



Mrs Lulu-Briggs flanked by Staff and pupils of University of Port Harcourt Demonstration Primary School (UDPS)



L-R: Prof Ndaka; Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Mrs Lulu-Briggs, Prof Ajienka, University Librarian, Dr Obiangeli Nwodo and Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aler



Mrs Nnodim unveiling the signpost while others watch on



Mrs Lulu-Briggs flanked by HoD, Music, Prof Onyue Nwankpa (l) and members of UniPort Concert Chorus



A group photograph after commissioning of the Park



Children celebrating Nigeria's 54th Independence anniversary at the Park