



US Embassy Engages UniPort Students On 2015 Polls

As political gladiators jostle for power in the forthcoming 2015 General Elections, the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. James Entwistle, took the message of the United States Government on peaceful polls to students of the University of Port Harcourt and other stakeholders, who beseeched the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium to listen to him, last Thursday. *reports Otiakor Samuel.*

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Side Bar

Professor Chris Akani of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the College of Health Sciences delivers the 336th Inaugural Lecture of Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium this Thursday. Time is 3.00pm. Details next week. *~Editor*

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Highlife Maestro, Rex Lawson Comes Alive At Int'l Music Conference

By Humphrey Ogu

Ways of harnessing and sustaining the highlife musical heritage of West Africa was the main thrust of the 1st Rex Jim Lawson International Highlife Music Conference held at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall, University Park, from Wednesday, 21st to Friday, 23rd January, 2015. The Conference which had "Highlife Music in West Africa: Retrospect and Prospects" as its theme, attracted researchers,

academics, students, musicians and highlife music enthusiasts from communities and universities within and outside the country, including Ghana and United States. Welcoming guests to the Conference, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who announced the 40th Anniversary of the University said: "We are happy that the anniversary is beginning with the Rex Jim Lawson International Highlife Music Conference. We are also happy that that there is a very vibrant Music

Department in this University and we will do whatever it may take to encourage it grow to global standards. We already have talents blossoming in Music here and I am pleased to note that the requisite expertise exists to harness these talents that abound in the University."

Recalling that the Department of Music celebrated the virtuoso, Adam Fikereima, last October and choral music prodigy, Harcourt Whyte before him, the Vice-

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Dean Tasks Staff On Capacity Building



Provost Charges Mechatronic Staff On Productivity



Dentistry Kick-Starts 40th Anniversary



UniPort Celebrates 40 Years In Style



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UPBS Fetes Staff, Students At Reunion Event

By Obinna Nwodin

It was an evening of entertainment, fun, relaxation and exchange of warm felicitations as ex-graduates, current students, Management of the Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS), as well as Senior and Principal Officers of the University came together in what was tagged "Family Reunion" at the School Premises located along Sani Abacha Road, GRA, Port Harcourt, penultimate Saturday.

Speaking at the well-patronized event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, who commended the Management of UPBS for its commitment to excellence within such a short lifespan, said that the ultimate desire of the administration was for the School to evolve into one of the leading Business Schools in Africa.

Represented by the Chairperson of the Academic Advisory Board of the School, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, the Vice-Chancellor expressed delight that the School has achieved so much within its short lifespan, which he described as indicative of better things to come. He commended both staff and students of PHBS for their collective effort aimed at moving the School forward.

Earlier in his address, Director of the School, Professor Clifford Ofurum, said that the reunion event was designed to bring old and new students together in an informal atmosphere that is devoid of the high impact academic rigour the students undergo to qualify them for award of the University's postgraduate degrees. He said that the event



Representative of the V-C, Prof Willie Abbey (3' left), flanked by University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo (2' left) and other guests

also afforded students a rare opportunity to also interact with their lecturers and authorities of the University.

Also speaking, a representative of the current batch of students, Mrs. Chioma Mogbo, who commended the authorities for what she described as an excellent academic culture, pointing out that the quality of academics in the School conformed to the standard obtainable anywhere in the world. She said that the students were extremely lucky to be part of the programme, pointing out that they could never have received such quality education anywhere. Mrs. Mogbo, who thanked Management, Staff and Students of the School for their efforts in sustaining the high standard, pledged their

continued resolve to ensure that they give their best and keep the flag of the School flying.

The events which also attracted spouses of the students, featured a variety show, performances by the UniPort Arts Theatre Group, game show on how best couples know their spouses, dancing competition, as well as presentation of prizes and gifts. It will be recalled that the Port Harcourt Business School was established in 2010, with a mandate to mount Executive Postgraduate Diploma and Master's degree programmes in Business Administration (MBA). The School property was purchased by the College of Continuing Education under the leadership of Professor Steve Okodudu.

Dean Tasks Staff On Capacity Building

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Ekanem Wokoma, has appealed to staff of the Department of Fisheries to take advantage of the numerous training opportunities put in place to enhance service delivery in the Faculty.

Speaking at a one-day workshop organized by the Department for staff of the Fish Farm at Choba Park on 8th January, 2015, the Dean described the event as a capacity-building platform that would enable staff gain requisite skills and knowledge needed for

effective farm management. "The idea behind the workshop is to ensure that the facilities provided by the University Management at the Fish Farm are effectively utilized by staff and students to achieve the purpose for which they were made available," she said, expressing hope for improved productivity.

In her address, Acting Head of Department, Dr. Amiey Francis, noted that the training provided an opportunity for participants to acquire current skills required to enhance routine activities on the Farm, hoping that the training would boost the capacity of staff

to generate better profit margins for the Faculty and University. "The need to train staff on the use of modern farm facilities prompted the Department to mount the workshop and we hope that our staff will benefit maximally from it," Dr. Francis disclosed, commending the resource persons for accepting to train participants at no cost to the University.

Also speaking, the Faculty Officer, Mrs. Christy Nworu, who focused on work ethics among staff, tasked participants on the need to imbibe good work habits that would impact positively on productivity. Other topics covered at the workshop included: *Techniques for Fish Farm Management* by Dr. Nene Jamabo, *Handling of Brood Stock and Fingerlings* by Mr. Bartkopa Udemenna and *Record Keeping* by Mr. Lawson Jack. The workshop also featured an interactive session between participants and resource persons.



Ag HoD, Fisheries, Dr Francis (arrowed) and other workshop participants

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US Embassy Engages UniPort Students On 2015 Polls



Ambassador, Enwezile (arrowed) and other panelists

Cont'd from p1

Mr. Enwezile, who stressed the need for a violence-free election, called on politicians to tone down their rhetoric by being temperate in their utterances to keep their supports in check. Advising young people to consider the opportunity offered them to exercise their civic responsibility as a historic moment, Enwezile urged them to properly scrutinize the candidates without yielding to intimidation or empty promises that are characteristic of political campaigns.

The Diplomat charged prospective voters to participate in the electoral process to elect the candidate with the requisite leadership qualities and manifests that would give them good governance. "If you have the right to vote, please vote. The coming election offers you a choice to decide your future and that is the beauty of democracy all over the world. Young people can no longer sit on the fence and claim that the exercise does not concern them; they are the hope for a better society and it will be in their interest to ask questions about the future direction of their country and their place in it," the Ambassador told the gathering.

The Ambassador, who disclosed that it was his third time of visiting Rivers State, praised the Governorship candidates of the All Progressives Congress, Peoples Democratic Party and Labour Party for signing an

accord denouncing violence before, during and after the elections, appealing to their supporters to respect the non-violence accord.

Enwezile further urged the electorate to be wary of giving their mandate to politicians who do not keep to their electoral promises, advising mass media practitioners not to only report political events, but to also use the press to propagate non-violence.

He recalled how as a teenager, African-Americans protested denial of their rights to vote in the United States, stating that his personal experience of the protest fifty years later spurred him to join the vanguard to promote citizens' right to vote.

The Envoy pledged continued support for Nigeria to tackle restiveness, describing the country as strategic to the growth of Africa. "No country is doing better than the US in fighting terrorism around the world," he further disclosed, pledging his country's commitment to help Nigeria fight insurgency.

Welcoming the Ambassador to the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commended Mr. Enwezile for embarking on the education of voters in the State, describing the initiative as a laudable venture that deserves support by all those who wish to witness free and fair elections in Nigeria.

The Vice-Chancellor, who briefed the august guest on the institutional profile of the University, disclosed that

the institution was playing a peculiar role in national development through its many distinguished Alumni in public and private organizations. Professor Ajienka told the Envoy and his delegation that the President of the country, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan took all his degrees from the University, adding that Rivers State Governor, Rt. Hon Chibuka Amaechi, former Governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Timipre Sylva and some candidates in the forthcoming elections are products of the University.

He commended the increased political awareness among the electorate, stating that the development has helped in deepening democracy in the country.

The event which featured an interactive session had Director of the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTCES), Professor Mark Anikpo; Immediate past Acting Head of Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Dr. Jelle Umukoro; Executive Director, Enough is Enough Nigeria (EEN), Yomi Adesokun; On-Air Personality of Nigeria Info radio station in Port Harcourt, Kofi Barile; President of the Students' Union, Felix Nwizua and the Ambassador as panelists. Highpoints of the interactive forum included a visit to the American Corner at the Donald Ekang Library, and decoration of Mr. Enwezile with the UniPort Mugger, as well as exchange of souvenirs.

Staff of the emergent Department of Mechatronic Engineering in the Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering of the College of Engineering, have been charged to fully commit themselves to quality service delivery for the accelerated growth of the Department.

Provost of the College, Professor Dulu Appah, who gave the charge while speaking on the topic: *Commitment to Service at an End-of-Year Get-Together* organized by the Department, last December, stressed the need for staff to evaluate their contributions to the system in the past year with a view to improving on their performance for increased productivity.

"Be happy with the job you are doing because it is the only available one at the moment that is secure. In some countries, secretaries and cleaners for instance, don't work fastidiously; they are paid according to the time they

Provost, Others Charge Staff, Mechatronic Dept Students On Productivity

By Otiok Samuel

put in and job security is not always guaranteed, but here even with the little salary, we need to be happy that so long as we continue to do the right thing, our job will be secure. I, therefore, wish to advise all of you to put in your best to advance the cause of this new Department, so that you can beat your chest that you were part of the pioneering staff of the Department of Mechatronic Engineering in UniPort." Professor Appah advised

them.

Addressing the staff on *Integrity in Service*, former Dean of the defunct Faculty of Engineering, Professor John Oluok, advised them to always do the right things to justify their engagement to serve as pioneer staff of the new Department.

"I am sure that in our subconscious mind, we know when we do what is wrong. Whatever job schedules you are on, don't cut corners; influence things for good to satisfy your conscience. If you are not doing what you ought to do, you are offending somebody and cheating the system," he added.

In his address, pioneer Acting Head of Department, Dr. Tobin Briggs, stated that the Get-Together was designed to provide an opportunity for staff to appraise the activities of the Department in the past year and celebrate its one-year anniversary, expressing hope that the Department would fulfill the mandate for which it was established.

"The event provided us an opportunity to appraise ourselves, considering that we started with just a Coordinator and a single office space. The idea of a Department of Mechatronic is novel in this part of the world; so it took us time to really sell it to the Senate of the University. We are grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka and other Principal Officers for their support in establishing the Department," he explained, recounting the effort put in place to secure a dilapidated structure that was renovated to house the Department. He further disclosed that an Orientation exercise would hold in February to acquaint the 49 pioneer students with the operational structure of the Department.



At HoD, Mechatronic Engineering, Dr Briggs (arrowed) lead other staff in cutting the one-year Anniversary cake

Africa's Pioneer Female Music Professor Charges Parents On Children's Career

By Humphrey Ogu

Parents have been charged to stop undue interference in their children's career choice, as no parent knows God's plan for any child. The first female Professor of Music in Africa, Mosennola Omibiyi-Obidike, gave the

advice in a chart with UniPort Weekly on the sideline of a musical conference in honour of highlife legend, Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson, last Thursday.

Professor Omibiyi-Obidike, who was in the University to participate in the 1st Rex Jim Lawson International Highlife Music Conference, recalled that she was able to realize her full potentials, because her parents gave her a freehand to go into music, advising that she should support their children to actualize their talents, rather than discourage and forcing them into careers that they did not originally plan to pursue.

The Professor of Ethnomusicology, who faulted some of the facts about African Music in the public domain said: "It is in a conference like this that we can correct wrong information about African music presented by non-Africans. It is our duty to make people realize that colonialists were wrong about their prejudiced projections about Africa," expressing hope to be back in the University in May to participate in a conference on Church music which is being planned by the Department of Music.

It would be recalled that the Association of Nigerian Musicologists (ANIM) at its 12th Annual National Conference in the University last August, unveiled a book entitled: *African Musicology: Past, Present and Future—A Festschrift For Mosennola Omibiyi-Obidike* in honour of the 78-year-old



Prof Omibiyi-Obidike

Staff Club Drums Support For Sports Dev

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As a way of facilitating sports development at the Senior Staff Club (SSC), the Sports Secretary, Peter Edozien, has launched an aggressive campaign to woo lovers of sports in the University to support the upgrade and provision of new sporting facilities at the Club.

Making the disclosure last Thursday, Mr. Edozien, announced that the campaign was aimed at soliciting support from the University Community with a view to encouraging sporting activities among senior staff of the University.

Listing some of the areas of need to include equipment for racket games, ball games, chess board, snooker stick, jump rope, scramble board, hand grips, table tennis eggs, and aluminium table tennis board, among other needs of the sporting section of the Club, the Sports Secretary urged

staff to make judicious use of available facilities for recreation, fitness and professionalisation. "The swimming pool has been renovated for optimum use and a team has been formed to encourage members of the Club to engage in swimming programmes and competitions with other universities," he pointed out.

In a similar development, the Club Executive has expressed gratitude to staff, who have redeemed their pledges towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Senior Staff Club. UniPort Weekly witnessed the donation of an undisclosed sum of money by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, towards recreational activities in the Club. He appealed to private and public-spirited individuals and groups to support the renewed drive of the Executive to reposition the Club for improved service delivery to its clients.



DF-C, (Admin), Prof Nduka making donation to Staff Club Exec Members, Mrs. Nkechi Rattan-Idor and Mr. Edozien

Dentistry Faculty Kick-Starts 40th Anniversary With Outreach

By Humphrey Ogu



Prof Onyeaso

As the 40th Anniversary of the University kicks off this morning, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso, has announced plans to hold the 2nd Dentistry Day between Monday, 26th and Friday 30th January 2015.

In a letter signed by the Dean and addressed to the Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi, the Dean noted that the topic for the 2nd Dentistry Day is important to all staff and students of the University, adding that: "The event will also mark the beginning of activities lined up for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the University."

The letter which also contained highlights of the programme, revealed that 26th and 27th January 2015 would be Community Free Oral Health Screening Exercise, while Wednesday 28th January would be Career Counselling for Secondary School students at the Faculty of Dentistry.

Thursday, January 29, 2015 would mark the Opening Ceremony with a Lecture entitled: *The Future of Forensic Dentistry in Nigeria* at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, while a seminar on various aspects of Forensic Dentistry is expected to hold at the Lecture Hall of the Faculty of Dentistry on January 30, the letter further stated, adding that the weeklong event would end with special prayers for the University.

UniPort Celebrates 40 Years In Style

By Obinna Nwodin

mark the anniversary. At this level, 40 unique alumni, 40 lecturers and 40 sports personalities would be identified under the category of *People* to be honoured for their contributions to the growth of the University in the past 40 years. The Central Organising Committee will mount a grand finale that would draw the curtain on the 40th anniversary celebration between Monday, 1st and Sunday, 7th June, 2015. The Faculty of Dentistry has already kick-started the series of events with a well-planned *Dentistry Day*, beginning from January 26, 2015 with advocacy and free health outreach programmes to the University's host communities.



Late Prof Donald Ekong, Pioneer V-C

As the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the University of Port Harcourt commenced this Monday in the Faculty of Dentistry, staff, students and stakeholders in the affairs of the University are mounting landmark events to key into the anniversary. The celebration is a well-appointed milestone event after 40 years of excellence in research, teaching and community service in an unprecedented scale.

There is no doubt that 2015 promises to mark a major high-point in the history of the University, which was established in 1975 and commenced full academic activities in 1977 under the leadership of late Professor Donald Ekong as pioneer 'Principal' and later Vice-Chancellor.

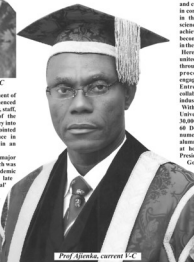
The celebration offers an opportunity for the University Community to collectively evaluate what has been achieved in the last forty years; look at its present circumstances and take a stand on the future direction of the Institution. Trust the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who did not allow the landmark event roll quietly into history without letting the world know how the University commenced academic activities on the premises of an emergent Technical College in Choba Community in 1975. Professor Ajienka conceived the idea of celebrating UniPort at 40 in grand style and went on to inaugurate a Committee headed by Professor Tony Arize to implement the idea.

Departments, Centres, Institutes, Faculties, Colleges and the Central Administration are already rolling out the drums and red carpets, popping drinks, clinking glasses, backslapping each other and expressing satisfaction at what has been accomplished in the past 40 years of advancing the frontiers of knowledge and continuous engagement with society.

To put the celebration in proper perspective, the Vice-Chancellor made a power point presentation to the Committee members in which he set out his vision for the 40th anniversary celebration. He grouped the series of activities under *Plans, People, Projects and Publications*—known as the 4Ps.

Colleges, Faculties and Departments are expected to design relevant *Projects* they would wish to embark upon during the celebration period, while landmark research contributions are being compiled into *Publications*. The profiles of 40 outstanding alumni from the various Faculties and Colleges would also be showcased as part of the celebrations.

On *Plans*, the Committee of Provoosts and Deans would choose suitable commemorative activities to



Prof Ajienka, current V-C

Looking back, the Institution which was established in 1975 as a College of the University of Lagos, is one of the *avant-garde* tertiary institutions in the country with a mandate to empower the Niger Delta region



Prof Arize, Chairman, Anniversary C'ttee

and the rest of the country through quality academic activities and community service. The pursuit of academic excellence, advancement of knowledge and quality service delivery through teaching, life-long learning, social inclusion, strengthening civil society and policy-relevant research that addresses the challenges of contemporary society, are the guiding principles of successive administrations. To date, seven Vice-Chancellors have been appointed to ran the affairs of the University to good effect.

The University gained full autonomous status in 1977 on the premises of an emergent Trade School outside Choba Community as its temporary site, close to its future Permanent Site—known as the University Park. In four decades of unbroken academic activities and community service, UniPort has offered the best in conventional liberal, equal-opportunity education in the arts, engineering, social sciences and the sciences. At 40, Unique UniPort has a long list of achievements to her credit and is striving harder to become the first choice destination for the best brains in the finest academic tradition.

Here, we have a truly select community of scholars united in their search for specialized knowledge through quality teaching that enriches the learning process. After four decades of continuous engagement, Unique UniPort has emerged as an Entrepreneurial University with international collaborative graduate programmes with reputable industry and professional bodies.

With an initial intake of 422 students in 1977, the University now has a student population of well over 36,000 pursuing careers in diverse disciplines in over 46 Departments, 16 Faculties, four Colleges and numerous Centres and Institutes. Distinguished alumni are flying the flag of the University very high at home and abroad. Amongst them is current President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan. Governors, Ministers, Captains of Industry, Academics, entertainers, distinguished sports men and women have brought great honours to their



Late Mr Meshack Akpe, Pioneer Registrar
Alma Mater and Nigeria.

After so many years of commitment to the vision and mission of the founding fathers of the University, UniPort has flourished and continues to make significant impact in the delivery of quality higher education. As could be surmised from the above, 40 years of existence is well celebrating with some controlled noise. Let the drummers play and let the dancers take to the stage. Unique UniPort is rolling out the drums at 40.

Highlife Maestro, Rex Lawson Comes Alive At Int'l Music Conference



Intrepid Congo man, Chief Tony Odili, leading the Rex Lawson Legend Band.

Inset: Ace trumpeter, King Sunny Brown singing

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Chancellor expressed hope that the Department of Music would make the University and country proud in the future.

Making the Chairman's opening remarks; Emeritus Professor Ebegberri Alago commended the Vice-Chancellor for his contributions towards the development of the Arts, despite being an Engineer, urging him to continue his support for the Arts. "He has done so much for the development of the Arts through the creation of an enabling environment and the celebration of Adams Fibersima, Harcourt Whyte and now Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson is ample proof that the University is on the right track," he added.

Also speaking, Occupant of the Rex Jim Lawson Chair and Head of Department of Music,

Professor Onye Nwankpa, who recalled that the theme of the 1st UniPort Annual Memorial Concert on Wednesday, January 16, 2013, was *Remembering Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson—The Highlife Music Legend*, said: "This Conference showcases the rich cultural heritage of the Niger Delta, the heartland of highlife music, and provides an opportunity for academics, researchers, industry experts, performing musicians, governmental and non-governmental agencies, and highlife music enthusiasts to exchange ideas, interrogate and share experiences on this engaging genre in African music and culture."

Delivering the keynote address entitled: *Palm Wine Music: A West African Experience*, Mr. Benson Idonije, noted that "the origin of highlife is associated with guitar in palm wine style, a West African phenomenon that was simultaneously

experienced along the major coastal cities of West Africa, including Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia. With the palm wine guitar as a major vehicle, highlife originated from the folk music of the musty creeks, shanties and back streets of West Africa, and can be described as one of the first hybrid fusions of native African and Western music."

Lead Paper Presenter and former Head of Department of Music at the University of Ghana, Legon, Professor Edmund Collins, gave a pictorial history of the development of highlife music, which he linked to British soldiers who trained Ghanaians on how to play brass band. Other Lead Paper presenters were: Professor Tunji Vidal of Obafemi Awolowo University and Professor Mark LeVine of the University of California, Irvine, USA.

Others who spoke at the Conference included Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemugwen and Head of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies and Chairman, Conference Planning Committee, Professor Femi Shaka, who recalled that he and the Director-General of the Rivers State Tourism Development Board, Dr. Sam Dede, of the same Department had commenced work on a documentary on the life and works of Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson over a decade ago, but faced funding challenge.

Highlight of the opening ceremony was the presentation of Award as Grand Patron of the Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson Chair to the Amanyancho of Kalabari, King (Professor) Theophilus Princewill and High Chief Olu Olu-Brigbe, while Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Kenneth Minihah and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka were feted as Patrons of the Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson Chair, respectively.

The event, which was used to mark the 78th Birthday of the first Professor of Music in Africa, Mosuamola Omyli-Obidike, had participants dance to tunes provided by the Rex Jim Lawson Legend Band led by ace trumpeter, King Sunny Brown and intrepid Congo player, Chief Tony Odili, including highlife singer, Jerry Decmau.

PJC-GWDS To Partner UN On Gender Studies

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GWDS) has concluded plans to initiate a collaborative programme with the United Nations to facilitate activities at the Centre. "There would be train-the-trainer workshops, conferences and seminars on gender and related issues as part of academic activities of the Centre. At the end of the training, graduates would be equipped with knowledge and requisite skills to fit into international organizations, government parastatals and ministries," Director of the Centre, Professor Elizabeth Okeke has disclosed.

Professor Okeke, who spoke at the Orientation exercise for the second batch of students admitted to pursue programmes at the Centre, praised them for choosing to be part of the new intellectual movement aimed at creating awareness on gender issues in a patriarchal society, where women's rights have to be fought for by women themselves.

Professor Okeke stressed the importance of the Orientation exercise as a forum aimed at acquainting

the new students with the activities and policies of the Centre, which she said runs the same modular programme as the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS). The Director urged the students to take their studies very seriously as only those who show total commitment to the programme will graduate, promising that the Centre would create an enabling environment to facilitate the programme.

Welcoming the students to the University, the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, lauded the Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GWDS) for the remarkable achievements it has recorded within the short period of its establishment, including the orientation of its second set of students in the Master of Arts and Postgraduate Diploma (MA and PGD) programmes in Gender and Women Development Studies.

Mrs. Nnodim, who spoke through the Junior Staff Officer, Mrs. Elizabeth Ndiokho at the 2014/2015 Orientation exercise of the Centre at its temporary site in the University Park on, 15th January, 2015, also commended the effort of the Director, Professor

Okeke, who she said had lifted the Centre to national prominence.

The well-attended Orientation programme which attracted staff, students and some senior officers of the University, featured presentations by the University Librarian on the Use of the Library to enhance quality research, E-Learning and Turn-it-in software used to check plagiarism by Mr. Deretaka Alabo. Dean of the Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, Professor Martin Ifeancha and the Admissions Officer, College of Graduate Studies, Mrs. Helen Mmeha, took turns to admonish the students on how to ensure timely and successful completion of their programmes.

Some students of the Centre, Michael Chidozie, Geraldine Ejerehwa and Eucharista Uraanta-Onkonko, whose years of experience working in non-governmental organization, civil organization and teaching career, respectively, motivated their choice of the programme, hoped that the Centre would provide them a veritable template to acquire knowledge that would enable them contribute their quota to women development in the country.



Director, Prof Okeke (arrowed), guests and Graduate Students of the Centre after the Orientation exercise

GHEPOST

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

Dr. S. A. Brown, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, promoted *Professor of Pharmaceutics*, effective 19th October, 2011.

Dr. Aloy Ezirim, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Professor of Marketing*, effective 25th July, 2012.

Dr. H. U. Wusu, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems & Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, promoted *Professor of Mechanical Engineering*, effective 25th July, 2012.

Dr. Chukwuemeka Okereke, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Professor of Sociology*, effective 25th July, 2012.

Dr. Edward Allkor, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Professor of Paediatrics (Neurology)*, effective 25th July, 2012.

Dr. Daye Sioye-Fabura, Department of Anatomical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Professor of Pathology*, effective 25th July, 2012.

Dr. Nelson Nwankwo, Department of Radiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Professor of Radiology*, effective 25th July, 2012.

Dr. V. U. Diemey, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, promoted *Professor of Sociology of Education*, effective 3rd December, 2013.

Dr. Nkhabuli Nna, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Professor of Political Economy and Development Studies*, effective 3rd December, 2013.

Dr. Chinonye Mac-Ogonor, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Professor of International Relations and International Law*, effective 3rd December, 2013.

PROMOTION

Dr. Anthony Ukanwoko, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. A.C. Elenwo, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Nene Jamabo, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Adaba Ihim, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Justin Akankali, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Sylvanus Nwafili, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Okunli George, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Julius Ingwewe, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Atanda Lamiadi, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Bartholomew Udemba-Nwa, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Stop Press

76TH DOCTORAL SEMINAR

The College of Graduate Studies (CGS) announces the 76th edition of the Doctoral Seminar Presentation holding this Thursday, 29th January, 2015 at the Seminar Room of the College. Time is 10:00am. Departments and Faculties are advised to convey the information to their students.

Contact: College Secretary, Dr. Agatha Ataga.

Delay in January Salary

The Bursary Department has notified all Staff that payment of salary for the month of January may be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the Department.

A statement from the Office of the Bursar dated 22nd January, 2015 and signed by Mr. Abel Ejiofor, regretted that the situation may likely delay payment of salary for the month, urging all staff to bear with the administration while efforts are in top gear to remedy the situation.



SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS



A mind-boggling revolution is going on in creativity and innovation. The application of science is taking the world to uncharted territory and what was thought to be unthinkable just a few years back is now being taken for granted on this breath-taking journey. Today, the 'mysterious' is what science is yet to unravel. UniPort Weekly is now running a new series known as "Scientific Innovations" aimed at creating awareness on the emergent trends in science and technology.

Genetics Of Malaria Drug Resistance Revealed

By Rebecca Morelle

Science Correspondent, BBC News

The genetics underpinning resistance to a frontline malaria drug, artemisinin, has been revealed, scientists say. In South East Asia, malaria parasites have developed immunity to the treatment, and there are fears that this will spread. Now, in the largest genetic study to date, scientists have identified mutations in the parasite genome that are linked to resistance. The study is published in *Nature Genetics*.

The researchers say the findings will help them to identify areas where artemisinin resistance could spread.

*Start Quote

Lead author Dr Olivo Miotto from the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Research Unit (MORU), in Thailand, said: "Artemisinin is the best drug we have had for a very long time, and we want to continue this success story. And for that its effectiveness has to be protected and sustained." When the first malaria drug, chloroquine, was developed, researchers thought that the disease would be eradicated within years.

But the malaria parasite has proved far tougher than they ever imagined. Drug after drug has been rendered useless as the parasite has evolved to evade treatment. Mysteriously, each time resistance has emerged, it has started in the same place - on the Cambodian-Thai border - before spreading across Asia and into Africa.

Now this appears to be happening again with artemisinin, a drug that has transformed malaria treatment. Cases have been confirmed in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar, also known as Burma. Now an international team of scientists have identified several mutations on genes in the malaria



Dr. Abdu Bulama
Minister of Science and Technology

parasite that are linked to resistance.

After analysing 1,612 samples from 15 locations in Asia and Africa, scientists confirmed that mutations on a gene called *kelch13* are strongly associated with malaria resistance. "If you don't have this mutation of *kelch13*, you don't have resistance," Dr Miotto told the BBC.

The researchers also found four other mutations that appear to work in concert with the *kelch13* mutation.

*Start Quote

Professor Dominic Kwiatkowski, head of the malaria programme at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and professor of genomics and global health at Oxford University, said: "We found these other points that do seem to be variants that are particularly concentrated in South East Asia."

"And within South East Asia, the risk of a parasite developing a mutation in *kelch13* is greatly enhanced if the parasite has these other variants." The researchers said that they did not yet fully understand the mechanism behind this, or exactly why these mutations are linked to one area of Asia.

But tracking down parasites that have these genetic changes could help them to identify the areas where resistance may spread. "As a tool for mapping, if we know we have markers of resistance then that is good - and the *kelch* mutation is very helpful," said Professor Dominic Kwiatkowski.

"It is quite an efficient way of mapping out where resistance is and isn't." He added: "The other markers we have developed don't tell us explicitly where resistance is, but they do tell us where resistance might be likely to develop in the future."

"In any attempts to eliminate malaria - you do have finite resources, and you have to work out where to spend those resources. And being able to map out where resistance exists and where it is likely to develop is incredibly useful in helping you focus your resources in eliminating malaria."

Scientists fear that drug resistance could eventually spread to sub-Saharan Africa, unless it is stopped. The World Health Organization (WHO) says that measures to prevent and treat malaria have halved the number of deaths from the disease there since 2000, but drug tolerance could be a major setback.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-30886419>

SERVICOM CORNER

SERVICE DELIVERY EVALUATION

This is an exercise intended to access the status of the services provided by the various segments of the University. The results obtained may be used to stimulate the system towards achieving improved service delivery.

SERVICOM Unit encourages you to participate sincerely, honestly and judiciously in responding to questions.

Please note: improved service performance produces improved service delivery in UniPort.

SERVICOM is here to ensure improved service delivery!

For complaints and/or comments, please contact us via:

servicom@uniport.edu.ng; 08033400064, 07038650174, 08063584445, 08034211712, 08155303412.

Education Minister's Impact Assessment Tour

As part of its assessment tour of projects embarked upon by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Minister of Education, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau, visited the University on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2014. Pictures below show highlights of the visit as captured by our Cameraman, HEADMANALU:



Education Minister, Mallam Shekarau, arriving the University



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenkwa (right), welcoming Executive Secretary, NUC, Prof Julius Okigbo, who was also on the Minister's entourage



V-C, Prof Ajenkwa, leading the Minister and his entourage to project sites



Mallam Shekarau being received at the CRN Centre of Excellence project site by the Site Engineer



Education Minister laying the Foundation Stone of Basic Studies Laboratory building



Inspection of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology building by the Minister



The Minister, V-C and others at the Faculty of Agriculture building project site



V-C, Prof Ajenkwa explaining a point to the Minister and NUC Scribe



L-R: DV-C (Academic), Prof Igbo Joe, Executive Secretary TETFund, Prof Elias Rogers, Perm Sec. Ministry of Education, Dr Macdon Nwabulu, V-C, Prof Ajenkwa, Mallam Shekarau and Prof Okigbo



Mallam Shekarau addressing stakeholders at a Town Hall meeting after the inspections



Registrar, Mrs Manilda Nwodin (middle) in conversation with V-C, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Prof Rosemond Green-Ogagahala (left) and Prof Okigbo



A cross-section of stakeholders at the Town Hall meeting



A group photograph of the Honourable Minister, members of his entourage, Principal and Senior Officers of the University