

## EEL Holds Orientation For Fresh Students

A total of 26 students participated in the 2014/2015 Orientation exercise of the Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies, last Monday, report *Obubelebara Wokoma and Obinna Nwodin*.

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## Side Bar

Prof Ene Ekeke of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, delivers the 118<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, this Thursday. Details next week.  
~Editor

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## Laz Ekwueme Delivers Nimenibo Memorial Lecture

By Humphrey Ogu

As part of efforts aimed at celebrating the great musical legacy of late Sir Clement Nimenibo, the Department of Music in the Faculty of Humanities has added a Memorial Lecture to the annual musical concert in honour of the ace guitarist and organist.

Delivering the Lecture entitled: *Music Patronage and the Development of Art Music in Nigeria*, in honour of the music enthusiast at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall on Thursday, March 12, 2015, distinguished musicologist, Emeritus Professor Laz Ekwueme, recalled that his interest in music began as a student at the famous Government College, Umuahia alongside two former Vice-Chancellors of the University of Port Harcourt, late Professor Donald Ekong, and Professor Kelsey Harrison, who now resides in Finland.

The Guest Speaker noted that churches and schools played a major role in the development of music in Nigeria those days, citing the Archdeacon Crowder Memorial Girls' School, Elelenwo and Okrika Grammar School, as missionary schools that contributed immensely to the

development of music in the country. "The Chaplaincy of the Nigerian Army also played a major role in the patronage and development of music in Nigeria," he revealed.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Chairman of the occasion and fifth Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, observed that "our culture is what distinguishes us as a people. This includes

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## SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS



# What's The Next Revolution For Medicine?

By Lisa Raffensperger

**M**edicine looks incredibly different than it did a century ago (which I think we can all say thank goodness for that). From new technology such as MRI scanners and antibiotics, to improvements in logistics, such as widespread immunization programs and organ-donation schemes, medicine seems to be constantly modernizing.

But for every revolution in medicine that's complete, there must be a dozen more that haven't even started. Quick lab diagnostics are great — now how do we make those affordable for clinics in rural Africa? Patients are gathering their own genetic and lifestyle data — now how can doctors use that to improve their medical care?

### Shake It Up

Over the last couple of months here at Citizen Science Salon, we've featured ten different projects in the "Exploring a Culture of Health" series, brought to you by SciStarter, Discover, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. These projects aim to shake up medicine as we know it.

Some of those were directed at medical professionals. We asked nurses to share their on-the-job workarounds; we encouraged medical staff to imagine a better doctor's office experience; and we solicited ideas for how charts and graphs could

better communicate complex health ideas.

Other questions were posed to organizations, such as hospitals, governments and schools. We challenged orgs to think up ways to reuse wasted supplies, to ensure privacy for patient-supplied data, to improve their community's overall health, and to provide support to kids who've faced childhood trauma.

Finally, the blogs posed questions to all of us as patients. Would you use a free online course to learn more about a health condition you or someone close to you had? Would you volunteer personal information to help scientists study a disease you have? Would you use an app to track your daily habits and report them to your doctor?

### Your Turn

We live in an interesting time, where data is paramount and whole industries are built on its sharing. Our smart phones sync with wearable sleep-trackers and pedometers, and we can share that data socially. Wired clothing and smart contact lenses are in development to provide even more real-time vitals. These devices for the moment are for personal use, but someday doctors could, with your permission, also view these feeds and use them to help improve your health.

What are your ideas for how smart gadgets could make people's lives healthier? Maybe, a new app or a new device? Perhaps, a



Dr. Abdu Bulama

Minister of Science and Technology

reformed approach to medical charts that could integrate user-generated data? Maybe ways to use social networks to encourage healthier behaviors? Or maybe something we haven't even thought of before now...

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/citizen-science-salon/2014/08/27/next-revolution-medicine>

## UniPort, SPDC Sign MoU On OPTIWELL Deployment

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**A**uthorities of the University and a team led by Head of University Liaison of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Professor Emmanuel Ukeke, have signed a historic OPTIWELL Deployment Agreement that would consolidate the partnership between the University and the multi-national oil giant on the use of the important software that was invented by researchers in the University.

Receiving the team in the Committee Room last Thursday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, described the important software which was developed by a research team led by the Occupant of the Shell Art Adams Chair in Petroleum Engineering, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, as a milestone achievement in research

and development in the University. "Today we are signing an agreement on technology liaison. OPTIWELL is a proven technology that would attract royalty and subsequent partnership between the University and other industry players. It is ample proof of our capacity to engage in advanced research that would benefit our operational environment. In a knowledge economy, scholars should capitalize their ideas as a way of solving problems and also earning legitimate income, rather than engaging in the fruitless 'publish or perish' rat race that will not make us relevant in the larger society," he stated.

Reiterating that the agreement would formalize the operational aspects of the OPTIWELL software that had been in use by the company in the last four years, Professor Dosunmu pointed out that deployment of the software has led to drastic

reduction in drilling cost and time, as well as boosting the local content aspiration of government.

"The agreement would provide a basis for commercializing the tool so that other companies can also use it," Professor Dosunmu said, adding that the innovation has distinguished the University of Port Harcourt as a Centre of Excellence in Petroleum Development in Nigeria and the Gulf of Guinea.

Head of University Liaison of SPDC, Professor Ukeke, congratulated the University for developing the software and its willingness to sign an agreement on its deployment, expressing delight that the decision of his company to establish a Professorial Chair in Petroleum Engineering in the University has paid off with the development and deployment of the OPTIWELL software.

He was accompanied by a representative of the Well Engineering Manager, Igheumono Onokpote, Research and Development Advisor, Stanley Harcourt, including Tralagha Timi and Queeneth Inobaya of the University Liaison team.



Prof Dosunmu receiving the document from Igheumono Onokpote of SPDC, while Mrs. Glory Ghada (left) of the Legal Unit and other SPDC team members look on

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Speaking at the event which took place at the Emmanuel Eghogah Auditorium, Director of the Institute, Professor Wumi Iledare, stated that the Institute was established to train skilled professionals on energy policy in all its diversity, pointing out that the curriculum met global benchmarks. "What we want to do is to empower, equip and engage you through applied research and graduate education to be able to manage the energy sector in Nigeria and outside the country," he told the students, adding that knowledge was important to the growth of any country.

"Education is the link between the old generation and the future. No nation can grow faster than its ability to generate knowledge. The decadence experienced in the society is as a result of the decay in academics," Professor Iledare observed, adding that the Institute does not lay emphasis on mere acquisition of certificates, but focuses on developing the mindset of the individual to recognize the opportunities that abound in the 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge economy. The country, according to him, would not move forward until it lays emphasis on developing its citizens to tackle emergent challenges.

Also speaking, Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, described the Institute as one of the Centres in the University that run excellent modular programmes, explaining that the concept was designed to create a symbiotic relationship between industry needs and classroom theory aimed at giving the students quality training in the management of the energy sector. "We intend to build a platform where students of the Institute would be at the commanding heights of their areas of specialization. This means that

## EEI Holds Orientation For Fresh Students



EEI Director, Prof. Iledare (in hat) Prof. Dosunmu and Dr. Nwaeozu with the new students and other staff of the Institute

we need to do things differently to achieve our stated target. Our hope is that we shall raise knowledgeable experts that would take top positions in the energy industry in the near future," adding that "the seed we are sowing today would serve the needs of the country in the foreseeable future."

In his admonition, Deputy Director of the Institute, Dr. Chijioke Nwaeozu, who congratulated the students on their meritorious admission, assured them of

quality lectures, supervision and mentorship throughout the duration of the programme, reminding them that their success would be dependent on rigorous application of hard work and strict adherence to the operational rules that govern the Institute.

The one-day event also featured an interactive session between the students and Management of the Institute.

## Modular Refinery Best Option To End Fuel Scarcity In Nigeria ~Prof Iyuke

Sunny Iyuke is a Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. He is presently on Sabbatical Leave at the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) where he is helping to strengthen the capacity of the World Bank-sponsored African Centre of Excellence programme in Oilfield Chemicals Research, and the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP). The Visiting Professor spoke with our Correspondent, OTIKORSAMUEL on a number of issues. Please read on:

“As a teacher, my primary assignment in the University of Port Harcourt is to teach Postgraduate programmes and also train researchers on how to translate knowledge into products. I am already moving from one faculty to another to facilitate the processes associated with patenting their research findings. I am also supporting the Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals, Professor

Godwin Igwe to develop a modular refinery concept as a solution to the issue perennial fuel scarcity in Nigeria. The initiative is aimed at ending the subsidy regime which allows profit-minded independent marketers to cart away huge sums of cash at the expense of the populace,” Professor Iyuke disclosed.

The Visiting Professor, who praised Professor Igwe for mooted the idea of developing modular refineries as a viable solution to the problem of incessant fuel scarcity in Nigeria, advised the Federal Government to invest in refining petroleum products at home through the development of modular refineries, which he described as smaller and more cost-effective, rather than investing in gigantic refineries that are capital-intensive and difficult to maintain with available technical know-how in the country.

“If we have 350 modular refineries functioning in Nigeria, petroleum products will be everywhere and that would bring an end to persistent fuel scarcity that enriches a small segment of society at the expense of the majority. The Federal Government can then redirect the huge sums of money currently being expended on subsidy to the development of modular refineries. Our pumps shouldn't be running dry the way they do today,” Iyuke argued, calling for the political will to do what would benefit most Nigerians, rather than pandering to the pecuniary interest of a few greedy marketers who want the corrupt system to continue.

The Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, also expressed willingness to assist the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals to work on utilizing petroleum cracking reactors that would crack gas and make it a useful commodity for consumption through the process of Gas-To-Liquid (GTL) conversion. He described the GTL conversion process as cleaner and more environment-friendly, disclosing that in South Africa, companies such as SASOL produce fuel from coal-to-liquid and gas-to-liquid.

To ensure a well-articulated cross-fertilization of ideas on how to move the Nigerian petroleum sub-sector forward, Professor Iyuke disclosed plans to convene a Conference he tagged: *Oil Flow 2015* before the end of

June. “We will publish papers to be generated from the proposed Conference in a peer-reviewed journal to be known as *Journal of OilFlow*. We are working hard to ensure that the journal becomes an improvement on a pioneer journal known as *OILfield* history, which the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenika, started some years back,” he said.

Professor Iyuke also hopes to make contributions to the advancement of knowledge during his year-long residency in UniPort, which commenced in January, include training, supervision and patenting of the intellectual property of doctoral candidates and other researchers.

“Before I end my stay here, it is my hope that more researchers will be filling for patent registration that would enable them earn revenue accruable from such patents in line with the entrepreneurial vision of the University. I will ensure that my colleagues and graduate students can patent their discoveries in line with established international protocols. I have just sent two of such proposals for provisional patenting and hope to increase the number before the end of my Sabbatical Leave in this University.

I have also observed that doctoral candidates spend a number of years on their programmes that I consider to be far beyond the trend elsewhere. It ought not be so; the maximum residency period for a doctoral candidate should be a minimum of two and maximum of four years,” the Visiting Scholar said, recommending that the field training for Master's degree students and doctoral candidates be merged to lessen the work load on these supervisors and the attendant delays arising from staggered field work.

“I am co-supervising some PhD candidates and I interacted with 62 of them two weeks ago. I am presently supervising five of them, but the number may increase because some of them are changing topics to Nanotechnology, which is my area of specialization. Nanotechnology is the next ‘gold rush’ in the world and the interest in the new field will assist some of the students to invent their works,” he told our Correspondent.



Prof Iyuke

# Celebrating UniPort At 40 In Faculty Of Education

By Obinna Nwodin



*Emeritus Prof Nduka, Pioneer Dean*

In the immutable words of English Essayist, John Addison, "Education is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate, no despotism can enslave." A good teacher can positively impact eternity and his or her influence in society knows no bounds. The acquisition of knowledge is the greatest medal that can be bestowed on those who genuinely seek it. It is education that enables us to question what is acclaimed as received wisdom. Of what use then is a university without a functional Faculty of Education? It is the mother of all other Faculties and possesses unlimited capacity to give guidance on the appropriate modalities for the dispensation of knowledge on a massive scale. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, had repeatedly tasked the Faculty of Education to give guidance to the University on matters of educational policy and planning. That is how important the Faculty has always been in the scheme of things.

The Faculty of Education commenced as a School of Education at the inception of academic activities in 1977. The vision of the founding fathers of the University largely depended on a thriving Faculty of Education to achieve in those early days. The Federal and State Governments were establishing more schools without bothering where the required manpower would come from to man the system that was expanding in geometric proportions. Qualified and talented teachers were in very short supply and the emergent Faculty was saddled with the onerous task of raising a new generation of teachers to fill the yawning gap.

With a few ramshackle buildings at the Choba Park Campus as its operational base, the new Faculty left no one in doubt as to its preparedness to take up the challenge of training more teachers and educational planners to man the educational system. At inception, the Faculty recruited some of the finest brains in the business who are credited with laying a solid foundation on which it stands today to general applause from diverse stakeholders in its affairs.

With six Departments: Educational Management, Educational Foundations, Educational Psychology,

Guidance and Counseling, Human Kinetics and Health Education, Educational Curriculum and Technology, Adult and Non-Formal Education, the Faculty also houses the Institute of Education which coordinates Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Education programmes, as well as the Post-NCE Sandwich programme. The regional Centre for Nomadic Education also operates from the Faculty.

Looking back at the exciting academic activities and close engagement with society since it opened its doors to the first batch of students in 1977, there is an undeniable sense of fulfillment and satisfaction that compels the Faculty to join other Faculties in rolling out the drums to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the University. Distinguished scholars such as Otiemi Ndaka, B.O. Ikeje, Edward Ezeku, Jaiyeola Kosemani, Sahr Ghamanja, Joseph Okoh, Benjamin Ekeazu, N.E. Diemye, Okpakor Enaolowo, Ebi-Bio Awotua Efebo, Igbo Hye, Hyacinth Dike, amongst others, have occupied enormous space in the Faculty. These eminent educationists have also trained and mentored younger academics to take over from them as they gracefully take their leave.

Some of these scholars not only made impact in the Faculty, but also rendered and continue to offer distinguished services in and outside the University. For instance, Emeritus Professor Nduka, who was pioneer



*Prof Igwe, Dean*

Dean of the Faculty, is the immediate past President of the Nigerian Academy of Education and a recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award conferred on him by the National Universities Commission (NUC). Professor Enaolowo had served as Vice-Chancellor of Delta State University in Abraka, while Professor Jose, who is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), also served as Provost of the Delta State College of Education. Aghor, Professor Okoh also served meritoriously as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Chair Business Committee. These scholars have distinguished themselves as worthy ambassadors of the Faculty. As a former Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ekeazu was also Chairman of Committee of Deans of Faculty of Education in Nigerian Universities, and is the long-serving South-South Zonal Director of the Centre for Nomadic Education.

The Faculty has over the years produced the bulk of teachers that man all levels of education in the South-South region and the rest of the country and even beyond. Like the other 15 Faculties in the University, the Faculty of Education produced distinguished educationists who have contributed and are still contributing to the development of society at large. For instance, Wife of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dame Patience Jonathan, Archbishop Ignatius Kattay and Dean Emeritus of the Anglican Communion, Professor Addison Nwokocha, who is currently Chief Executive Officer of the Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria; Godspower Nwogu, former Provost of the Rivers State College of Arts and Science and Director-General of the Rivers State Quality Assurance Agency, Professor A. K. Okorosa-Ogburne, amongst others, are distinguished Alumni/Alumnae.



*Prof Awotua-Efebo*

It is on record that students and coaches from the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education have played memorable roles in making the University undisputed champions of both the Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) and the West African Universities Games (WAUG). The likes of Obia Nyingikabo, Ayawel Ovudiamovu, Timintimi Ekekpogha, Odogu Ekpolaemi, Inemi Spiff, amongst others, have not only made the University proud, but have also brought great honour to Rivers State and the country at international sporting competitions.

The Faculty stands out with the highest number of doctorate degree graduates at successive Convocation Ceremonies—thus attesting to the dedication of lecturers and discipline amongst students. In playing its role as vanguard of teacher training, the Faculty recently hosted a Conference on 100 Years of Education in Nigeria at its famous educationist; Emeritus Professor Pal Obanya, was the Commencement Speaker. The Conference which addressed various issues concerning the past, present and the future of education in Nigeria, attracted eminent educationists and other stakeholders from across the country.

Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lawrence Igwe, expressed optimism that given the policy plan of the University which it has keyed into, the Faculty is set to quadruple the achievements recorded in the last three decades. "The Faculty is blessed with a crop of dedicated staff that are able and willing to take it to higher grounds. We are pleased to note that construction work is ongoing at our new Faculty building at the University's Permanent Site; it is our hope that the new complex would offer us an enabling learning environment and vastly enhance our capacity to deliver quality services to our numerous clients as we look forward to the next 40 years," the Dean said.

As the Faculty of Education joins others in celebrating the last 40 years, it is hoped that the next 40 years will witness major research breakthroughs on an unprecedented scale. The Faculty has the potentials of becoming one of the best Faculties of Education in the Nigerian university system.



*Prof Ekeazu*



*Prof Enaolowo*

The days when universities existed like inaccessible monasteries at the South Pole, while the communities they were expected to serve wondered about their modus operandi in the North Pole have all but disappeared. Today, universities are in their third mission of using entrepreneurship to bridge the yawning gap between town and gown in the new knowledge economy. Their first and second missions of teaching and research can no longer guarantee them relevance in a new learning environment that demands capitalization of knowledge.

With a whopping 24 per cent unemployment rate in Africa's largest economy that is ranked the 26th largest in the world, it is quite obvious that managers of the Nigerian economy are walking on a pin-point to create jobs for the teeming army of university graduates now roaming the streets. Unemployment creates huge gaps in the social pecking order and has an inherent capacity to detonate on the national psyche like a time bomb, no matter how politicians manipulate figures to colour what they ought to have done.

Nobody understands this problem better than Clifford Ofurum—a Professor of Accounting and Finance in the Faculty of Management Sciences and Director of the University of Port Harcourt Business School. The first in the series of Public Lectures by the Department of Accounting offered this gangling scholar a veritable template to force his students and colleagues out of classroom theory, and right into the field of practical experience.

"We consume to develop other economies. There are local alternatives to all the things we import from China and India that engage their citizens in small-scale industrial production. Nigeria is after gigantic industries that are prone to corruption on a massive scale," Ofurum told the gathering at the Faculty Auditorium on Friday, March 13, 2015.

Identifying the cardinals of scholarship as knowledge, discoveries, integration, application and teaching, Ofurum insisted that Nigerian universities were still trapped in the zone of theory at the expense of praxis, which he described as the soul of a functional entrepreneurial education in other climes. Are we then paying mere lip service to the concept of entrepreneurial education? Yes, said Professor Ofurum: "Why are the proponents of 'entrepreneurial education' not exposing their children to the practical skills they recommend for others? Why are they battling to be succeeded by their children in blue collar jobs, while telling others to embrace entrepreneurship?" Good questions!

"Entrepreneurship requires practical application of knowledge and not a strictly classroom subject," he submitted, adding that people who are driven by purpose can be very productive even without university degrees.

"All an entrepreneur requires to incubate his ideas are the trinity of time, energy and money. An entrepreneur must be disciplined and have respect for time," he declared, pointing out that entrepreneurship is a way of thinking and acting, and not predicated on slogan that would make the teacher shine in the classroom.

# Decoding Ofurum's Entrepreneurial Mindset

By Williams Wodi



Prof Ofurum

Quoting Irish Playwright, Bernard Shaw, Ofurum told young people to adapt the world to themselves as the only path to progress, rather than adapting themselves to the world. The world, according to him, depended on 'unreasonable people' to move forward, and not those who conform to received wisdom. Young people must differentiate between 'seed' and 'fruit' as they pick their way through the complex motions of the business environment. Fruits sprout from seeds. Good logic!

Should young people be afraid of making mistakes? No, declared the Professor. "Failure is an essential ingredient of reaching for success. Those who are afraid of failure make no progress. Celebrated inventor of the electric bulb Thomas Edison made ten thousand mistakes before he invented the bulb! Far ahead of venture capital, young people must cultivate a spirit of adventure and risk-taking if they hope to succeed in business," he told the packed auditorium.

Turning to his colleagues, Professor Ofurum, whose lecture was entitled: Enough of Theory: Let's go

Entrepreneurial," urged them to match what they teach to industry needs. "We must now close the yawning skills gap with the right curriculum without pursuing perfection in all areas," he told them, warning that the unemployment gap would continue to widen until graduates are trained to capitalize their ideas. Interim applause trailed the presentation to the very end. It was a five-star performance in conception, content and presentation that was befitting of a Professor with excellence of thought and clarity of delivery.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, showered praises on the Faculty of Management Sciences and Department of Accounting for keying into the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the University with the well-patronized Lecture. "There is a new direction that is very visible in the Faculty of Management Sciences that should be emulated by other Faculties. Large buildings alone do not make a university; it is the quality of academic activities and research output that emanate from it that defines a true centre of learning," he said, commending Professor Ofurum for his giant strides as Director of the Port Harcourt Business School (PHBS). Professor Nduka also urged the Faculty to be in the forefront of the new initiative to capitalize knowledge in line with the entrepreneurial vision of the University.

Welcoming guests, who included prominent Alumni, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Emeke Okeke, disclosed plans for the construction of a Hall of Fame to honour distinguished Alumni and Staff, calling for support to realize

the project in record time. He announced a pledge of N25 million be an Alumnus, Sohere Diri, towards the project. "Irrespective of where our Alumni may find themselves, they are still linked to us in a special way. We are moving away from theory and embracing practice in line with the new economy that requires knowledge workers. As part of the 40th Anniversary of the University, we are recognizing our retired colleagues and will also confer posthumous awards on others, who have passed away in remembrance of their past services to the Faculty.

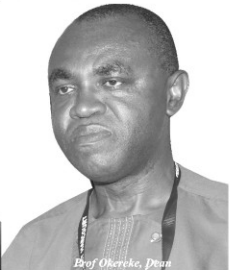
The Vice-Chancellor and his predecessor, Professor Don Baridam, were honoured for Leadership and Academic Excellence, while the Managing Director of Hameton Technologies, Mr. Diri and Director-General of Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Patrick Akpobekemi, were honoured for selfless support for the Faculty as distinguished Alumni. Also honoured were Professor Ofurum and Dr. Emmanuel Ibanichuka.



Prof Ajienka, V-C



Prof Don-Baridam, V-C



Prof Okeke, Dean

# Ekwueme Delivers Nimenibo's Lecture

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our music, the way we dress and other cultural traits that define who we are as a people. As a civil servant, Sir Nimenibo used to go to the office in traditional attire as a statement of his ancestral roots in the Niger Delta. He was very proud of his culture and demonstrated it for everybody to see," commending the Department of Music for what it has been doing in the University within the short period of its establishment.

In his welcome speech, Head of Department of Music and Convener of the event, Professor Obyee Nwankpa, recalled that the Department held the first in the series of concerts in honour of Sir Nimenibo on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2014, at the University Arts Theatre—the CRAB, adding that "this year, we decided to add a Lecture to the programme. We hope to sustain this annual memorial lecture, and we call on public-spirited individuals and corporate bodies to support us in our bid to actualise this dream of preserving authentic indigenous culture."

He commended the family of Sir Nimenibo for establishing a Chair in Music in memory of their late father, in addition to donating his rich music library to aid entertainment and research in the Department. Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemegwem, who described music as a recipe of life, hailed the organiser's choice of Professor Ekwueme as guest lecturer in an event put together to

celebrate Nimenibo, describing the Department of Music as one of the most active Departments in the Faculty.

Responding on behalf of the family, the Amanyano of Ogu, His Highness, Nicholas Nimenibo, who thanked the Guest Lecturer for a well-delivered lecture, recalled that the late Sir Nimenibo was an enthusiastic about music that if he had a choice between music and food, he

would have certainly chosen the latter.

On his part, son of the late music collector, Engineer Williams Nimenibo, expressed gratitude to the University for honouring the memory of his father, promising that his family would continue to identify with authorities of the Institution in perpetuating the legacy of his father through the promotion of his musical interest.



Eng. Nimenibo, Prof. Molaru Ogundipe and Pioneer HoD, Music, Prof. Henry Bell-Gam. Inset: Sir Nimenibo

## We Will Give Back To UniPort, Mgt Alumni Pledge

By Mercy Adeniji

The Faculty of Management Sciences has produced many Alumni/Alumna, who have distinguished themselves in various fields of human endeavour. The Faculty joined its counterparts to celebrate the landmark achievements of the University at 40 on Thursday, March 12, 2015 by honouring 40 distinguished Alumni for identifying with it over the years.

Dr. Whisky Ayekeme is an Alumnus of the Department of Marketing and Chief Executive of De-corporate Associates Limited. Dr. Ayekeme had his Master's degree in Business Administration and a Doctorate from UniPort.

He expressed gratitude to the University of Port Harcourt and his Faculty for recognizing him, stating that it is a great honour to be among the forty distinguished alumni of the Faculty of Management Sciences to be singled out for recognition amongst the thousands of graduates produced by the Faculty. "It is a rare privilege which I shall continue to cherish for the rest of my life. To be counted amongst the 40 most distinguished alumni of the Faculty is a special event for which I will remain grateful to my teachers" he said.

"I would suggest the institutionalization of an Annual Faculty Dinner that would attract Alumni of the

Faculty from within and outside the country, because such an Annual Dinner would enable the Dean and Heads of Department to catalogue the problems of the Faculty before such an august gathering."

Also speaking, Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Mercy Ajienka, commended the Faculty for the honour done her, recalling that although she graduated as a Science student, "I later enrolled into the Faculty of Management Sciences to engage in the Postgraduate and Master's programmes which were a bit challenging for me, but I was able to scale through the hurdle with the encouragement of my dedicated Lecturers."

Corroborating the views of her colleagues, Mrs. Ajienka appealed to other worthy Alumni to remember their *Alma Mater* by giving something back to the Faculty that brought them to the limelight.

In his contribution, former Member of the Rivers State House of Assembly, Honourable John Basia, expressed gratitude to the Professor Joseph Ajienka-led administration and the Faculty for celebrating the University's landmark achievements and also for honouring them. "I see this event as a great challenge, because being selected to be among the forty Alumni to be honoured in the Faculty's Hall of Fame is something very special. I think we are doing well and we should be able to give back to our *Alma Mater*; we do not have to wait until we reach the peak of our professions before identifying with our *Alma Mater*. We owe it as a duty to contribute to lifting the Faculty to new heights to enable it stand tall in the next 40 years, Basia said."

Also speaking, the Group Financial Controller of Jossy Group Inter-service Nigeria Limited, Mr. Dike Wozura, thanked the Faculty for calling back the Alumni to be part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University. "I want to thank you for all the creativity and innovations we are seeing today. There is a lot we can do together on the Alumni platform to promote the Faculty. Out there, the name of the game is hard work and pressure before expecting success and I hope the students understand the situation of the country today. "Back then in school, the pressure was so much and we complained; we felt like giving up, but little did we know that such pressures were necessary to make us stronger. As Managers, we manage human resources, materials, including the pressures. We cannot succeed as entrepreneurs without proper management skills we took away from this Faculty. I will support the idea of an Annual Alumni Dinner, because there is a need for us to connect with each other to actualize the ideal of assisting our *Alma Mater* grow," Wozura said.

## STOP PRESS CONSUMMATION OF INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Colleges, Faculties, Centres, Units or staff have been urged to bring all Institutional Collaborations to the notice of the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU) to enable the Unit follow up and consummate such relationships through Memoranda of Understanding and also for record purposes. Director of the ELP, Professor John Otaigbe, who gave the charge in a Memo addressed relevant organs of the University and obtained by *UniPort Weekly*, advised stakeholders to forward photocopies of all existing MoUs that are yet to be documented to the Unit for documentation.

"We would like to encourage staff alumni of other institutions (local and international) to please facilitate an initial contact with their *Alma Mater* for possible linkages that may benefit their Departments, Faculties, Colleges, Institutes, Centres, and Units, etc. Such institutional collaborations and linkages are very crucial in driving research, as well as in the international ranking and reputation of the University," the Memorandum said.



Dr. Ayekeme

Mrs. Ajienka

Hon. Basia

Mr. Wozura

## GUIDEPOST

## Expert Warns Against Maltreating Senior Citizens

## APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Ife Chijioke-Nwauche**, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Co-ordinator of Department*, effective 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016.

**Dr. A. O. Shorinwa**, Department of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Co-ordinator of Department*, effective 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016.

**Dr. C. Stanley**, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

**Dr. Chijioke Nwauche**, appointed *Assistant Director*, Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017.

**Dr. Solomon Egbu**, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Science, appointed *Co-ordinator, General Studies (GES) 300 – Entrepreneurial Development*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

**Prof. Reginald Ukwijue**, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, granted *Final Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 to 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Mr. Olawaju Adisa**, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to pursue a PhD programme in Biochemistry at the University of Cranfield, United Kingdom, effective January, 2015 to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

**Mr. Williams Iroh**, Office of Research and Development, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to undertake an MPhil/PhD Programme in Economics at University of Calabar, Cross River State for four years – 2013/14 to 2014-2017/2018.

## CONVERSION TO ACADEMIC CADRE

**Mr. Festus Ologbese**, Department of Animal Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Conversion to Academic Cadre* from Livestock Officer to *Assistant Lecturer*, effective 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

## VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT

**Dr. T. A. Sani**, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted approval to proceed on *Voluntary Retirement* from the University, effective 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015.

## CHANGE OF NAME

## DR. IFONI CHRISTIANA JOHN

Former Dr. Ifoni Christiana John of the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, now wishes to be known and addressed as DR. (MRS) CHRISTIANA UZOARU OKORIE. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

## By Humphrey Ogu

**A** Senior Lecturer in the Department of Internal Medicine, College of Health Sciences, Dr. Hope Bell-Gam, has warned against maltreating the aged and retirees, who are often dismissed as people who have outlived their relevance in contemporary society, stressing that attaining old age does not mean that the individual has retired from life.

Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly Correspondent* on Monday, March 9, 2015, Bell-Gam, who is with the Care of Elderly Persons Unit at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), stressed the need for younger people to remember that they too would grow old someday and expect younger people to be courteous to them.

"We should be grateful to the aged and treat them with the reverence they deserve, because they put in place what we are enjoying at the moment. They are not people we should disrespect or regard as not having anything more to offer society. Their wealth of knowledge and wisdom are vital resources we should tap from as we help them age gracefully in their final days on earth. We should treat them with dignity and respect which is what they deserve for their numerous contributions to society," she reminded the younger generation, calling on stakeholders to support her effort to establish a Geriatric Institute at the UPTH to engage in research and care for Senior Citizens.

"We cannot discard the elderly because there is so much to use them for in our society. If they are

capable and have physiological energy to cope, they should be allowed to do so until they have the ability to do. If they still have the mental acumen and the physical health to cope, why not? Age is a thing of the mind as well," she pointed out, adding that 56 per cent of inventions in the world are made by people within the age bracket of 60 years and above.

Bell-Gam, who distinguished between chronological and biological ages, noted that "there are people who are 50, but when you look at them, you think they are 70, while some people who are 80 years may make you believe they are in their 60s. Attitude and how we cope with aging are very important factors." Dr. Bell-Gam said, conceding that "those who are aged cannot keep working forever; they must give chance for the younger generation, but we must not just discard them as people who have outlived their relevance in society as it appears to be the practice today."

Stressing the importance of a good dietary habit, Bell-Gam advocated consumption of fruits such as cucumber, carrots, cabbage, garden egg and coconut, as a means of achieving graceful aging and preventing opportunistic diseases that worsen with age. She explained that "when you eat more of the green fruits and vegetables, you protect yourself against those diseases that are commensurate with the aging process such as cancer, osteoporosis, arthritis, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. Cancers are generally commoner in persons who are 60 years and above.

"Take a lot of fruits and roughages. People complain about garri, but you need food that has high roughage. Well processed garri is a good food that is high in fibre. It is better than wheat, when it comes to high fibre content, but diabetes still need to eat more of plantain. What we advocate is quality, quantity and frequency, because with little portions of quality food, the patient will cope better," she advised, adding that "any time one stops taking tobacco, the benefits start in the body within 30 minutes, because blood pressure will begin to normalize.

"Diabetes and hypertension are commoner as you grow older and, of course, chronic obstruction and pulmonary diseases are very common conditions as people grow older. They may be there before, but manifest as soon as you get older because the functionality of such organs decreases and the ability to cope is a lot less; that is why you need to take more care when you are younger so that the physiological changes of aging which are inevitable could be better managed. If you abuse your body in youth, then you are likely to have more trouble than somebody who started taking care of the body early in life" she warned.

Advising against encouraging sick people to lie down, Bell-Gam said: "They should be encouraged to stand up or sit up. The best position to get air into your lungs is the erect position, followed by the sitting position. If you lie flat, the lungs are collapsed on themselves and the chances of being infected are higher."



Dr. Bell-Gam

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT  
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

## FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 22 – SATURDAY 28, 2015.

| DATE                     | TEMPERATURE<br>in °C | HUMIDITY<br>(%) | WIND<br>DIRECTION | RAIN<br>(mm) | SUNRISE AND<br>SUNSET<br>(am) (pm) | SUMMARY   |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| SUNDAY 22<br>MAR 2015    | 35.0 24.0            | 58              | NE                | -            | 6:35 18:42                         | Decreasing cloudiness anticipated.                                      |
| MONDAY,<br>23 MAR 2015   | 34.0 25.0            | 61              | NE                | 1.4          | 6:35:18:42                         | Thunder storm expected late in the day. Decreasing cloudiness expected. |
| TUESDAY<br>24 MAR 2015   | 35.0 26.0            | 65              | N                 | 7.6          | 6:35:18:42                         | Thunder storm expected afternoon clouds anticipated.                    |
| WEDNESDAY 25<br>MAR 2015 | 36.0 25.0            | 69              | N                 | 5.4          | 6:34:18:42                         | Thunder storm expected early in the day. More clouds than on forecast.  |
| THURSDAY 26<br>MAR 2015  | 34.0 25.0            | 69              | NE                | 2.9          | 6:34:18:42                         | Thunder storm expected early in the day. Partly cloudy day expected.    |
| FRIDAY<br>27 MAR 2015    | 34.0 25.0            | 66              | NE                | 2.9          | 6:33:18:42                         | Thunder storm expected early in the day. Partly sunny day forecast.     |
| SATURDAY 28<br>MAR 2015  | 34.0 25.0            | 61              | N                 | -            | 6:33:18:42                         | Mostly cloudy day expected.   |

Dr. Gladys Emenike  
ACTING HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom  
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

## SERVICOM CORNER

**C**orruption, inefficiency, dereliction of duty and lack of discipline must be discouraged among teaching and non-teaching staff of the University of Port Harcourt.

Our Stakeholders have a right to complain where any of such acts occur.

**SERVICOM is here to make things right!!**

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

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



### COMMISSIONING OF STUDENTS' UNION SECRETARIAT

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commissioned the refurbished Students' Union Secretariat at the Permanent Site of the University on Monday, February 2, 2015. Pictures below show highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**:



Dean, Student Affairs, Prof Andrew Ejemini, leading V-C, Prof Ajienka (left) and Director CCE, Prof Steve Okoduwa to the venue of the commissioning



SU President, Mr. Felix Nwizua, also leading V-C, DV-C (Acad) Prof Igbo Joe and others to the venue



Prof Ajienka being received by some Executive Officers of the Union



A front view of the Secretariat before the commissioning



Prof Ajienka cutting the tape



V-C, unveiling the marble inscription



One of the furnished offices



Student Union President, Mr. Nwizua, giving his address



DV-C (Acad), Prof Joe, making a speech



Dean, Student Affairs, Prof Ejemini also speaking



From L-R: V-C, Prof Ajienka, SERVICOM Focal Officer, Prof Tony Arinze, Ag. Executive Director, UniPort Foundation, Dr. Ngozi Odu, Deputy Registrar IPPR, Williams Wodi



Some of the Students' Union leaders at the event



V-C, Prof Ajienka (5th right) flanked on his right by Mr. Nwizua, DV-C (Acad), Prof Joe, Director CCE, Prof Okoduwa, Ag. Executive Director, UPHE, Dr. Ngozi Odu and Focal Officer SERVICOM, Prof Arinze, Dean, Student Affairs, Prof Ejemini, Director, Student Affairs, Mrs. Bridget Nwizua and others