

Five UniPort Graduates Cart

Away NYSC Presidential Awards

Following the quality of community development service projects they executed in their various states of primary assignment during the mandatory one-year national service, five graduates of the University of Port Harcourt were amongst those conferred with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Presidential Awards in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

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Side Bar

The 118th Inaugural Lecture by Professor Eme Ekeke held on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigie Auditorium. Details next week.

Editor



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UniPort, FMC Sign MoU On Subsea Engineering

By Obinna Nwodin

Barely four months after negotiations commenced, authorities of the University and American-based engineering giants, FMC Technologies, have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Subsea Engineering Training Programme in the University. The initiative which stands the University out as the first in Africa to establish such a high impact technology programme took place at the Vice-Chancellors Committee Room, last Tuesday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, a visibly delighted Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, described the event as a major milestone, not only for the University of Port Harcourt, but also for the oil and gas industry in Nigeria, noting that authorities of the Institution were pleased to collaborate with the globally famous FMC in the establishment of the first Sub-Sea Engineering programme here.

"We are indeed very happy to enter into this important partnership and given the facilities and experience of FMC, we are confident that this partnership would add tremendous

value to our services," he stated, assuring the firm of the University's total commitment towards realizing the purpose for which the partnership was conceived.

Earlier in his speech, Project Manager of FMC Technologies

Limited, Michael Hunt, said that the company was proud to be associated with the University on the project, adding that the Institution was well-positioned to commence the programme along established global best practice. "FMC is an experienced company in Subsea Engineering in the world and this University is well-positioned to create

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NLNG Commends UniPort On Professorial Chair



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SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS

By Mark Kinver, Environment reporter, BBC News

A breakthrough in the development of temperature-resilient beans could help sustain a vital source of protein for millions of people around the globe.

The news offers a glimmer of hope for many farmers in developing nations.

Climate projections suggest that 50% of the countries' bean production will be lost by 2050 if farmers do not have access to the new variety of bean. The discovery was made by plant breeders at CGIAR, a global agricultural research group.

One of the plant breeders involved in the research, Steve Beebe - a senior bean researcher at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) - explained that bean plants were, as a rule, very sensitive to excessive heat.

"Typically, beans are not grown in environments where the night temperature is above 18C (64F) or 19C," he told BBC News.

"Night temperatures are especially critical because the bean flower pollinates itself during night hours and the pollination process is very sensitive to temperature."

"When we talk about heat tolerance, we are especially concerned about the night-time temperatures."

Dr Beebe said the team wanted to see if there were varieties that displayed a trait of coping with night-time temperatures in the region of 23C.

"We gathered up the lines that we had in our breeding programme - lines that had been selected for other traits such as drought tolerance, which has been a high priority as well."

"We also pulled some lines off the shelf that were the result of a crossing programme about 12-15 years ago between our common bean and a tepary bean," Vintage traits.

He explained that the tepary bean was a neglected crop, grown by native Americans in the southwest US and Mexico in very hot and dry environments.

Without improved temperature tolerance, bean yields could halve as the world warms

"We first started evaluating them for drought tolerance but when we decided to go into temperature evaluations, we selected these along with a much larger line of beans selected for drought or disease resistance," he recalled.

"We looked for varieties that were able to set pods and produce seeds in those conditions. We selected about 30 materials that were promising. That meant it was about 3% of our material that was of any interest at all."

"When we looked at what we had selected, the vast majority went back to the crosses that we had made 12-15 years ago."

Dr Beebe said the tepary bean as a food crop was not a popular cultivar.

A recent report by the The African Seed Access Index (TASAI) said millions of smallholder farmers were unable to access the wide range of crop seeds because they were too costly or simply not available from local seed sellers.

As a matter of fact, if a farmer wrote to us today then we could - subject to certain restrictions - send them some Dr Beebe, Senior bean researcher, CIAT

Dr Beebe explained: "Beans and other legumes are self-pollinating so they are not very attractive to private sector seed producers."

"What self-pollination implies is that the farmer can save their own seed year after year, so a seedsmen in business thinks that they can sell seed once and then they will have no more market."

But he added that there had been several very innovative approaches to getting seed to smallholder farmers in this situation.

"One of the most successful has been selling seed but in very small packets."

"Seed is often marketed in sacks of 50lbs (23kg) or more, and farmers cannot afford that. If you offer them a small packet that could be as little as 100g, they can buy that easily."

"It will only cover a very small area but for the farmer, she looks upon that favourably because it provides an opportunity for her to experiment with a new variety: does it grow well? Does it produce well?"



Dr. Abdu Buluma

Minister of Science and Technology

Does she like the grain? Does she like the taste? If she evaluates it favourably, she can either save her own seed or she can go back and buy a little more."

Dr Beebe said selling seeds in small packets also provided a way for new varieties to be more widely disseminated.

As for when farmers will be able to get their hands on the new "heat-beater" beans, he revealed: "As a matter of fact, if a farmer wrote to us today then we could - subject to certain restrictions - send them some."

He added: "But regarding when the seed is widely available to a massive number of farmers is subject to a process that has certain legal steps to it."

http://www.bbc.com/news/science_and_environment

NLNG Commends UniPort On Igwe's Professorial Chair

By Humphrey Ogu

Management of the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) has expressed delight at the appointment of Professor Godwin Igwe as Occupant of the NLNG Professorial Chair of Gas Processing Engineering in the University of Port Harcourt.

A press release dated March 17, 2015 and signed by the company's Manager in charge of External Relations, Dr. Kudo Eresin-Eke and made available to

UniPort Weekly, read in part: "We are delighted with the appointment of an NLNG Chair Occupant at UniPort's Gas Processing Engineering. It speaks to a single-minded focus on researching and developing the country's gas potential that will have a positive impact on the wider oil and gas industry."

"The University is one of six tertiary institutions benefitting from the NLNG \$2billion funding support, dedicated to building/renovation and supply of state of the art equipment for teaching and research in selected Engineering Facilities in the country," Eresin-Eke explained, adding that, "Each of the six benefitting institutions, comprising University of Ibadan, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University of Maiduguri, University of Ilorin and the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and University of Port Harcourt, will access funds of approximately \$340million provided by NLNG."

"On its part, University of Port Harcourt elected to have NLNG endow a Chair to Research, focus on gas processing, refining and petrochemicals. The goal is to provide research-based information to stakeholders in the oil and gas industry at a fee; which will in turn generate funding for more research, thus ensuring sustainability," he pointed out, adding that "During a recent inspection visit to assess the progress of work at the Gas Engineering Faculty by the NLNG Management, it was observed that substructure work had been completed for the new building with ongoing progress on the superstructure."

Exchanging views with UniPort Weekly, the Chair Occupant, Professor Igwe said: "My vision for the new Chair is to transform UniPort into one of the leading research centres on gas, refining and petrochemicals on the entire African continent. We are happy with sponsorship of the building by the NLNG and equipment with which to carry out quality research here," citing equipment for establishing a

pilot modular refinery as some of the facilities being acquired for research.

Professor Igwe, who is Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals under the umbrella of the Institute of Petroleum Studies, said that the first stage for the design of equipment had been fully paid up, expressing gratitude to NLNG for endowing the Chair. "We are going to utilise this opportunity to promote the interest of our benefactor and the University and also ensure that our students are the best in refining and petrochemical engineering," he promised.

Meanwhile, following his unrelenting campaign for the use of modular refineries as a panacea for the perennial fuel scarcity in the country, Professor Igwe delivered the keynote address entitled: *The Role of Mechanical Engineers in the Design, Construction and Management of Modular Refineries* at the Annual Student Career Talk and Fair of the Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers which held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at the Ishmad Banga Secretariat of the Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.



Prof Igwe

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Receiving the awards in the University on Friday, March 20, 2015, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who congratulated them for distinguishing themselves during their service year, urged the award recipients to continue to give a good account of themselves wherever they may be.

Represented by Professor Bene Willie Abbey, the Vice-Chancellor said: "When you are chosen out of so many for an award, just know that it is God that conferred the honour and when God honours you, you will keep soaring to greater heights. The University of Port Harcourt is very proud of your achievements. You went there and made a difference, which qualified you for the award. You have brought honour not just to yourselves and families, but also to the Unique UniPort and I want to thank you for lifting the name of the University."

Sharing his service year experience, Dr. Onengye Ateke, who served in Kogi State, said he was motivated by his predecessors from UniPort, who returned from the NYSC programme with awards in the past. "I went to the youth service, knowing that I too could win such an award if I executed good community service projects. When I got to my place of primary assignment, I tried to identify the critical needs of the people and found ways in which I could be of assistance to them. I was deployed to a particular hospital where doctors were carrying out surgeries with headlamps and rechargeable lanterns. I mobilised the community to purchase a 4.7 KVA diesel power-generating set that enabled us light up the hospital," he recounted.

"I also revived the health centre of a neighbouring community; consulted there for free and persuaded the NYSC to deploy a doctor to continue from where I stopped. Before then, a doctor, pharmacist and laboratory scientist posted to the facility had refused to stay. I also constructed a signpost and acquired an electricity-generating set for them. I wrote a book entitled: *See Is Worth Waiting For* and distributed over 500 copies and also printed and distributed over a

Five UniPort Graduates Cart Away NYSC Presidential Awards



Prof Willie Abbey flanked by Drs. Dangana, Ateke on the right and Ms. Adindu and Dr Ogolo on the left

thousand copies of anti-HIV almanac. I organised an awareness seminar and administered Free HIV testing to mark the World AIDS Day," he said.

I also helped in renovating the two main secondary schools in the community—one for Muslims and the other for Christians," Ateke, who served in the 2012 Batch B disclosed, attributing his success to his exposure to community medicine while he was a student of UniPort.

Unlike Ateke, Dr. Osuna Dangana, who was a 2011 Batch A set in Anambra State, did not expect any award for his effort. "It was one of the NYSC officials that saw me carrying out the project and encouraged me to get in touch with the Secretariat to document my project," he revealed, recalling that while he was in service, the strike action embarked upon by hospital personnel posed a serious healthcare challenge at the time.

His words: "There were so many issues concerning child and maternal health so I started a foundation to give free healthcare to children aged five years and below and pregnant women. I organised health outreaches at Eke Awka Market in Awka and also carried out a free deworming exercise for primary school pupils in addition to other medical outreaches."

Dr. Donald Ogolo, who graduated from the Department of Medicine in the College of Health Science in 2010, was mobilised in the 2012 Batch B set to Ebony State. "When I was posted to my place of primary assignment, I discovered that there was high rate of maternal mortality and because the youths were not gainfully employed; the rate of social vices was also high. Spurred on by the sordid situation, I decided to carry out some projects to uplift the community. These projects included conducting surgeries, especially on pregnant women with complications, as well as some common childhood diseases," he said.

"I also conducted medical outreach in several communities in the Local Government Area and also carried out mass de-worming exercises of school children. I constructed the Family Planning Clinic and an Accident and Emergency Unit," he narrated, attributing his award to the virtues of discipline and service to humanity which he imbibed from his training in UniPort.

Describing herself as a recipient of God's favour, Adindu Chinwe, who graduated from the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology and served in Taraba State in the Batch B 2012 set, said she carried out a project that had high impact in the community. "I found out that many young people were unemployed in the community. And their jobless situation led to social vices. I had passion for helping the unemployed, so I initiated a skills acquisition programme where 25 youths from the community were given three months intensive training in hair dressing, tailoring, barbing and fish farming," she said.

"At the end of the three months, they were all empowered with starter-packs, such as sewing machine, electricity-generating sets, clippers and so on that enabled them start up their own businesses," she recalled, disclosing that her membership of ENACTUS (formerly SIFE) in her days as a student inspired her to undertake the project.

Meanwhile, the Presidential Award by Dr. Goodluck Jonathan included scholarships up to doctorate degree level tenable in any university of their choice in any part of the world.

Ihejirika Relives Burkina Faso Film Festival Experience

By Otiok Samuel

Firstwhile Acting Head of Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Walter Ihejirika, has described as fulfilling the experience he garnered at the just-concluded 24th edition of the biennial Pan-African Film and Television Festival (FESPACO) which held at Ouagadougou, the Burkina capital between February 28 and March 7, 2015.

Sharing his experience with our Correspondent last Tuesday, Dr. Ihejirika, who served as a member of the *Signis* Jury at the largest film festival in Africa, disclosed that "the festival offered African film and television professionals a rare opportunity to establish working relationships with one another, exchange ideas and promote their work."

Ihejirika, who had served as a member of jury at two international festivals—the Zanzibar Film Festival and the Venice Film Festival, added that FESPACO was

aimed at contributing to the development of African cinema as a means of expression, education and raising awareness amongst the populace.

He promised to transmit his experience at the Festival to broaden the teaching of television-related courses in the Department, stressing the need to promote the growing cinema culture in Rivers State and other parts of the country.

The former Acting Head of Department, who commended the people of Burkina Faso for coming alive again after experiencing a recent political turmoil, advised political players and their ardent supporters against causing civil unrest in Nigeria on account of the ongoing General Elections, stating that one of the major highlights of the Festival was the award of the Thomas Sankara Prize. He recalled that late Sankara was remembered for his contribution towards ensuring that power was put at the service of the people, rather than being deployed to serve the pecuniary interest of a negligible minority, who deceive the people with empty electioneering slogans.



Dr. Ihejirika (1st left) and two other members of the jury

UniPort ENACTUS Sharpens Leadership Skills At Ekiti Workshop



Far (left), Staff Adviser, Dr. Uche, ENACTUS members, Faculty Advisor, Dr. Wordu (right)

By Mercy Adeniji

Efforts aimed at building the capacity of students to develop quality projects that would impact positively on society received a major boost with the participation of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of ENACTUS in a five-day leadership training workshop held at the Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, between Monday, March 2 and Friday, March 6, 2015.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the essence of the training shortly after returning to the University, Team Leader, Precious Ejyere, disclosed that the national leadership training programme was designed to build the capacity of participants in effective leadership and entrepreneurship. The Team Leader explained that the training which had the theme: *Building the 21st Century Leader*, was also targeted at enhancing the capacity of

ENACTUS members to develop quality projects that would be sustainable, measurable, impactful and inspirational, pointing out that the event was aimed at developing quality leaders that would extend their leadership capacities to the larger society."

Ejyere, disclosed that the training tagged: *Top Ten For Ten*, was born out of the passion of ENACTUS to cultivate the entrepreneurship mindset amongst students and also build a bridge between business organisations and tertiary institutions.

Ejyere expressed gratitude to Management of the University for the moral and financial support it had extended to ENACTUS over the years. "We also wish to thank our amiable Staff Adviser, Dr. Chinezee Uche, for encouraging us to explore our full potentials in entrepreneurship schemes."

Ejyere revealed that over 400 Students from 34 universities across the country participated in the

training, while twelve students were drawn from each school with their Faculty Advisors.

In attendance from the University of Port Harcourt were Dr. Steve Wordu (Faculty Advisor), Precious Ejyere, Chibazor Mordi, Henrietta Nwanji, Mercy Nnaji, Augustine Oghenekaro, Miracle Oluwagunle, Amarachi Onyeiwu, David Adaoa, Adeoke Olatunbosun, Chinnonso Erondu, Benjamin Arugu and Excel Deyor.

Meanwhile, in a related development, Ejyere has disclosed that ENACTUS has entered into partnership with a private organization known as Core Head Business Solutions Limited to mentor its members on a new project called *TeeNCode* targeted at training programmers, disclosing that the body has so far visited 30 Secondary Schools in Port Harcourt to teach them how to become programmers.

V-C Charges Fresh Students On Good Conduct At Orientation

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have advised newly-admitted students to take their studies seriously and be innovative in order to justify the reason for their admission, as well as investments made by their parents and guardians.

This advice was given by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, during the 2014/2015 Orientation Exercise held last Thursday at the Convocation Arena, University Park.

Professor Ajienka charged the students to work hard in order to pass their examinations and become successful in life, adding that the degree awarded by the University was based on both *character and learning*. According to him, good conduct would be adjudged as very important if students must successfully pass through the University, warning that academic

performances alone would not guarantee any graduate a place in society.

He told them that being admitted into the University meant that they have joined a very important community of scholars who are dedicated to advancing the frontiers of knowledge, advising the new entrants to follow in the footsteps of distinguished alumni of the University, who are now in the commanding heights of politics, the economy and religious establishments, amongst others.

The Vice-Chancellor, stated that the University has achieved significant milestones in such disciplines as Sports, Petroleum Engineering, Geosciences, amongst others, urging the students to strive towards academic excellence at all times. Professor Ajienka also stated that UniPort has become the first Entrepreneurial University in Nigeria, advising the students to be innovative and creative in their thinking, as well as laud the University culture by conducting themselves properly at all times.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Registrar, Mrs.

Matilda Nnodim, who congratulated the students for being among the privileged few to be admitted into the University, charged them to be serious with their studies and obey the rules and regulations of the University.

"Start today to determine what grade you want to graduate with and this you must do by working hard to excel in your academic endeavours. You cannot begin to struggle for the First Class in your second year. Those who want to graduate with top grades are known to study very hard right from their first day in the University. There is no other magic that can be performed later in the day by students who waste their time in the pursuit of frivolities. Hard work is the name of the game," she admonished them.

"This University prides itself for producing global students and you should follow in the glorious footsteps of distinguished alumni that have made us proud." The Registrar advised, noting that as students, their parents and the University have great expectations of them. She urged them not to betray the confidence reposed in them. The event featured presentations on *Bursary Services and Students Insurance Scheme* by the Bursar who was represented by Mr. Lawrence Deyor; *Use of the Library and e-Learning* by Mrs. Susan Umecor; *The Role of the Students Affairs Department in the Life of Students* by the Dean, Professor Andrew Efemini; *The Student and Security* by the Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Regional Isiguzo (rtd); *Health Services to Students* by Deputy Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chinwe Ehirim; *Dress/Moral Code* by President University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) and Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Mercy Ajienka; *Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Students in Academic Matters* by the Director of Academic Affairs, Mrs. Dorcas Oti.

Other presentations included: *Prize Winning Opportunities in the University* by Chairman of the Senate the Committee on Prizes, Professor Chukwudi Onyaso; *Code of Conduct for Students, Examination Malpractices and related Matters* by Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani; *The Importance of Guidance and Counselling in the Life of the Students* by the Guidance and Counselling Officer Mrs. Rosemary Ekechukwu; *Services at ICTC* by the Director of Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) who was represented by Mrs. Elizabeth Okoye-Wali; *The Role of Students in Campus Cleanliness* by the Acting Director of Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit, Mr. Okozo Ochuha.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka addressing the new students at the Orientation

Efforts aimed at enhancing the competence level of members of the Research Ethics Committee (REC), received a major boost with the organization of an in-house training on Thursday, March 19, 2015, at the Board Room of the College of Graduate Studies, University Park. Declaring open the training session, representative of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, who commended members for their dedication and commitment to the activities of the Committee, told them that their efforts would ensure that researches published in the University met international standards and free of plagiarism. "It is your responsibility to ensure that researches are published in recognized and indexed journals to improve the University's rating, both at the national and global levels."

Reiterating Management's full support to the Committee, Professor Willie Abbey disclosed that plans were in top gear to ease the administrative challenges limiting the efficiency of members to perform their statutory functions. "It is Management's desire to really establish a thriving Research Ethics Committee that would move the University forward," she stressed, calling on members to imbibe the spirit of team work. Professor Willie Abbey also lauded the efforts of the Chairman in organizing regular training sessions for members, describing research as the nitty-gritty of a university's activities.

"The purpose for setting up the Research Ethics Committee is to ensure that researchers in this University follow globally benchmarked ethical standards in their work. Those experimenting with humans and animals must follow standard protocols that do not inflict unnecessary pains on

REC Mounts Training For Members

By Ethel Timi-Johnson and
Obubelebara Wokoma

their specimen. This training would help to address such ethical issues by ensuring that our researchers stay within approved limits," she told the members. Chairman of the Committee, Professor Osaretin Odia, who expressed satisfaction that more Faculties and Colleges have responded to the Committee's call for research works and proposal reviews, pointing out that the in-house training was designed to help members keep abreast of latest developments in research ethics.

Speaking on the objectives of the training, Dr. Seye Babatunde, who made a presentation on behalf of Mrs. Selina Inko-Tariha, pointed out that the

training provided an opportunity for members to understand the principles of ethics and their application, acquaint them with the operational guidelines of the Committee and help develop computer skills for the review of electronic documents.

Other papers presented at the one-day training included, *Research Ethics: Origins, Evolution and Principles* by Professors Blessing Didia and Osaretin Odia, *Introduction to Compliance and Ethics Terminologies* by Dr. Babatunde, *Plagiarism and Anti-Plagiarism Measures* by Dr. Tobin Briggs, *Roles and Responsibilities of a Research Ethics Board: Overview of the UniPort Research Ethics Committee* by Professor Odia and *How to Review e-Documents in MS Word* by Dr. Babatunde.



Prof Willie Abbey (3rd left), Prof Odia and other Committee members

NISLT Inducts 770 UniPort Technologists

By Obubelebara Wokoma
and Obinna Nvodim

A total of 770 new technologist trained by the University of Port Harcourt have been inducted into the profession by the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT) as part of the 4th Oath Taking/Induction Ceremony of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT) held at the Ebithini Banigo Auditorium, last Tuesday.

Performing the Induction, Registrar and Director-General of the Institute, Dr. Ighodalo Ijagbone, who congratulated the graduands on the successful completion of the first phase of their training, advised them to get themselves properly acquainted with the code of ethics of the profession, stating that "You are our new ambassadors and certified professionals of Science Laboratory Technology; you are required to imbibe the ethics of the profession, assert yourselves and project the image of the profession."

Dr. Ijagbone commended the positive role the

authorities of the University have played in the training of Laboratory Technologists over the years. "It is one of the few universities that have ventured into the programme and considering the capital intensive requirements to run it, we must therefore commend the Vice-Chancellor, other Principal Officers and Management of the University for the success story. The Institute shall continue to cherish this fruitful synergy for uplifting science and technology in particular and the country in general," the Registrar stated.

Presenting the graduands to the Institute, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, congratulated them for meeting the stringent requirements specified by Senate of the University for graduating students, urging them to be the worthy ambassadors of the University at all times.

"Let me hasten to observe that this ceremony offers us a rare opportunity to appraise the progress made so far in implementing the policies of the University, especially as it relates to the School of Science Laboratory Technology programme. The students, who are now

ready to join the labour market, have every reason to be proud of their achievement on this programme that has expanded beyond the modest objectives of its founders," the Vice-Chancellor said, charging the new inductees to imbibe the spirit of hard work, discipline and dedication in their chosen profession, as well as ensure that the best industry practices are maintained in the line of duty. Delivering the Induction Lecture entitled: *The Role of Young Technologists in Economic Development*, an alumnus of the University, Mr. Naamdi Ahlamadu, said that the concept of economic growth should not be limited to accumulation of wealth from product sales, but should rather be expanded to embrace structural changes that are driven by increasing interest in technology, as they result in larger production and a more reliable economy, advising young technologist to develop the entrepreneurial spirit that would help them conquer the world.

Earlier in her welcome address, Provost of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, who congratulated the students on the successful completion of their programmes, attributed it to hard work and dedication of both staff and students. "This induction is a very special one, being held when we are celebrating our University at 40 and celebrating our worthy Alumni," she reminded the graduands.

Also speaking, Dean of the School of Science Laboratory Technology, Professor Grace Awl-Waadu, stated that the Induction was a confirmation that the students had satisfied the stringent provisions stipulated by the Institute. She advised the new inductees to abide by the ethics of the profession and also guard the good image of the University wherever they may find themselves. She commended the Ajienka-led administration for its unflinching support that has enabled the School to stand on solid footing.

In her address, the Valedictorian, Precious Dike, paid glowing tributes to the University for the quality training the graduands received, expressing gratitude to parents and her colleagues for the support that led to the successful completion of the programme.

High point of the event was presentation of professional certification licenses to the new technologists by NISLT and prizes to top academic fliers, who included two First Class graduands.



Inductees taking the NISLT Oath. Inset: Dean, Prof Awl-Waadu

UniPort, FMC Sign MoU On Subsea Engineering



V-C, Prof Ajenka (arrowed) flanked to his right by Project Manager FMC, Mr. Hunt and to his left by Aders Stalokken, as well as other Senior Officers of the University after signing the MoU.

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a robust subsea training in Nigeria and for the rest of Africa. We are very happy to be working together in this regard and we can guarantee you quality service delivery," he stated, pledging total commitment of his firm to stand the project on a firm footing. In his remarks, Director of the Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) in the Institute of Petroleum Studies, Professor John Okoli,

expressed delight that the agreement has finally come to fruition, adding that it has the capacity to cover the entire African continent. He expressed gratitude to FMC Technologies for its visible commitment to the partnership, promising that the University would seize the rare opportunity with both hands. Under the agreement, the programme would identify competency gaps and train qualified engineers that would provide world-class

engineering services to support subsisting and future projects in the Nigerian oil and gas industry. It would also bridge technical gaps through the commencement of a joint Master of Science degree and Certificate programmes in Subsea Engineering in the University. It would be recalled that plans to commence the programme started in November last year after an initial exploratory meeting between the two partnering organizations.

PJC-GWDS, UPWA Mark Int'l Women's Day

By Ethel Timi-Johnson Obulelebara Wokoma

The Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GWDS) in collaboration with the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) marked the 2015 International Women's Day, last Friday, with a passionate appeal for more women-centred development.

Delivering an address entitled: *Make it happen: Girls and Women's Health at the PJC-GWDS Temporary Site, University Park, Director of the Centre for Research Management, Professor Alice Nte*, called on relevant organs of Government to implement policies that would improve the quality of life for women and the girl-child. She called for adequate attention to issues bothering on mother and child health which she said was central to the

realization of the stated Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the Federal Government.

Professor Nte, who frowned at harmful traditional practices such as early marriage and battering of women, disclosed that over 80 per cent of deaths amongst women, could be prevented if the political will was there to enforce relevant legislation. Advocating the need for women to be proactive in seeking good health, Nte stressed the need for them to adopt safer practices and avoid unhealthy habits that have negative effects on their health. "Health is a basic human right. Collectively, we should work to promote, protect and support healthy activities for women and girls. Healthy living for women and girls is feasible," she submitted.

Representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Provost, College of Graduate Studies, Professor

Roseline Konya, who commended the Centre's efforts at educating women and girls on their health and rights, charged participants to act on the recommendations made by the Guest Lecturer aimed at improving their wellbeing, advising them to key into the quality of education in gender studies available at the Centre to develop themselves.

Chairman of the occasion and Vice-Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Professor Rosmund Green-Osahogulu, who commended the Centre and UPWA for organising the event to celebrate womanhood, called on women to mobilize towards nation-building and bettering their lot in a patriarchal society that still treats them as the property of men. She also stressed the need for changes in attitude to enable women achieve their full potentials, urging the Centre to intensify its advocacy for the rights of women, who

are hampered by all manner of prejudices in the traditional home setting and at the work place.

In their remarks, Director of the Centre, Professor Elizabeth Okkeke and UPWA President, Mrs. Mercy Ajenka, described the achievements of women and their representation in all spheres of life as worthy of celebration, considering their earlier low social and economic status in the traditional society. The duo stressed the need for equal opportunities for the development of the women folk and the girl-child.

Chief Executive Officer of Fifteen Point Three Limited, Sudbo Hephizibah, gave a talk on how to improve the capacity of women in entrepreneurship and businesses at the event, which had in attendance women associations from institutions of higher learning in Rivers State. A major high point of the event was the presentation of gifts to widows and female students from selected senior secondary schools.



Centre Director, Prof Okeke (arrowed), Mrs. Ajenka, Prof Green-Osahogulu and others cutting a cake to mark the Day

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Godwin Igwe, Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals, Institute of Petroleum Studies, appointed *Professorial Chair Occupant*, NLNG Chair of Gas Processing Engineering. The appointment which takes immediate effect is until further notice.

Dr. G.J.K. Tasie, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Assistant Director*, School of Basic Studies, Certificate Programmes. The appointment is for a period of two years.

PROMOTION

Dr. Jonathan Onukwufor, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Fidelis Iweka, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Jacob Chujor, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Ijeoma Opara, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Goodness Orluwene, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. ThankGod Wachukwu, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Bruno Onyekuru, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Joyce Njoku, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Jerry Odiase, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

REGULARISATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Patrick Eluke, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Regularisation of Appointment*, effective 14th April, 2015.

Mr. Barine Diinee, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Regularisation of Appointment*, effective 10th December, 2007.

Mr. Remigius Obah, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Regularisation of Appointment*, effective 30th January, 2014.

Dr. Jude Asike, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Regularisation of Appointment*, effective 15th May, 2014.

Mr. ThankGod Amadi, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Regularisation of Appointment*, effective 14th April, 2015.

White House Beats Them All At Gladys Cookey Daycare Sports Meet

By Mercy Adeniji

Again, White House fended off all challenges to emerge overall winners at the 6th Annual Inter-House Sports Competition of the Gladys Cookey International Daycare School with a total of 553 points, last Wednesday. The fiesta took place at the School's sporting field among the four houses that took part in the hotly contested annual event.

Declaring the competition open, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who commended the pupils for putting up spirited performances at previous events, described the sporting fiesta as a right start for the young competitors.

He recalled that the University of Port Harcourt had consistently emerged winners in all sporting events organized by the Nigerian Universities Games Association in the past five years and three consecutive times at the West African Universities Games (WAUG), expressing confidence that pupils of the School would grow into worthy sporting champions and ambassadors that would make the University and Nigeria proud.

"I am very happy that the Management of the Gladys Cookey International Daycare School has sustained this important annual sporting event on its calendar as a means of motivating the pupils to imbibe the spirit of healthy rivalry and keeping fit. I am also happy to note that the fiesta gets bigger and better each year and it is our hope that the pupils would continue to combine sporting activities with their academic pursuit," a visibly delighted Vice-Chancellor declared.

In her welcome address, President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs. Mercy Ajienka, congratulated the children and commended their parents for enrolling their wards in the School, which she described as a solid foundation for toddlers seeking quality education and moral upbringing. "This School has grown from strength to strength and has built a reputation for academic excellence over the years with the help of parents and the entire University community. With today's event, our children will showcase their determination to compete fairly against each other as they seek to

win laurels for their various Houses," she said.

The UPWA President declared: "Here in the University of Port Harcourt Daycare Nursery and Primary School, we run the Montessori Curriculum, which encourages training of the total child that will grow into an ideal human being and a useful member of society. In order to achieve this goal, the School's Management and Parent-Teachers' Association (PTA), are working together to enhance the development of the total child, both at home and in school."

Mrs. Ajienka disclosed that in addition to inculcating a culture of academic excellence in the pupils, regular sporting activities would also teach them ethical values early in life such as the spirit of sportsmanship and competitiveness, adding that sports enhances the mental, physical and psychological health of the child.

At the end of a keenly contested event, *White House*, again, emerged overall winners with 535 points; *Pink House* came second with 495 points, followed by *Orange House* with 490 points, while *Blue House* scored 430 points, respectively.

A major highlight of the event was a spectacular March Past which involved the pupils, UPWA members, teachers, and parents who graced the event. Other activities included track and field 100 metres, 200 metres, filling the bottle, catching the train, sack race, indoor race, egg race, staff race, teachers' race, madders race, busting the balloon and dressing to School.

Other highlights of the 2015 Inter-House Sports were donations made towards the completion of the multipurpose building by some public-spirited individuals and groups, including UPWA members. The Vice-Chancellor also made donations to the overall winning house and those that took second and third positions. Winners of the March Past at the Nursery and Primary levels, including organisers of the event were also rewarded by the Vice-Chancellor.

Declaring the fiesta closed on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, who left for another official engagement, Professor Chinyere Madumere-Odiase of the Faculty of Education congratulated Management of the School for a successful outing, describing sports as a very important component in the all round development of the child.



The Winning Team

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 29 – SATURDAY APRIL 04, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 29 MAR. 2015	34.0 23.0	68	N	7.6	6:32 18:41	Thunder storms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
MONDAY 30.MAR. 2015	33.0 25.0	62	N	3.5	6:32 18:41	Thunder storms expected late in the day. Fairly sunny day expected.
TUESDAY 31 MAR. 2015	33.0 25.0	68	N	16.5	6:32 18:41	Strong thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 01 APRIL. 2015	34.0 25.0	69	N	7.1	6:31 18:41	Thunder storms expected early in the day, partly sunny forecasted.
THURSDAY 02 APRIL. 2015	34.0 25.0	67	N	3.6	6:31 18:41	Thunder storm expected early in the day. Fairly sunny day expected.
FRIDAY 03.APRIL. 2015	34.0 25.0	66	N	-	6:30 18:40	Fairly sunny day forecasted.
SATURDAY 04 APRIL 2015	35.0 25.0	65	N	2.7	6:30 18:40	Widely scattered thunder storms. More clouds than sun forecasted.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr Prince Mdom
AG Director, CDRMS

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2ND DENTISTRY DAY

Faculty of Dentistry in the College of Health Sciences held its 2nd Dentistry Day and celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the University on Thursday, January 29, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. The event which had: "The Future of Forensic Dentistry in Nigeria" as its theme, attracted dignitaries from all walks of life. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured major highlights of the event as shown in the pictures below:



Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Prof Chukwudi Onyeaso (right) leading V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka to venue of the Lecture



V-C, Prof Ajienka making opening remarks



Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof Chris Akani presenting goodwill message



Dean of Faculty, Prof Onyeaso welcoming guests to the celebration



Ag. Heads of Department and Coordinators of Programmes in the Faculty



Visiting Scholar, Prof Vincent Idemiyor reading citation of the Keynote Speaker



Keynote Speaker, Prof Kalu Ogbureke delivering the Lecture



Some of the event sponsors displaying dental products



Some students of Dentistry during free Medical Outreach programme



V-C, Prof Ajienka (right), Special Guest and former Secretary to the Rivers State Government, Chief Samson Agara and 5th V-C, Emeritus Prof Nini Briggs at the NIM Lounge before the event



Eze John Oka of Igbo land, Abia State (5th right, front row), Emeritus Prof Briggs, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka and others responding to the lecture



Some of the Secondary School students and other guests



Group photograph of some of the dignitaries after the Lecture