

V-C Advises UMaT Students At Farewell Cocktail

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has expressed joy at the success recorded so far in the collaboration between the University of Port Harcourt (UniPort) and University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Ghana on the training of Petroleum Engineering students from UMaT, reports **Humphrey Ogu.**

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Side Bar

Prof Gabriel Agu of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences delivers the 122nd Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week.

~Editor



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Environmentalism Calls For Shift From Oil To Soil Preservation

By Obinna Nwodin

Against the backdrop of the ongoing slide in the global price of crude oil, an internationally acclaimed environmental rights activist, Dr. Vandana Shiva, has outlined the negative effects of oil to the environment, economy and health of mankind, stressing the need for a paradigm shift from oil to the preservation of land to halt the drift. Shiva made the assertion while delivering the 2015 edition of *Rights Livelihood Lecture* at the International Students' Centre, University Park, last Thursday. The Indian-born activist and nuclear physicist who spoke on the theme: *Soil, Not Oil—Earth Democracy*, called

for renewed environmental activism that would guarantee the future of mankind. Shiva who teaches at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, stated that a lot of emphasis has been placed on oil to the detriment of the environment with disastrous consequences in recent

times.

She emphasized that "oil exploration is associated with various forms of environmental hazards that are detrimental to man and society. It is only beneficial to a few power blocs and individuals who

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RCBB Sensitizes Students On Biotech

UniPort NUJ To Hold Confab August



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Enter Claude Ake School Of Government

By Williams Wodi

In Third World countries with all their evident developmental deficits, politics and politicians not only catch the eye, but they compel the mind in a particular direction. Politicians often sway our emotions and reinforce our views about our society in the peculiar way they ply their trade on the circuit. In the era of globalization that is increasingly Americanizing political campaigns and the entire electoral process, the emergence of the Claude Ake School of Government represents a big plus in our drive to create our own identity and chart a new course for our country, using our own indicators.

Encouraging popular participation in the political process cannot take firm root if we continue to wobble and fumble along the narrow path dictated by even narrower-minded politicians. Now, we have a golden opportunity to look up to the emergent Claude Ake School of Government for direction on what really happens in the smoke-filled room of politics and how to react to the game on our own terms, without pandering to the whims and caprices of rapacious politicians.

Before now, the prestigious Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in the United States was the often referenced flagship for anyone looking for a global *Think Tank* on the art of politics and the manipulative propensities of politicians. To be armed with the right kind of knowledge is the best opportunity citizens have to frontally confront their rulers who mostly insist on their own standards for judging merit, quite often with disastrous consequences for the citizenry.

High initiative action can only come from a formal *Think Tank* such as the new Claude Ake School of Government which opened for business on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 without much fanfare. Located in the serene recesses of William Jumbo Street in the high profile Government Reserved Area, just overlooking the majestic Government House in Port Harcourt, the new School is the brainchild of the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who holds a universal patent right on the art of imagining things!

The School was partly legislated into existence to finally engrave the name of one of Africa's best known thinkers, Professor Ake on marble—a richly deserving move. Ake's life rotated around the highly combustible issues of development and governance which defined his entire academic career on three continents. The School would receive its pioneer students for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree next month. This welcome development is the result of an institutional partnership between the University of Port Harcourt and the Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS) founded by the renowned Social Scientist himself, who also took to activism to test his theories on a practical stage.

Ake took to praxis to test his ideas in a society that was marked by increasing cynicism and idolatrous worship of corrupted power. There was, therefore, no shortage of conspiracy theories when the plane he was travelling in was plucked out of the air in 1996. The dark goggled general was in power then and was believed to be capable of unimaginable evil designs against his perceived and real enemies. Ake was an implacable critic of the regime that pauperized the citizenry!



Prof. Ekekwe, V-C

The emergent partnership agreement, according to pioneer Director of the School, Professor Eme Ekekwe, was signed in March, 2014. Chairman of the CASS Board, Professor Bedford Fubara and Executive Director, Dr. Sofiri Joab-Peterside, signed on behalf of the Centre, while the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim and former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka put pen on the dotted lines on behalf of the University. The Senate of the University has since given final approval for the commencement of the School along global best operational practices. Ake's protégée, Professor Ekekwe, actually mid-wifed the School, while the College of Continuing Education (CCE) supervised the physical development of the project. The School is the crystallization of Professor Ajienka's vision of 'growing our own timbers'—meaning—building lasting structures on the solid academic foundation that is befitting of the internationally-recognizable pedigree of the late Professor Ake, who denied himself readily abundant privileges to defend the wretched of the earth from their conquistadors.

Ekekwe holds the School out as a "testimony not only of the immense contribution which Claude Ake made to Social Science scholarship, but also of the determination of Professor Ajienka to see that we build on and value that which is positive and authentic in society." Ake, who hailed from Omoku in Rivers State was Nigeria's gift to global critical thinking on the imperatives of reducing poverty, improving governance and restoring the dignity of each human being.

As pioneer Director, Professor Ekekwe believes that "the philosophy of the Claude Ake School of Government derives from the combined ideals that inform the University of Port Harcourt and the Centre of Advanced Social Science. The School aims to be a Centre of Excellence both in promoting research and scholarship that will contribute positively in improving the quality of governance, as well as in raising public consciousness that will press public institutions to be responsive and accountable;



Erudite Social Scientist, Prof. Ake (late)

as well as in the training and retraining of manpower for the public service." Very tall ambition, indeed! The School hopes to seek collaboration with national and international institutions with similar interests and objectives and will strive to attract distinguished active and retired academics and administrators to its faculty. Alumni of the School will be oriented to take pride in their work and country; and also be trained to challenge ideas on a global scale as active agents of positive change. The way Ake did!

In line with Ake's well-known tradition of advocacy, the School, which is justifiably named after him, will enhance the delivery of public good and services through objectivity and non-partisan assessment of public policy.

Already, plans are on to mount short courses and training programmes for public officers and their counterparts in the private sector. The School is starting off with two programmes—the 12-month MPA and a Diploma in Leadership and Management programmes.

As a mark of the seriousness of the proprietors, the School's Governing Board was inaugurated in December 2014 with Professor Okey Ibeanu of the University of Nigeria (UNN) as Chairman. Other members are legal luminary and human rights activist, Mr. Ledum Mittee, Professor Adele Jinadu, Mr. Grant Orugbani, Dr. Richard Ofuru, Dr. Chris Tamuno, Dr. Kudo Eresia-Eke and Dr. Tunji Olaopa. The Advisory Board has Sir Alli Oruetimeka, Barrister Franklin Ajunwo, Mr. Bobo Sofiri-Brown, Mr. Valentine Igoniari, Prince Rekz Edward, Mr. Charles Ajayi-Khiran and Madam V. Young-Harry, as members.

While the heart of democratic practice lies in the electoral process, the hope of the electorate should be anchored on total political consciousness that the new Claude Ake School of Government promises to usher into the Nigerian society. The electorate cannot understand or fully appreciate the sovereign powers at their disposal until they become conversant with the ground rules of the game of politics and how they can serve their collective interest. That is why the Claude Ake School of Government is so important, and that is why it deserves our total support to succeed.



7th V-C, Prof. Ajienka (3rd right), Prof. Bedford Fubara (centre), Director, Claude Ake School of Government, Prof. Ekekwe (2nd left) and others

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V-C Advises UMaT Students At Farewell Cocktail

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Speaking at a Farewell Cocktail organised by the University for the visiting students at the Conference Room of the International Students' Centre on Friday, July 17, 2015, the Vice-Chancellor advised the students to make the best use of their time in the University by enriching their knowledge of the petroleum industry and Nigerian culture.

"I am aware that the collaboration between UniPort and UMaT has just been renewed. Perhaps, by the end of the next four years, there might be another renewal or UMaT will have found its feet. If that happens, always remember that UMaT has some of its roots in the University of Port Harcourt. By the time you are fully grown and doing so well in the industry you trained for, remember that you began something here and we will all be there to share in the glory that will come as a result of this unique collaboration between two great institutions," Professor Lale said.

"I also believe that while you were here, you were taken around this environment to see a slice of Nigeria and what we can offer and I believe you had a better understanding of our country. I wish you the best as you graduate to become Petroleum Engineers. For

those of you who may wish to either work or settle down here as a result of this exchange programme, I encourage you to do so without hesitation," he told them, promising that the University would continue to look out for them wherever they may be.

In their separate speeches, Director of the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), Professor John Otaigbe and Acting Head of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, Dr. Boniface Orij, expressed gratitude to UMaT for partnering UniPort in sustaining the exchange programme. They also thanked authorities of the University for providing an enabling environment that has driven the successful partnership in the last five years, calling for the sustenance of the partnership in a mutually beneficial manner.

The duo, who expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the visiting students and their enthusiasm to learn, charged them to be good ambassadors of both UMaT and UniPort as they travel back to their country to continue their programme.

On their parts, Class Representative, Iddrisil Abdul-

Latif and Kalet Kingdom, who spoke on behalf of their colleagues, lauded the University, especially, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, Director, ELP, Professor Otaigbe and Dr. Orij for the sacrifices they made to make the latest outing successful, promising to be good ambassadors of UMaT and UniPort.

"I will like to thank Almighty Allah for his love and grace throughout our stay here. I will further extend my appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor, Director of ELP and Acting HoD, Petroleum Engineering for their support. We appreciate the invaluable experience we gained and I must say that we have gained a lot in the last two weeks of our stay here," Abdul-Latif said.

Also present at the Farewell Cocktail were Chairman of the UMaT Committee in UniPort, Mr. Ubani Chikwendu and Mr. Ani Okechuchwu of the Department of Gas Engineering. Others were the UMaT lecturers, which included Richard Amorin (Team Leader), Dankwa Kakra, Solomon Marfo, Eric Mensah and Eric Broni-Bedianko, amongst others.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) in a group photograph with UMaT team and some staff of UniPort

Former V-C Commissions Projects, Lays UISS Science Building Foundation

By Otikor Samuel

As part of his final disengagement from office, immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, commissioned the *Centre for Rehabilitative Therapy and Kinanthropometry Studies* to train Postgraduate students on body fitness and correctional measures. The Centre situated at the Social Science Annex Building in Choba Park was commissioned at a low-key ceremony on Tuesday, July 7, 2015.

Ajiienka, who was supported by his successor, Professor Ndowa Lale, at the commissioning ceremony, charged the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education to create more awareness about the relevance of the Centre to the well-being of staff and students, enjoining the Department to galvanize the services of experts in the Faculty and relevant disciplines to attract wider patronage.

In his speech, immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo, said

the Centre would be made to generate funds for the University, aside from its statutory mandate of training Postgraduate students to acquire requisite knowledge in physiology and rehabilitative therapy.

"Athletes are advised to come for physical fitness at the Centre, while cases of body pains, arthritis, rheumatism, dislocation and other related cases can also be handled by the specialists that would supervise the facility. Staff and even people from outside the University can make use of the Centre too. They can consult physiologists and rehabilitative therapists even without coming to the Centre," he disclosed.

Acting Head of Department, Dr. Johnson Okpako, who revealed that the use of the Centre for Postgraduate studies has already commenced, stressed the need to employ more professionals to tackle cases that would be brought to the Centre. He listed Professors Ernest Achalu, Veronica Igbani, Paul Iro and Drs. Athan Amasiatu and Ogunleye Victor as some of the exercise physiologists and rehabilitative therapists who would render services at the Centre.

Professor Ajiienka also commissioned a *Professorial Guest House* at Gambia Ama, University Park. The new Guest House was originally a five bedroom apartment converted to an eleven bedroom facility for use by Diaspora Scholars who visit the University.

Professor Ajiienka also laid the foundation stone for a Science Laboratory Building for the University International Secondary School at the premises of the College of Continuing Education (CCE), Nkpulu, Port Harcourt. The Laboratory is being sponsored by the Genesis Group. He also inspected the state-of-the-art equipment provided by the African Virtual University and donations made by *BytePlus Nigeria Ltd* at the Open and Distance Learning (ODEL) Centre on Friday, July 13, 2015.



A front view of the Professorial Guest House

Ibodje Lists Achievements At IPTTO

University.

"Three other applications have reached advanced level for patent acquisition; fifteen applications which have been verified by NOTAP have been returned to the inventors/innovators for suggested corrections. The Office now partners the College of Graduate Studies to checkmate plagiarism among staff and graduate students in the University; and so far, the Office has checked over 250 Theses and Dissertations, using the anti-plagiarism software and over 60 candidates have been cleared and issued with certificates of anti-plagiarism test clearance. The Office has produced an IP policy for the University," Professor Ibodje announced.

He however, identified paucity of fund, irregular power supply and inadequate computer systems as major challenges facing the Office.



Prof Ibodje (centre), flanked by Acting Director, Dr. Briggs (right), former and current staff of IPTTO

By Otikor Samuel

Pioneer Director of the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), Professor Samuel Ibodje, has described the UniPort office of the IPTTO as one of the most viable amongst other offices commissioned within the same period in Nigerian universities by the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP).

The retired Professor of Political Science, who made this remark in a farewell party organized by former and current staff of the Office for him on Thursday, July 16, 2015, recalled that the Office was established in the University by NOTAP on October 4, 2007, while a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in 2008. The Office, according to him was however, commissioned on August 12, 2010. "The mission of the Office is to make original and innovative research activities attractive in this University through creation of awareness in the

University about the benefits accruable from original research and innovation; facilitation of patent and copyrights acquisition for original and innovative research efforts; encouragement of and support for the commercialization of intellectual property; linkage of research activities with industries; and production and regular review of IP policies in the University to ensure an orderly research environment and a mutually-rewarding relationship between researchers, innovators and the University," Ibodje stated.

The pioneer Director, who further listed the objectives of the Office to include sensitizing researchers in the University on opportunities existing in original and innovative research, facilitating the process of acquisition of patent and copyrights, as well as the licensing of new products for commercialization and interfacing with relevant Units and Departments to actualize the mission, expressed satisfaction with the successful acquisition of three patent certificates for staff of the

The pioneer Director, who was full of praises for his former staff, thanked them for the cordial relationship that existed among them during his tenure. He specifically thanked his former assistant and now Acting Director, Dr. Tobinson Briggs for his ideas which contributed immensely to the achievements recorded by the Office on his watch.

In their separate goodwill messages, the staff poured encomium on their former boss, praising him for playing a fatherly role in his leadership style.

Acting Director, Dr. Briggs disclosed that the staff were moved by the numerous contributions of the pioneer Director, who set up the Office mostly with personal funds. "He furnished the office space including my office with his personal money due to his passion to deliver on the mandate of the Office and he gave me a free hand to showcase my potentials. Professor Ibodje is indeed a mentor and a man who makes leaders and is receptive to new ideas. That is why we decided to show him our deep appreciation by honouring him," Dr. Briggs summed up on behalf of the staff.

In a bid to sensitize students on the benefits of biotechnology, the Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Biofuel Research organized a one-day workshop on the basics and importance of biotechnology for students in their fourth and fifth years of study in the Faculties of Agriculture, and Biological and Chemical Sciences on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at the Centre's Laboratory, by the Emerald Energy Institute, East/West Road, UniPort.

Speaking at the event, Director of the Centre, Professor Gordian Obute, highlighted the broad aspects of biotechnology, pointing out that the discipline was to the 21st century what Information Technology was to the 20th century. "In today's knowledge-based global economy, we cannot just fold our hands while the rest of the world leaves us behind in the quest for self-sufficiency in solving problems associated with food security, health and products for industrial use, as well as ensuring a cleaner environment," Professor Obute said, describing biotechnology as an "all comers affair where all facets of enquiry into the life sciences have their place and roles in the scheme of things."

The Director assured participants that the laboratory would be accessible to students who may wish to carry out meaningful research in various aspects of biotechnology with minimal cost, disclosing that the laboratory has commenced the production and distillation of water for domestic use by interested customers. Professor Obute also disclosed that plans were on to expand the workshop to accommodate postgraduate students, as well as other researchers on an annual basis to accomplish the Centre's core mandate of harnessing the abundant

RCBB Sensitizes Students On Biotech

By Obinna Nwodin

potentials of biotechnology in the South-South zone of the country.

Participants at the event were exposed to facilities in the laboratories, while the basics of Tissue culture and DNA extraction were also demonstrated to the students by Dr. Josephine Agogbua of the Department of Plant Science and

Biotechnology and Dr. Olutayo Adedokun of the Department of Crop and Soil Science, respectively.

The students, who were visibly delighted at the level of exposure they received, expressed gratitude to the Centre for the opportunity afforded them to learn new techniques in biotechnology research. Over 60 students participated in the hands-on Workshop.



Dr. Josephine Agogbua (arrowed) demonstrating how to obtain and surface-sterilize apical meristem from pineapple crown

Unit Head Proposes Ceramics Entrepreneurship Centre In UniPort

By Humphrey Ogu

In line with the entrepreneurial policy initiated by the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, Head of the Ceramic Unit in the Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of



Dr. Peters

Humanities, Dr. Edem Peters has called for the establishment of a Ceramics Entrepreneurship Centre in the University.

Sharing his vision of the proposed Centre with *UniPort Weekly*, Dr. Peters observed that "The establishment of a Ceramics Entrepreneurship Centre will boost the vision of the University of Port Harcourt as a truly Entrepreneurial University," adding that research activities in the area of ceramics technology will equip the researchers and expose them to contemporary practice of ceramics as was obtainable in other parts of the world.

Peters, who noted that "Students who have interest in acquiring skills in ceramics technology irrespective of their course of study in the University, will have the opportunity to do so under the proposed plan," said: "the Ceramics Entrepreneurship programme is intended to provide skills and employment opportunities to many graduates," adding that unemployed youths within and outside the University's host communities could avail themselves of the golden opportunity to be made available at the Centre to become self-reliant.

"Ceramics are wares made partly or wholly from clay. The products of ceramics are made from ceramics studios, ceramics cottage outfit or large ceramics industry," he explained, adding that ceramics products included bricks, high and low tension insulators, dinner and sanitary wares, electric stove and oven element holders, flower vases, gift items, containers for special use, spark plug, decorative wares and floor, including wall tiles.

Peters, who noted that the production of ceramics entailed the processing of raw material which were in abundance locally, said that "it is amazing to note that clay which is an abundant basic raw material for ceramics, is found everywhere in the Niger Delta region," adding that "proper exploitation of this raw material can compete favourably with the crude oil business and at

the same time create employment opportunities.

On funding, Dr. Peters said that the sources of funding will include multinational organisations in the Niger Delta region amongst others, pointing out that "the programme which is proposed to be situated on the University Campus is intended to house a unique ceramics research unit to service the research needs of students of UniPort and other universities in the region and beyond."

STOP PRESS

NEW DEADLINE FOR APPRAISAL FORM SUBMISSION

College Provosts and Deans of Faculty have been advised to direct Heads of Department and relevant officers under them to immediately submit duly completed forms for the 2014/15 appraisal exercise for promotion and confirmation of appointment for Senior Professional, Administrative and Technical Staff (SPATS) category. A statement dated July 3, 2015 and signed by Personnel Officer, SPATS, Mr. Job Borgbara, stated that a grace of one month was allowed to Faculties and Units that were yet to submit names of their staff before the earlier date elapsed on Tuesday, June 30, warning against submission after the new deadline of Friday, July 31, 2015. "Kindly note that forms submitted after the above deadline will not be treated," the statement read in part.

In an effort aimed at raising purpose-driven leaders as potential agents of positive change in their respective sphere of contact, a group known as Impact Leaders Club (ILC), has inaugurated the University of Port Harcourt Chapter to nurture talents towards delivery of selfless services for the growth of society.

Inaugurating the Club at the International Students' Centre on Friday, July 17, 2015, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was represented by Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Professor Andrew Efemini, commended the organizers of the event for investing their time, energy and resources to ensure that they raise potential leaders that would impact positively on society.

Also speaking in his capacity as Dean, Professor Efemini stressed the need for the students to always work as a team to ensure that they realize their objectives. "So many responsibilities have been placed on your shoulders; first, you need to convince the initiators of this event who are spending so much resources, energy and time that their sacrifice is worth it and we believe that you all are ready to make the necessary sacrifice in that direction," he said.

"Great leaders pull people permanently out of darkness. If you are going to impact lives and your society, you need to live an exemplary lifestyle for others around you to emulate. You should move from a dreaming stage to face reality. If you want total transformation, you must begin to impact your immediate environment and the lives of your friends so as to get more members into the club. The organizers today have shown you the light, so you need to use this light to impact your immediate environment and the larger society," the Dean advised.

In his speech, Founder, Impact Your World Leadership Initiative, Mr. Akin Odumakinde, who was represented by the National President, Mr. Joseph Baiyekusi, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and Management of the University for giving them the platform to train leaders through the Club.

"I appreciate and recognize the vision of the ILC initiative; it is one that has humbled me most in my life experience that people can be so committed to the vision of transforming our young ones to achieve their full potentials. I am excited about this initiative on your Campus and I look forward to our working together to see your dreams come to reality. You can be the next big thing that will happen in Nigeria and the world at large,"

ILC Inaugurates UniPort Chapter

By Mercy Adeniji

he told the students.

Stressing the goal of ILC, Mr. Baiyekusi disclosed that ILC is established to help people discover their unique qualities which they never knew they had. "Our goal is to arrest mediocrity and promote a sense of responsibility in the minds of the students towards changing society in a positive direction; create a platform for solution providers rather than societal liabilities, inspire courage in every member to pursue a global cause from a local front and build strong networks amongst each other that will make our world a better place."

Also speaking, Mrs. Ola Bukola described Impact Leaders Club (ILC) as a non-partisan and non-religious organization established to help students on university Campus hone their innate potentials and leadership skills for the ultimate purpose of making tangible and lasting impact in their immediate community or spheres of influence. "We tagged this event *the Revolution*, because we want to see a change in the lives of our youths through this club. As a leader, you have to give back to your society and it starts now from your immediate

environment."

In his response, President of the UniPort Chapter of Impact Your World, Gabriel Misa, expressed gratitude to the organizers of the event and for their engagement in a one-week leadership training in Lagos. "The event caused a permanent shift in our lives and we are indeed grateful. We promise to make a change in our immediate environment against all odds, to make a strong impact in our world which is part of our theme song," the new President promised.

The pioneer Executive of ILC are Emelia Nwlaghi (Vice-President), Ifunaya Okwukalazu (Secretary General), Oluwale Ajayi (Assistant Secretary General), Arutere Oghenekevwe (Financial Secretary), Chaimaka Chukwuemeka (Treasurer), Precious Awhariado (Assistant Treasurer), Etuk Emmanuel (Director of Project), Akinkugbe Olukayode (Assistant Director of Project), Juliet Nwoha (Director of Programmes), Amarachi Nwoke (Assistant Director of Programmes), Theresa Okoro (Director of Membership), Tamunotein Charles (Assistant Director of Membership), Uchenna Nnodim (Director of Research), and Enomate Shevvy, Assistant Director of Research.



Dean, Student Affairs, Prof Efemini (in cap), newly-inaugurated President, Gabriel (arrowed), EXCO members and organizers

Environmentalism Calls For Shift From Oil

Cont'd from p6

reap huge benefits at the expense of the people that are negatively affected by poor environmental stewardship." According to her, the age of oil will soon be over and it was important to build the age of soil, calling on Nigeria to take the lead in the emergent paradigm shift that would bring mutual benefits to mankind.

The 1992 *Rights Livelihood* award winner, who described the

economy of oil as evil, noted that "it usually brought with it carelessness, spillage and destruction of the environment, thereby jeopardizing the future of generations yet unborn." She blamed the political, economic and social problems in most parts of the world on the activities associated with oil exploration, which are attributable to the non-sustainability of land use and climate change. She urged policy makers to embrace the new way of thinking which places great premium on preserving and protecting the environment. According to her, when the environment is protected, more livelihood and incomes would be generated to serve the needs of more people around the world.

Represented by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapiki, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who highlighted the grave dangers associated with destruction of the environment, noted that contrary to the popular belief that corruption was the bane of the development of Nigeria, the destruction of the environment played a major role in retarding development in the country. He called on graduate students to utilize the opportunity offered them by the partnership to re-engage in meaningful



Dr. Shiva (6th right), Prof Alapiki to her left and other staff of the faculty of Social Science

research that would be of benefit to society.

Earlier in his presentation, Executive Director of the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Mr. Nimmo Bassey, said that "the *Rights Livelihood College* acts like a hub, catalyst, an incubator, a multiplier and an accelerator of links between universities and the works of *Rights Livelihood Laureates*, as well as an interactive link between academics and activists." He said that the goals were aimed at making the knowledge of the Laureates accessible to all; actively linking the most excellent educational institutions with them; connecting the global community of Laureate to help realize energies, scale tested know-how and create the critical mass to help bring common goals forward, as well as provide a hub and an incubator for promoting and multiplying the most successful solutions to urgent global problems through the development of information and educational activities.

Welcoming participants, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Samuel Arokoyu, who noted that issues of the environment have taken the front-burner in world affairs in recent times, said that

the destruction of the environment was tantamount to the destruction of man's existence.

Also speaking, Coordinator of the College in the University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Fidelis Allen, who expressed gratitude to authorities of the University for supporting the programmes of the *Rights Livelihood*, expressed hope that the partnership would continue to expand the frontiers of knowledge by serving as a veritable platform for engaging in robust intellectual discourse across the continents.

The Lecture, which was preceded by a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor at the Senate Building, was attended by distinguished academics, stakeholders on the environment and civil society groups. It also featured an interactive session, as well as presentation of awards to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, Dr. Shiva and Professor Alapiki.

It would be recalled that the University of Port Harcourt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sweden-based College in November, 2013, making it the second higher institution to host the College on the African continent.

New Pharmacists Relive Experience In UniPort

A total of 33 graduands trained by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences were inducted into the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) at the 4th Oath Taking/Induction Ceremony on Friday, July 3, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. In this interview with MERCY ADENIJI, some of the Inductees and a Parent relive their experiences and joy. Please read on:

Oghenekevwe Ovwenahye, who did not hide her excitement after being inducted as a professional Pharmacist, said: "I am so happy to be among the Inductees; it is indeed a dream come through for me personally and my family. Five years ago, I was admitted into this great citadel of learning and; it is very gratifying for me to have successfully completed my study in UniPort. All I can do is to give thanks to God. After my internship, I would like to specialize in Clinical Pharmacy." She expressed gratitude to Management of the University and her parents for giving her all the support and encouragement she needed to succeed in her chosen career line.

Another Inductee, Godspower Umeka disclosed that he felt so excited to be finally inducted into the profession. Said he, "My colleagues and I are very relieved that we have finally concluded our studies in

this great University. Studying Pharmacy has been very difficult, but I am grateful to God that this phase of our lives is finally over for good." He expressed gratitude to his parents for giving him the opportunity to actualize his dreams, appealing to Management to assist in funding the Faculty in terms of providing more equipment and reagents to enable staff and students embark upon practical work in a more effective manner. He called on his younger colleagues to continue to work hard so that they can graduate at the stipulated time.

Also speaking, Grace Otitoju said: "The programme was really tough with so many trying moments in-between, especially while awaiting results; but it was also very rewarding in the end." She expressed gratitude to the Dean, Professor Oleka Udeala and Lecturers in the Faculty for mentoring them with so much interest and parental zeal, adding that she

owed her success to God.

Another Inductee, Henry Onyenonu, expressed gratitude to Management of the University and his parents for giving him all the support and encouragement he needed to succeed in his chosen career line.

Onyenonu disclosed that the journey through Pharmacy was a very strenuous, but extremely interesting one given its professional focus which is quite different from the other regular programme in the University. "We had to combine lectures, assignments with experiments, all at the same time. Looking back, we now know that the stress was worth it because; I can see that we were not wasting our time after all. My next plan is to go for internship and thereafter specialize in Clinical Pharmacy."

A parent of one of the Inductees, Mrs. Blessing Ovwenahye, who could not hide her joy, congratulated the students for scaling through the high hurdle set by the Faculty and professional regulatory body. "My daughter is one of the Inductees and I am happy and grateful to God for all he has done for my family. I wish the University more strength as it continues to impart knowledge to students in their various disciplines in this great citadel of learning."



GUIDEPOST

UniPort NUJ, LCS To Hold Confab August

By Otikor Samuel

The University of Port Harcourt Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has announced a three-day maiden Conference for media researchers, practitioners and teachers holding between Wednesday, August 26 and Friday, 28 August, 2015.

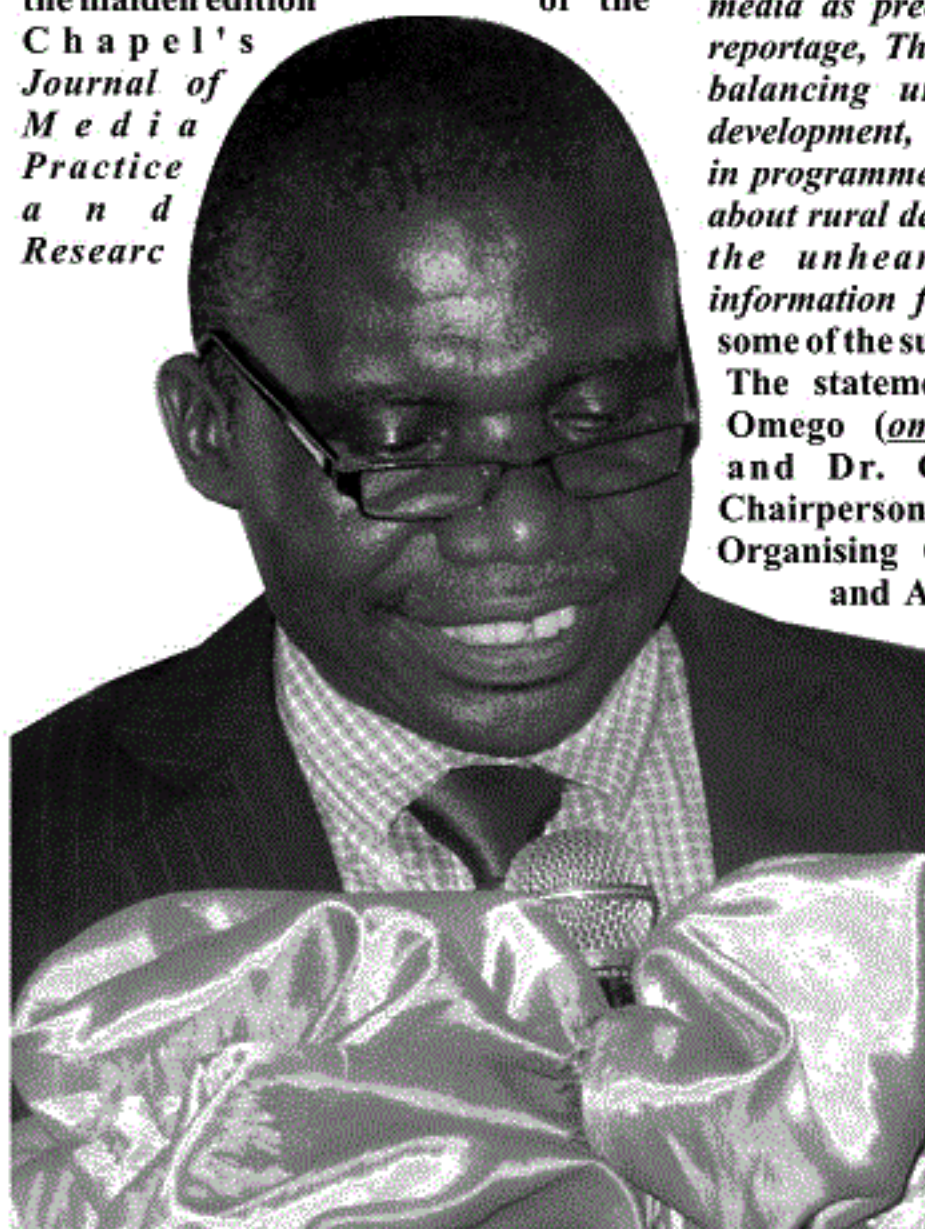
Chairman of the Chapel, Dr. Aniefiok Udoudo, who made the disclosure in a statement obtained by this publication, revealed that the Conference which has *Making the Unreached Heard: Reporting Development Strides in Rural Nigeria*, would be organized in conjunction with the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities.

The Chairman further disclosed that the maiden edition of the Chapel's *Journal of Media Practice and Research*

is expected to be launched at the Conference, adding that "participants who wish to present Papers should submit abstracts of not more than 250 words using 12 points font size on Times New Roman by e-mail attachment to: ochonos2@yahoo.co.uk".

Professor Nkereuwem Udoakah of the University of Uyo is expected to deliver the keynote address at the occasion, while Dr. Vincent Ekwerike of Radio Nigeria, Treasure FM, Port Harcourt and Dr. Godwin Okon of the Department of Mass Communication, Rivers State University of Science and Technology would present lead papers. Dr. Udoudo listed *Imbalance in urban/rural reportage of development issues, Mainstreaming rural events in the urban-centred media, Community media as precursors to effective rural reportage, The role of social media in balancing urban/rural reporting of development, The imperatives of phone-in programmes and awareness creation about rural development, and Reaching the unheard with development information for rural advancement* as some of the sub-themes.

The statement named Dr. Christie Omega (omegachristie@yahoo.com) and Dr. Chris Ochonogor as Chairperson and Secretary, Local Organising Committee, respectively, and Acting Head, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Virginia Onumajuru as Convener, while Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemugwem and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale would be Host and Chief Host, respectively.



Dr. Udoudo, Chairman, UniPort Chapel

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

Dr. Ogbonna Okorie, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Pharmaceutics*, effective December 3, 2013.

Dr. Chioma Unachukwu, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Medicine*, effective December 3, 2013.

READERSHIP PROMOTION

Dr. Isoba Alaba, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective December 3, 2013.

Dr. Oladimeji Akadiri, Department of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective December 3, 2013.

Dr. Lucky Onotai, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective December 3, 2013.

APPOINTMENT

Professor Matthew Wegwu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Chairman, Sports Complex Management Committee*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on June 23, 2017.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Bene Willie Abbey, Chairman of Research and Development, proceeds on *Sabbatical Leave* to Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

Professor Eme Ndu, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, proceeded on *Sabbatical Leave* to Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, effective May 18, 2015 to May 17, 2016.

Professor Henry Njoku, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, proceeds on *Sabbatical Leave*, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

HIGHER DEGREE

Kingsley Okengwu, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology has successfully completed his doctorate degree programme.

REGULARISATION OF APPOINTMENT

Mr. Ayo Osayande, Department of Geology/Mining Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Temporary Appointment* as *Assistant Lecturer*, effective January 16, 2014.

Mr. Tarila Amakoromo, Department of Physics/Electronics Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Temporary Appointment* as *Graduate Assistant*, effective January 13, 2014.

Mr. Efe Olomu, Department of Industrial Chemistry/Petrochemical Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Temporary Appointment* as *Graduate Assistant*, effective January 15, 2014.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 26 – SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 26 JULY, 2015	30.0 23.0	73	NE	11.3	6:28 18:49	Thunderstorm expected. Breaks of sun expected late in the day.
MONDAY, 27 JULY, 2015	27.0 23.0	83	NE	36.1	6:28 18:49	Heavy rain expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 28 JULY, 2015	30.0 23.0	76	NE	5.8	6:28 18:49	Passing showers anticipated. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
WEDNESDAY 29 JULY, 2015	27.0 22.0	80	NE	2.6	6:28 18:48	Showers expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
THURSDAY, 30 JULY, 2015	28.0 22.0	81	N	10.5	6:28 18:48	Rain showers expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
FRIDAY, 31 JULY, 2015	29.0 22.0	78	NE	10.1	6:28 18:48	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
SATURDAY, 01 AUG, 2015	29.0 22.0	79	NE	13.0	6:29 18:48	Thunderstorm expected. Cloudy day forecasted

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMDS)

SERVICOM CORNER

For our standard of Service Delivery to meet internationally accepted best practice (High and Quality Standard), our customer/client expectations are:

- Complaint must be treated speedily
- Complaints should be listened to carefully
- Circumstances should be carefully considered
- Customers/clients should not be treated as stirrers
- No person should be discriminated against for any reason
- Experiences of customers/clients complaint should be used to improve services
- There should be fair hearing to all sides.

SERVICOM will strive to institute right to good services!!

You can reach us via:
servicom@uniport.edu.ng; 08033400064,
07038650174, 08063358445, 08034211712, and
08155303412

Installation of 8th Vice-Chancellor

Immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka hosted a colourful Installation ceremony to formally usher in his successor, Professor Ndowa Lale as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University. The event also featured a Special Convocation to mark the award of the Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) Degree on the Managing Director of Access Bank Plc, Herbert Wigwe on July 10, 2015 at the Convocation Arena, University Park. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the event as shown below:



University Orator, Prof. Bridget Nwanze, 8th Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ndowa Lale and Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim during the Procession



Provosts and some Principal Officers rise for the National and UniPort Anthems



Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim reading the order of proceedings



Immediate past V-C, Professor Joseph Ajienka reading his address



Prof. Ajienka assisted by Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim decorating Dr. Herbert Wigwe (centre) at the special Convocation for award of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) Degree on him



Former Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon Austin Opapa and other dignitaries at the Special Convocation and Installation



Former V-C, Prof Ajienka (right) handing over some symbols of authority to his successor, Prof Lale



7th V-C, Prof Ajienka decorating his successor, Prof Lale



Former V-C, and UPWA President, Prof and Mrs Ajienka (right) and new V-C and new UPWA President, Prof and Mrs Joy Lale



R-L: 5th V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs, 7th V-C, Prof Ajienka, new V-C, Prof Lale and 6th V-C, Prof Don Baridam



8th V-C, Prof Lale making his Acceptance Speech after the Installation



DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe declaring allegiance to the new V-C on behalf of Principal Officers and the entire University



New V-C, Prof Lale and some Internal and External Members of the Governing Council