

Wakwe Focuses Attention On Existentialist Ethics At 13th Valedictory Lecture



Issues bothering on the ethics of life as fundamental principles that promote human rights and dignity formed the main thrust of the 13th Valedictory Lecture of the University which held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

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Side Bar 157th INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor Elizabeth Okeke of the Department of Educational Foundations delivers the 357th Inaugural Lecture entitled, "Education and Society: Overcoming the Gender Divide in the Nigerian Setting" on Thursday, May 16, 2019. Time: 10:30pm. Details next edition Editor

156th Inaugural

Akinbami Advocates Cranio-Maxillofacial Centres To Tackle Complex Surgeries

By Orikor Samuel

To effectively tackle cases of maxillofacial fractures and disorders that are mostly caused by human factor, there is the urgent need to establish cranio-maxillofacial centres across the country. When established and fully functional, such centres would handle surgeries that may arise from accidents or domestic injuries. The proposed centres are expected to be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities with highly skilled manpower to carry out maxillofacial procedures that would correct deformities and save lives.

This was the submission of Professor Babatunde Akinbami of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the Faculty of Dentistry, while delivering the 156th Inaugural Lecture entitled: *Beauty and Nourishment from Symmetry and Proper Alignment*. The Lecture held at the



Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, April 25, 2019. The Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery stated that such centres were long

overdue in Nigeria. "Such procedures like dacryocystorhinostomy which include stenting of the nasolacrimal duct drainage

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ACE-CEFOR Orientation Exercise



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CCSU Honours VC, Akpor Monarch, Others



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Senate Demands Apology From Efemini



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CMRAP, Cooley Chair Mark World Malaria Day



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ACE-CEF0R Orientation

Only Serious-minded Students Can Survive Drill, Says Ogali



Dr. C. (Admire) Prof. Ogali (arrowed) flanked by some senior academics and the newly-admitted students

By Mercy Adeniji

Management and other senior staff of the University have called upon doctoral candidates admitted into the Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemicals Research (ACE-CEF0R) for the 2018/2019 session to take their studies very seriously to enable them succeed on the programme. They were also charged to understand the aims and objectives of the programme and make good use of the opportunity afforded them to be part of the most active World Bank-Africa Centres of Excellence.

The advice was given by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali at a one-day orientation exercise which held at the auditorium of Emerald Energy Institute on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Professor Ogali, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, congratulated the candidates on their admission into the University of Port Harcourt for their studies. "Some of you may have read elsewhere and are stepping into this University for the first time. We welcome you to ACE-CEF0R and to the University and hope that you would have a pleasant experience here. You may have already seen some of those things that make us unique and I can assure you that it is not easy to be admitted into ACE-CEF0R because it is a highly competitive process. Those who come in CEF0R are serious-minded scholars eager to expand the frontiers of knowledge for the benefit of mankind. We urge you to work hard to complete the programme in the stipulated 36 months residency period," Professor Ogali charged them. She expressed gratitude to the ACE-CEF0R Centre Leader, Professor Oghenisa Joel and the Coordinator, Professor Oyeewuchi Akaranta, as well as the lecturers for

their contributions to the success of the Centre.

In his welcome address, the Centre Leader, Professor Joel, congratulated the candidates for meeting the stringent admission requirements into a highly competitive programme. "This Centre is committed to the development of high impact human capital and we also serve as a training hub for oil and gas industry workforce in Africa. We are striving to fill gaps in labour market demands for skilled personnel in these specialised areas and we run short courses in petroleum-related disciplines and also increase the capability of facilities and students in Africa through quality postgraduate education, knowledge transfer and quality internship programmes."

He listed free tuition fees for full-time students on the ACE-CEF0R sponsorship, research support, and free access to journals, internet and e-library facilities. NREP USA environmental certification and sponsorship to local conferences, as some of the benefits candidates stood to gain from the programme.

Also speaking, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), Professor Anthoia Okereke, advised the candidates to work hard if they hoped to be successful in their studies. She reminded them that their degrees would be awarded by the University, and not the Centre. "To ensure that we award the same degrees across the University, there are certain things you must know about the SGS. We carry out anti-plagiarism tests to ensure that you do not commit academic fraud, and that your work is original. You must present a seminar before you would be considered ready to defend your final research work," the Dean told them.

Also speaking, Coordinator of the programme, Professor Oyeewuchi Akaranta, commended the candidates for identifying with ACE-CEF0R in UniPort. "Many more

candidates applied to be considered for admission, but they were not as lucky as you. You must, therefore, prove that offering you a place in this programme was not a mistake. The Centre would continue to support you to graduate within the stipulated timeline, but you must play your own part through diligence and hard work," he charged them.

Ezekoye Wins ASM
Poster Award

By Letem Nnen



Ezekoye

A Doctoral Candidate, Charles Ezekoye of the Department of Microbiology in the Faculty of Science, has emerged winner of the Best Poster Presentation Award at a conference organised by the American Society of Microbiology (ASM). The conference held in Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America. The award-winning research was supervised by Dr Chima Chikere.

Breaking the chieftain to a Correspondent of UniPort News, Ezekoye disclosed that the award winning poster was entitled: "Field Metagenomics of Microbial Community Involved in Bioremediation of Crude Oil-Polluted Soil."

"I worked on bioremediation monitoring of crude oil polluted soil, using High-Throughput Bioremediation Monitoring Techniques that is suitable and acceptable to such regulatory agencies as the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). The technique is applied in remediation of polluted environments through enhanced natural attenuation," he disclosed.

I Shall Bring My Expertise To Lift Our Dept~Torbira

By Mercy Adeniji

New Acting Head of the Department of Finance and Banking, Dr. Leason Torbira, has pledged to put in his best to take the Department to higher grounds. It would be recalled that Dr Torbira took over the leadership of the Department from Dr Ebene Ifeanyi, who concluded her two-year tenure early this year.

Exchanging views with a UniPort News Correspondent in his office on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, Dr Torbira disclosed that he was appointed on January 24, 2019 with a mandate to rebrand the Department and make it an attractive brand. Dr Torbira "in line with my mandate, I hope to bring to improve the Department. I am very hopeful that my colleagues would give me their full support. I am very confident that we would accomplish

all the programmes we have set out for ourselves on my watch."

Dr Torbira stated that his experience as Coordinator of the ACBIBS programme was quite challenging, stressing that he succeeded on account of hard work and team spirit. "We did our best which resulted in the production of seven First Class graduates; the first of its kind since the inception of the ACBIBS programme. I hope to be creative and innovative to take the Department to new heights," the new Acting Head told our Correspondent.

"We hope to expand the knowledge base of the Department by organising workshop on academic writing in relevant subject areas with the aim of sharpening the writing skills of our graduate students and staff. It is important to identify the appropriate analytical tools for effective knowledge delivery. We intend to also organise training sessions on capital market operations in concert with Stock Broker and other experts to equip our students with practical experience that would complement classroom theories. We also intend to partner the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation to expose our students to Deposit Insurance, including management of academic programmes.

We also plan to compile the names of students with the highest CGPA in each academic session and display same during graduation ceremonies. We shall bid all students' results for each session and put them in book form for easy access whenever the need may arise. This approach would simplify the process of information retrieval during accreditation exercises and other purposes. We also intend to set up a Committee that would screen students' research topics to guard against recycling project topics," he said.



Dr Torbira, Ag. HOD

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Elaborating on the lecture entitled, *The Ethics of Life: Values for Optimal Existence*, Professor Victor Wakwe of the Department of Chemical Pathology, posited that there is no doubt that rapid developments in the natural sciences and technology may have greatly improved the human living conditions. He, however, regretted that such breathtaking advances have also produced undesirable outcomes such as nuclear wastes which threaten the future of human kind. Professor Wakwe stressed that respect for the sanctity of human life through ethical guidance would optimise human existence.

"Bioethics with its fifteen principles covers the life sciences, emerging technologies, research and virtual ethics. Pure ethical concepts cannot be used unless they are applied to real life problems. Bioethics is not just an inter-disciplinary field, but also multi-disciplinary since bioethicists come from various disciplines," he explained. The Valdictory Lecturer disclosed that the multi-disciplinary nature of the subject usually created problems for a more integrated approach to bioethical applications.

Disclosing that physicians, researchers and environmentalists deal with ethical implications of research, Professor Wakwe explained that bioethics was accepted as a discipline after the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) issued the *Universal Declaration on*

Wakwe Focuses Attention On Existentialist Ethics

Bioethics and Human Rights. The declaration, according to him, addressed ethical issues related to medicine, the life sciences and associated technologies as applied to human beings, taking into account their social, legal and environmental concerns. Commending Professor Wakwe for focusing

attention on a critical area of research that rarely received attention, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, stressed the need for scientists to respect the sanctity of human life. "In enjoying the wonders of science and technology, researchers must show respect



Valedictory Lecture, Prof Wakwe handing over a copy of his Lecture to the VC, Prof Lale

for human life based on ethical values that guide their conduct. Scientists in the university system must be cognisant of such practices that undermine established bioethical standards," the Vice Chancellor said.

UniPort To Host PPSN Confab In Sept

By Letom Nnen

President of the Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria (PPSN), Professor Chinyere Uka, has disclosed that the body has awarded the hosting right of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Society to University of Port Harcourt. According to her, the conference is scheduled for September 2019. Professor Uka made this disclosure during a courtesy

visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale on Friday, April 26, 2019 at the Governing Council Chambers. "We are here for our first Executive General Meeting and to determine if the University would provide us a conducive venue to host our Annual Conference. The warm reception accorded us since we arrived here shows that the University has the requisite capacity to host our conference," Professor Uka said. In his response, the Vice Chancellor, who was

represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, commended the Society for choosing the University for the proposed Annual Conference. She promised on his behalf that the Management would ensure a successful conference in the University. "You are welcome to the University for your Annual General Meeting and we promise to provide the necessary logistic support for a successful conference here. We want to express gratitude to PPSN for awarding us the hosting right of its conference and we wish you successful deliberation in advance," Professor Ogali said.

In his contribution, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, commended PPSN for its choice of the University for the proposed September conference. "The Management of the University would do everything necessary to ensure that you successfully host your conference here," Professor Fawehinmi assured the Society. The visit also had in attendance, Principal Officers of the University and some Executive Officers of the Society.



DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (far right), flanked by PPSN President, Prof Uka (left), some Principal Officers, EXCO members of PPSN and others

In recognition of their contributions to the activities of the Central Community Service Unit (CCSU), the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, the Deputy Vice Chancellors in charge of Administration and Academic matters, Professors Regina Ogali and Hakeem Fawehinmi, the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, and other serving and past staff of the Unit were honoured at a historic get-together organised by the Unit. The colourful event took place at the Animal and Environmental Biology Auditorium, University Park on Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

Speaking at the event, representative of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Gideon Abu, described Community Service as one of the core mandates of the University and a way of giving back to the society. "It is also known as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and which is playing out well at the CCSU. This means that the University is up-to-date in the provision of hands-on skills to students in line with global best practice," he said. Professor Abu commended the Acting Director of the Unit, Dr Helen Imafidior and her team for their able leadership that has placed the Unit at the centre of the University.

In her address, the Acting Director, Dr Imafidior, noted that a major objective of the Unit was to inculcate and develop in both staff and students appreciation of their responsibilities to society and the gratification of service to others. "These we have done and continue to do with the laudable projects embarked upon by the Unit which could be attested to by our host communities. Today is a

CCSU Honours VC, Akpor Monarch, IPPR, Others

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

day we have set aside to relax, refresh and reward hard work and those who have contributed immensely towards the fulfillment of the Unit's mandate," she said. She expressed gratitude to the University Management for the opportunity afforded her to serve.

Others honoured at the event included the Nye We-All Akpor, His Royal Majesty, Eze Anle Oribe, for

supporting education and creating an enabling environment for the Unit to train selected youths from three Akpor communities on skills acquisition programme last year; the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit (QAQC) for championing the vision of making the University a first choice destination for students, including Faculty Coordinators and Departmental representatives.



Some of the awardees and representatives displaying their awards

Parents, Students Speak On 40th Matriculation Experience

A total of 7,087 candidates took the Matriculation Oath for the 2018/2019 academic session on Thursday, April 18, 2019. Correspondents, MERCY ADENIJI and LETOMNEN gauged the pulse of some of the Matriculants on why they chose Unique UniPort for their university education and their expectations. Some happy parents were not left out too. Please read on:

NGOZI IGWE, Parent

As a parent, I feel fulfilled because being alive to see my second child secure admission into the University where I am a staff is a thing of joy. I wish him and all those who matriculated today the best. My prayer for them is that they should study very hard to be successful in their academic pursuits. I wish my son good health and sound mind and pray that God protects him and other students of unique UniPort from those negative influences that distract some of their colleagues from fulfilling their academic dreams.



PATRICK NAAGBANTON, Parent

For me as a parent, today is a dream come true for me to see my daughter enroll and matriculate as a student of the University of Port Harcourt. Parents have struggled to see their children through secondary school and now as university undergraduates. My daughter got admission from the Basic Studies programme and JAMB, but she decided to enter the University through JAMB to study Biochemistry. My advice to the students is to shun criminal-minded friends or gangs that would destroy their future. They should join good associations on campus that would help to build them academically and morally. Time lost is difficult, if not impossible to recover and they must utilise their youthful period very well so as not to regret in future.

JONATHAN PHILIP, Parent

I feel very happy because it is not easy to rekindle interest in education today, because some of our children are no longer interested in going to school. Their interest is diverted to unnecessary things that take away their focus, but I believe with the kind of upbringing my son has received at home and his foundational education, he would continue to make us proud. I am happy to be alive to witness this day, and my advice to every matriculating student is to always remain focused and mind the kind of friends they keep. I wish my son and other students of Unique UniPort well as they pursue their academic dreams.



CHIDERAGWE, GEM

I am so grateful to God for the opportunity to gain admission into the University of Port Harcourt. I chose UniPort because it is a unique university and I believe the lecturers have all it takes to impact knowledge to the students. After my four years in this University, I hope to get a good job and make my mother proud. I want to thank my mother for her love and support for me. I pray that God would continue to keep her so that she would reap the reward of her labour. I promised her that I would work very hard to justify all her investment in me.



JANE RAYMOND, Accounting

I feel blessed and grateful to God and my parents for the

opportunity to be admitted into this University. My admission into this citadel of learning is a dream come true. Since I was a kid, I had always had a passion to study at the University of Port Harcourt, and I am glad that my dream has been fulfilled with my matriculation today. I admire this University so much which is why I made it my first choice. I hope to make my family and friends proud by graduating with a First Class at the end of my four-year programme here.



PRINCEWILL WALKER, Geology

I feel excited to be admitted into this unique citadel of learning. It is a privilege and I am happy to be a beneficiary. Before now, I chose University of Nigeria, Nsukka to study Medicine and Surgery, but I did not obtain the cut-off mark. Then I applied to UniPort to study Geology and I got it. I am so grateful to God and I hope to make a First Class and make my friends and family proud. To my friends celebrating their matriculation today, I wish them well and pray that God continues to give us good health and long life so we celebrate like this again at the end of our various programmes.



RICHMAN SAMUEL, SSIT

It is a great privilege to be admitted into the School of Science Laboratory Technology of Unique UniPort. I chose the programme at the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination and I am all out to explore opportunities available in the specialisation. This University is famous for its quality services and I am fortunate to be among students to be trained here. I hope to make judicious use of the opportunity to develop myself to enable me create positive impact in society on the completion of my studies.



KAKAVURNAAGBANTON, Biochemistry

I feel very happy to be part of the matriculation

ceremony today. I am also challenged in the sense that I do not only want to matriculate but study hard to make a First Class at the end of my study here. I actually chose the University of Port Harcourt because I know it has good academic standards and has produced quality graduates who are holding important positions in society today. The various lectures we have had so far proved me right. I hope to utilise this year opportunity by graduating amongst the best and put smiles on the faces of my parents and the University.



JENNIFER NNAI, LCS

Today is indeed a very wonderful day for me. It is a privilege to be among the matriculating students of University of Port Harcourt. Just as we were told by the Vice Chancellor today, thousands of persons applied for admission to study here, but very few were admitted. So, being among those few lucky ones admitted is a privilege. I truly consider myself very fortunate. University of Port Harcourt is one of the best tertiary institutions in this country, and I am proud to be here. I want to thank the Management of the University for this opportunity which I hope to utilise to my advantage.



UMASOYE ISHIKAKU, Human Physiology

I am very excited being among those matriculating today which is a dream come true for me. Although I actually wanted to study Medicine and Surgery and not Human Physiology, I am still very grateful for the opportunity to study in this University. I was particularly attracted to the University of Port Harcourt due to the quality of programmes in the College of Health Sciences and the quality of teaching. I hope to graduate in flying colours. My ultimate ambition is to score a high CGPA that would qualify me to switch to Medicine and Surgery which is my dream course.



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443rd Senate Meeting

Senate Demands Apology From Efemini For Frivolous Petition

Sets Up C'ttee On Medical Education
Considers Ex-Student Leaders' Plea

By Otiok Samuel

In a near-unanimous vote, the Senate has directed Professor Efemini of the Department of Philosophy to tender a written apology in time for the next Senate Meeting. The demand for an unreserved apology was accelerated by Professor Efemini's petition against the conduct of election to choose representatives of the apex academic decision-making body into the Governing Council of the University.

When the Vice Chancellor tabled the matter on the floor of Senate for deliberation, speaker after speaker described Professor Efemini's petition entitled, *Re: Protest Over Conduct of Governing Council Election at Senate of 2nd February, 2019*, as a deliberate act of mischief that was calculated to rubbish the exercise. The enraged Senate members observed that the poll was conducted in a transparent and open balloting process, which was observed by all interested academics present on the day.

Despite Professor Efemini's strenuous denial, Senate seriously frowned at the fact that the offending letter was needlessly copied to the Minister of Education, Chairman of Council and the local branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities. Senate thereafter resolved that the petition contesting the election was highly frivolous, conceived in bad faith without merit. The apex academic body-making body, therefore, directed Professor Efemini to forward a written apology to it to be read and considered at its next sitting.

The petitioner had specifically accused the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale of unspecified meanness in the election, which he concluded compromised the integrity of the process. A total of 128 members voted in favour of the motion. Only eight out of the 160 members that attended the session abstained from voting for or against the motion.

Also, Senate has set up a three-member Committee to resolve the lingering crisis between the Faculty of Education and the College of Health Sciences over the allocation of courses in respect of an emergent Postgraduate Diploma programme in Medical Education. The contentious programme is currently run exclusively by the Centre for Medical Research and Training under the leadership of Professor Edward Akpor of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health. The Faculty of Education, however, strongly objected to the manner in which the programme commenced without personnel input from its ranks. The programme was originally supposed to be mounted in concert with the Faculty, which frowned at the lack of input from educationalists to give teeth to the course. The issue resulted in arguments when Professor Alhori announced in his presentation that the first module of the programme had already been concluded without input from the Faculty of Education as agreed by the collaborating partnerships.

To amicably resolve the issue, Senate subsequently set up a three-member Committee headed by former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Elbert Nduka to address the contentious issues and report back at its next sitting. The Deans of the Faculty of Law, Professor Lucky Worika and Management Sciences, Professor Barlow Nwime are also to serve on the Committee.

There were some of the major decisions reached at the 443rd Senate Meeting of the august body which held at the Senate Chambers on Tuesday, April 30, 2019. The Meeting was presided over by the Chairman, Professor Ndowa Lale, who used the opportunity to brief Senate on some important happenings on campus.

Senate upheld its decision on the earlier expulsion of six students of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, who admittedly faked school fee receipts in respect of their year-abroad internship programme in Brazil Republic. This followed a strongly-worded appeal by the affected students for pardon by the Senate which also considered a letter of appeal for resitimation of degree certificates written by two ex-Presidents of the Students' Union, Messrs Felix Nwima and Endwell

443rd Senate in session

Chuka. The august body resolved to grant them pardon on the condition that they fully own up to the offences that resulted in the withdrawal of their certificates.

Following a presentation by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies to the effect that the Department of Chemical Engineering failed to comply with some directives of the Board on admission of candidates into its postgraduate studies, Senate specifically directed the Department and all other affected Departments to promptly comply with its directives. It further warned that Departments that fail to meet the minimum admission requirements would, henceforth, not be allowed to graduate students.

Senate ratified results that were executive approved by the Vice Chancellor and also approved results from the College of Health Sciences, School of Graduate Studies

and Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences and Agriculture. It also ratified appointments of External Examiners for some Departments and directed the Faculty of Engineering to make all outstanding results available to it in line with the recommendation of the Senate Visiting Panel to the Faculty. All the results were expected to be tabled at the next meeting of Senate, which resolved to hold the Dean responsible in the event of default.

Earlier in his opening remarks, the Chairman of Senate, Professor Lale, introduced some of newly-appointed officers, including the new Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayoro, who attended Senate Meeting for the first time since her appointment. Others included the Director of the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytochemistry, Professor Orikomaha Obangbe of the Department of Medical Microbiology, Acting Director of the Emerald Energy Institute, Dr Chidiye Nwasonu, Acting Head of Department of Finance and Banking, Dr Lezansi Torbira and Acting Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Dr Clinton Ezekwe.

The Chairman announced the resumption of some Senate Members from Sabbatical Leave. He also frowned at some Professors

who habitually fail to attend Senate Meetings, pointing out that such senior academics, who are statutory members of Senate were duty-bound to attend its meetings to give academic leadership. Professor Lale vowed to invoke appropriate disciplinary measures against defaulters henceforth, pointing out that the University would stagnate if every Senate member stayed away from meetings.

The Chairman announced that the 157th Inaugural Lecture will be delivered by Professor Elizabeth Okere of the Department of Educational Foundations on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at the Ebitimi Ibanjo Auditorium at 3:00pm, urging members to attend. He also announced that the First Semester Examinations would commence on Monday, May 27 and end on Friday, June 21, 2019.

FG Nominates Nduka Into NTDs C'ttee

By Otiok Samuel

The Federal Ministry of Health has nominated Professor Florence Nduka of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology as a Member of the National Steering Committee on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). The new appointment was conveyed to Professor Nduka in a letter dated February 19, 2019 and signed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mashi Abdullahi. The letter of appointment charged Professor Nduka and other members to support programme development for implementation of control, elimination, eradication and management of neglected tropical diseases in Nigeria. Other terms of reference of the Committee included facilitating collaborations between the Ministry, partners, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in the control, elimination and eradication of neglected tropical diseases in the country.

In a related development, staff of the Department of Fine Arts and Design, have congratulated Professor Nduka on her creative and innovative ideas since she assumed office. Also, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Kingsley Oweto, praised Professor Nduka on her inclusive leadership and high impact research. He joined his colleagues to wish

Professor Nduka well in her determined effort to consolidate on the peace that is now evident in the once fractious Department, which necessitated her appointment on a rescue mission to the Department.



Prof Nduka



156th Inaugural Lecture, Prof. Akinbami (arrowed) flanked by Dr. C. (Adeniji), Prof. Ogali (right) and other Professors before the Lecture

Akinbami Advocates Cranio-Maxillofacial Centres

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system and other intraorbital surgeries would be carried out at the proposed centres. Others are optic canal decompression, facial transplant, facial feminisation, cranioplasty and surgeries of the base of skull. These Centres will incorporate all head and neck surgeons, as well as the already existing Smile Train/Cleft team," he recommended.

Professor Akinbami described the human face as the most conspicuous part of the body, adding that Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is concerned with the management of diseases, injuries and defects in the head, neck, face and jaws. "The specialty takes care of the hard and soft tissues of the oral (mouth) and maxillofacial (jaws and face) regions. The direct exposure of the head region to the environment causes trauma to the face, particularly the face, jaws and the teeth.

"The functions of the face, cheeks, lips, tongue; including the jaw and teeth are for aesthetics, mastication, speech, swallowing, sensitive touches and stimulations. Various diseases which include congenital anomalies, tumours, cysts, infections, and trauma may affect these prominent parts of the body and patients with such diseases present to the Oral and

Maxillofacial Surgeon for treatment, repair or recreation. These diseases may be limited to the soft tissues of the face or affect both hard and soft tissues," Professor Akinbami said.

The 156th Inaugural Lecture disclosed that maxillofacial injuries constitute about 7.3% of injuries to the whole body, blaming road accidents for most of the maxillofacial injuries among victims in Nigeria, compared to countries such as the United States and United Kingdom that record more injuries from assaults, gunshots, knife stabs and sports.

On his contributions to knowledge, Professor Akinbami said: "My colleagues and I did several works on maxillofacial trauma and reported the pattern and management of these fractures in 20 different local and international journals. I worked extensively on the serial management of various condylar fractures which were reported in the *Journal of Surgical Science*." The Inaugural Lecture explained that a study he embarked on with other colleagues on 126 patients revealed that road traffic accidents constituted 57.1%, assault 17.6%, while gunshots constituted 14.3%.

"I have managed 360 patients with cranio-maxillofacial trauma as follows: 228 patients with only lower third (mandible) fractures, 66 patients with

upper and middle third fractures without lower jaw involvement, 58 patients with isolated upper or lower dentomaxillary fractures, 2 isolated cases of upper third fractures, 16 patients with pan-facial fractures (lower jaw, upper jaw and cranium). There seems to be an under-reporting of cases with Le-Fort III compared to Le-Fort I and II fractures, probably due to death at accident scenes," Professor Akinbami disclosed.

In her closing remarks, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndewa Late, commended the Inaugural Lecture for committing himself to the advancement of knowledge in dental surgery. "Most of the maxillofacial fractures as the Inaugural Lecture explained result from human error. From his presentation, it is obvious that Professor Akinbami has done commendable research and clinical procedures to earn his place in the academy and we commend him for his effort. He stands totally acquitted and discharged for professing knowledge in the field of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery," she said.

Professor Ogali announced that Professor Elizabeth Okeke of the Department of Educational Foundations in the Faculty of Education will deliver the 157th Inaugural Lecture entitled, *Education and Society: Overcoming the Gender Divide in the Nigerian Setting* on Thursday, May 16, 2019.

The Centre for Malaria Research and Phylogenetics and the Sylvanus J. S. Cooley Professor of Malaria Studies Chair joined forces to commemorate the 2019 World Malaria Day with a workshop which held at the ACE-CEFOR Conference Room. The event also marked the 2nd Sylvanus Cooley Lecture and also at the Ebifidi Banjo Auditorium from Tuesday, April 23 to Thursday, April 25, 2019. Delivering the lead paper on *Malaria Situation in Nigeria*, a Vector Biologist from Three Rivers Mosquito and Vector Control in Oregon, United States, Mr. Edward Horvath, regretted the absence of scientific methods that would eliminate malaria in Nigeria. He pointed out that poor funding militated against effective community-wide vector control efforts. Horvath advocated an Integrated Vector Control Plan (IVCP) to tackle the problem of malaria in Nigeria. "Staff and students should be involved in providing public education to communities, establishing surveillance programmes, investigating and conducting research on local solutions," he recommended. Horvath described

CMRAP, Cooley Chair Mark World Malaria Day

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

targeted public advocacy as the most effective action plan to check information fatigue amongst citizens on the anti-malaria and mosquitoes campaign.

In his presentation, Professor of Medical Entomology and Deputy Vice Chancellor of Benue State University, Edward Omosa, who spoke on *Malaria, Poverty and Profounders: Are Mosquitoes Ahead of Us?* revealed that malaria accounted for 25 per cent of under-five mortality, 30 per cent of childhood mortality and 11 per cent of maternal mortality in Nigeria. He recommended commitment, collaboration and community participation, endorsement of a malaria elimination tax fund and declaration of a state of emergency on malaria, as major steps to eliminating malaria in the country. Earlier at the workshop session, Mr. Horvath lamented that malaria cases had remained on the increase in

Nigeria and parts of Africa. He disclosed that while vector control strategies had remained at the same level, funding for mosquito and malaria control had seriously declined in Nigeria.

In her presentation at the workshop session, Dr. Aline Nouchka of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, regretted that other parts of the world had either reduced or totally eliminated malaria, while Africa remained the number one location for the disease. She described health and environmental protection practices as key to successful vector control with continuous surveillance as the backbone of any effective mosquito and vector control programme.

"If waste is not disposed properly, it becomes a water receptacle which becomes a breeding site for mosquitoes," Dr. Nouchka warned, arguing that proper waste management and disposal could contribute significantly to effective malaria control in Nigeria.

Topics covered at the workshop session included: *Malaria Situation in Nigeria/Africa, Mosquito Vector Identification, Mosquito Surveillance and Control, Lab Raising Mosquitoes, Malaria Vector Biology, Cultural Control Methods, Integrated Vector Management, Current Practices in Africa and the World in General, Current Control Methods, Vector Control Plan, Field Habitat Identification, Implementing the Vector Control Plan and Attitude to Waste Management and Malaria Control*.

In their separate speeches, representative of the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi and Occupant of the Sylvanus J. S. Cooley Professor of Malaria Studies Chair, Professor Iyegbe Siminlayi, described malaria scourge as a huge burden to families and the entire country. The theme of this year's World Malaria Day is: *Zero Malaria Starts with Me—Join Me*.



Dr. C. (Adeniji), Prof. Fawehinmi (3rd left) flanked by Dr. Prof. Sylvanus Cooley, Mr. Horvath (left), Prof. Omosa, Elong (right) and others

GUIDEPOST

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Eunice Nwankwue, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, granted one-year Sabbatical Leave to the EmiNad Nigeria Limited (ENL) Rumungba, Port Harcourt, effective February 26, 2019 to February 25, 2020.

Dr Eson-chidior Edihomode, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, granted one-year Sabbatical Leave to the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Madonna University, Elele Campus, Rivers State, effective December 18, 2018 to November 30, 2019.

Mr John Enecheli, Examinations and Records Office, granted one-year Sabbatical Leave to the Federal Polytechnic Oil and Gas, Bonny, Rivers State, effective March 4, 2019 to March 3, 2020.

Dr Bolaji Babatunde, Department of Animal and Environment Biology, Faculty of Science, granted one-year Sabbatical Leave to the Department of Biology, Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences, Westland University, Iwo, Osun State, effective January 28, 2019 to February 27, 2020.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Cyril Udofin, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted Renewal of Appointment as Adjunct Professor, effective February 28, 2019 to February 27, 2020.

Dr Solomon Ibadulo, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective February 5, 2019 to February 4, 2020.

Dr Humphrey Kofio, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment as Lecturer II, effective February 23, 2019 to February 22, 2020.

Dr Saoronee Raegan, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective January 27, 2019 to January 26, 2020.

Dr Ngoncheg Mombe, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment as Lecturer I, effective November 17, 2018 to November 16, 2020.

HIGHER DEGREE

Dr Millie Horsfall, Information Services Unit, Donald Ekong Library, successfully completed her Doctorate Degree programme in Library and Information Science at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, effective May, 2018.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr Magnus Adee, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, granted a five-year Study Leave with Pay to enable him pursue a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science (BMLS) degree at the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt effective November 26, 2019 to November 25, 2023.

By Mercy Adeniji

A part of efforts aimed at promoting the reading culture, the Donald Ekong Library joined forces with the Port Harcourt Library Society and CUPA Global Book Services to commemorate the 2019 World Book Day. The event took place at the Library Foyer on Tuesday 23, 2019.

Declaring it open, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, showered praises on the University Librarian and her team for commemorating this year's event with a Book Fair. "We are happy that the Library thought it expedient to join the rest of the world to mark this global event that is central to our educational system and promotion of culture. This activity is very auspicious because most of what we do in the University is reading and therefore, the commemoration of World Book Day will add value to what we do here. The theme: *Share a Story* is very apt, because by sharing a story, you stimulate the reading culture which is in sharp decline," Professor Fawehinmi told the gathering.

Delivering a paper entitled: *The Vision and Mission of World Book Day as Organized Worldwide*, the Librarian and Programmes Coordinator of the Port Harcourt Library Society, Chidinwa Ukaawa, disclosed that the World Book Day was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to promote the importance of books. "The World Book Day is an annual event set aside to celebrate the importance of reading books, encouraging children to explore the pleasures of books and reading, accessing great books and stories, and helping them to appreciate reading and sharing their own stories, amongst others," she said.

Earlier in her welcome address, the University Librarian, Dr Susan Unonwu, told participants that the working event which commenced from Tuesday, April 23 to Saturday, May 4, 2019, was designed to encourage parents, teachers and other stakeholders to make out time to read and share stories with children and youths, with a view to helping them instill the love of reading.

"We celebrate books, authors and publishers during this event which is aimed at promoting and inspiring the reading culture among children, youths and even adults in order to foster self-discovery in

a knowledge-driven economy. It is also an avenue to promote authors and publishers to enhance productivity and ensure that books are readily available and affordable," Dr Unonwu told the gathering.

She promised that the Library would henceforth celebrate the World Book Day each year to stress the importance of books to the learning process and development of global culture.

Managing Director of CUPA Global Book Services, Chidinwa Oyeomade, disclosed that his passion for books motivated him to partner the Library on the Book Fair. "The inspiration for this is not because I am selling books, but it is because I have the passion for it. I desire a world where everyone would become a reader, which would in turn reduce the crime rate in our society. Part of what we do is to organise reading carnival award projects in Nigerian universities," he disclosed.



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (2nd left) flanked by the Registrar, Dr Felicia Ayaso (left), Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otu, Programmes Coordinator at PH Library Society Library, Ukaawa and University Librarian, Dr Unonwu

ICAN Commends UniPort, Pledges Continued Partnership

By Letom Nnen

Leader of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria accreditation team to the Department of Accounting, Professor Michael Okafor, has commended the Management for spearheading quality research and teaching in the University.

Professor Okafor who made the commendations during a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Adenwa Lale at the Committee Room on Thursday, April 25, 2019, pledged continued partnership with the University in the training of quality accountants for the country. He commended Management of the University for creating a conducive learning environment for students which, he said, compared favourably with the best in other tertiary institutions in the country. The team leader, however, advised the Management and Department of Accounting "to review the accounting curriculum, scale up equipment at the Entrepreneurial Centre and upgrade the examination systems."

"This will be in line with the University's drive towards quality assurance and quality control for which you have received commendations from regulatory bodies. We have been in close contact with the University of Port Harcourt since our last resource verification exercise and we promise to maintain this collaboration aimed at strengthening Accounting training in this University. The donation of a 350-capacity lecture hall is part of ICAN's way of stamping its feet in this University and we are prepared to explore other areas of mutually beneficial initiatives to grow this excellent partnership," Professor Okafor disclosed.

Stating that ICAN was very proud of the University of Port Harcourt as one of the best in the country, he urged the Department of Accounting to key into the Accounting Technicians' Scheme, as

one of the criteria for Direct Entry admission into the Accounting programme. He also recommended optimum lecturer-student ratio and professional training in International Financial Reporting Standards for all academic staff.

In his response, the Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to ICAN for donating a furnished 350-capacity lecture hall to the Accounting Department. "University of Port Harcourt has had a warm relationship with ICAN and we are very grateful for your kind gesture. ICAN has provided a lead and we hope that others will emulate your philanthropic gesture. Let me assure you that we are committed to upholding standards and we will continue to ensure that our Accounting students are trained to reflect ICAN's signature of academic excellence," Professor Lale pledged.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor at the Exit Meeting, expressed appreciation to ICAN for its robust support for quality Accounting training in the University. "We wish to assure ICAN and other stakeholders that the University would study and implement your recommendations for better accounting training of our students," Professor Ogali told the accreditation team. Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi and Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Barisua Nwince, separately expressed gratitude to the team for doing a thorough job, promising more improvements in the Department of Accounting.

Professor Okafor was accompanied on the visit by Mr Fudare Sunday and Mrs Ngugi Owele. Also in attendance were Principals Officers and senior academics from the Faculty of Management Sciences.



V.C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by some Principal Officers, ICAN delegation and others



UniPort Pulls Out Seven Professors At 16th Valedictory Session



R-L: Professors Nwagwu, Nwachukwu, Abia, Ashong-Ibe, Omatsay Ehong and Wakwe

By Otiok Samuel

As the University honoured seven professors who disengaged from active service following the completion of their years of service, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, has extolled the 'Academic Generals' for providing quality services and adult leadership in their various Departments. The Vice Chancellor, who expressed mixed feelings over the pulling out of his colleagues from active service, however, stated that their retirement would open another phase of life for them to continue to propagate knowledge for the growth of humanity.

Professor Lale in his individual tributes to the retiring Professors at the 16th Valedictory Senate Session which held on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at the Senate Chambers, showered praises on them for their excellent services to the University. He regretted that early-to-middle career academics were now too eager to rise to the pinnacle of their careers without subjecting themselves to mentorship by experienced senior colleagues as was the case in the academia.

"As more and more of our tested colleagues gracefully bow out of the academy, our loss is made more painful by the fact that some of those replacing them lack the motivation, dedication and personal caring for which the real teacher is pointed out in the street or in the town hall as a worthy role model. How many times have I stood before this hallowed Senate Chambers to lament the departure of some of the best intellectual stars from our classrooms and laboratories? What is our succession plan to fill the gigantic void left behind by the retirement of our colleagues who are not satisfied with the state of university education in Nigeria today?" Professor Lale berated. He wished the retiring professors well in their future endeavours.

The senior academics who were honoured at the Valedictory Session were: Professors Benifia Nwagwu of the Department of Philosophy, Ezech Nwachukwu of the Department of Computer Science, Uto Ashong-Ibe of the Department of Mathematics and Augustine Abia of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry. Others were Professors Victor Wakwe, Omatsay Ehong and Josephine

Ehong from the Departments of Chemical Pathology, Pharmacology and Educational Management, respectively. The Vice Chancellor separately paid glowing tributes to the retirees. To Professor Nwagwu who joined the services of the University in 1983, the Vice Chancellor extolled him for playing a major service role in growing the defunct Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies until it was demerged into separate departments. "When the mother Department gave birth to a new Department of Religion and Cultural Studies, Professor Nwagwu was known to have robustly supported the new baby to grow into maturity. Father Nwagwu is a Catholic Priest, is well known on this campus as a man of deep philanthropy and selfless service to parishioners, colleagues, students and even total strangers alike. Slow to anger and easy to forgive



V-C reading his tributes to the Valedictorians

those who trespass against him, Professor Nwagwu is one of those personable teachers we encounter once in a long time in the corridors of the academia. As I said of his former colleague in the Department of Philosophy, Professor Christopher Ejizun, Father Nwagwu is a good man, even without his immaculate priestly robe and the other instruments that complement his immense apostolic authority."

The Vice Chancellor stated that "Professor Nwachukwu's elevation to the exalted position of Professor of Computer Science in June 2005, was in recognition of his immense contributions to the development of what was truly a novel field of inquiry in Nigeria and much of Africa where the digital divide between us and Europe remains scandalously wide. Since he completed his doctoral education at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom in 1988 and joined the services of the University of Port Harcourt in

1983, Professor Nwachukwu's research trajectory has resolved mainly around the intriguing field of microprocessor and microcomputer application."

The Vice Chancellor extolled Professor Ashong-Ibe for his excellent academic records having graduated with First Class Honours in Mathematics in 1972 at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. "Persistence and tenacity are two qualities that propelled Professor Ashong-Ibe to the top of his career and there is abundant evidence that he made a huge success of his chosen discipline. With a foundational degree from Zaria, and postgraduate qualifications from Ontario and England, Professor Uto fortified himself before delving into the world around pure mathematics that preoccupied him in the academy."

The Vice Chancellor extolled Professor Abia for making quality contributions to the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry. "It is to Professor Abia's credit that he discharged his onerous responsibilities to the University without blemish. It is heart-warming that Professor Abia steered clear of the occasional scandals that punctuated the career of some of his colleagues in active service. Despite our human limitations, it is difficult to find anybody who could claim to be an enemy to Professor Abia in this University."

On Professor Wakwe who joined the services of the University in 1988, the Vice Chancellor extolled "With degrees in Biochemistry, Medicine and Chemical Pathology, Professor Wakwe is a thoroughbred professional in this important medical specialisation that is so central to good health and wellness. A widely travelled Physician, Wakwe has plied his trade in major laboratories and hospitals around the world and has collaborated with colleagues on many continents." Professor Omatsay Ehong joined the University as a Lecturer I in 1983 and rose to become a Professor of Pharmacology in 2000. She was pioneer Director of the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine and former Member of Council.

In his tribute to her academic exploits, the Vice Chancellor remarked that: "On a day like this, the University of Port Harcourt is orphaned by the retirement of a great advocate of good health and wellness; a consummate researcher and valued resource person on communicable and non-communicable ailments that ravage our people in a resource-poor environment."

Professor Josephine Ehong who was unavoidably absent from the Valedictory Session, joined the services of the University in 1991 as a Lecturer II, and was elevated to the professoriate in 2009. "Between 1975 and 1988, Professor Ehong prepared herself for a life-long career in the academia and public advocacy in education at all levels. She is a true example of an eclectic scholar who combined Educational Management, Economics,

Philosophy, Geography and Mathematics in no particular order. Like the Greek educator, Professor Ehong realised early enough that there are no boundaries in the vast field of knowledge. Professor Ehong appropriated the arts, social sciences and science into her academic province in pursuit of the altruism that compartmentalisation is alien to the search for true knowledge by true scholars." Vice Chancellor said. He commended guests who graced the session. Former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka gave the Invited Speech in which he extolled the virtues of the retirees, while Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, expressed gratitude to those who found time to attend the Valedictory Session.



V-C, Prof Lale (centre) flanked by the Valedictorians and Principal Officers