

Ebong Mobilizes Stakeholders Against Malaria At 75th Inaugural



Malaria is the 5th cause of death from infectious diseases worldwide, coming after respiratory infections such as HIV/AIDS, diarrhoeal diseases and tuberculosis in low-income countries, while about 3.3 billion people, half of the world's population live in areas at risk of the 109 countries and territories in which the disease is endemic.

-Reports Humphrey Ogu

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Stop Press

Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (ISLT) holds its maiden Induction Ceremony tomorrow. Details next week -Editor



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World Environment Day: CEBAS Launches Donate-A-Tree-Today Campaign

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UNIPORT Receives Best Performing Federal Varsity Award

By Otikor Samuel and Williams W

In recognition of its laudable infrastructural development and innovative programmes in research, teaching and community service, as well as efforts put in place to synchronize university-industry partnership for accelerated growth, the University of Port Harcourt has received the Best Performing Federal University for 2011 by the African Leadership Magazine. In conjunction with African Business Roundtable (ABR), headed by Alhaji Bamanga Tukur. A Letter conveying the Award to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka and signed by the Editor-in-Chief/Chief

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Garden City Games: Repair Work On Aluu Road Begins Today

By Williams Wodi

As part of the build-up to kick-off of the 17th National Sports Festival tagged: "Garden City Games", the Rivers State Government has mobilized a Contractor, Cosmic Construction to repair sections of UNIPORT/Aluu Road. The Sports Festival will hold between 27th June and 10th July, 2011 in the University and the new Adokie Amasimeka Stadium in the Greater Port Harcourt, while it will also serve visitors to the University during the 27th Convocation scheduled between 14th and 18th June, 2011. According to the Contractor handling the Project, Mr Cosmos Agwo, the scope of work includes total resurfacing of the major failed sections of the road with drainage on both sides. The road would also be asphalted right from the East/West junction to the new dualized Airport Road. Mr Agwo said that

Government decided to rehabilitate the road as a stop-gap measure, while waiting for the main Contractor to move and rebuild the Aluu road.

The project will be supervised by the Rivers State Road Maintenance Agency (RSRMA). Speaking on the significance of the road, Professor Osi Akpogomegh of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management (GEM), described the road as very strategic and vital to the success of the Sports Festival. "Since some of the events will be held in the University, the road when rehabilitated will certainly ease movement of athletes and officials during the Games and also boost the image of the University and Rivers State", Professor Akpoghomeh, who is a Transport Geographer said.



Mrs Matilda Nnodim
Registrar

Humphrey Ogu

A Fourth Year Student of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Miss Better Iroh, has emerged overall winner in a competition organized by the Chartered Institute of Chemistry in association with Chemistry Society of Nigeria to mark International Year of Chemistry.

Miss Iroh who visited UNIPORT Weekly in company of her Head of Department, Professor Ralph Ngochindo, and a Lecturer Dr (Mrs) Gloria Obuzor on her return from Abuja,

UNIPORT Student Wins National Chemistry Competition

said, "Chemistry is everything; Water is chemistry, toiletries, clothes and indeed everything we as humans use daily is a product of Chemistry. I cannot do without Chemistry".

She advised other students not to abandon Chemistry even after graduation, emphasizing that mishandling of Chemistry could result in loss of lives.

Also speaking, Professor Ngochindo disclosed that the Competition which held at the Raw Material Research and Development Centre, Abuja was in two categories Secondary and Tertiary, with the latter adjudged by distinguished academics and industry experts.

He explained that Iroh's emergence as overall winner was a result of her production of perfume and liquid soap, using raw materials such as *ferm* and lemon grass, appealing to Management to provide the Department with state-of-the-art equipment to facilitate research and provide an enabling environment for academic activities to thrive.

In her own contribution, Dr (Mrs) Obuzor, who accompanied Iroh to the Competition, disclosed that the award-winning student has been producing and selling liquid soap in her Community, noting that if provided with support, the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry could produce air freshener, soap and other toiletries which would be comparable to those made elsewhere.

"In addition to liquid soap, we are making effort to produce bar soap. The Department has the capacity to run a factory, thus generating revenue for the University and equipping our students with valuable hands-on experience".



The winner Miss Better Iroh, flanked by her HOD, Prof Ralph Ngochindo (r) and Lecturer, Dr (Mrs) Gloria Obuzor

...Two Others Win Intercontinental Bank Essay Competition

By Oikor Samuel & Humphrey Ogu

Two Third Year Students, Nito-Bari Danwi of the Department of Educational Management (Economics option) and Ighinda, Osafugbe Sandra of Medicine & Surgery, College of Health Sciences, were among fifty Nigerian students in tertiary institutions that won the Intercontinental Bank Plc 50 Stars National Essay Competition.

The Competition was part of programmes organized by the Bank to celebrate Nigeria's 50th Independence Anniversary. Each of the 50 Star winners received a plaque and a notebook computer.

Speaking with UNIPORT Weekly on the award, the students expressed gratitude to Intercontinental Bank for giving them the opportunity, as well as their emergence as best among equals. "When I saw the notice calling for essay on Nigeria: A Nation at 50: The Past and Future, I picked interest in the topic and had to start working immediately to beat the submission deadline which was three days away", Danwi said.

The student of the Faculty of Education who was elated when he got the text message informing him of the Prize, stated that his failure in an earlier essay competition while in Secondary School, did not deter him from participating in the competition in spite of the short time-frame he had to work on his nine-page article, expressing gratitude to Management of the Bank for the award.

In her own reaction, Miss Ighinda, said that she participated in the competition in mind of the award. "I really did not expect any award, so I was glad when I got a text message from the Bank. It was nice to be chosen among the best fifty students in a fair competition", she told our Correspondents, calling on other organizations to emulate the Bank by initiating programmes that would directly benefit students as part of their corporate social responsibility. This,



Nito-Bari Danwi



Sandra Osafugbe

according to her, would contribute to the educational system and encourage students to work harder.

Reacting to the cheering news, a visibly elated Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, hailed the feat as fitting in line with the vision of his Administration to admit only quality students who would bring honour to the University.

He described the award recipients as exemplary role models to their colleagues, stressing that the development has justified the elaborate celebration of Nigeria's 50th Independence Anniversary in the University last October.

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UNIORT Gets *Green House* Research Facility

By Obinna Nwodin

A new academic *Green House*, which will facilitate research on plants and crop production for better yield and productivity, will soon open at the *Centre for Ecological Studies*, University of Port Harcourt. This is sequel to installation of equipment donated for the *Bio Geo Chem Professorial Chair* for the *Centre for Ecological Studies*.

Conducting *UNIORT Weekly* round the Project site last week, the Chair Occupant, Professor Don Anyanwu of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, said that the donation worth over N3.6 million, will be used solely for ecological research and production ecology, noting that it is the first of its kind in any Nigerian university, pointing out that the only institution that has such a Facility is the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan. According to him, the Centre would be of immense research benefits to individuals and group researchers in seed multiplication.

Professor Anyanwu disclosed that the equipment consists of automatic heater, fully-automated fan, automatic vent, and 5,000 pots for running experiments, adding that a frequency converter would soon arrive. He said that the exterior of the House is made up of poly carbonate material with a life span of 10 years that would allow light in or out of the *Green House*.

Professor Anyanwu said that with the *Green House*, "We can produce a lot of edible materials round the year, multiply them in thousands for commercial

purposes", disclosing the possibility of working with other researchers in the Faculty of Science, Faculty of Agriculture and the Institute of Agriculture, Research and Development (IARD). "We can also arrange with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to train young men and women on how to mass-produce crops for better yield", he said, adding that "If the University authorities give us a large area of land for cultivation, we can produce high breed crops for farmers that can make food available all year round".

Professor Anyanwu said that the *Green House* was essential in research work because "When you run an experiment in a controlled environment, and also run the same experiment outside, it is possible to compare the analysis with a view to achieving better results". He noted that when fully operational, the Centre would have a Technical Secretary who would produce data needed in the process of carrying out research activities.

Also speaking donor of the Chair, Mr. Mohammed Hamadina, who decried the gap between University Curricula and industry needs, said that as a soil Scientist, he realized that the Country lacked proper study of the

ecosystem, adding that from his experience at IITA, the importance of a *Green House* to stimulate different kinds of environment cannot be overemphasized. "I have not seen any Nigerian University that has a *Green House* and because of its importance in the field of study, I decided to endow a Chair in this University" he stated, hoping that the gesture would promote knowledge and advance research. According to him, people will appreciate the Centre when it is completed and made fully operational.



Bio Geo Chem Occupant, Prof Don Anyanwu at the *Green House*

Religious Studies Is Not Theology -Kilani

By Obinna Nwodin

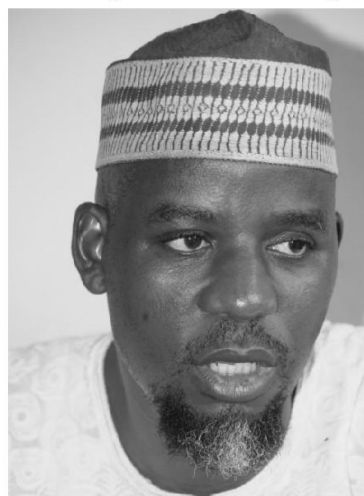
Despite the misconception that religious beliefs and practices have caused conflicts in society, the study of Religion actually help in promoting inter-religious understanding and harmony, as well as enhance unity of the different groups in the Country.

Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Abdulrazzaq Kilani, made this assertion in an interview with *UNIORT Weekly*, last Wednesday. According to him, those who use religion to cause havoc are not enlightened people. "When you are exposed to one tradition or belief, you become myopic and fanatical; fanaticism is a product of ignorance", he stated.

Professor Kilani said that Islamic studies examines Islamic science, ethics as well as the political life of a Muslim, stressing that it is studied both from the conventional educational system and traditional Islamic School system, whereas the difference is the language used in instruction.

The former Acting Head of Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, said that the structure of the programme in the University is not Theological, but aimed at making students acquire broad knowledge of the various religions without being subjective and partisan, noting that it helps to promote inter-religious understanding. According to him, the perception people have is that Religious study is about Theology. "We study religion from the point of view of African cultural identity and not from the view of Theology. Our focus is to integrate humanity and not to disintegrate it", he stated.

Speaking on the crises in the Middle East and North Africa, Professor Kilani, whose current research interest is on contemporary issues in Islam, focusing on human rights and Islamic society, as well as democratic institutions in the Muslim world, said that the situation is a negation



Abdulrazzaq Kilani

of the views held by most scholars that Islam is characterized by totalitarianism, making it impossible for Muslims to oppose oppressive regimes.

He said that the reality of the situation is that Arab dictators are puppets of the United States government and as such have never been condemned by the US for human rights violation, stressing that what is happening now is that the people are tired of oppression. "Islam does not subscribe to a person oppressing other people. It is rejected by Islam and a lot of Muslims are happy that the Middle East is changing. The so-called Arab Spring is a new page in the history of development in the area".

On the establishment of the Committee on Inter-Religious Harmony in the University, Professor Kilani said that it is good for religious bodies, irrespective of their different beliefs, to come together to realize why a University is established, noting that it will enable them conform to the vision of its establishment, rather than turning the entire Campus into a religious ground without respect for rules.

"Those who think that religion is a destabilizing factor are not correct. When the right things are done at the right time, there will not be any problem. The various groups are ready to interact and resolve issues bothering on their existence on this Campus with mutual respect for the views and beliefs of one another".

On the relocation of the Mosque from its present site, Professor Kilani, who said that Muslims are the most law-abiding religious group on Campus, is not opposed to the directive. "We have reached out to the University. We are not opposed to the relocation, but we have asked the Authorities to pay us adequate compensation because that was the original space allocated to us in the Master Plan of the University, and we have so far concentrated all our developmental efforts there", he said.

UNIPORT Business School Ready to Open -Director

By Humphrey Ogu

University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS) would commence academic activities before the end of June. Director of the School, Professor Celestine Nwachukwu, disclosed this while exchanging views with *UNIPORT Weekly* in his office penultimate week.

Professor Nwachukwu stated that "UPBS is a centre of academic excellence where research informs high quality teaching and learning. We will offer a wide-range of innovative postgraduate and executive development programmes which would be constantly reviewed to reflect the changing needs of industry, business and the professions".

He said that the School would commence with a regular Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Marketing, Management, Finance and Accounting, as well as in Industrial Enterprise Management. According to him, the School would also run an MBA in Security Management for professionals in the security industry and allied fields, as well as for those in the Healthcare industry. Other emergent programmes include: Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate and C.E.O Summit and Leadership programmes for company Executives.

"The MBA in Healthcare Industry would be run in collaboration with the College of Health Sciences, while that of Industrial Enterprise Management would be in conjunction with Faculty of Engineering. "We have a linkage and



Prof Celestine Nwachukwu
Pioneer Director, UPBS

programmes with Cornell University and University of Alabama in the United States of America. Plans are ongoing to also have affiliations with Yale and Harvard Universities", Professor Nwachukwu disclosed.

The Director, who stated that programmes would be run in modules and on weekends, listed 10 such programme units that make up the School; including Postgraduate Studies Unit, Executive/Manpower Development Unit, Centre for Labour Market Studies, Business Development Centre, ICTC Consulting Unit, Project Management Unit, Research and Development Unit, Centre for Innovations and Creativity and Diploma/Certificate Programme Unit.

"The mission of UPBS is to build a new crop of top-flight industrial leaders through efficient and effective managerial capacity-building to move Nigeria forward as a great industrial nation", he said, promising that in future, the School would be comparable to its counterparts in other parts of the world.

Professor Nwachukwu, stated that, "In the meantime, the School would be housed in the International Students' Centre, University Park, pending when the permanent site is developed", adding that UPBS would follow the example of other Business Schools in developed countries that are situated outside university campuses.

"UPBS would be a self-sustaining School, on the same format as the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), with its own Board of Management. In the next five years, most of our programmes would be offered online", he said.

SSANU Gets Women Forum

By Otiakor Samuel

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, has charged the University's Women Forum of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) to strive towards delivering quality service at all times to enhance overall productivity.

Professor Ajenka who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey gave

the charge at the inauguration of the University's Branch of the Forum at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium penultimate Wednesday.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for every staff to be diligent and collectively responsible for the advancement of the University by putting in their best to achieve the overall goals of the Institution.

The Deputy National Women Leader (Eastern Zone), Dr (Mrs) Lolo Anyanwu who inaugurated

the Forum charged the pioneer Women Leader, Mrs Christy Nworu to bring her experience to bear by mobilizing female staff for positive changes in the University, calling on women not to reduce themselves only to the kitchen or office of Treasurer but should seek other leading positions in the forthcoming SSANU elections.

In her maiden speech, the Women Leader, Mrs Nworu, pledged to harmoniously work with their male counterparts, announcing that: "We need to let them (men) realize that we are not competing or dispossessing them of power and authority but trying to partner them for higher productivity and achievement of set goals".

Recounting her experience from the 2nd SSANU Women Conference held last month in Ilorin, Kwara State, Mrs Nworu urged women to lead exemplary lifestyles to enable them mentor their younger colleagues in service. "Make genuine effort to mentor your subordinates so that when you retire or disengage from the services of the University of Port Harcourt, you will surely be remembered for your good works".

President of University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs Mercy Ajenka, chaired the event, while the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, represented by the Deputy Registrar, (ICTC), Mrs Bridget Nzimiro, SSANU National Vice-President (Eastern Zone), Mr Samuel Owchonda and UNIPORT Chairman Branch Chairman of the Union, Abel Ejiwhor presented Goodwill Messages at the event.



DVC (R.E.D) Prof Willie-Abbey (4th from right), UPWA President, Mrs Ajenka (4th from left) in a group photograph with UPWA members

In line with the vision of the present Administration on research and development, Acting Head, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Science, Dr Godwin Umoh, has called on the authorities to invest in more facilities to support quality research in the Department.

Speaking with *UNIPORT Weekly* penultimate Monday, Dr Umoh noted that Lecturers in the Department are currently into research projects in various areas of specialization, disclosing that research is indispensable in an academic environment which is why academics primarily undertake to add to the body of knowledge.

"Our Lecturers have published in several *Journals* both locally and internationally and we try to make optimum use of scarce resources because that is what Management is all about", he said, noting that money, machinery, materials and personnel are essential resources which pose great challenge to management at all levels. Dr Umoh stated that the

HOD Mgt Calls For More Investment In Research

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Department strives to uphold ethical standards set by Management theories, *Organisational Behaviour, Human Resources and Operations and Production Management*, disclosing that three major areas: are the main focus of research in the Department.



Ag HOD Management, Dr. Umoh (3rd from left) in a group photograph with staff

He said that Lecturers in the Department are imparting requisite knowledge to students by covering core areas of Management to produce quality graduates that would add value chain to society.

He emphasized the need to mount more facilities to meet the forthcoming accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission (NUC), appealing for provision of more classroom space and a Departmental Library. On staff strength, the Lecturer said that the Department has a total of 31 staff, including two Professors, twenty teaching and nine non-teaching staff.

UNIPORT Gym Ready For Public Use

By Otikor Samuel

All is now set for the official opening of the University Gymnasium with state-of-the-art facilities located inside the Sports Centre to enable users gain physical fitness and maintain appropriate body weight through regular exercises for the overall

improvement of their health.

Director of Sports, Dr Ken Anugweje, who disclosed this while briefing *UNIPORT Weekly* in his office last Monday, said that the Gym would be opened to the public this week at affordable rates compared to what is obtainable elsewhere, adding that a pamphlet on fitness is also available to guide users in mastering new facilities and exercise techniques.

Stressing the importance of the Gym to the University Community, the Director said that fitness and wellness of an individual improve the quality of life. He pointed out that, "The consequences of a sedentary lifestyle have been amplified by the increasing incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, chronic heart disease and stroke", stating that: "Physical fitness in sports, as well as the physical component of wellness can be achieved through regular exercise combined with sensible and correct diet".

Dr Anugweje explained that the training room is designed to give users the capability to create their own fitness and routines. For athletes, he said that, "All

the elements of the periodization of the training cycle viz: aerobic (cardio-respiratory) fitness, anaerobic fitness (power), flexibility and coordination, speed, mental preparation, and skills development are provided by the respective training equipment available". According to him, pre-participation evaluation could be required for persons with existing health conditions, as well as adults above forty years who take up exercise for the first time, while children and adolescents must be supervised by knowledgeable adults to avoid accidental and overuse injuries to parts of the body in phases of rapid growth.

Assuring prospective clients of quality services at the Centre, the Director promised that instructors would regularly be on hand to advise users on training methods, skills development and safety, administer first aid treatment, where necessary.

Available training exercises in the Gym include: Running on the treadmill, the stepper, the multi-station gym, seated (overhead) press, bench press, uni-station gym, and back extension, reverse abdominal crunches, upright row and bent-over row, amongst others.



Athletes sweating it out at the Gym

UNIORT Receives *Best Performing Federal Varsity* Award

Cont'd from p1

Bene Willie-Abbey, penultimate week received the award on behalf of the University at Rockview Hotel, Abuja.

Part of the Letter read: "African Leadership Magazine in conjunction with the African Business Roundtable (ABR), has selected you as a recipient of *The Best Performing Federal University-2011* for your laudable projects in the areas of infrastructural development and innovative programmes such as the proposed UNIORT International Trade Centre, UNIORT FM and your partnership programme on offshore Petrotech and many others", adding that, "These have contributed to positioning the University of Port Harcourt as one of

the best in Nigeria".

Senate President of the Republic of Liberia, Rt. Hon Cletus Wotorson, according to the schedule, was Special Guest of Honour, while Alhaji (Dr) Bamanga Tukur, was Chairman of the occasion. Sudanese

business magnate, Dr Mo Ibrahim, who is Chairman of Mo Ibrahim Foundation and Professor Ade Adefuye, Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States of America delivered Keynote Addresses.



Prof E. Nduka, DVC (Admin)



Prof B. Efiuvwevwere, DVC (Academic)



Prof B. Willie-Abbey, DVC (R&D)

Social Science Dean Tasks Mgt On Staff Dev

By Ethel Wopara

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Charles Oyegun, has called on University Management to initiate regular and sustainable staff development programmes, disclosing a proposal to ensure that a minimum of 95 per cent of academic staff in the four departments of the Faculty have

PhD degrees within a stipulated time-line.

Professor Oyegun, who noted that a fully-equipped Geographic Information System (GIS) and Physical Laboratories would facilitate problem-solving research with emphasis on the socio-economic and environmental challenges of the Niger Delta Region, appealed for the provision of a functional econometric Laboratory in the Department of Economics.

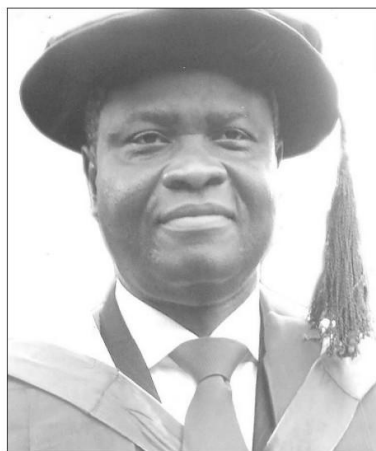
Emphasising the efforts of the Faculty at driving quality research, he listed immediate needs of the Faculty to include provision of a functional Cyber-Cafe to be linked to the Information Communication Technology Unit of the University, additional Laboratories and construction of a Cartography Laboratory equipped with a minimum of 50 light tables.

Professor Oyegun who disclosed that the Faculty organized an International Conference on the Region in November 2010 with the theme: *The Niger Delta: Beyond Oil*, said that the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS) is collaborating with the Swedish Academy for Development (SAD) on the study of *Anomie and Insurgency in the Niger Delta*.

Describing as yet another giant stride by the Faculty, the establishment of the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, the Dean revealed that the Centre is currently funded by

the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The Faculty, according to him, currently has 80 teaching staff, comprising 14 Professors, 6 Readers, 17 Senior Lecturers, 13 Lecturers I, 15 Lecturers II, 14 Assistant Lecturers, 1 Graduate Assistant and 45 non-teaching staff.



Prof Charles Oyegun, Dean



Dr. Chimezie Igwe, Geography Dept



Dr. Okey Onuchukwu, Ag Head, Economics

Notice Board

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTIONS

Dr (Mrs) Ngozi Fidele Obasi of the Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Educational Management*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr Atuboyedla W. Obianime of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Pharmacology*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr O.C. Nwaorgu of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Political Science*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr John Otaigbe of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Polymer Chemistry*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr John H. Enemagwem of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Political History and Historiography*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr Dennis P. Ekpo of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, promoted to the rank of *Professor of French and Comparative Literature*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr C.A. Nwauche of the Department of Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr Anthonia Abunna Okerengwo of the Department of Haematology and Immunology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Immunology*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr M. Horsfall of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Environmental Chemistry*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr (Mrs) Chionna Unachukwu of the Department of Medicine, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr Eneke Okereke of the Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective May 4, 2010.

Dr Friday S. Wokoma of the Department of Medicine, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective May 4, 2010.

APPOINTMENTS

Professor Anthony Arize of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit*, Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The appointment is for a period of two years.

Professor A.A. Derefaka of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Director, Institute of Niger Delta Studies/UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage*, University of Port Harcourt.

Dr. Barine S. Ngaage, appointed *Visiting Scholar* in the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities.

Professor Chris Ewurudjakpor appointed *Visiting Scholar* in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences.

Professor U. Herbert appointed *Adjunct Professor* in the Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture.

Professor M.A. Bamikole appointed *Visiting Scholar* in the Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture.

Professor Josiah M. Ayotunnu appointed *Adjunct Professor* in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture.

ISLT MAIDEN INDUCTION CEREMONY

The University Community and general public are invited to the maiden *Induction Ceremony* of the Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (ISLT), Faculty of Science on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 9.00am prompt.
Venue: Ebitemi Banigo Auditorium, UNIPARK.

HSEALERT!
BE SAFETY CONSCIOUS:
SWITCH OFF ALL ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES,
INCLUDING WATER TAPS AT THE CLOSE OF WORK.

World Environment Day: CEBAS Launches Donate-A-Tree-Today Campaign

By Oikor Samuel

The Campus Dr. Mmom disclosed that the Environmental celebration would also feature Beautification and launch of 'Donate a Tree Sanitation (CEBAS), Unithas Today Campaign', adding that lined up activities to celebrate the Vice-

the *World Environment Day* Chancellor, Professor Joseph on 6th June, 2011, to reflect on Ajienka, is expected to deliver the activities of mankind on an address at the event, while the environment with a view Acting Head, Department of to protecting and adding Forestry and Wildlife value to it as laid down by the Management, Dr Adedapo United Nations through the Aiyeloja, would present a United Nations Environment Paper on the theme of the Programme (UNEP).

Acting Director of CEBAS, Dr This year's celebration which Prince Mman, in a statement has a target of planting 1,000 made available to UNIPORT trees on Campus, would *Weekly* last Thursday, said further be used to honour the this year's programme with first Director of CEBAS, the theme: *Forests: Nature At Professor Edith Elenwo, for Your Service*, would feature setting the pace in special sanitation exercise by environmental sanitation, staff and students, rally and beautification and would be a cocktail party to be tree planting exercise. stewardship in the University. hosted by the Vice-Chancellor.



Dr Prince Mmom
Ag Director, CEBAS

Highpoint of the 2011 *World Environment Day* celebration, according to the Acting Director, would be a cocktail party to be hosted by the Vice-Chancellor.

GEM Researchers Study Nigeria's Coastal Waters

By Ethel Wopara

owing to the effects of environmental degradation, Scholars in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management have embarked on research aimed at proffering solutions to man-made ecological problems.

Speaking to *UNIPORT Weekly*, last Wednesday, Dr Joel Umeuduji, disclosed that on-going water studies reveal a relationship between river flow and the deposition of heavy metals such as lead and chromium in oil-producing areas of the Country, noting that the activities of industries located in such areas contaminate sea foods and water sources, thus endangering human life. Dr Umeuduji who noted that students in the Department are introduced to the concepts of Geomorphology, land evaluation and management with emphasis on the safety of structures and prevention of man-induced hazards such as flooding, earthquakes and erosion, stressed that proper

information dissemination could forestall the occurrence of natural disasters.

Corroborating Dr Umeuduji's view, Dr Pedro Aifesehi, noted that with the rising cases of natural disasters, on-going studies now focus on solving environmental problems related to water mechanism, concentration of global and regional water supply, modelling of river channels, sediment transport, oil spillage and ground water contamination.

On collaborative research works, Dr Aifesehi cited an *Environmental Survey* on Niger Delta covering 1997 to 2002 involving the Institute of Pollution Studies, Rivers State University of Science and Technology and the Niger Delta Environmental and Social Studies for the African Development Bank (ADB), targeted at developing a strategic environmental assessment Report for implementation of the *Niger Delta Master Plan*.



Dr. Joel Umeuduji, Hydrology



Dr. Pedro Aifesehi, Water Resources

Deputy Governor of Rivers State and Chairman, Local Organizing Committee of the 17th National Sports Festival tagged: *Garden City Games*, Engineer Tele Ikuru, was in the University last week to inspect sporting facilities with a pledge that Government would upgrade facilities in the Institution to meet required standards for the Games.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka,

Garden City Games: LOC Chair Inspects UNI PORT Facilities

By Obinna Nwodin

who took Engineer Ikuru around during the inspection, reassured the Rivers State Government of the full support and total

co-operation of the University Community towards the success of the Festival. The Deputy Governor commended the University for making necessary sacrifices to ensure that the State puts up one of the most glamorous

festivals in the history of the Games.

The Vice-Chancellor, accompanied by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Bennard Efiuvwevwere, Director of Sports, Dr. Ken Anugweje, Acting Dean Students Affairs, Dr. Matthew Wegwu, led the Deputy Governor, who was also accompanied by the Commissioner for Sports, Boma Iyaye, as well as members of the Local Organizing Committee to see facilities to be used for the Games.

Facilities inspected included hostels, feeding centres, accommodation for officials, Swimming Pool, Main Bowl of the NUGA 2004 Stadium, Gymnasium, training pitches and parking spaces. The Institution will host some of the events during the Games slated between 27th June and 10th July, 2011 at Venues in the University and new Adokie Amasimaka Stadium in the Greater Port Harcourt axis.



Director of Sports, Dr. Anugweje explaining a point to Rivers State Deputy Governor, Engr. Tele Ikuru (r) while V-C, Prof. Ajienka (l) looks on. Pic: Headman Abu

Ebong Mobilizes Stakeholders Against Malaria At 75th Inaugural

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Professor Omotayo Ebong of the Department of Pharmacology, College of Health Sciences, who disclosed this while delivering the 75th Inaugural Lecture entitled: *"Rolling Back Malaria: The Law of the Few"* at Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium penultimate week, said that "In Nigeria, rainfall, temperature and humidity provide the best conditions for breeding and survival of anopheline mosquitoes. Nigeria has the largest population at risk of malaria in Africa and is, therefore, most vulnerable to the risk of missing the Millennium Development Goal's target".

Citing a 2011 report from *Roll Back Malaria*, Professor Ebong said that "Malaria disproportionately affects poor people who cannot afford treatment or have limited access to healthcare; trapping families and communities in a downward spiral of poverty", stressing that "It is a disease of the young and poor, many of whom live in remote areas with no easy access to health services". She said that while access to interventions has increased, gaps remain and many challenges continue to complicate malaria control efforts in hard-hit areas.

According to her, these challenges have been reported to include poverty, poor sanitation, inadequate health system, limited disease surveillance capabilities, drug and insecticide resistance, natural disasters, armed conflict, migration and climate change.

"Malaria is still the most destructive and dangerous parasitic infection in many tropical and subtropical countries. In Nigeria, 50% of hospital attendance is attributed to malaria. It is one of the world's most common and most serious tropical diseases. It continues to be a huge social, economic and health problem, particularly in the tropical countries", she pointed out.

The Inaugural Lecturer who is Director, *Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine* said that drug misuse in Nigeria has contributed significantly to the development of resistant strains of malaria. Her words: "Widespread and indiscriminate use of anti-malarial drugs exert a strong selective pressure on malaria parasites to develop high levels of resistance. Our study also recommended continuous education for drug providers as well as consumers on the risks of drug misuse". According to her, each of the three is as important as the

other for rolling back malaria in Nigeria. "We need to educate ourselves, and indeed, members of the public, on the causes and prevention of malaria. The best way to prevent malaria infection is to prevent the malaria-carrying anopheles mosquitoes from biting us", she said. Ebong, who is the First Vice-Chairman, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), Nigeria, observed that "Successful malaria control activities require co-ordinated actions.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of natural products in the development of drugs to treat human diseases, Professor Ebong, who had alongside other experts investigated the antiparasmodial effects of plants such as *Spyllanthus amarus*, *Carica papaya* (pawpaw), *Cymbopogon citratus* (lemon grass), noted that "New anti-malarial leads may certainly emerge from tropical plant sources. Our studies on mice, infected with rodent plasmodium, *plasmodium berghii* showed that some of the plants used locally in the treatment of malaria, hypertension and yellow fever have curative anti-plasmodial activities.

"In many parts of Nigeria, 'dogonyaro' (*Azadirachta indica*) is a major component in ethno-medical management of fever. Our study, thus, confirms the general claims on the use of the plant", she observed, adding that "Lemon grass, lime, and mango tree bark, stood out clearly as herbal preparations which were reported to be frequently used in parts of the Country". Speaking at the Lecture, Vice-

Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka noted that the battle against malaria is of utmost importance to society. Describing the Inaugural Lecturer as an unassuming Scholar who has dedicated herself to the eradication of malaria, he commended her for bringing honour to the University through her research activities which have attracted international grants.

"With the grants, we have set up a *Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine* and also through her efforts, were able to mark the *World Malaria Day* for the first time in this University", he said, urging other Scholars to emulate her in order to make UNI PORT a research-intensive University.

Meanwhile, participants at the Lecture hailed Professor Ebong on her in-depth presentation. In their separate responses, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, Head, Department of Music, Professor Sylva Kalu, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, Mr. Tubotunmo Lawson of Faculty of Agriculture, described the Lecture as very enlightening.



Prof Ebong (l) handing over a copy of her Lecture to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajienka