



# UNIORT Offers Employment To Host Communities

No fewer than 50 indigenes from the University's Host Communities have been offered employment in the Institution as part of its corporate social responsibility geared towards strengthening *Town and Gown* relationship, as well as fulfilling a major policy thrust of the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led Administration of growing alongside the communities reports *Otikor Samuel*

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## Side Bar

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-Editor



# UNIORT Weekly

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As agitations for the appropriate formula for sharing the nation's revenue to the various regions of the country rages on, eminent historian and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Emeritus Professor Tekena Tamuno, has condemned the ongoing debate on derivation as unhelpful to the people of the Niger Delta. He, instead, recommended aggressive human capital development as a panacea to regional and national development. The elder statesman said that Japan and Singapore were typical examples of countries that are doing extremely well without known natural resources to quarrel over by their citizens. Professor Tamuno, who strongly advocated the continued corporate existence of Nigeria, said that the Niger Delta region has more to benefit from the unity of the diverse ethnic nationalities that make up Nigeria, as opposed to the current agitation for balkanization and increase in revenue allocation by the contending parties largely anchored on their selfish interest.

By Obinna Nwodin  
& Williams Wodi

The famous historian, who made the suggestions when he delivered the maiden Public Lecture of the newly-established Institute of Niger Delta Studies in the University, last Thursday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, warned that continued oppression of the minority ethnic

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## Tamuno Flays Debate On Derivation ...Insists On True Federalism



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**A**s the ship of the University sails steadily towards its entrepreneurial destination, it has become imperative to establish mini industries to facilitate safe landing or rather, the actualization of that dream. This is why the establishment of a paint factory in the University is not only commendable, but also worthy of emulation by other production-inclined Departments.

In this day and age of grave difficulties in securing employment in Nigeria, the need to equip graduates with hands-on skills in their chosen fields cannot be overemphasized. Apart from giving them an edge over their counterparts in the labour market, it would also provide an alternative avenue for self-employment, which is a springboard for job creation.

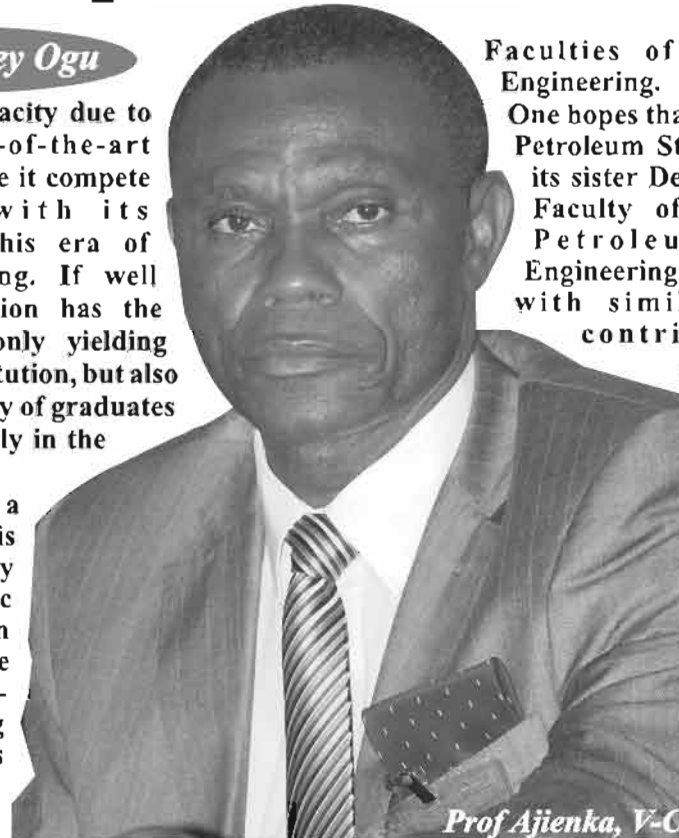
So far, the Faculty of Agriculture seems to have embraced this laudable entrepreneurial culture with the establishment of a demonstration farm, where students acquire practical knowledge in various aspects of the discipline such as fish and snail farming, animal husbandry, poultry and production of mushroom and different types of crop, including fluted-pumpkin leaves, garden eggs, plantain, mushroom, banana, plantain, among others. Also worthy of mention is the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies where students acquire broadcast and reportorial skills at the Radio UNIPORT, Unique FM, which regrettably, currently

# Towards Actualization Of Entrepreneurial Dream

By Humphrey Ogu

operates below capacity due to lack of a state-of-the-art equipment to enable it compete favourably with its counterparts in this era of digital broadcasting. If well equipped, the station has the potential of not only yielding revenue for the institution, but also boosting the capacity of graduates to function efficiently in the wider media.

Although, Zina UNIPORT Water is not domiciled in any particular academic department, it is an example of revenue and employment-generating initiative, as well as skill-enhancing facility in the University. This should also boost research in some Departments in the



Prof. Ajienka, V-C

Faculties of Science and Engineering.

One hopes that the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) and its sister Department in the Faculty of Engineering--Petroleum and Gas Engineering would come up with similar firms to contribute to the

development of the ailing petroleum industry in the country. Now is the time to look in this direction, following deregulation of the petroleum downstream sector that is expected to liberalize the ownership of

refineries in the Country. It would make a lot of entrepreneurial sense if the Institute owns and runs a refinery.

Why should the Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering not be able to create an industry which would boost power generation on Campus and also salvage the ailing power sector? Again, can't the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering establish a construction firm to execute some of the projects in and around the University?

While the above questions beg for answers, the collaborative efforts made by the Centre for Research Management and the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry deserve commendation. The Centre, however, needs to do more by extending its support to the Faculty Engineering. For optimal productivity, these disciplines need to have functional laboratories--an equivalent of the teaching hospital, for College of Health Science, that is.

The era of graduating from University with degrees in Engineering, Science and even the Arts without commensurate entrepreneurial expertise is over. Let's key into the new world of technology and entrepreneurship.

## SGS Releases 2011/2012 Academic Calendar

By Otikor Samuel

**T**he School of Graduate Studies (SGS), has released its academic calendar for the 2011/2012 programmes after its 192<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting held penultimate Tuesday. A Memo signed by the erstwhile Graduate Studies Officer (GSO), Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville, said that fresh and returning students resumed on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, while registration commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.



Prof. Roseline Konya, Dean, SGS

Lectures are expected to commence on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, while late registration for all students would commence on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2012 is fixed for Orientation for fresh Graduate students before students proceed on *Easter Break* between 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. Successful students would join in the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation scheduled to hold from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

Lectures would formally end on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, while revision takes place between Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2012. According to the Memo, the First Semester examination takes place from Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. Board of the School would sit on Tuesday, 16 August, 2012 to consider the First Semester examination results.

Students are expected to commence lectures for the Second Semester from Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July to Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, and end on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2012, while the Second Semester examination is slated from Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September to Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, after the *Students' Association Week*. Cultural activities and professional exhibitions are billed from Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. Meanwhile, lectures for the 2011/2012 Sandwich Programme would commence on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, and end on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2012, while examination is scheduled from 2<sup>nd</sup> October to Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2012. The Board is expected to meet on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 to consider results.

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V-C, Prof Ajienka, (Arrowed), Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Registrar (right), Mr. Syder, SSANU Chairman (Left) and other EXCO members

## V-C Meets New SSANU EXCO

### ...Explains Delay In Feb Salary

**By Otiakor Samuel**

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has congratulated the new Executive Council of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), on its successful election held last month, promising to sustain the mutual relationship which his Administration enjoys with Unions on Campus that has so far sustained industrial harmony for the overall development of the University.

Professor Ajienka, who made the promise while receiving the new Executive of the Union during a familiarization visit last Wednesday, pledged to utilize available opportunities to enhance staff welfare, regretting the hardship occasioned by the delay in payment of February salary which has since been settled.

The Vice-Chancellor explained that the delay was not peculiar to the University, but also affected other institutions nationwide, attributing it to the proposed central payment regime and ongoing reforms being canvassed by the Federal Government. He disclosed that some universities in the country were yet to receive even their January subvention from the Federal allocation.

Professor Ajienka, who lamented that the University is presently incapacitated in its Internally-Generated Revenue (IGR), said Management would have borrowed from it to pay staff, pending when it would get back the amount from the Federal Government.

He assured the SSANU EXCO members that modalities would soon be put in place to build up the University's IGR in order to secure upfront salaries for one or two months to address emergency situations, expressing satisfaction over the understanding shown by workers over the delay in salary payment for the month of February.

Congratulating the new Executive for its victory at the polls, Professor Ajienka advised members to serve the Union with humility and accountability to sustain the trust of those that elected them into office, reminding them

that every leadership position also carried serious responsibility.

Earlier in his address, new Chairman of SSANU, Mr Bikume Syder, praised the Vice-Chancellor for the harmonious working relationship existing between the Union and Management, pledging to sustain the trend for the growth of the University by eschewing confrontation during his tenure.

Mr Syder, who said that the understanding which is geared towards improved welfare of staff would lessen agitations from the Union, urged the Vice-Chancellor to continue in efforts aimed at bettering their lot as according to him, well-fed staff would give of their best towards the growth of the University.

Other members of the Executive present at the event included Benard Chukwu (Vice-Chairman), Asaah Nicholas (Secretary), Gift Kamalo (Assistant Secretary), Ekine Diepiriye (Financial Secretary), Edith Enyi (Treasurer), Nutee Nigeria (Public Relations Officer), Monday Nwideduh (Trustee) and the immediate past Chairman of the Union, Abel Ejiowhor (Ex-Officio).

## Justice Key To Peaceful Co-Existence In Nigeria

### -Ajienka

**By Humphrey Ogu**

**T**he Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has stressed the need for justice as a means of ensuring peaceful co-existence and unity in the Nigerian society. Professor Ajienka gave the charge, when a delegation of ex-Biafran soldiers, now Lecturers in the University, paid him a courtesy visit last Monday, following the successful burial of the ex-Biafran leader, Chuwkwueme Ojukwu.

The Vice-Chancellor, who disclosed that he was personally touched by the flurry of tributes written on Ojukwu, noted that circumstances of life took him to the best schools, yet love for fatherland and service to humanity spurred him to embark on the course of action he took as Governor of the defunct Eastern Nigeria that shot him to global prominence.

Lauding the ex-combatants for the sacrifices they made in pursuit of what they believed in, Professor Ajienka stressed that the successful burial of the deceased warlord should bring to a closure a sad chapter in the nation's political history, as the devastating effects of befitting the war impacted negatively on the development of the country.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Major Ifeanyi Aniebo (rtd), who also served in the Nigerian Army, said: "we have watched with satisfaction the national and international outpouring of grief and goodwill towards the late Dim Chuwkwueme Ojukwu. We are satisfied, not only because of the state burial given to him, but also because the truth about Ojukwu and Biafra has, at last, been told. It is now known that Ojukwu was not a war-monger as he was demonized to be, but a committed Nigerian patriot, who despite his privileged background, risked his life in defence of justice and saved his people from extermination."

Aniebo, who described declaration of Biafra as a desperate act of self-defence, pointed out that "to many people in this University, the civil war was just a story. To us, it was reality; a painful experience of hard times, unimaginable suffering and physical and emotional scars. We fondly remember Ojukwu today for his courage, his patriotism and his leadership," commiserating with the immediate family and the officers and men under his command in Nigeria and the defunct Biafra rebel army on his loss.

Other members on the delegation included Professors Mark Anikpo, Michael Oti, Ben Eheazu, and Don Anyanwu, all of who gave brief accounts of their roles in the fratricidal war which raged on between 1967 and 1970.



(R-L) Profs Eheazu, Anyanwu, Major Aniebo (rtd), Profs Ajienka, V-C, Anikpo and Oti

As part of activities marking the 2012 World Glaucoma Week, the Health Services Department has announced plans to carry out Free Eye Screening for members of the University Community at the Lulu-Briggs Health Centre on tomorrow.

A Memo signed by Dr Ken Umeadi on behalf of the Director of the Department, Dr Ken Anugweje, stated that "Glaucoma is a disease of the eye that is painless and slowly leads to blindness if not treated on time. However, in some cases, the progression to blindness is more rapid and associated with severe pain and redness of the eyes"

According to the Memo, Africans, people over age 35, diabetics and thyroid eye disease, short-sighted patients and those with a family history of the disease are at high risk of contracting glaucoma, adding that "early detection and treatment is necessary as glaucoma is usually painless, and irreversible damage can occur before either the patient or the physician recognizes the symptoms. Also, treatment does not restore lost vision, but is given in an effort to preserve the remaining vision."

It emphasized that "eye screening is a very important

## World Glaucoma Week

# Health Services Dept To Offer Free Eye Screening ...As PPF Holds Free Breast Cancer Screening

By Humphrey Ogu

means of early detection. It is done by a physician who uses his instruments to detect the presence or absence of eye changes occasioned by glaucoma."

In a related development, a charity organization, Pink Pearl Foundation (PPF), has made public its plan to hold Free Breast Cancer Screening in a one-day exercise, slated for Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 at International Students' Centre, University Park. According to a Memo signed Deputy Director of the Health Services Department, Dr Chinwe Ezirim, other activities lined up for the exercise include Seminar, Free Check-up, Talent Hunt and Quiz-Competition.

"Cancer has become a silent killer, gradually ravaging our young men and women. It has become imperative, therefore, that Nigerian women be made aware of the need to have cancer screening yearly through increased

public and professional awareness," the Memo stated, adding that the screening which would be free of charge is targeted at female staff and students.

## Adedokun Wins Fellowship

By Obinna Nwodin

The African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) has selected Dr. Olutayo Adedokun of the Department of Crop and Soil Science for the 2011 AWARD Fellowship. A statement signed by the Director, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research hosted by the World Agro-Forestry Centre, Vicki Wilde, indicated that the Fellowship which is tenable for two years was based on the import of her research, leadership potential and ambition for change, especially among the poor in rural communities.

Dr. Adedokun was selected as one of the 70 successful candidates from 785 applicants in 11 sub-Saharan African countries. She is to work with Professor Gordian Obute, of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, as her Research Mentor.

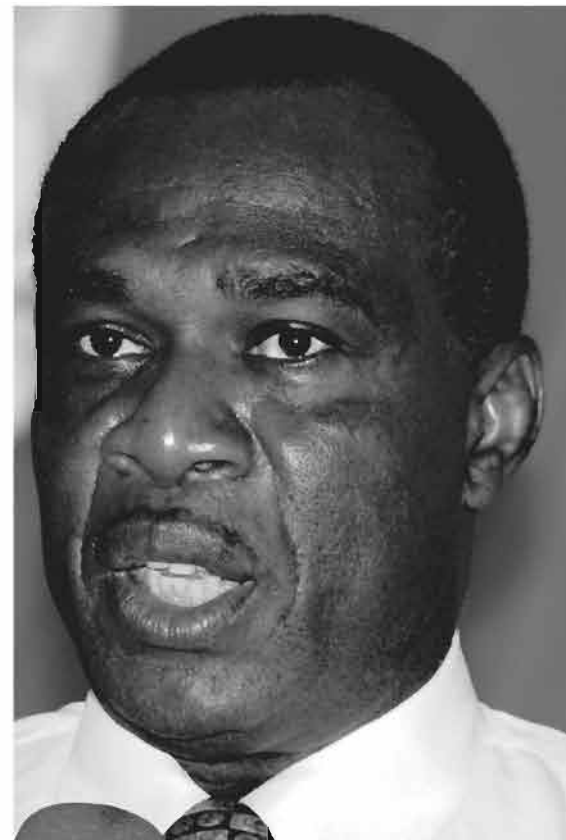
During the Fellowship, Dr. Adedokun would be required to participate in AWARD activities at the national, regional or international. These activities are focused on career and professional development, as well as conduct research in mushroom cultivation that would be of benefits to man and his environment with a view to enhancing knowledge in the areas of bio fortification, poverty alleviation and food security.

Speaking to *UNIPORT Weekly*, Dr. Adedokun said that her research on mushroom cultivation which is focused on its medicinal and nutraceutical benefits were in collaboration with other researchers in

Pharmacy. She said that the objective is to create awareness on mushroom cultivation and consumption among the populace, especially the female folk for sustainable livelihood, adding that the nutritional benefits of mushroom were enormous. According to her, "Diabetics can consume mushrooms because they do not have cholesterol which is good for our health. We can also find cheap protein in mushrooms which is nutritious", noting that the fact that it is not labour and capital intensive makes it lucrative if well managed.

Also speaking to *UNIPORT Weekly*, the Research Mentor, Professor Obute, said that the Fellowship is run on a very serious structural professional basis, pointing out that "At the end of the day, we would have a leading female scholar in this area of research". He also said that her involvement in the programme would bring visibility to the University since it involves Institution from across Africa and beyond", encouraging academics in the University to endeavour to apply for similar Fellowships.

An Alumnae of the University, Dr. Ebiye Ansa was also selected for the Fellowship. She also has Professor Ibitoru Hart, of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology as her Research Mentor. The Organization currently has 180 Fellows in its programmes from across the world.



Dr. Anugweje, Director

## NEWS BRIEFS FROM UPTH

### NUCLEAR MEDICINE COMPLEX SET FOR COMMISSIONING

In line with the resolve of the Board of Management of University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) to boost services to its clientele, the Nuclear Medicine building initiated under the 2009 capital project has been completed. Nuclear Medicine, according to information made available to *UNIPORT Weekly*, is a new brand of medical practice that involves use of small amounts of radioactive (tracers) materials that help diagnose and treat a variety of diseases, as well as determine the causes of medical problems based on organ, tissue and bone.

### ACCREDITATION TEAM VISITS UPTH

The West African College of Surgeons and the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, visited the Department of Anaesthesia as part of ongoing expansion and improvement of facilities on ground for Residency training programmes and patient care at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. The accreditation exercise which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2012, was led by Professor S.D. Ananor-Bodu, who came in company of Dr Arinola Sanusi, Dr B.O. Bolaji, Dr Nehemiah Edem and Dr A.S. Lawani Osundu. The Chief Medical Director (CMD), Professor Aaron Ojule, who received the team, conducted them on an inspection tour of the facilities.

### PAEDIATRICS DEPT MOVES TO PERMANENT BUILDING

The Department of Paediatrics, which is an important Department concerned with childhood illnesses in UPTH, has moved to its permanent building. The idea behind the new complex is to decongest available space for other clinical activities. This development places emphasis on improvement of the health conditions of children to reduce early child mortality rate.



(R-L): Dr Ansa, African Regional Aquaculture Centre, ARAC (2011 AWARD Fellows), Prof Obute, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof Hart (AWARD Mentors), Head, Animal and Environmental Science Dept and Dr Adedokun, of Faculty of Agriculture

# Ndimele Outlines Benefits Of Kay Williamson Chair

By Mercy Don-Baridam

As a way of sustaining the legacy of Professor Kay Williamson in promoting the study of Nigerian Languages, especially in the Niger Delta, the Bayelsa State Government has endowed a Chair to immortalize the late Linguist.

Occupant of the new Chair, Professor Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele, in an interview with *UNIPOINT Weekly* in his office, last Tuesday, said that establishment of the Chair in honour of Professor Williamson was a welcome development. He recalled that she had contributed immensely to the development of little-known languages in Nigeria, especially the various dialects spoken in the Niger Delta.

Professor Ndimele, who is also Dean, Faculty of Humanities, observed that the late Professor Williamson believed that no language should be allowed to die, because "One's language is one's essence and no one knows you by what you eat, drink, or how you dress, but by what language you speak, since language is the most essential instrument that confers authentic identity on human beings and thus a property that should be treasured".

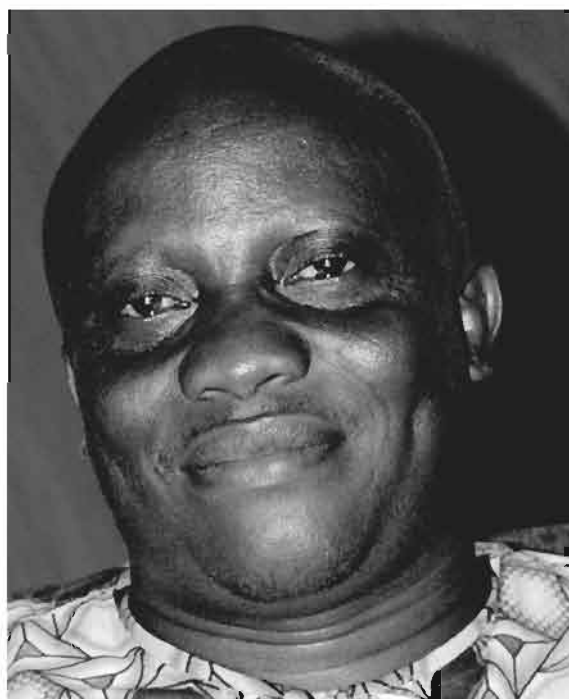
He explained that during her lifetime, Professor Williamson was interested in ensuring that the indigenous languages were preserved, studied and passed down to the younger generation to prevent them from going into extinction. She wrote the *primer* in almost all the Niger Delta languages, and also supervised the *primer* for 21 Languages in Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta States.

The Chair Occupant further disclosed that when the Chair becomes fully operational, it would focus on the major works of Williamson, which included plant names in the Niger Delta and their medicinal uses, including the dictionaries of some languages such as Ijaw, Ibani, Kana, Gokana and Etche.

The Dean expressed optimism that as the Project/Chair commences its activities, it would attract international scholars, engage in research and also organize annual Symposia in linguistics and languages in the Niger Delta in honour of the famous linguist, teacher, ethnographer and philanthropist.

According to Ndimele, the event would hold every January to mark her birthday, adding that lecturers and students would also be trained in the area of language documentation to perpetuate Williamson's great legacy. Professor Ndimele disclosed that most of the international organizations that the late Professor Williamson had collaborated with during her life time

have indicated their willingness to partner the Chair in efforts aimed at preserving and promoting indigenous



Prof Ndimele, Chair Occupant

languages. He said, "our collaborators in this project would come mainly from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) based in America which are interested in funding research centered on endangered languages of the world."

According to the Dean, these languages ought to be documented before they die, stating that since Professor Williamson belonged to so many Associations, "we hope to source funds from them to facilitate documentation and storage of these languages that are already facing extinction," he said, citing languages in Nigeria, especially the Niger Delta region which were already endangered such as *Defaka* in Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area and *Obolo*, stressing that these languages needed urgent attention to save them from total extinction.

He expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka for taking the bold initiative to honour Professor Kay Williamson, who gave her all to the service of the University, the Niger Delta, Nigeria and humanity.

## UNIPOINT Offers Employment To Host Communities

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The beneficiaries, who were selected from Aluu, Alakahia and Choba communities, were placed on the Consolidated Tertiary Institutions Salary Structure in the Junior staff category for a year in the first instance, subject to their passing medical examination and other statutory conditions for stipulated employment.

The appointment letters, which were dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2012 and signed on behalf of the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim by the Junior Staff Officer, Mrs Elizabeth Ndiokho, specified that the beneficiaries are placed on Contract Appointment for a year.

The latest employment opportunities were in addition to similar offers which the University had rolled out since its inception to smoothen a mutually-beneficial relationship with land owners, who willingly offered their natural inheritance for the establishment of the University in 1975 without being paid compensation.

The Vice-Chancellor, had at different *fora* assured the Host Communities that his administration would grow with them. To this end,

he had embarked on oversight visits to the communities a number of times, including one with the last Federal Government Visitation Panel.

It would be recalled that the Vice-Chancellor, had again reassured the communities of total support when the *Nye-Nwe Ali* Akpor, Eze Anele Orlu-

Oriebe led a delegation of his Council of Chiefs on a courtesy visit to the University penultimate week, urging their indigenes to indicate interest in vying for contracts in the University, rather than lamenting from the sidelines.

To further empower the host communities, Management set up a University - Host Communities' Relations Committee headed by Professor Blessing Didia, which had already submitted a preliminary Report on skills acquisition programmes targeted at youths in the communities.



Mrs. Nnodim, Registrar

## CIBN Commends UNIPOINT On ACIB Programme

By Obinna Nwodin

In appreciation of the role of the University in enhancing professionalism in the Banking sector, the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), has expressed gratitude to the authorities of the University over their partnership with the Institute in the training of professionals for the Industry.

President of the Council of the Institute, Mr. Laoye Jaiyeola, made the commendation when he led a delegation on a Courtesy Visit to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, in his office, penultimate Friday.

Jayeola said that the Council was appreciative of the support the Institute had so far received from the University, stating that the Institute was trying to encourage professionalism in the Banking sector, pointing out that such a move would be achieved when the right standards are established. He disclosed that apart from greed by some operators in the sector, part of the reason the economy is experiencing financial crises in recent times was as a result of lack of competent personnel in the Industry, adding that CIBN's partnership with the University is to enhance manpower development.

In his remark, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, thanked the Institute for appreciating the role the University is playing in the development of the



Mr. Jaiyeola, President, CIBN

Banking Sector, pointing out that it was in line with the vision and mission of the University. Professor Nduka said that there was no way the entrepreneurial vision of Management would be achieved without fostering a closer partnership with Industry players.

Also speaking, former Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Chinedu Ezirim, said that the linkage programme between the University and the Institute has been a success because of the support given by the authorities.

Also present at the event were: Chairman, Port Harcourt Branch of the Institute, Mr. Charles Ibi, Director, Membership, Mr. Segun Shonubi, and an Ex-Officio of the Port Harcourt Branch, Mr. Clem Osuji.

It would be recalled that the University had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute that resulted in the running of the ACIB programme.

# Tamuno Flays Debate On Derivation

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nationalities by the three major tribes would spell doom for the country if not redressed by key policy makers at the centre. He said that the so-called 13% Derivation simply amounted to 87% Deprivation of the God-given

be hopelessly marooned". Professor Tamuno, whose lecture was titled: *Local, National and Global Impacts of Oil on Niger Delta History Since 1807*, flayed the agitation for increase in the derivation formula to the region, noting that leaders in the Niger Delta should look ahead



A cross section of participants after the opening ceremony of the Niger Delta History Week

resources of the peoples of the Niger Delta, saying that those who currently benefited from the petro-dollar would not hesitate to abandon the region once oil ceased to flow from the area.

"Despite intense agitations by Niger Delta advocates, during and after the 2005 Political Reform Conference, opponents of their cause successfully defied any drastic change in the 13% Derivation Formula. Current and recurrent public policy disallowed a return to the 50% benchmarks under the 1960 and 1963 Constitution", the elder statesman lamented, regretting that then as now, "the prevailing official line has been that of monetary compensation as against my concept of a categorical moral imperative...more crude oil would be pumped out for export to support insincere and wasteful development contractors with more and more pollution and environmental degradation to follow in the already despoiled Niger Delta communities".

Professor Tamuno said that despite the challenges of development facing the Niger Delta region, "the bulk of our advantage lies in the membership of the Nigerian state, stressing that "the union is like an unsinkable ship which is safer to be in than to allow it break in pieces and

of derivation and concentrate on issues that would create value for the people; especially in the provision of quality education to the younger generation to safeguard their future.

"The Niger Delta at its stage of development must not be lured into any act or pact of treason or treasonable felony. It successfully resisted such pulls during Nigeria's Civil War years. It should always endeavour to keep away absolutely from any game-playing with fire", he advised, pointing out that, "the time is fast approaching when the people of the Niger Delta region should abandon the sterile debate on derivation formula. The time has now come to provide a harmonious link between heritage and development. No development programme should destroy our heritage".

The Guest Lecturer, who examined the challenges of a new world order and local responses to it, advised the peoples of the Niger Delta to adapt to the realities of the time so as not to suffer the fate of the *Dinosaurs* which went extinct as a result of their inability to adapt to their changing environment. He said that no compensation would be enough for death and deprivation in the Niger Delta occasioned by continued oil exploration and exploitation.

Professor Tamuno said that there was nothing that indicated that Nigeria cannot survive without crude oil, recalling that prior to the discovery of oil, the regions survived on agricultural produce. According to him, farm products were instrumental in national development in the 1950s and 1960s, adding that Nigeria fought the Civil War without depending on revenue from crude oil which was under rebel control for a major part of the crisis. The former Vice-Chancellor said that it was dangerous to live in the past in a changing world, adding that the impact of crude oil in the Niger Delta environment was adverse necessitating urgent remedial measures to assuage the anger of the people of the area.

In his remark, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, said that the idea of a *Niger Delta History Week* was conceived on the conviction that the physical environment of the Niger Delta and the common experiences of its diverse peoples have created a common destiny for the people of the region which needed to be chronicled, studied and utilized for the benefit of its inhabitants, noting that the region was well endowed with abundant human and material resources to ensure sustainable development. He expressed hope that the Symposium on the strategic role of oil in the history of the Niger Delta would further explain the important position of the region in national discourse.

Goodwill messages were delivered by Chief (Mrs) Seinye Lulu-Briggs on behalf of the O.B. Lulu-Briggs Foundation, Dr. Barclays Ayakoroma, Executive Secretary, National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO), Eze Raymond Okocha, Nye-Nwe Ali Choba, Professor Sotonye Amachree, one-time Provost of the former Rivers State College of Education, Emeritus Professor Ebiegberi Allagoo and Amayanabo of Kalabari Kingdom, King (Professor) Theophilus Princewill, who was represented at the occasion by Alabo Ombo Tom Big-Harry.

The event was followed by a Symposium on the prominence of oil in the Niger Delta, including a well-subscribed Exhibition on the cultural artefacts of the Niger Delta peoples.

Other highlights of the two-day event were Fashion Shows and *Akuruaku* cloth weaving workshop, Food Fair which showcased dishes from the nine Niger Delta states, a Musical Evening by the University of Port Harcourt Concert Chorus and a Gala Night.

## British Council Official Hails IPS Model

By Humphrey Ogu

The Country Director, British Council Nigeria, Mr David Higgs, has described the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) as an unusual and unique institution that provides quality training which produces employable young people for the oil industry. Higgs made the observation in a chat with *UNIORT Weekly* during a familiarization visit to IPS, last Monday. The Director, who recalled that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, participated in a conference on higher education in Africa organized by the British Council in Abuja last October, said "that's where I heard about IPS; quite a unique kind of institution. I decided next time I come to Port Harcourt; I would come to learn a bit more about it. I come to Port Harcourt occasionally because we have an office here so I come to visit my colleagues. But as I make visits to cities in Nigeria, I tried to visit universities too. This is the first opportunity I had to visit the University of Port Harcourt.

"The problem in Nigeria is that the current model of higher education, the traditional model used in Britain, is not effective for the future. So institutions need to find new ways to structure themselves not only to provide higher education, but the right sort; in other words, to train employable young people. The IPS model is very interesting, in my point of view, first, it has industry collaboration and second, it has partnership with another famous academic institution in France. That's a kind of three-way collaboration. It is what everybody wants to do, but it is not easy to make it happen," he explained.

Responding to a question on the proposal for partnership made by the Institute, he said that British Council cannot go into such collaborations "because we are not an educational institution, we neither teach nor issue



Clockwise : V-C, Prof Ajiienka, Fusier, Higgs, Onyekonwu, Director, IPS & Arguba

degrees. We can, however facilitate contacts with British universities that are ready for such partnerships," expressing willingness of the Council to help in funding research into models of higher education that can be adapted to the needs of IPS.

The Vice-Chancellor, who briefed the two-man team, on the history of IPS, pointed out that "the Institute runs a modular course system in which lecturers come from industry and IFP School in Paris, teach from Monday to Friday, give exams and go back. Students write exams every week and graduate after 45 weeks. It is a very intensive programme," adding that the programme has been sustained through the immense support of Total, which sponsors students for the Master of Science programme in Petroleum Engineering and Project

Development.

In his own contribution, Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, appealed to British Council for partnership, especially in the area of sponsorship of programmes, disclosing that plans are on to collaborate with British universities, including the University of Cranfield on Offshore Technology. He expressed hope that British Council would assist the Institute any way possible to sustain the excellent work it was doing in Petroleum Engineering training.

Higgs was accompanied on the visit by Centre Manager, British Council, Port Harcourt, Ijeoma Arguba, while IFP Resident Representative in IPS, Francis Fusier and the Deputy Director of the Institute, Dr Ogbonna Joel, were also on hand to receive the visitors.

## GUIDEPOST

## APPOINTMENT

Professor Anthony Ataga, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Dean School of Science Laboratory Technology*, effective March 2, 2012 to March 3, 2014.

Dr Andrew Efemini, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective March 3, 2012 to March 5, 2014.

Dr Joel Umenduji, Department of Geography and Environment Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective March 5, 2012 to March 7, 2014.

Mrs Cordelia Maduafakwa, University Demonstration Primary School, appointed *Assistant Headmistress (Academics)*, effective December 10, 2011.

## SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor Z.M Ofuya, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, offered Sabbatical Appointment with University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, effective February 15, 2012 to February 14, 2013.

382<sup>ND</sup> EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF SENATE

The 382<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of Senate is slated for Wednesday, 21st March, 2012 at the Senate Chambers, University Park. Time is 10:00am. Part of the provisional agenda is Consideration of the 2010/2011 Degree Results and other statutory meetings of the University. Senate Members are requested to forward 20 copies of any matter they wish to be discussed at the Meeting.

83<sup>RD</sup> INAUGURAL LECTURE

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Inaugural Lecture has been scheduled for Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. The Lecture titled: "Educational Assessment: A sine quo non," will be delivered by Professor Reginald Ukwueje of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education. Time is 3:00p.m. Members of the University Community and the public are invited.

84<sup>TH</sup> INAUGURAL LECTURE

The 84<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture has been scheduled for Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. The Lecture titled: "Geophysics, a panacea for National Wealth and Safety" will be delivered by Professor Joseph Ebeniro of the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science. Time is 3:00p.m. Members of the University Community and the public are invited.

## STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

Mrs Rosa Johnson -Ajimwo, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a three-year Study Leave with pay, effective December, 2011 to November, 2013.

## STATUTORY RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE

Professor N. Ukaigwe, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, retires from service, effective date February 4, 2012. This was preceded by a three-month pre-retirement leave which commenced on November 4, 2011.

## PENSIONABLE APPOINTMENT

Mrs Blessing Onyegeme-Okerenta, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, granted Pensionable Appointment, effective December 22, 2011.

## INTERACTIVE SESSION FOR STAFF

Pension Fund Administrators invite staff to an Interactive Forum, aimed at educating and updating them on recent development in the Pension Industry. The Forum is scheduled to hold on 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2012 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium from 10:00am to 3:00pm each day.

Day One: NLPC Pensions, First Guarantee, ALICO.

Day Two: Stanbic IBTC, ARM.

Day Three: Sigma Pensions Alliance Limited, Trust Fund Pension, Premium Pension, Leadway Pension and Legacy Pension.

Contact: Mrs Ime Ibanga (Pension and Welfare Officer)

## HEALTH ALERT

## Lassa Fever epidemic is everywhere.

- Kill all rats in your home. Cover all food.
- Ensure the highest standards of hygiene.
- Wash your hands always.
- Avoid food cooked outside.
- It is an emergency.

## BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

## AAUA INSISTS ON WEARING ID CARD ON CAMPUS

Authorities of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (AAUA) have insisted that staff and students of the Institution must abide by the subsisting rule of wearing Identity Cards on Campus. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Femi Mimiko, emphasized the need to display the ID Cards not just for the aesthetic, but primarily as a way of addressing present security challenges in the Country.

The Vice-Chancellor, who disclosed that a monitoring team has been set up to ensure compliance, stated that appropriate action would be taken against defaulters, adding that students without ID Cards would not be allowed into Lecture Halls.

## ADELEKE MATRICULATES PIONEER STUDENTS

A total of 191 pioneer students of Adeleke University (AU) were inaugurated, as well as administered into *Matriculation Oath* penultimate week. President/Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ayandiji Aina, said that the new University, which was established as the 116<sup>th</sup> in the Country has within the shortest period of about six months advanced to the 86<sup>th</sup> position in recent ranking of Nigerian universities.

## BANKS PARTNER UNICAL, CRUTECH, ON WATER PROJECT

The Central Bank of Nigeria, in partnership with the First Bank of Nigeria Plc, had concluded arrangements to support the University of Calabar, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital and the Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) on hydro-electric power supply.

Vice-Chancellor of UNICAL, Professor James Epoke, made the disclosure during a press briefing, explaining that when completed the project would address the epileptic electricity problem facing the institution.

## EU VARSITIES TO COLLABORATE ON ENERGY

European universities are going to work more closely together to beat

the energy problems of the future, following the first meeting of the European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy Research, Education and Training. Many European universities are already seeking answers to the question of what happens as fossil fuels run out. But the problem is of such massive proportions that closer collaboration will be needed and – until now – it has been hard for institutions to find out what others are

doing and how they can contribute to current research.

"We brought them together so they can learn from each other's best practice," said John Smith, Deputy Secretary-General of the European University Association (EUA), who jointly organised the meeting at the Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

Energy is a highly interdisciplinary field, which can make it difficult to develop effective international cooperation.

"Within universities physicists, architects and even psychologists have to work together, for example", said Hester Bijl, Chair of the Delft Energy Initiative at Delft University of Technology. "This is sometimes hard to achieve, because they do not speak the same academic language."

-Compiled by Otikor Samuel

STOP PRESS  
Senate Decision  
On Double  
Matriculation

At its 380th Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday February 8, 2012, Senate received the Report of the Professional Ethics Committee on the allegation of double Matriculation by a student in the Departments of Chemical Engineering and Geology. Senate further noted that since the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forbids double Matriculation by students. Senate therefore has directed that this should be clearly stated in the *Statement of Academic Policies*. It should also be noted that the University does not allow Double Matriculation by a student.



Prof Rufa'i, Minister of Education

# UNIPORT - Industry Partnership

The authorities of the University of Port Harcourt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TOTAL E & P Nigeria Limited on Educational Partnership to strengthen the already existing mutual relationship between the two institutions.

TOTAL's Director of Education (International) Luc Sposito, was on hand to sign the Agreement for his company.

Pictures show highlights of the event.



V-C, Prof. Ajenka, briefing guests on the Institutional Profile of the University



Director, Education (International) TOTAL, Mr. Sposito, addressing the gathering on TOTAL's Corporate Social Responsibility and the MoU



Prof. Ajenka, Sposito and Vincent Nnadi, Executive General Manager, Corporate Service of TOTAL conferring on modalities for the MoU



Prof. Ajenka, signing the Agreement, while Mr. Sposito watches on



Mr. Sposito signing TOTAL's column on the Agreement



Mr. Vincent Nnadi, Executive General Manager, Corporate Services also signing for TOTAL



Director, Establishments, Mr. Roland Wabali, who represented the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim signing the Agreement



Legal Manager of TOTAL, Mrs. Lota Osarollor, signing for the company



Professor Ajenka and Mr. Sposito displaying a copy of the MoU



Director, Institute of Petroleum Studies, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, speaking at the event