



We Need Gown And Town Towers ~Afolabi

Issues militating against growth of the nation's universities, as well as ways to transform them to compete favourably with their counterparts elsewhere created food for thought during the Seventh Public Lecture of the School of Graduate Studies delivered last Tuesday by former Head of Service of the Federation, Professor Oladapo Afolabi at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park reports *Otikor Samuel*

More on p3

Side Bar

The 2011/2012 Orientation exercise for 1st Year Students holds on Tuesday, 15th May, 2012 at the Convocation Arena, University Park by 9.00am. Details next week
-Editor



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UNIPORT Students Sparkle At SPE Competition
Story on p2



W'Bank Step-B Project Receives More Equipment
Story on p3



Science & Tech Critical To Economic Transformation
-Minister
Story on p4



NISLT Inducts 227 Technologists
Story on p5

Consultant Haematologist at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Professor Oseikhuemen Ejele, has described blood transfusion as a key part of modern healthcare worldwide, stressing the need for individuals to imbibe the culture of blood donation to save lives as is the practice in developed countries. Ejele, who made the remark while delivering the 85th Inaugural Lecture titled: "Blood Sacrifice—How Saving?" at Ebitimi

85th Inaugural

Blood Transfusion Key To Modern Healthcare ~Prof Ejele

By Humphrey Ogu

Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday, also

called for the creation of a National Blood Service Authority in line with standard recommendation of the World Health Organization and other international blood transfusion agencies.

"What is needed to achieve the objective of blood safety in Nigeria is for government to approve establishment of a National Blood Service Authority, Agency or Commission, with full service and regulatory powers. Legal empowerment and financial support for the Commission will be required and is hereby advocated," he stated, citing the National Action for the Control of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—AIDS and National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control (NAFDAC) as examples of successful regulatory bodies that are of immense benefit to the country. As a measure to save lives of patients who could die due to non-availability of blood, Ejele said: "we implore all of you in this

Cont'd on p6



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ON THE 28TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The 28th Convocation Ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt has come and gone, leaving an echo of resounding success on its trail—especially for all those who dutifully made valuable contributions in diverse ways to pull through what was, perhaps, one of the best organized events on this Campus. While we await the inevitable post-mortem of the Ceremony, it may not be out of place to state that the ability of authorities of the University to pull off such an elaborate spectacle is ample testimony of our emergent capacity to run things the right way.

The build-up to the Convocation, which kicked-off with a well-attended Media briefing by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, climaxed on Saturday, 28th April, 2012, with the award of Certificates, First and Higher Degrees, including Postgraduate Diplomas to a total of 5,756 graduates from nine Faculties. A major highlight of this year's Convocation is the conferment of Honorary Degrees on three distinguished personalities, who are adjudged to have made invaluable contributions to the University, fatherland and humanity; namely, Dr Egbert Imomoh, Dr Atedo Peterside and Dr Alex Otti.

The bountiful harvest of 98 Doctor of Philosophy Degrees is a pointer to the increasing capacity of the University to engage in high-impact research in diverse fields of human endeavour. It also marks our emergence as an Entrepreneurial University that is research-intensive; where research meets business and enterprise in harnessing creativity and innovation. The Vice-Chancellor's address titled, "The New UNIPORT: The Making of an Entrepreneurial University", is a forward-looking document that clearly pointed to the new direction in which the University is headed as it strives to forge that critical symbiotic relationship between town and gown; between classroom theory and industry practice in fulfilment of its statutory mandate to society.

In a tacit acknowledgment of the momentous developmental strides recorded by the University in its recent history, the Visitor and Number One Alumnus, President Goodluck Jonathan, praised the Professor Ajienka-led Administration for charting a new entrepreneurial vision and capacity-building that have improved the quality of graduates. Speaking through the Honourable Minister of Education, Professor Ruqayyatu Rufa'i, the President urged Management and Governing Council of the University to intensify efforts aimed at transforming his beloved Alma Mater into a first choice destination for the best in Africa and beyond. Wife of the President, Dame (Dr) Patience Jonathan, herself a distinguished Alumnus could not disguise her admiration for the giant strides recorded by her Alma Mater under the

UNIPORT Weekly

present Administration.

The panache with which the authorities pulled off the 28th

Convocation shows that the University of Port Harcourt has, indeed, come of age. Also, the investiture of four distinguished intellectual giants as Emeriti Professors is further testimony of our gradual infusion of a tradition on the foundation of the University as envisaged by the founding fathers. The cream of society that gathered to witness the very impressive investiture ceremony of the new academic Field Marshalls eulogised the vision of the Vice-Chancellor in recognizing merit and distinguished service by the recipients. Emeriti Professors Nimi Briggs, Otonti Nduka, Emmanuel Anosike and Samuel Okiwelu, would ever remain grateful to this University for recognizing their achievements in their lifetime. Other institutions are already taking a quick cue from us in this direction.

Another beautiful angle to the 28th Convocation was the Chancellor's Dinner at which some celebrated movers and shakers of the Nigerian home video industry, popularly known as Nollywood were honoured at Hotel Presidential for bringing immense pride and honour to their Alma Mater. It was, indeed, a galaxy of stars that took to the red carpet to receive due recognition for their years of exploits in the movie industry. Most of the award recipients openly confessed that the honour done them by their beloved Alma Mater represented a watershed in their showbiz career so far. The novel Research Fair under the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) attracted visitors throughout the entire duration of the Convocation. The Fair showcased our Research and Development and Innovation capability as an emergent Entrepreneurial University that is research-focused. Also, Staff and students, including contractors, were honoured for distinguishing themselves in the service of the University in the last one year as a motivation to others to emulate their good examples.

On the whole, the 28th Convocation Ceremony will go down in history as one of the best organized events of that magnitude in the University. We commend all those who made enormous sacrifices that resulted in the success of the Convocation, especially the Chairman, Professor Igbo Joe, who had to learn the ropes at very short notice. We commend the Academic Office for its professional documentation of the Order of Proceedings, including the Security Department for ensuring law and order at the event. We thank the Bursary Department for timely release of approved funds that facilitated the functions of the various Sub-Committees. The Vice-Chancellor deserves the last word of praise for showing inspiring leadership that made it all possible. Bravo to all of us!

UNIPORT Students Sparkle At SPE Competition

...As Senate Holds 384th Meeting May 30

By Otiokor Samuel

Five students of the Faculty of Engineering, who represented the University at a competition held at the University of Lagos from 19th to 21st April, 2012.

The competition was organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Nigeria. A Letter to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, signed by Chairman, SPE, Nigeria Council (2011/2012), Engr Ikechukwu Okafor and obtained by UNIPORT Weekly, revealed that the Society would sponsor two nominees from the University to participate in the forthcoming Nigeria Annual International Conference and Exhibition (NAICE) holding between 6th to 8th August, 2012 at Eko Hotels & Suites, Lagos State.

"On behalf of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Nigeria Council, we hereby wish to congratulate your institution on her success at SPE's Petroquiz Competition conducted at the recently concluded event: The Student Technical Conference & Exhibition tagged UNILAG 2012



Prof. Ajienka, V-C

HOD, Pet. & Gas Engineering, Dr Sunday Ikemikimama

held at the University of Lagos from April 19-21, 2012," part of the Letter read, listing names of the students who represented the University as Idio Isaiah, Ekun Blessing, Owchondah Anthony, Fadeyeni Tunji and Eke Emmanuel.

In another development, Members of Senate of the University have been notified of the 384th Senate Meeting holding on Wednesday, 30th May, 2012 at the Senate Chambers, University Park. The Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, in a Memo disclosed that Reports of the Investiture of Emeriti Professors on 25th April, as well as Institutes and Centres would be part of the provisional agenda.

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SGS Public Lecture We Need Gown And Town Towers ~Afolabi

With

the topic:

Nigerian Transformational Development Programmes: The Ivory Towers, Where Art Thou? Are there Opportunities to Pick?, the Guest Lecturer, who made a review of some fundamental government policies, stated that lack of commitment by successive governments to implement laudable blueprints contributed to the apparent stagnation of tertiary education in Nigeria.

In what he described as *diagnostic analysis* to the problem of the Ivory Tower, Professor Afolabi, who traced the origin of leadership to a practice where those in positions of authority are expected "to go forth to die" in course of protecting and defending the common people, said Nigerian leaders must be prepared to give out their best to get it right.

Professor Afolabi advised universities to always engage in peer review to prize excellence from scholars, review curricula to be responsive to current realities, as well as give preference to applied research which could translate into solving societal problems, rather than focusing strictly on academics, adding that carrying-capacity and quality of students should not be compromised since they would turn out as products of the system.

"It is clear that the Ivory Tower has been largely left out of the recent National Development Programmes largely due to the circumstances created by globalization and the inability of leadership to respond adequately and promptly to the challenges. Tackling this problem is quite challenging and complex. It will require real leadership and adaptive solutions to surmount."

Continuing he said, "The task before real leadership is to reclaim the rightful position of the Ivory Tower. A lot of creativity and thinking out of the box and out of tradition/convention intervention will go a long way to situate us as winners. Time to moan or lament is past. This is the right time to carry our crosses very well and deal decisive blows to those issues that had inhibited us".

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who stressed the importance of applied research to the overall growth of a nation, stated that it was high time

Cont'd from p1



Prof Afolabi handing over a copy of the Lecture to DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey, inset: Prof Konya, Dean, SGS

Graduate Students progressed from publication of research works in *Journals* to translating them into direct products to benefit humanity.

Professor Ajenka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, described the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) as an incubation centre, where research could be transformed to meet business and enterprise, advising Graduate Students to always put in their best, as well as comply with extant provisions of the School to attain desired results.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Dean of the School, Professor Roseline Konya, had stated that the Lecture was organized to proffer solutions to societal problems. "Public lectures are usually organized by the School to allow cross-fertilization of ideas on academic issues to propel academic excellence that would enhance a connection between town and gown," she said.

"In the last year at the School of Graduate Studies, the Board has spent time searching for solutions to problems militating against prompt completion of programmes by students. This led to the policy on *Overstay* by the Board and approval by Senate at its 381st Meeting of 29th February, 2012. That policy yielded great dividend as, for the first time, as many as 98 Doctoral degrees were produced in the last convocation," she added.

"Doctoral Theses of our University have become a pool for book publication by international publishers. Our seminar sessions have become very exciting as senior colleagues listen to presentations by PhD students, with panels drawn from Faculties. In this process, confidence is instilled into the students," she added, pledging to ensure originality of research projects by students.

In his goodwill message, Secretary to Rivers State Government, Mr George Feyli, represented by Commissioner of Employment Generation and Empowerment, Dr Ipalibo Harry, expressed gratitude to the University for what he described as its robust contribution to the development of the State in particular and the country in general.

"The whole essence of the academia is to connect town and gown in a mutually-beneficial manner and UNIPORT is on course in this regard," he said, applauding the University for producing a unique President, who according to him, possesses exceptional leadership traits.

Highpoints of the well-attended Lecture were presentation of plaques and decoration of the Guest Lecturer, Professor Afolabi and Guest of Honour, Mr Feyli with the University Mufflers, as well as musical renditions by UNIPORT Concert Chorus.

W'Bank Step-B Project Receives More Equipment

As part of efforts aimed at ensuring optimization of the Step-B Project in the University, its sponsors, World Bank Step-B Centre of Excellence in Infectious Diseases and Zoonotics, delivered more operational equipment to the Institution, penultimate Friday.

Receiving the items on behalf of the University, Director, Centre for Medical Research and Training (CENMERT) in the College of Health Sciences, Professor Anthony Okpani, who disclosed that the delivery was the third batch since the commencement of the project, pointed out that the project is aimed at facilitating cutting-edge research, as well as producing quality graduates in the two partner institutions—Universities of Port Harcourt and Calabar, in line with the country's drive for science and technology and innovation.

Okpani, who noted that the main thrust of the project is to engage in implementation of research and sponsorship of treatment at advanced levels of the three killer-diseases, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria, disclosed that "at a later date, we are going to receive HIV screening equipment. That would enable us screen HIV, Lassa Fever and other viral diseases."

By Humphrey Ogu

"Presently, the University has no mechanism for treating those diseases and so we have to send patients out for screening. When these equipment arrive, we will be able to handle such screening here,"

Okpani observed, recalling that the two partner universities have benefitted from the project, estimated at about \$400,000.

"Both universities received electricity power generators, telecommunication equipment, inverters, and recently, office equipment to set up a computer laboratory, science equipment, including colorimeters, multiple analyzers, which aids HIV screening in both universities," he said, adding that "among the implementation programmes were sponsorship of senior administrative officials of the two universities on a leadership training in the United States of America and supply of advanced medical science equipment."

Also speaking, the Procurement Officer, Mr Samuel Edim, said "the essence of the Project is to aid science and technology education in the country. As a Procurement Officer, everything passes through me by way of procurement," stating the major challenge his office faces as having to drive a long distance of about five hours from Calabar to Port Harcourt. As a way of tackling that challenge, he called for the decentralization of both centres to enable each of them procure its own equipment.

According to him, the items delivered include chairs, seven computers, five Liquid-Crystal Display (LCD) Television, one standard flipchart, five Digital Video Disk (DVD) players, three Samsung Colour Printers, four Public Address Systems, five projects DLP, six video recorders, projectors, seven computer bags, tables, chairs, two fire extinguishers, twenty wireless Samsung phones and two backup batteries.



Mr Edim handing over some accessories to DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka, while Prof Okpani looks on

28th Convocation Lecture

Science & Tech Critical To Economic Transformation -Minister

By Humphrey Ogu



Dr. Tebepah, NDDC Chairman

The Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Ita Ewa, has called for the integration of science and technology, as well as innovation into the framework of national production processes through requisite manpower development and deployment in universities. Professor Ewa, who made the call while delivering the 28th Convocation Lecture titled: "Universities and the Private Sector—Promoting Research and Entrepreneurial Network for Transformation", explained that "this integration should be central to the inherent content of government policies in order to catalyze programmes, such as the Transformation Agenda of the current dispensation as encapsulated in Nigeria's Vision 20:2020."

The Minister, who pointed out that this approach is particularly important due to the exigencies of global economic competitiveness, sustainable development and equity concerns, noted that "universities, as



Prof. Ewa handing over a copy of the Lecture to the V-C, Prof. Ajenka (r), while Chairman of occasion, Dr. Tebepah watches in admiration

harbingers of innovation in science and technology, could play fundamental roles in the creation of wealth, economic growth and improvement of quality of life of the citizenry, promising to use his good offices to encourage integration of Research and Development results for industrial production and technical change. "University education, technological infrastructure, as well as entrepreneurial skills are interwoven rudiments needed for the transformation of Nigeria into a knowledge-based society," he stressed, adding that "transforming innovative ideas generated by tertiary institutions, as well as research institutes into products,

processes and services should be highly dependent on active participation of the private sector, well-defined and supportive government policies, institutional and legal frameworks that will in turn effectively address the needs of the citizenry and our national aspirations." To transform our economy, according to him, Nigerian universities must interface to re-orient the focus of graduates and the country to measures aimed at improving technological readiness, enlarge technological capabilities to innovate and build stronger and dynamic national systems of innovation. Highlighting the importance of Research and Development to the wellbeing of the nation, he said: "we the elites need to understand the academic and R&D mechanisms critical for transformation of the nation's economy to create jobs, generate wealth, reduce poverty, develop human capacities, attain Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), integrate the continent into the global knowledge economy as well as make substantial gains in our Nigeria Vision 20:2020 development programme."

In his welcoming speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, stressed that "we are trying to build an entrepreneurial university, where research meets business and enterprise at a Technology Park and Arts Village. We are trying to develop an entrepreneurial university, where knowledge is capitalized, not just entrepreneurial in terms of skills acquisition, but to use knowledge from research and development to create employment opportunities as well as wealth," soliciting the support of major stakeholders in realizing of the vision.

Also speaking, Chairman of the 28th Convocation Lecture, Dr. Tarilah Tebepah, who described the topic of the Lecture as a wake-up call, said "the economy is like the lifeblood that sustains a nation; pressure from the current international market places demands that nations and organizations must transform their economies or risk being left behind."

Dr. Tebepah, whose speech was titled: "Arise Academia, Our Time Has Come", noted that "the United States of America became a world leader with the support of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, Princeton and other universities, long before Silicon Valley came into existence. The United Kingdom could not have been a major global player without Oxford University, Cambridge, London School of Economics and the other research-driven universities and polytechnics. We cannot succeed today with the way our institutions have been doing things in the past."

Dr. Tebepah, who is also Chairman, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), said that "Nigeria can choose the options to join the expressway of creativity fulfilment for institutions and citizens, where leading nations are fighting to remain. Or we can try to face the depressing reality of countries that stand on beggars' lane."

The Honourable Minister had earlier paid a Courtesy Visit on the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Officers before the well-received lecture.



Prof. Ewa, Convocation Lecturer

The Lizard And The Gecko (An Environmental Integrity And Food Security Docu-drama)

By Paul Baridi Nalley

The *Lizard and the Gecko* is an immensely mesmerizing, inter-active docu-drama about the dreams, vision and mission of a young company or enterprise of the same name, set up to redress the catastrophic effects of environmental degradation and the resultant global climate change that has brought about grave food insecurity which now threatens the stability of nations.

The play begins after Prof and Ma-Pathfinders—or Principal Partners successfully recruit four other young Pathfinders of great individual character and promise.

Imaginative dialogue, persuasive characterization and breath-taking suspense are the hallmarks that make the *Lizard and the Gecko* a tour de force.

With an evolving storyline through three down-to-earth case studies that inform, educate and entertain, the play deftly catalogues the many 'finger prints' of global climate change: rising ocean/sea levels, deforestation; desertification and mud slides that trigger quantum

human misery; food shortages, disease and poverty across nations.

'The Lizard and the Gecko' is also a great love story, as two of the younger Pathfinders despite tight schedules and back-breaking hard work, fall in love, and find time to get married.

As a play, 'the Lizard and the Gecko' truly enunciates how a single idea, such as the one based on the theme song can be differently developed and processed through the multi-facets of Communications.

Oh yes, we've heard Paul Nalley on occasions sing, the theme song also titled: *The Lizard and the Gecko*.

It goes like this:

'The Lizard and the Gecko'
We no de chop them for my town
The lizard and the gecko
Das why them too buku for my town
The snail and the shellfish
We de wack them plenty for my town
The snail and the shellfish
Das why them nearly extinct from my town.
(End of lyrics)

The serious question the play finally postulates is: 'Global Climate Change is real, its consequences dire, what can man do? What must mankind do about it for his own, survival? Food for thought, I dare say!'

Editor's Note: This docu-drama was presented at the Literary Evening organized by the Rivers State Chapter of Association of Nigerian Authors in honour of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka.



Mr. Nalley



Elijah

I Hope To Be Culture Minister In Future -Former Student Union V-P

By Humphrey Ogu

Having successfully passed through Unique UNIPORT, known to be the breeding ground for distinguished politicians such as President Goodluck Jonathan, Governor Chibuike Amaechi of Rivers State and immediate past Governor of Bayelsa State, Timipre Sylva, as well as Minister of State for Education, Barrister Nyesom Wike, outgoing Student Union Vice-President, Rachael Elijah, says she hopes to be the Minister of Culture of Nigeria in the nearest future.

Elijah, who graduated from the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, disclosed her ambition in a chat with UNIPORT Weekly, disclosing that she hopes to be a lecturer and rise to the professoriate in her Alma Mater, after obtaining the requisite qualifications. This, she said, is in addition to becoming a leading politician.

The former Student Union leader said that she is in love with two worlds—the academia and politics, stating that “I like it when I see women in politics, in fact, that was what motivated me to go into politics; because I believe I can do it as well by starting with student union politics. The University has given me the training to attain the greatest academic and political heights in Nigeria and beyond and I am ready to take on the challenge.”

Her journey into politics, she disclosed, began when she served as an Assistant Course Representative during her Certificate programme in the University. When she got to Second Year in the undergraduate programme, she served as Vice-President, National Association of Ijaw Students.

“By the time I got to Third Year, I contested the Student Union Vice-President, but lost. I, however, contested and won the position in the Departmental Student Association. In the Final Year, I emerged as the Vice-President of Student Union. I currently serve as Secretary-General of the National Association of Ijaw Female Students Alumni,” Miss Elijah explained, disclosing that Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is her role model.

“By the grace of God, despite my involvement in student unionism, I was able to cope academically, graduating with a Second Class (Honours) Upper Division. I urge my junior colleagues to concentrate on their studies, which is their main reason of being in the University. I also wish to urge female students to participate in politics and contribute to building a better Nigeria. But before then, they need to be sound academically,” she said.

The budding politician, expressed hope that more Nigerian presidents, governors, captains of industry, movie stars would emerge from the University in future.

NISLT Inducts 227 Technologists, As V-C Charges Graduates On Professional Conduct

By Obinna Nwodin

A total of 227 graduates of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) have been inducted into its professional fold by the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT).

Performing the ceremony, Registrar/Director-General of the Institute, Dr Ighodalo Ijagbone, charged the inductees to put in their best by conducting themselves properly and abiding by the ethics of the profession, stressing that the task ahead of them as professionals would be very challenging.

The Director-General, who stressed the importance of Laboratory Technologists in the economic development of Nigeria, said, “Our goal is to use science and technology to drive the national economy. Globally, much attention is focused on Knowledge Based Economy (KBE), driven by science and technology. Much is expected of you to make positive contributions in this direction.”

Dr Ijagbone also assured the inductees that the Institute has put the necessary structures in place to support their career development which also includes Government-approved Scheme of Science Laboratory Scientists that would enable them rise to the Directorate level in the Public Service like their counterparts in other professions, advising them to imbibe the virtues of honesty, integrity and competence in their professional practice.

The Registrar commended authorities of the University for the success story, describing them as transformation in the nation's march towards innovation in technological application. “The progress recorded in this University is being acknowledged nationally and we are proud to be associated with you”, he stated.

In his Address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, said that the major milestone recorded in the programme is enough justification of the lofty dreams of the founding fathers of the programme, as articulated in the overall vision and mission of the University, charging them to be worthy ambassadors of their Alma Mater by striving towards the ideals of diligence and excellence in service to humanity. “That way, you would have justified the huge resources expended on you by the University and your parents as you prepare to render service to mankind,” he said.

Earlier in his welcome address, Dean of the School, Professor Anthony Ataga, said that the Institute as it was then known, had been upgraded to a full School,



Dr Ijagbone

equivalent to a Faculty with six units, disclosing that it has commenced Full-Time (Regular) Bachelor of Technology degree programme in Science Laboratory Technology. He added that the School has completed the computerization of academic results from 100 to 500 levels as part of efforts aimed at full documentation of its activities.

He thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his unwavering support towards the transformation of the Science Laboratory Technology programme, appealing for the speedy take-off of the proposed Institute of Science building to house the Central Instrument Laboratory and the Science Laboratory Technology. He also thanked the Director-General and Management of NISLT for their support, continued encouragement and mutually beneficial partnership, especially for the processing of NYSC Exemption Certificates for graduates.

In her speech, *Valedictorian*, Blessing Erherine, thanked the authorities for equipping them with skills to contribute to the development of the society, assuring all stakeholders that they would be good ambassadors of their Alma Mater.

The event featured a Guest Lecture by Assistant Director of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) and NREP Representative in Africa, Dr Joel Ogbonna, *Oath-Welcome* to the NISLT profession

by Dr Ijagbone, presentation of NREP Certificates and presentation of prizes.

A breakdown of the figure shows that Biochemistry/Chemical Technology had 25, Biomedical Technology 91, Geology/Mining Technology 55, Industrial Chemistry/Petrochemical Technology 37, Microbiology Technology 44, Physics with Electronics Technology 22 and Physics with Production Technology 3.



Inductees taking the Oath

To Receive Safe Blood Is A Right ~Prof Ejele

Cont'd from p1

audience, who are eligible, to resolve to donate voluntarily, twice or thrice a year, and let each of such donors resolve to recruit another two more voluntary donors, who would do the same," adding that it is part of the civic responsibility of citizens, which has sustained blood services in other parts of the world.

"To give blood is a privilege, and to receive safe blood is a right. Therefore, safe blood starts with a safe donor. Blood transfusion is a key part of modern health care," Ejele pointed out, listing procedures such as open heart surgery, fracture, anaemia, pregnancy, organ and stem cell transplant, haemolytic diseases of the new born, blood loss through road traffic accident, ectopic pregnancy, obstetric bleeding and peptic ulcer disease, cancers, amongst others, as some of the medical procedures that require blood.

"In spite of this enormous need, blood is a scarce and priceless national resource which should only be transfused with utmost caution when necessary and when other means of treating the patient have failed," he said. According to him, the essence of blood transfusion is to provide adequate supply of safe blood, which is available, affordable and appropriately used, adding that "safe blood is the blood which is not harmful to the recipient and can be



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Ejele (arrowed) flanked by other Professors

life-saving. But no blood is 100 per cent safe".

He observed that "blood is the most frequently used medium for majority of medical laboratory analysis aimed at making proper diagnosis of disease, monitor progress of treatment, assess drug level, or donating to friends, oneself, or a patient in need of blood transfusion," decriing the paucity of blood donors

and qualified Haematologists to effectively handle the blood transfusion needs of Nigeria.

"A safe donor is the best source of safe blood. The cornerstone of a good blood transfusion service is altruistic, voluntary, non-remunerated donation of blood by healthy individuals", Ejele said, regretting that safe blood remains scarce in Nigeria.

Ejele tasked government and other stakeholders on proper funding and standardization of the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS), commending the magnanimity of blood donors and international organizations for supporting the revitalization programme of the NBTS. He noted that "standardization makes for cost effectiveness, and also affordability by ordinary Nigerians, who require these services wherever they may live," adding that "there is blood everywhere in all of us, but hardly enough to meet our quest for blood transfusion to patients in dire need."

Ejele, whose research interest spans various specialties such as Haemoglobinopathies, Haemostasis/Coagulation, Oncology, Anaemias and Blood Transfusion, defined Haematology as "the study of the functions and dysfunctions of blood and blood-forming organs, which includes the liver, spleen, thymus and bone marrow."

The Inaugural Lecturer, who stated that blood transfusion depends on three main factors, listed availability of blood, donor recruitment and retention, and adequacy of storage facilities, safety of blood, including all the immunohaematological and serological aspects, as well as appropriate use of transfusion for treatment smooth collaboration between transfusion centres and clinicians and adherence to the rules of prescriptions.

He noted that the problems of NBTS are myriad, enumerating funding inadequacy, lack of modern technological know-how to fully utilize fractionation of blood or recombinant technology to execute blood component therapy and insufficiency as some of the challenges inhibiting proper blood storage and transfusion services in Nigeria.

On his various contributions to advancement of his discipline, Ejele cited his individual and collaborative research activities, which have helped medical practitioners to better appreciate some blood transfusion-related diseases such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B and C Viruses, especially in the Niger Delta Region.

In his contribution, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, lauded the Inaugural Lecturer for nurturing the Department of Haematology from scratch to the level where it is now able to train and export specialists to other institutions in the country and beyond. Professor Ajenka, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka also praised Professor Ejele, for producing Consultants, Readers and Professors in his specialty, urging the University community and the general public to procure copies of the Lecture for their personal health education.

JCI Kicks-Off Campaign Against Banners, Posters, On Campus

By Mercy Don-Baridam

As a way of checking indiscriminate hanging of banners and posting of posters which is gradually defacing the environment, University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Junior Chambers International (JCI), has announced plans to sensitize staff and students on proper procedures for hanging and removing such items on Campus.

President of JCI, Chikezie Enyoghasi disclosed this in a chat with *UNIPORT Weekly* penultimate Friday, stating that the organization has a mega project which is expected to benefit the University Community that would kick-off soon.

Enyoghasi decried the indiscriminate manner in which staff, students and visitors deface the walls of the University with posters and publicity materials. "In order to ensure that the target of the campaign is met, we recently launched a programme and the organization is determined to ensure that posters are permanently removed", adding that the organization now has the mandate of the Public Relations Unit, Student Affairs Department and Campus Environmental Beautification and

Sanitation Unit (CEBAS) to commence this assignment.

The President explained that Junior Chamber International (JCI) is a leadership training and a non-governmental organization with Headquarters in the United States of America. "In Nigeria, we have two arms; the Collegiate and Higher Institution arm and the Professional arm which is also known as the City Local Organization Members (LOM). People who are qualified to join the Collegiate arm are people within the age range of 18 to 40 years", he disclosed.

The main policy thrust of the organization is to help young people become relevant wherever they may find themselves. He said, explaining that "JCI is out to help young people re-discover themselves and develop their potentials, making them active and relevant to society. In JCI, we believe that every human being is created to make a difference in society. As a way of helping government and ourselves, we have to render service to humanity, by embarking on some training to develop ourselves and do community services".

Also speaking, the immediate past President of JCI, Vincent Anyika noted that in JCI, members are trained on how to balance their studies with social life, which makes them balanced citizens. "We are taught things we ordinarily would not be taught in the classroom; we do not encourage mediocrity and we do not also disturb academic activities. We emphasize our academics because that is the main aim of coming here and we are also very time-conscious" the past President disclosed. The duo were accompanied by Director of Publicity of the JCI UNIPORT, Obiageli Awoh.



Enyoghasi

Awoh

Anyika

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor O. J. Odia, appointed Chairman, Research Ethics Committee. Other members are: Professor Blessing Didia (CHS), Professor Alice Nte (CHS), Professor N. Frank-Peterside (Science), Professor E. N. Onyeike (Science), Dr Grace Awi-Waadu (Science) Dr Oluseye Babatunde, (Director, CHD), Dr S.B. Arokoyu (Social Sciences) Professor Anthony Okpani (Director, Centre Medical Research & Training) and Professor I. M. Siminialayi (Pharmacology).

Professor Michael Horsfall (Jnr), appointed Chairman, Committee for Uploading Information on University Website. Other Members are: Professor Anthony Ibe (Director, ICTC), Mr Hanson Aniefiok (ICTC), Mr Iroh Williams and Otubu Paul (DVC, R&D's Office).

Dr B. F. Nwince, Department of Finance & Banking, appointed Co-ordinator, ACIB/BSc Linkage Programme in the Faculty of Management Sciences, effective 3rd May, 2012 to 5th May, 2014.

Dr Donatus Igbokwe, granted Sabbatical Appointment in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science, effective from date of Assumption of Duty.

Dr Diri Teilanyo, granted Sabbatical Appointment in the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, effective from date of Assumption of Duty.

Dr C.N. Nwankwo of the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, appointed Member, Certificate Verification Committee.

RENEWAL OF PART-TIME TEACHING APPOINTMENT

Dr Christopher Udoe, Department of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, granted Renewal of Part-Time Teaching Appointment, effective February, 2012.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Professor Molara Ogundipe, assumes duty in the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, effective 2nd May, 2012.

PROMOTION

Mr Sunday Ogunbiyi, Department of Finance & Banking, promoted Lecturer I, effective October 1, 2011.

SGS HOLDS PHD SEMINAR

The 39th School of Graduate Studies Seminar Presentation holds in its Seminar Room on Thursday, 17th May, 2012. Time is 10:00am. Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department are advised to notify their Doctoral candidates of the date and time. Contact: Graduate Studies Officer, Mrs Agatha Ataga

SAFETY ALERT

- Security is everybody's business.
- Report all strange faces to the Security Department.
- Don't touch strange objects. Be Vigilant!

Pix shows: Retired Professors Chidi Maduka and Charles Nnolim flanking Yima Nalley, an Alumnus of the English Studies Department, UNIPORT, now ace broadcaster with Garden City Radio, Port Harcourt



Photo by PRK Nalley
Jan 3, 1997

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

RSUST GRADUATES 3,541 STUDENTS

A total of 3,541 students of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, were graduated penultimate Saturday during its 24th Convocation. Of this number, 3,219 graduated with First Degrees, 85 received Postgraduate Diplomas, and 215 got Master's Degree, while 22 obtained Doctoral Degrees in various fields.

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Odein Ajumogobia (SAN), was conferred with Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law (*Honoris Causa*).

UNIOSUN LECTURERS THREATEN STRIKE ACTION OVER UNPAID ARREARS

The Academic Staff Union of Universities, Osun State University Chapter, has threatened to embark on strike following allegation of unpaid arrears. Chairman of the Union, Oluseye Abiona, who disclosed this said Lecturers would down tools if their 33-month Hazard Allowance were not paid.

ROADMAP FOR WORLD-CLASS TEACHING UNIVERSITIES LAUNCHED

by Wagdy Sawahel

A strategy for setting up world-class teaching universities, with an outline for evaluating teaching and learning quality, was formulated at an international conference on higher education held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, last month. The conference which held from 17th-18th April, 2012, had as its theme, "World-Class Teaching Universities". Salim Al Malik, the Conference Supervisor and General Director for International Affairs at the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education, presented the strategic plan.

Although teaching and service to society are just as central to the success of an education system as high-powered research, teaching universities have been largely under-evaluated in the contemporary rush toward academic excellence too often measured only by research productivity, the "Riyadh Statement" indicated.

In terms of the new strategy, the mission of teaching universities, which educate the majority of students and employ most of the academic profession, must be clearly articulated, the statement said. They must be fully committed to the teaching mission and, for the most part, must be discouraged from emphasising research at the expense of teaching.

Quality teaching and learning within

universities should be encouraged, as most academics are not trained to teach during their Master's and Doctoral studies, which focus on research.

The strategy suggests that academic institutions set up teaching and learning centres, to provide appropriate training to new staff. In-service teaching assistance for senior professors and

others involved in teaching should be provided. Also, the development of teaching skills should be a compulsory component of all doctoral training.

To assess the quality of the overall university experience, new non-controversial tools and techniques for measuring, assessing and evaluating what students learn in classrooms and laboratories should be developed. Every academic institution should establish a system for evaluating teaching quality using appropriate methodologies aligned to its mission. This is because evaluation is multifaceted and can vary depending on the subject and discipline as well as the academic culture and location.



Prof Rufa'i, Minister of Education

Called from World University News

-Compiled by Otiakor Samuel

2nd Chancellor's Dinner

As part of events marking the 28th Convocation Ceremony, the 2nd Chancellor's Dinner held at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt. The Dinner was also used to honour graduates of the University who are making waves in the Nigerian Home Movie Industry, popularly known as Nollywood.

Pictures show highlights of the glamorous event.



Chancellor, His Majesty, Dr. De Wheno Aholu Menu Toyi I, (Akan of Badagry) welcoming guests



Pro-Chancellor, Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji presenting award to Ejike Asiegbo



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka making a presentation to Sam Dede



Dokubo leading Bob-Manuel Udo and Ejike Asiegbo in a chorus



Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim and Hilda Dokubo



Chairman NDDC Board, Dr Tarilah Tebepah, receiving "Friends of the University" Award from CVC representative, Professor Falanade



Festival Director, Garden City Literally Festival, Mrs Koko Kalango receiving Friend of the University Award from the Vice-Chancellor's Wife, Mrs Nancy Ajenka



UNI PORT Concert Chorus thrilling guests



Director, Arts Village, Prof Julie Okoh presenting Award to Julius Agwu



Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof Chris Akani, in a pose with Francis Duru after presenting him an Award



Francis Duru, Julius Agwu and others show a piece of their musical talent to guests



Victor Osuagwu, directing an impromptu choral performance by the Nollywood stars after receiving their Award