



V-C To Fresh Students: Be Committed To Your Studies

Fresh students have been advised to imbibe the virtues of hard work, discipline and commitment to their studies to achieve a successful academic career that would transform them into distinguished Alumni and useful members of society, reports **Obinna Nwodin**

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Side Bar

Professor Bene Willie-Abbey DV-C, R&D delivered 4th Faculty of Science Lecture series last Thursday. Details next week -Editor



UNI^{PORT} Weekly

Vol. 9, No. 4

May 21 - 28, 2012

ISSN: 2780-2945

For Information and Enlightenment

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

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World Malaria Day

Experts Brainstorm On Malaria Control Measures

By Humphrey Ogu

As the dreaded malaria scourge continues to defy every scientific remedy so far deployed to control it, a renowned expert in alternative medical practice and Director, PAX Herbal Clinic and Research Laboratories, Ewu, Edo State, Rev Fr Anselm Adodo, has stressed

the need to resort to herbal medicine which abound in the African forest as an alternative measure to tackle the menace. Speaking as Guest Lecturer at the 2012 World Malaria Day, organized by the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP), Adodo, whose Lecture was titled, "Tackling The Global Health Burden: The Role of African Herbal Medicine",

lamented that "while Chinese medical doctors, botanists, pharmacists and other scientists are all united in the development of their traditional medicine into a global transformative venture, Nigerian scientists are standing by the ring-side complaining about the attitude of charlatans and quacks," calling for attitudinal change

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THE BURDEN OF VICE-CHANCELLORS IN NIGERIA

The death by cardiac arrest of the 10th Vice-Chancellor of University of Lagos, Professor Adetokunbo Sofoluwe penultimate Friday, once again, raises concern about the chaotic contraption that forms a Vice-Chancellor's daily job schedule in a typical Nigerian university. The burden of a Vice-Chancellor in Nigeria has, until this tragedy, featured only on the margins of leadership and managerial literature. Discussions about the role of Vice-Chancellors had always highlighted their exalted 'position' rather than the daunting leadership burden that they face in the line of duty.

Sofoluwe was said to have slumped after a marathon meeting and could hardly not be resuscitated at the University's Teaching Hospital (LUTH). He was only 62 years old when he passed on. The failure to help the deceased Vice-Chancellor speaks volumes about the state of our total health system, even at the tertiary level. Beyond the parlous state of our health system, it is a well-known fact that Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian universities are under very intense executive pressure on the hot seat. It is a thankless job description indeed.

For instance, where their counterparts in developed countries leisurely travel around the world on high-profile fund-raising dinners and speaking engagements that rake in billions of dollars, Nigerian Vice-Chancellors are compelled to scrounge about, bowl-in-hand, begging for funds to run their institutions. Where their foreign counterparts manage mouth-watering endowments that fund problem-solving research in well-stocked world-class laboratories and libraries, their Nigerian counterparts look up to intervention agencies to assist them with even the most elementary of infrastructure and teaching aids.

Where their foreign counterparts are going around meeting distinguished Alumni and captains of industry for institutional support, Nigerian Vice-Chancellors are hobbled by the most rudimentary of municipal services, cultism, inadequate classroom and hostel accommodation, carrying capacity and manpower development. In addition, a Vice-Chancellor in a typical Nigerian university is harassed by restive host communities seeking favourable terms of engagement. He or she is periodically held hostage and blackmailed by unions and students making all manner of demands usually based on government pronouncements that do not come with cash backing. Vice-Chancellors are often told to look for money and pay, pending when statutory allocations would be made by the Federal Government. Nobody ever bothers to ascertain from where the helpless Vice-Chancellor is expected to source such extra-statutory funds.

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Vice-Chancellors are frequently summoned to hastily arranged meetings by apex regulatory agencies without due consideration for the operational

difficulties they face in undertaking such trips. Back in their universities, Vice-Chancellors are hurried from meeting to meeting as part of the Committee System of management, even on weekends. They must read piles of mails and receive guests ranging from Cleaners to Professors, including outside visitors who take the Vice-Chancellor's time. Staff, students and visitors appear to feel important only when they see the Vice-Chancellor in person, even on trivia that could easily be sorted out by subordinate officers. Some of us simply stop by to say hello to the Vice-Chancellor, who has so much on his administrative plate. We are all complicit in making the life of Vice-Chancellors a living hell in office.

Vice-Chancellors, who were originally saddled with academic leadership, are incrementally being transformed into administrative managers—a task that bugs them down with unnecessary details. Even where there is proper devolution of powers, as is the case in the University of Port Harcourt, the Vice-Chancellor is still under enormous pressures as he has to coordinate the top managerial cadre in the implementation of his Entrepreneurial vision of the University. With the chaotic contraption of a Vice-Chancellor's daily job schedule in a typical Nigerian university, it would require extraordinary effort for them to incubate development ideas and achieve academic excellence. A workaholic Vice-Chancellor is a candidate for executive stress with all the health threats it poses. Add that to the security threat s/he faces on daily basis and we begin to appreciate the challenges these Vice-Chancellors face in the line of duty.

To safeguard the health of Vice-Chancellors in Nigerian universities, regulatory agencies should equip the universities with functional Information Technology infrastructure to facilitate communication with Vice-Chancellors without having to move them at short notice. The Vice-Chancellors themselves should delegate powers, while monitoring performance through inbuilt self-regulating institutional mechanisms. Additionally, subordinate officers should be encouraged to initiate institutional actions without challenging the authority of the Vice-Chancellor, who is statutorily recognised as Chief Executive to the exclusion of others. Above all, Vice-Chancellors owe themselves a duty to listen to their bodies and take their well-deserved rest at the earliest opportunity to avoid falling victim to what happened to their late colleague. May the soul of Professor Sofoluwe rest in peace.

METI Sets May 31 Deadline For Admission Forms

By Otiokor Samuel

Application form for the Graduate Programmes of the Institute of Engineering, Technology and Innovation Management (METI), an international cooperation programme between the Graduate School of Technology Management, University of Pretoria, South Africa and University of Port Harcourt,

Nigeria, is now on sale.

Forms for the programme which aims at enhancing professional competence of graduates from the fields of Science, Engineering and Technology with sound and sustainable managerial capabilities would now end on 31st May, 2012, according to a release signed by the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim and obtained by UNIPORT Weekly.

"Teaching and research supervision is carried out by experienced Faculty from academia, industry and public service abroad and Nigeria. Each domain programme consists of six common and two elective modules, plus a substantive research project. Study materials are provided, lecture contact is over a block-release period, and each module moderated by an external examiner," the release added.

Interview for shortlisted applicants would be conducted from 11th to 15th June, while successful candidates would be notified by electronic mail latest 30th June, 2012. The Registrar further disclosed that "Applications are expected only from candidates with a minimum of three years

supervised work experience and who possess a minimum of 2nd Class (Upper Division) Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Technology or Physical Sciences. Consideration may be given to a sponsored employee with 2nd Class (Lower Division) based on proven recommendation from employers".

Coded application forms and information for applicants are available on payment of N30,000.00 in certified bank draft payable to the Institute. Interested candidates are advised to contact 080684847 51 or 070869992 42 for further details of admission procedure.



Prof. Joe Amadi-Enchendu
Director, METI

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, gave the advice while speaking at the 2011/2012 Orientation exercise for Fresh Students held at the Convocation Arena, last Tuesday.

Professor Ajienka, who spoke through by Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, also advised them to shun vices that could hamper their studies and endanger their future, noting that they were in the University for serious academic business. He also advised them to cultivate good study skills by forming study groups in order to excel in their academic work, congratulating them for being successful among the over 35,000 candidates who applied to study in the University this session.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that the authorities attached much importance to the event aimed at guiding the new students on the rules and regulations governing their stay on Campus, charging them to utilize the opportunity to better their life and that of society "You should be able to at the end of your programme, create jobs not only for yourselves but for others", pointing out that it was the objective of the Entrepreneurial University vision being forged by the present administration.

In her address Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, told them that the journey to their success begins with what they would learn from the Orientation exercise, pointing out that they have a choice to decide how they would leave the University. She advised them to ensure that they completed their registration and obtained Matriculation Numbers to confirm their status as *bonafide* students of the Institution. Mrs Nnodim also advised them to work hard so that they would graduate and become good ambassadors of the University and a pride to their families and the larger society.

The One-day event which featured question and answer session had presentations on: *Bursary Services and Students' Insurance Scheme* by Deputy Director (IT Systems), Mr Aribite Princewill who represented the Acting Bursar, *Use of the Library and e-Learning* by the University Librarian, Dr (Mrs) Obiageli Nwodo; *The Role of Student Affairs Department in the Life of Students*, by Dean Student Affairs, Dr. Matthew Wegwu; *The Student and Security*, by Chief Security Officer, Mr Reginald

V-C Tasks Fresh Students On Studies, Conduct



A cross section of students at the Orientation. Inset, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim

Ishiguzo; *Health Services to Students* by Dr. Chinwe Ezirim who represented Director, Health Services Department; *Dress and Moral Code* by Professor Florence Nduka who represented the President of University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs Mercy Ajienka; *Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Students in Academic Matters* by Mrs Dorcas Otto, Director, Academic Matters; *Prize Winning Opportunities in the University* by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Prizes, Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso; *Code of Conduct for*

Students, Examination Malpractices and Related Matters, by Professor Regina Ogali, who represented the Committee Chairman, Professor Kanu Nkaginieme; *The Importance of Guidance and Counselling in the Life of a Student* by Dr Rosemary Ekechukwu; *Services at the Information Communication and Technology Centre (ICTC)* by Mr Sarafa Lawal, who represented Director of the Centre; *The Role of Students in Campus Cleanliness* by Acting Director, Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS), Mr Okezie Ochuba.

UNIPOINT, Neimeth, To Partner On Drug Research

As a way of consolidating the gains of *Ciklavit*, the First Natural Nutritional Supplement in the management of sickle cell disorders developed in the Faculty of Sciences by a team of researchers in Biochemistry, led by the late Professor Gabriel Ekeke, and facilitate further research into Natural Medicine, pharmaceutical giant, Neimeth International Pharmaceuticals Plc, has expressed willingness to collaborate with the University on research that would lead to discovery of more drugs to address the health needs of the people.

Speaking with *UNIPOINT Weekly*, last Tuesday, Managing Director of the company, Mr Emmanuel Ekunno, expressed his company's interest in collaborating with the University. "We feel that Neimeth International Pharmaceuticals and the University of Port Harcourt should have a partnership to look at natural medicine and take it to the next level. We have started with *Ciklavit*, which is a product that emanated from this environment. We believe that it is time to kick-start the second gear and look at other opportunities and products that would be beneficial to mankind."

Ekunno, who disclosed that the company has spent over N20 million on *Ciklavit* Research and Development, in the last 20 years, said that "right now, we have just concluded research and about eleven clinical centres have accepted it both within and outside Nigeria, including a famous centre in Ghana, as well as in Ilorin, Ibadan, Calabar, Jos, and Enugu."

He said that industry is the bridge between the laboratory and the market, expressing hope that the two partners would be able to work together on mutually-beneficial areas. "Today, we have a Department of Natural Medicine and we have also employed a Chemist as Product Manager. With the new partnership with UNIPOINT, we are going to expand the Department," he added.

Also speaking, Head, Consumer Marketing, Business

...As Ciklavit Gains Wider Use

By Humphrey Ogu



Ekunno

Olajide Segun

Development, Research and Formulation of the company, Mrs Folasade Olajide Segun, noted that "a lot of the research works being carried out in the universities don't actually become useful until they find consumers that are going to use them. All this research, especially the ones that concern natural products and medicine, until they become pharmaceutical dosage that you can buy off the shelf, you have not actually completed the research you have started."

According to her, research has to pass through critical trials which cost a lot of money and run from stages one to four. "Until you have proven the efficacy and that the

product you are working on has no toxic effect on the human body, that is the only time it can become available as a drug to be used by consumers," adding that it requires an industry that is dedicated to go into it, because it scares a lot of manufacturing companies to invest in research.

"What we have been advocating is that research should be geared towards industrial use because if the work you are doing doesn't have any industrial benefit, it ends up on the bookshelf; if the research institution comes to the industry and asks what do you need? It is not about just a generalised research that would earn you a PhD without benefitting mankind at the end of the day," she said.

In his contribution, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who lauded the company for encouraging research, said Neimeth Pharmaceuticals should be encouraged as a model to other companies. "Nature has endowed people all over the world with abilities to think, carry out research and find solutions to problems," he said.

He explained that "the idea of an Entrepreneurial University is my conviction that it is the way to go by involving industry in research activities. Industry is in business that has its strategy, devoid of bureaucracies and we in the academia have the time and expertise to do research," adding that "by the time we work together, we have something that is mutually beneficial and brain drain will stop. We will give something to industry; industry will give something to us."

Professor Ajienka cited the Institute of Petroleum Studies as an example of a successful university-industry partnership that should be sustained by stakeholders interested in a symbiotic relationship between *Town and Gown*.

Members of the 28th Convocation Committee have been commended for their dedication and commitment to the success of the event. They have also been advised to document the activities of their Sub-Committees with a view to identifying areas that may need improvement at the next Convocation Ceremony.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who made the remark at the Post-Convocation luncheon organized by Chairman of the 28th Convocation Committee, Professor Igbo Joe, last Wednesday said that "organization of any event required team-spirit, commitment, personal sacrifice and capacity to follow instructions", pointing out that the event was a huge success despite the short timeframe within which members had to accomplish their tasking schedules.

"From now on, activities marking the next Convocation will begin immediately after the last one to give Committee members enough time to commence and conclude their duty schedules. We should also have enough time to test-run all such activities to identify areas that may require fine-tuning before the actual event as a way of minimizing errors

V-C Charges Convocation C'ttee Members On Documentation

By Williams Wodi



associated with hasty preparations that result in avoidable errors", the Vice-Chancellor said.

Also speaking, immediate past Chairman of Convocation Committee and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Bernard Efiuwewe, expressed gratitude to the Administration for the opportunity to serve the University, praising Committee members for their uncommon dedication to duty.

Describing Convocation ceremonies as huge and memorable events in the annual academic calendar of universities, Professor Efiuwewe were appealed to those who are privileged to serve on various Committees to extend the same support he enjoyed to his successor.

Earlier, Chairman of the 28th Convocation and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Joe had said that the Post-Convocation Luncheon was organized to thank all those who played diverse roles to ensure success of the Convocation, advising

Sub-Committee members to document their activities, including financial Report to guide the Administration at subsequent Convocation ceremonies.

The Vice-Chancellor used the occasion to hand out souvenirs to members as a token of the Administration's appreciation of their service to the University.

Entrepreneurial Centre Opens Shop To Students

By Mercy Don-Baridam

In its determined effort to reduce youth restiveness and poverty in Nigeria through provision of training that would ensure skills acquisition and innovation with practical focus, the Entrepreneurial Centre has unveiled its programme to promote enterprise development in the University.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who spoke at the official opening of the programme at the Entrepreneurial Centre, penultimate Friday, stated that the programme has long been awaited, explaining that Management would not want to send forth students to the labour market without practical skills for them to fall back on when they leave the University.

Professor Ajienka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, disclosed that "Our students have been taught, they know a lot of things, innovation and everything you can think of is known to them, but practical skills are missing. I want to send these students to you, to show them the way, so that when they leave here, they would be employers of labour".

Speaking earlier, the Guest Speaker, who is also Chairman of Nembe Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Hon Sylva Waribugo, whose Paper was titled: "Entrepreneurship and the Survival of Nigerian Economy", stated that for Nigeria to attain the needed development, government must concentrate on education, devise policies that rely more on enterprise, as well as generate additional economic growth by sponsoring entrepreneurship activities.

Waribugo, who described entrepreneurship as risk-taking, said it is also innovative, seeing opportunities where others see chaos. He enumerated the roles, characteristics, challenges and ethical problems facing an entrepreneur, explaining that an entrepreneur is one who searches for change, responds to it and explores it as an opportunity to make profit and employ others.

Also speaking, Deputy Director, Entrepreneurship Development, National Universities Commission (NUC), Abuja, Lauretta Achor, expressed gratitude to the University for keying into the vision of the President Goodluck Jonathan-led Administration on Entrepreneurship. "I am excited that University of Port Harcourt has begun running such a business plan", she disclosed, pledging the unflinching support of the apex regulatory body to the Centre.

According to Achor, there is need for the promotion and

advancement of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria, especially education-based entrepreneurship, observing that there is need to rely on use train-the-trainer approach to broaden and use Lecturers in selected institutions, convening stakeholders for final critiquing, as well as establishing organisations to run national entrepreneurship competitions as part of the way forward in line with government's action plan.

Acting Director of the Entrepreneurial Centre, Dr Clifford Ofurum, in his address, said in line with the Federal Government's Policy on Entrepreneurship education and that of the current Administration of the University to build an Entrepreneurial University, the Centre is poised to partner the private sector, renew commitment on knowledge sharing, inculcate the spirit of job creation among youths and students, as well as design frameworks for sustainable partnership in fostering knowledge sharing in the various Faculties and the Centre.

Citing available data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in 2010, Dr Ofurum revealed that more than half of Nigeria's population falls below the poverty line, lamenting the unemployment rate which is now on the increase.

Dr Ofurum expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, politicians and Alumni of the University for finding time to attend the event, urging them to visit the University regularly to access the rate of development as well as support the Centre with functional vehicles and other items to keep the place running.

Ebi China, a Fifth Year Student of Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, who won the Inter-Faculty Business Plan Competition, said "The aim of my business proposal is to encourage farmers, individuals and companies to produce cassava seed that would be used for production of starch, cassava flour and chips which can also be processed by companies to produce ethanol, beverages and other industrial products".

Highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Centres programme by Senator Clever Ikisikpo, a dance drama presented by the Peace Peculiar drama group, and cultural dance performance by students of the Department of Theatre Arts.

Dignitaries at the event included: Members of the National Assembly, Local Government Council Chairmen, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Provost College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akani and Deans of Faculty, amongst others.



Senators Sekibo and Ikisikpo (2nd & 3rd from right), DV-C (R&D), Prof Wille-Abbey, Prof Ezirim, Ag. Director, Dr Ofurum and other dignitaries at the unveiling of the Centre

UNIPOINT Signs MoU With NOTAP To Boost Research

By Obinna Nwodin



Ajiienka, V-C

Bindir

As a step towards the propagation of research and innovation aimed at enhancing the entrepreneurial drive, authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Abuja.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, said that the emerging entrepreneurial status of the Institution which focuses on science, technology and innovation makes it imperative to collaborate with NOTAP on mutually beneficial programmes.

Responding, Director-General NOTAP, Dr. Umar Bindir, expressed hope that the Agreement would lead to greater productivity that would enhance research in the country.

The MoU is expected to create a South-South zone for a *technofair* where universities, polytechnics, colleges of education and private institutions would showcase their respective advances in technology and innovations, create Intellectual Property Right (IPR) awareness in the zone through workshops and seminars covering expertise on subject area of Intellectual Property Right and generation of Intellectual Property Assets, using experts from national and international agencies, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The initiative is also expected to provide an enabling environment for researchers to tap into national and international funding through seminars and

workshops on writing bankable proposals for students of the University and NOTAP.

The Agreement also stipulates that the University shall arrange internship programmes to enhance the quality of graduates through posting of students on internship schemes at NOTAP and other relevant agencies, participate in NOTAP's monitoring visits to local and multinational firms in Nigeria, as well as develop strategies and modalities for the establishment and development of the Port Harcourt Oil and Gas Technology corridors to stimulate and facilitate interactions and linkages between researchers and captains of industry in the Oil and Gas sector.

Under the Agreement, two officers with core competences each from NOTAP and UNIPOINT would lead the collaboration implementation Committee to

be set up. The representatives shall engage the services of staff of their respective organizations with the objective of increasing the number of patents, inventions and innovations, copyrights, trade marks and trade secrets; identify viable R&D projects and make them more entrepreneurial and market-relevant, link R&D results to industry needs, co-ordinate research and promote facilities for R&D, market results, create technology-based Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) from high-tech start-ups and spin-offs, boost innovation and creativity among youths, attract more funds for research and development, create new revenue sources for the University, as well as develop non-disclosure and royalty-sharing agreements.

Admission Into CCE Not All-Comers Affair ~Director

By Otikor Samuel

Fresh students offered provisional admission into the College of Continuing Education (CCE), have been advised to participate fully in the ongoing registration processes to qualify them as *bona fide* students of the University, just as the College had commenced the 2011/2012 academic session.

Director of the College, Professor Steve Okodudu, who gave the advice during an Orientation exercise held last Monday at the College Auditorium, congratulated the freshers for emerging successful from the rigorous

admission procedures aimed at ensuring that only qualified candidates secured places in the University.

Professor Okodudu, who spoke through the College Secretary, Mr Ejike Ichendu, told the fresh students that until they availed themselves of the period for registration and conclude same within the stipulated timeframe to get their *Matriculation Numbers*, their provisional admissions would be shaky, informing them that the University is governed by rules and regulations which they must abide by if they wish to complete their studies as students of the University.

"Gone are those days when admission was an all-comers affair. All of you in First Year in this College merited your admissions which were conducted through the Computer-Based Test that thoroughly screened prospective candidates. We applied strict measures to ensure quality of our products. It is part of the restructuring policy of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, aimed at meeting the minimum standards set by the National Universities Commission (NUC)," the Director said, adding that an Orientation exercise offered opportunity to students to acquaint themselves with the University terrain, as well as procedures for registration and general conduct.

He charged the students to start now to lay a solid foundation that would assist them graduate in flying colours, recalling that the *Best Graduating Student* in the last Convocation, Boma Tubotamuno, who graduated from the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Science, is a product of the College.

The exercise, which featured an interactive session, addressed procedures for registration, payment of fees and wrong spellings and misplacement of names amongst other contentious matters. College Accountant, Mr Dominic Nwikebe, Head, ICTC Unit-CCE, Peter Osemeke and Emmanuel Ogbu were among staff who attended to the students during the exercise which held at the College Premises along Ikwerre Road, Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt.



A cross section of Part-Time Students at the Orientation, Inset: College Secretary, Mr Ichendu (standing) and other staff addressing the students

There Is A Plant To Cure Every Sickness -Adodo

Cont'd from p1

towards traditional medicine if the country hopes to harness its huge potentials in terms of foreign exchange and healthcare of the citizenry.

"Having been at the forefront of championing the official incorporation of African herbal medicine into national healthcare system for over 15 years now, I have come to realize that the future of healthcare in general, and African Herbal medicine in particular, does not lie in the hands of those heavily dressed salaried professionals, who sit down all day in air-conditioned offices in Abuja (and Port-Harcourt) rolling out foreign-made, unrealistic policies and proposals to government," he observed.

"For every sickness, there is a plant somewhere in the garden to cure it. Somewhere in the African garden is a plant for the cure of cancer. Somewhere in the African garden is a plant for the cure of diabetes, or hypertension, or malaria. Medicine, whether orthodox or alternative, started in the bush. Many of the most potent drugs ever developed by human beings came from plant sources. And the best is yet to come," Adodo pointed out.

In a Keynote Address, titled: "Update of Malaria Control in Rivers State (Progress and Impact)" Programme Manager, Rivers State Malaria Control Programme, Dr. Roseline Appah-Dula, disclosed that the State had effectively distributed Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLITN) and Artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT), adding that a book on case management, integrated vector management, advocacy communication and social management, and intermittent preventive treatment titled, *My Little Malaria* has been produced by her Ministry to tackle the malaria scourge in the State.

According to Dulu-Appah, the Rivers State has trained both Health and non-Health professionals on current management procedures of malaria cases at the national



Adodo

Ebong

Idemiyor

Oyibo

and international levels, disclosing that "the State now has Malaria Focal Persons in each of the 23 Local Government Areas in charge of malaria control activities. The Focal Persons are given stipends which enable them to reach out and gradually capture more of the lost malaria cases."

In his own contribution, Consultant Medical Parasitologist and Associate Professor, Malaria Specimen Bank Site, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Dr. Wellington Oyibo, whose paper was titled "Universal Confirmation of Malaria before Treatment: a Paradigm Shift", listed research and innovation on malaria diagnosis, drugs and vaccines, malaria surveillance, capacity-building for health workers and other related control mechanisms as some of the measures that institutions need to take in the war against malaria.

Visiting NUC LEADS Scholar, Professor Vincent Idemiyor, who spoke on "Malaria: Concepts and Pharmacologic Management", pointed out that "if basic research continues to be a priority and if support is

sustained, new drugs and effective vaccines are likely to be developed, and this could make the goal of global malaria eradication achievable."

Speaking earlier the event which had "Sustain Gains, Save Lives: Invest In Malaria" as its theme for this year, Director of CMRAP, Professor Omotayo Ebong, disclosed that the "Centre is pooling together researchers from various fields of Medicine, Pharmacology, Phytomedicine, Sociology, Public Health, Industry and Business to engender a holistic approach to the malaria challenge. Many members are engaged in malaria and related diseases, and in Phytomedicine research," adding that "CMRAP believes that we can discover new and more effective compounds by looking inwards at the plants around us."

The Director, who noted that the World Health Organisation (WHO), hailed the global progress in combating malaria, noted that WHO's new initiative, T3 is, Test, Treat, Track, urges malaria-endemic countries—especially in sub-Saharan Africa and donors to move towards universal access of anti-malaria therapy. "CMRAP urgently needs a separate building dedicated to Malaria Research and Phytomedicine for laboratory upgrade and successful programme implementation", Ebong said.

Earlier in his opening remark, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who congratulated the Director of CMRAP for the milestone, expressed joy that "the Centre is developing in line with the vision of this Administration which is aimed at making the University of Port Harcourt an Entrepreneurial University that is research-intensive."

"We must ensure that universal access to life-saving and cost-effective intervention measures is encouraged through funding and relevant research efforts to control the scourge. We need to find solutions to emerging threats such as emergent resistance of the plasmodium parasite to anti-malaria drugs and drug toxicity," Professor Ajenka said.

Guest of Honour and Rivers State Commissioner of Health, Dr Samson Parker, who was represented by his Special Assistant, Dr Kalada-Harry Orunabere congratulated the University on the celebration, stating that the State Government has invested a lot on eradication of malaria scourge through fumigation and provision of drugs and Long-Lasting Insecticide Nets.

Highlights of the celebration included a Playlet titled *Malaria and the Society* by Junior Chambers International of UNIPORT and poster exhibition.

Meanwhile, the newly-inaugurated CMRAP Advisory Board, speaking through its Chairman, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, has assured the Vice-Chancellor of its resolve to play the advisory role for which the Board was established.

Briggs, who was the fifth Vice-Chancellor of the University, was accompanied by other members of the Board, including: the Director, Rivers State Pharmaceutical Services, Dr Elizabeth Didia, Assistant Director, CMRAP, Professor Chijioke Nwauche, Executive Director, Segof Energy Ltd, Sir Ben-Chika Uzoagu, Managing Director, CHI Pharmaceuticals LTD, Pharmacist Steve Onya, and Dr Funke Falade of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Ibadan. Others are Director, Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, Yaba, Lagos, Professor I.A. Ujah and Professor Obinna Onwujekwe of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Nigeria, Enugu, were unavoidably absent.

ITF Tasks Students On Practical Skills

By Mercy Don-Baridam

In a bid to ensure that students participate fully in the Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES), under the auspices of Industrial Training Fund (ITF), they have been charged to place more emphasis on the Scheme to enable them acquire hands-on skills on graduation.

Area Manager, Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Port Harcourt, Abdul-Razak Adeniran, gave the charge while addressing students at the 2012 Pre-Industrial Attachment Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) Orientation /Industrial Relations Day at the Convocation Arena, last Wednesday.

Explaining the essence of the Scheme, the Area Manager said students are expected to be exposed to work outside their studies for a period of six months and are to do it diligently since it is part of their studies. "As you go on this training, put in your best in whatever you are asked to do, see what value you can add to that organization or industry; try to imbibe the work ethic of the organization and also be ready to combine theory with practice" the Area Manager said, adding that knowledge alone is not power, rather it is the application of knowledge that is power.

Adeniran called on government to support the Scheme by ensuring that funds are readily available for smooth implementation of the programme, observing that it would be impossible to realize Vision 2020:20 without technological advancement. He disclosed that the 2008 fund for the Scheme has been credited into the account of ITF and would soon be disbursed to deserving students.

The Area Manager expressed gratitude to the University for supporting SIWES, commending the students for their conduct by showing ITF what it takes to be well-behaved.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, charged the students to be good ambassadors of the University, advising them to put in their best to be retained in their places of attachment after the training. He added that they should imbibe good work ethic when they are accepted for training.

The Vice-Chancellor, who spoke through the Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor Eremosele Abumere, urged students to take the Scheme seriously as it is a nine credit unit course which could delay their graduation if approached with levity or nonchalance.

In her address, Director of (SIWES), Professor Regina Ogali said, "The Scheme is designed to provide an avenue for students to acquire practical industrial experience in their respective disciplines during the course of their studies by spending, at least, six months in industries. The Scheme is also meant to enlist and strengthen students for future employment in industries."

Lamenting the non-payment of ITF stipend to participating students since 2008, as well as unemployment after graduation, as some of the challenges facing SIWES, Professor Ogali appealed to ITF to look into such problems. She promised that as soon as conditions for payment are met, monies would be credited to the student's accounts via e-payment, expressing optimism that the backlog of stipends owed students for the 2008 session would soon be paid.

According to the Director, 3,000 Students would be placed for this year's SIWES, advising them to also be of good behavior and good ambassadors of their various Departments and the University. "Your conduct as an Industrial Training (IT) student may open doors for you as an employee in any company and also to other prospective IT Students".

The ITF team had earlier paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, commended ITF for visiting the University and finding time to brief Management and students on the challenges and activities going on in the scheme. He assured them of the University's support to provide Internet facilities and other basic amenities needed to facilitate the functions of ITF.

Also present at the event were: Head of Training Mr Emmanuel Isiwu, SIWES, Accountant, Mr Christantus Yilzak, SIWES Officer Mr Kelechi Ezima, Departmental SIWES Co-ordinators the various Faculties.



Dr VC (Academic), Prof Joe (arrowed), Dean Faculty of Science, Prof Abumere, Director, SIWES, Prof Ogali (5th from right) and ITF officials

GUIDEPOST

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

Dr Samuel Arakoya, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, effective 28th September, 2010.

Dr Paul Eke, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted Professor of Institutional Studies, effective 28th September, 2010.

Dr Arthur Onwuchekwa, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted Professor of Neurology, effective 15th October, 2010.

Dr Hakeem Fawehinmi, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted Professor of Anatomy, effective 15th March, 2011.

Dr Augusta Eneh, Department of Paediatrics, College of Health Sciences, promoted Professor of Paediatrics, effective 15th March, 2011.

Dr Ifeoma Anochie, Department of Paediatrics, College of Health Sciences, promoted Professor of Paediatrics, effective 15th March, 2011.

PROMOTION

Dr Chimezie Ogaghue, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, promoted Senior Lecturer, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Chidozie Chukwajekwu, Department of Mental Health, College of Health Sciences, promoted Senior Lecturer, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Olufemi Omilola, Department of Oral Pathology/Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, promoted Senior Lecturer, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Peace Opara, Department of Paediatrics, College of Health Sciences, promoted Senior Lecturer, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Philemon Okoro, Department of Surgery, College of Health Sciences, promoted Senior Lecturer, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Mellicent Ibezim-Ezeani, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted Lecturer I, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Mary-Rose Izuchi, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance & Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted Lecturer I, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Jerry Odiase, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance & Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted Lecturer I, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Maxwell Ijeomah, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science, promoted Lecturer I, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mr Otiokpon Asak, Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted Lecturer I, effective 1st October, 2011.

Olusayo Shorinwa, Department of Clinical Pharmacy & Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, promoted Lecturer I, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mr Tamburi Dick, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted Lecturer II, effective 1st October, 2011.

Tochukwu Okonkwo, Department of Pharmaceutical & Med. Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, promoted Lecturer II, effective 1st October, 2011.

Nkechi Ezenobi, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, promoted Lecturer II, effective 1st October, 2011.

Ezon-Ebidor Edibamade, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted Lecturer II, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mr Mudiaga Onojaka, Department of Pure & Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted Lecturer II, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mr Unibe Daniel, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, promoted Lecturer II, effective 1st October, 2011.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Bussey Fiebari, Department of Surgery, College of Health Sciences, confirmed Teaching Staff, effective 22nd May, 2010.

Mrs C.N.E. Ibezim, Department of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, confirmed Teaching Staff, effective 12th June, 2010.

Ebigenibo Saturday, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, confirmed Teaching Staff, effective 12th January, 2011.

Celestine Ebieta, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, confirmed Teaching Staff, effective 2nd March, 2011.

Kazeem Raheem, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, confirmed Teaching Staff, effective 1st October, 2011.

Ihim Sofimicari, Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, confirmed Teaching Staff, effective 1st October, 2011.

IST UNIPORT CHILDREN WEEK

The Centre for Children Developmental and Communication Disorders (CCDCD), University of Port Harcourt in collaboration with Association of Child Development and Communication Disorders, Nigeria, holds the 1st UNIPORT Children Disability Week and 4th Congress on Children with Developmental and Communication Disorders from Monday, 21st to Friday, 25th May, 2012. With the theme: "Early Childhood-What Can Go Wrong?" Professor Kanu Nkangineme of the Department of Paediatrics, College of Health Sciences, is expected to deliver the Keynote Paper at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Wednesday, 22nd May, 2012.

Contact: Professor Shirley Yul-Ifole, Centre Director

SAFETY ALERT

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

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

UNESCO CHAIR MAKES CASE FOR ODL

UNESCO Chair, Open Distance Learning, University of South Africa, Professor Dele Braimoh, has stressed the need for Nigerian universities to embrace the opportunities available in the Open Distance Learning system to widen access to university education. He noted that ODL is capable of offering admission spaces to over 700,000 prospective students, thereby, reducing the rate of illiteracy in the country.

24 YEAR-OLD OLUBUNMI EMERGES FUNAABGS

A 24-year old female graduate of Pasture and Range Management, has emerged the Best Graduating Student for the 2010/2011 academic session of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State. She made a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.82 on a five point scale.

A total of 1,355 graduands of FUNAAB received certificates and degrees at its Convocation penultimate Saturday. FUTA APPOINTS DARAMOLAV-C Professor Adebisi Daramola is now Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, following approval of his appointment by the Governing Council. He succeeds Professor Olufemi Balogun, who served out his tenure this May.

The appointment of the new Vice-Chancellor, according to available information takes immediate effect.

PROVOST CALLS FOR REVIEW OF MEDICAL CURRICULUM

Provost, College of Health Sciences, University of Uyo, Professor Paul Ekwere, has advocated for a review of medical curriculum to tackle present realities, as well as meet the changing need of the profession. Professor Ekwere made the call in Uyo during the induction of medical graduates into the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN).

UNILAG MOURNS V-C

The authorities, staff and students of the University of Lagos (UNILAG), Lagos State, have expressed shock over the demise of their Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tokunbo Sofoluwe, penultimate Saturday.

Condolence messages have been pouring in from institutions and concerned persons. The late Professor Sofoluwe died while in active service for the advancement of the University.

ACADEMICS BRAINSTORM ON VARSITY RANKINGS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

by Tojuna Sharma

Universities that want to engage in regional development, community outreach or even philanthropic support say they first have to overcome the 'tyranny' of international university rankings, which mainly value research output and give little credit for helping to transform society, including reducing poverty and inequity.

Although the issue of rankings was not on the official agenda of the ASEAN "Regional Conference on Higher-Education-Industry-Community Engagement in Asia: Forging Meaningful Partnerships", held in Malaysia,

university leaders and academics said the advent of rankings was damaging their universities' wider public purpose and civic engagement.

"The argument is that, unless a particular activity involves intellectual work, it cannot be among the core business of universities," said Jose M Cruz, Vice-President of Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines.

"The counter argument is that unless universities engage society directly, they run the risk of forgetting for

whom they exist and of mistaking the generation of knowledge for their ultimate mandate, which is in fact the transformation of society."

According to Cruz, some of humanity's greatest advances are not in its discoveries – but, for example, in how those discoveries are applied to reduce inequity. A number of delegates called for the ASEAN region to have its own system of rankings.

Several university representatives from the ASEAN region discussed how rankings could be influenced in future to take account of the more diverse missions of public universities.

Some representatives of universities in Asia with strong commitments to regional development and community engagement have been "flying to Europe" to try to convince private organisations that publish international rankings, and the European Union, which has also developed an international university ranking system, to revisit their criteria to better reflect this kind of work.

Called from World University News

—Compiled by Otiok Samuel

Merit Award Night

In a bid to motivate staff towards enhanced productivity, the University held a Merit Award Night as part of activities marking the 28th Convocation ceremony. Various category of staff were recognised for their outstanding performances on their job schedules. The event took place at the Gymnasium, University Park. Pictures show highlights of the event.

Pix: Headman Alu



From L-R, University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwankwo, DVC (R&D), Prof Bene Willie-Abbey, V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka, UPWA President, Mrs Mercy Ajienka



Rep of Minister of State for Education, Basu Michael Chinda decorating Best Mentor of the Year, Prof Joseph Okoh



Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Prof Tony Arize, welcoming guests



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, decorating Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Anotia Ebi-Ejor as Best Dean



Prof Okoh decorating Miss Blessing Nwokocha



Director of Sports, Dr Ken Anagweje being congratulated by Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs



DVC (Academic), Prof Igbo Joe, decorating Dean Student Affairs, Dr Matthew Wegun



DVC, R&D, Prof Bene Willie-Abbey decorating Emmanuel John as Best Student Leader



Victorious WAUG Champions Team UNI^{PORT} pose with Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodin



UNI^{PORT} Concert Chorus directed by Prof Onyeje Nwankpa performing at the event



Aluu Traditional Wrestling display



Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodin, exchanging traditional cheers with Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ajienka, while UPWA President, Mrs Ajienka watches in admiration