

As We Roll Over To 2016

I assumed office on Monday, July 13, 2015 as the eight Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt with abiding faith in what we can do together to achieve world class status. The odds were evidently weighed against me as I went round the Campus to sell my candidature and ideas on how best we could move the University to the next level.

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Side Bar

The University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) celebrated her Week last week
Details next week
~Editor



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128th Inaugural Eneh Seeks Rights, Protection, Good Health Of Newborn

By Humphrey Oga

Issues bordering on the protection of the rights of the newborn to good health and reduction of infant mortality formed the main thrust of the 128th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Augusta Eneh of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health in the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, which held at the Ebirimbi Banigo Auditorium last Thursday.

Delivering the Lecture entitled: "Ensuring the Divine Right of Every Child to a Healthy Start: Are We Fulfilling this Mandate?", the Inaugural Lecturer cited what she referred to as the Newborn Bill of Rights as one of the ways of addressing the anomaly, stating that newborn babies have inalienable rights to "be born in as natural, loving and family-centred setting as possible with a knowledgeable, caring and conscientious birth attendant."

Eneh, who observed that the newborn has a right to be born vaginally in the absence of absolute health necessity, and in the presence of his/her father and be held

immediately after birth by mother and father in the absence of any contradictions, added that the newborn baby also have rights to "be breastfed on demand and be spared of any painful procedure that is not absolutely necessary for his/her health or wellbeing, be afforded necessary and appropriate treatment in the event of abnormality or illness, with all decisions being made with only the welfare of the child in mind," amongst others.

Listing bonding, nutrition and quality healthcare as the most important needs of newborns that are often neglected, Eneh pointed out that "Breast milk is the Gold Standard. Breast milk is the best. Nothing that money can buy is as good for a baby as breastfeeding," adding that breast milk is free such that even the poorest mother has milk for her baby.

"Owing to its large population and high rate of mortality, Nigeria ranks

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Ex-Registrars
Laud Faculty
Officers



V-C Tasks PG
Students On
Quality Research



UniPort NIM
Gets Best
Chapter Award



Enenajor
Mounts
Arts Expo



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Ex-Registrars Laud Faculty Officers

*By Mercy Adeniji and
Ethel Timi-Johnson*

Immediate past Registrar of the University, Mrs. Matilda Nsodim has commended the Faculty Officers' Forum (FOF) for rendering quality services that have aided the growth of the University as the Registry Department grapples with the onerous responsibility of quality service delivery to stakeholders.

Mrs. Nsodim, who made the commendation during an End-of-Year Get-Together organized for members of the Forum on Friday, December 4, 2015 at the Governing Council Chambers, expressed gratitude to the officers for holding the fort in their respective places of assignment, despite the demands of the job. She described the FOF as an excellent initiative that should be sustained by her successor, stating that she immensely appreciated the assistance the group rendered to her as a sitting Registrar. "Let this Forum continue to flourish and beyond its tenure and let it draw support from the administration to sustain its activities. While in office, I resolved a lot of issues through this important Forum that is our eyes and ears in the various Faculties. Problems brought to this Forum were resolved to make the work a lot easier for the Registrar and I wish that the Forum will be stronger and more efficient in 2016," the erstwhile Registrar told the gathering.

Speaking earlier, Chairman of the Forum and Director of Academic Affairs Department, Mrs. Dercas Otto, expressed gratitude to God for His abundant mercies and for keeping the officers in good health to roll into another year. "We started this Faculty Officers' Forum some years back and at the end of the year we usually



Chairman of the Forum, Mrs. Otto (far left) flanked by former Registrars, Mr. Onyige and Mrs. Nsodim (right) and members of the Forum

come together to thank God for enabling us to perform our functions. We also appreciate ourselves for our modest accomplishments as we set the tone for the New Year," she said, disclosing that the Forum meets on the first Friday of every month.

Mrs. Otto, said: "You know that Faculty Officers are the *de facto* 'Registrars' we see in the various Faculties and we have a responsibility to do all that is required of us to support the work of the Registrar. We are responsible to the Dean in carrying out our functions in the Faculties and Colleges, but we report to the Registrar in the performance of our various functions."

In his contribution, one-time Registrar of the University, Mr. Messiah Onyige, commended the Faculty Officers for keeping the idea alive, urging them to always come up with something creative to assist the Registrar in the discharge of his or her difficult assignment. "My conception of this Forum is that it is a problem-solving platform and it is my hope

that you will sustain the initiative. What I see today is better than the original idea and I have to give credit to Mrs. Otto for her dogged determination to get things done the proper way," Mr. Onyige said.

Other officers present at the gathering included Mr. Gergory Uduakang, Dr. Amosia Ezor, Barbara Nkachukwu, Dr. Jane Sanni, Christiana Egwu, Dr. Mite Ngor, Joyce Obomana, Dr. Kate Onyige, Mr. Austin Igwe represented Mrs. Philemessa Enu-Efektor, Miss Goodluck Uche represented Mrs. Virginia Nasmer, Mr. Simeon Thompson represented Mr. Ebeneza Nsimsekwa, Mrs. Blessing Igwe represented Mrs. Christy Nwara, while Mrs. Ezenwili Rodlyn represented Mrs. Joyce Tamuno. Other invited guests and former Faculty Officers in attendance were, Mrs. Flora Igahya, Mrs. Elizabeth Ndiokha, Mr. David Anyanwu and Ms. Promise Simeon. Highlight of the event was the presentation of gifts to some distinguished officers and former Faculty Officers.

In a matter of days from now, we shall be going on Christmas Holidays which is an annual ritual that most people look up to at this time of the year, even when they are not Christians. Experience has shown that most people spend recklessly during the Yuletide holidays and resume their normal business of living totally bankrupt. Marching into a New Year with a huge debt profile is not exactly how to begin a New Year. Some very superstitious persons usually blame their bankruptcy on the spirit of the season, suggesting that they have no power to control their expenditure. This, at its best, is the figment of the imagination of those who peddle such hedonistic fable that is only fit for the marines.

Apart from the domestic economic disaster that befalls people at the twilight of a receding year and the dawn of a new one, there are other instances of reckless spending that cannot be explained away to any rational mind. There is also the issue of reckless driving which often leads to fatal road accidents and even sudden death. It, therefore, behoves every individual that wishes to march into 2016 in one piece and experience a Happy New Year to exercise extreme caution in this surressing climate of insecurity. Drunkenness is known to have a symbiotic relationship with reckless driving and other unwholesome acts that distract

As We Proceed On Christmas Holidays

By Humphrey Ogu

genuine believers from the message and full import of the season.

Of related interest are unregulated lifestyle and conspicuous consumption habits that endanger the health of those who indulge in them during this season. Certain classes of food such as excessive intake of sugar from sweetened snacks and drinks, junk food, fats and oil are known to predispose people to lifestyle diseases, including heart disease and Type 2 diabetes that are responsible for increasing mortality rates. Health experts have also linked some lifestyle diseases to alcohol abuse and smoking. Most people contract Sexually-Transmitted Diseases (STD), including the dreaded Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which culminates in the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) during festive periods such as this one that is in the air right now. The key advice here is: *mind what you eat, how you eat, where you go and what you do!* This is for those who wish to march into the New Year in one piece and good health.

Careless handling of combustible materials and

electrical appliances often results in fire outbreaks that lead to loss of lives and property. In this part of the world, fire outbreaks thrive during the harmattan which coincides with the Christmas and New Year. Security demands special attention this season as men of the underworld usually catch people off-guards and strike at opportune moments. Most people make merry and neglect being security-conscious to their own detriment. This season of kidnapping requires deliberate security-consciousness from all and sundry to a step ahead of the hoodlums.

The Christian faithful in Nigeria have a good reason to join forces with their brethren around the world to be joyful and triumphant on the birth of the Saviour of mankind. For those who do not believe in this Immaculate Conception and Birth, there are still enough reasons for merrymaking, because we are gradually rolling into a New Year in these hard times. But there is certainly no justifiable reason for reckless living, spending, driving, or slecked abuse that impact negatively on those who may choose to indulge in such hedonistic past-times.

As we bid 2015 goodbye, let us remember 2016; another year to be alive. We have more needs for spending in the New Year: home rent, school fees, household goods, amongst other expenditures that raise the blood pressure after the celebrations. My recipe is that we should live healthy, be safe and watch our pockets in these lean times. Do have a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year ahead all the same!



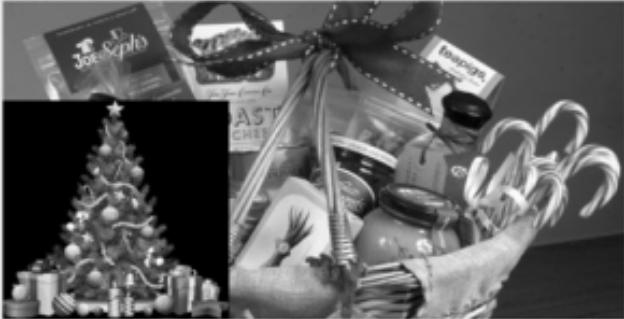
Santa Claus visiting children

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As We Welcome 2016

*In the Christmas mood**Cont'd from p1*

I did not expect everybody on this expansive Campus to agree with my vision of how to move the University forward. Any of the other gentlemen who also ran for the office of Vice-Chancellor had their own brilliant ideas of how to run the University for the next five years. Unfortunately, however, only one of us was destined to occupy the position at a time and that successful candidate happened to be me.

Since 1975 when the Federal Government established the University, each of my seven predecessors in office had done his bit to advance the cause of the University and the result is there for everybody to see. On assumption of office, I promised to build a 'wholesome and prosperous University' that is resolute to discharge its core mandate of teaching, research and public service on a wholly new template. I knew that I was taking on an enormous task that would demand the very best that I can offer. In braving myself for the job, I also told you that I am not a magician with the celestial powers to legislate everything into existence. I knew that working with the right people will make all the difference as we strive together to move the University forward.

Having served in the University system conscientiously for an unbroken thirty-three years, I had a fair idea of what needed to be done to turn the corner for the Unique UniPort to take its deserving place in the global community of scholars that are united in their search for specialized knowledge that would advance the cause of humanity. I also had a clear idea of the amount of work that would be required to accomplish the Herculean task ahead of me as a leader. As you may have noticed, I am raising a new generation of leaders that would

continue the arduous task of institution building, while tapping from the valuable experience of older citizens of this Campus.

Having been on the saddle for just five months, it is obvious that my administrative style has started to clearly manifest for those who support my policies and those on the fence that I am still working hard to bring to my side. The last group comprises my most implacable critics who have already made up their minds about me. To this segment, I only need to prove that my policies would serve the greater good of the University and hope that they will be convinced of my good intention at the end of the day. One thing that is unique to the open system we run in the University, as is the case in the larger democratic setup, is that thou you make happy today may turn out to be unhappy with you tomorrow. On this job, you learn to make friends or enemies purely on the basis of the decisions you make which are sometimes interpreted to reflect narrow pecuniary interest; but the beat must go-on as one mustian put it. The most important thing is to ensure that you make more friends than enemies in the line of duty. That is my goal!

Honest self-evaluation is a means of determining institutional progress or stagnation with a view to receiving performance feedback. Institutional goal attainment is usually facilitated by acceptable team work and clearly-defined monitoring and evaluation processes. In these five months, I have come to accept that the boundaries of performance are pushed by transparency, a fair and firm system of administration and an open communication process that allows all stakeholders to have the opportunity to make contributions to institutional growth without feeling

alienated from the system.

As 2015 rolls away, I am proud of what we have so far achieved together and the unlimited possibilities that are ahead of us. I commend all staff and students who shared my vision of how to move Unique UniPort to greater glory and solicit your individual and collective support as we march into 2016 with renewed confidence in our ability to build the University of our dreams.

I call on you to work even harder for greater goal-attainment in the New Year. On my part, I totally commit myself to the service of the University through personal example, sacrifice and total commitment to the demands of the high office I hold in trust for you. As Nelson Mandela once said, "A leader should not tell his subordinates to make any sacrifice he is not prepared to make himself." I shall continue to lead by example.

The emergence of a new Registrar and University Librarian show how the University can renew itself in a most civilized manner without engaging in fractious cleavages that undermine team spirit. I urge you to give the new Principal Officers your total support that would enable them to succeed in their new positions.

I count on your continued support in 2016 and beyond and I hope you will stay safe and apply moderation in everything you do as you join your friends and family members to celebrate the Jollofide. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**NDOWA LALE, F.R.H., FESN
Vice-Chancellor**

STOP PRESS

Sports Institute Internship Vacancy

Following the designation of the University of Port Harcourt as a Commonwealth Games Association Partner Centre, interested candidates are invited to apply for vacant Internship positions that now exist at the Lagos Office of the Nigeria Olympic Committee/Commonwealth Games Association. A statement dated December 8, 2015 and signed by Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anangwe, disclosed that only graduating students with adequate knowledge of website development, management of data collection and analysis, including excellent social networking and possession of good organizational and team work skills, with additional interest in sports are eligible to apply for the vacant positions. The Director, who further disclosed that successful applicants may spend their National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) year with the Institute, urged interested applicants to send their Curriculum Vitae to the Administrative Secretary of the University of Port Harcourt Sports Institute, not later than Friday, January 8, 2016.

V-C Tasks Graduate Students On Quality Research

*By Ethel Timi-Jafarson
(with additional report from
Chinedu Afuledu: Intern)*

part of the University and the Foundation would like to collaborate with you as it strives to attain global visibility. You will eventually become Ahmed of the University and it is my wish that you demonstrate high level



V-C, Prof Laide, (far right), flanked by Ag. President, GS-A, Mrs. Basil Barser, Mr. Franklin Alakija (left), Executive Director, UPHF, Prof Alapki (right), S.O.-C, Mr. Kingsley Wigwe, (first left) and members of the Interim GS-A EXCO

Staff, Students Speak On Xmas, New Year

Christmas has its own peculiar spirit that seizes the human imagination and defies conventional definition. The month of December brings with it the Christmas mood which is characteristically for those who believe in the great miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ, and even eccentric atheists alike. Once the Jingle Bells start ringing out, it is Joy to the World of Christendom. We hit the streets of UniPort to capture the mood. UniPort Weekly Correspondents, MERCY ABENJU, HUMPHREY OGU, OTIKOR SAMUEL, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON and Interns, RUKKY ORLU-MAKELE, CYNDY HERBERT, MARVELLOUS ABEL and CHIEMEKA ADINDU, sought the views of staff and students on how they intend to spend the Christmas and what they expect in the New Year Holidays. Here is what we found:

CONFIDENCE IGWE, PAR, STAUDI

I want to thank God for preserving our lives from January till the end of the year. I thank him for preserving members of staff, students and the University Management. I hope to spend the Christmas holiday with my family members and well-wishers. I am also wishing the University a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in advance and pray for the grace of God to enable me contribute my quota to the development of the University in 2016.



NTORUE LEDEE, PERSONNEL SECRETARY II, COUNCIL UNIT

For me, Christmas is a moment of giving and sharing among loved ones and families. During festive periods such as we are in now, people travel out to rejoin their loved ones—especially those they may not have seen

since the beginning of the year. I would love to go to my country home to be among my loved ones, eat some native dishes and also enjoy some folktales that are not told in the city. I will appeal to staff not to be too extravagant in their spending so that they can continue their lifestyle when the noise of celebration dies down in the New Year. We all have new bills to settle in the New Year.

MRS. BAREKUTI NWIKOBE, ADMIN OFFICER, SGs
As a Christian, I have to join other faithful to participate in most of the activities lined up for the end-of-year celebration such as Christmas Carol, Cross-Over Vigil and New Year Prayer Sessions, all aimed at expressing gratitude to God for sparing our lives and affording us the opportunity to see 2016 in good health. My participation in these activities is to ensure a smooth transition into 2016 and also to commit the incoming year into God's hand. To mark the season, I will take my children and other family members out to feel the pulse of the celebration; although it is going to be on a low profile in keeping with the lean economic times that we are currently facing in Nigeria. I don't need to squander my little resources and then resume work in January totally broke.

MR. PETER NWIZILI, DRIVER, V-C OFFICE

As a Christian, I believe that Christmas, which comes at the end of the year, should be a time to thank God and prepare to serve Him better in the New Year. The major activity I shall engage in during the Christmas Holidays is to go to the Deep Life National December Retreat, which will commence on Thursday, 24th and end on Sunday 27th, December, 2015. I plan to

take my family to the Retreat to experience the presence of God and hand ourselves to His protection in the New Year. After the Retreat, I will enjoy the holidays with my family and plan for 2016.

CASSANDRA ANDERSON, SSIT

Traditionally, Christmas is a religious holiday to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ amongst believers. It is a period in which people celebrate and it is also a season of great joy. I will spend my holiday in Lagos with my cousins because I have never been there before. It would afford me an opportunity to see the streets of Lagos.

I think my 2015 Christmas will actually be fun because I have somewhere to go and enjoy my Christmas and New Year before I go back to School.



BLESSING MADUELISO, THIRD YEAR STUDENT, FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and His coming into the world. It would afford me an opportunity to rejoin friends and family to mark the evening of Christ into the world. The birth of Christ brought hope to the world, and Christmas should remind us of the hope that we are



saved as long as we believe in Him. My Christmas will be spent in Port Harcourt. I will go to Church, thank God for guiding me through 2015; I will later hang out with my friends, visit places of interest and have fun.

DAVID BARIREKA, INTERIM PRESIDENT, STUDENTS' UNION, FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Christmas means everything to me. Christ brought about the salvation that covers me. I see Christmas as symbolic of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to save mankind. I intend to spend Christmas with my family, attend a Convention and travel to Calabar to see a lot of people.

CHISA CHIKE, FINAL YEAR, SSIT

Christmas is a season to celebrate with loved ones and also a period set aside for families to take time off work and relax. I feel good whenever the season comes because it will afford me an opportunity to see some loved ones that I have not seen for a long time. It is also a time for me to prepare for the New Year. I intend spending this year's Christmas with my family and friends. Indeed, it is a season every Christian has to take time off the hustle and bustle of daily living. So, Christmas goes far beyond the celebration of Christ's birth to embrace other matters.



UniPort NIM Gets Best Chapter Award

*By Ethel Timi-Johnson
and Intern, Chiemeka Adindu*

Barely 20 months after it was formally inaugurated, the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) has emerged winner of the Best Chapter Award administered by the parent body at the Federal capital Territory. Making the disclosure to *UniPort Weekly* on Thursday, December 3, 2015, Chapter Chairman, Mrs. Flora Igwaba, noted that the award was presented at the just-concluded national annual Conference of the Association which held at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. "Out of 185 Chapters in the country that were evaluated for the award, UniPort Chapter emerged the overall best and carried away the coveted prize. This means that we have more work to do in addition to creating an impact in society," she stated.

The Chairman who described the UniPort Chapter of NIM as the youngest in the country, expressed delight at the award, promising to sustain

the enviable legacy that earned it the award. "We wish to assure the national body of our resolve to remain worthy ambassadors of the professional body by keeping the flag flying even higher. We will continue the hard work and will not betray the confidence reposed in us," Mrs. Igwaba told our Correspondent, adding that the young Chapter has grown its membership to about 600 persons within such a short timeframe. It would be recalled that the UniPort Chapter of NIM undertook the building and furnishing of a VIP Lounge at the Etitiene Banigo Auditorium that was donated to the University last December for hosting important dignitaries.



Chairman, NIM UniPort Chairman, Mrs. Igwaba, receiving the Award from National President of the Association, Dr. Nelson Uwaga, while others watch



MARVELLOUS ABEL

If anybody ever told me I would serve my Internship scheme at the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit of the University of Port Harcourt, I would have batted with my life, but it did happen. With the help of a staff of the University, I was accepted into the IPPR family, the brains behind the publication of *UniPort Weekly*, a newspaper which captures happenings in the University.

My experience began on Monday, November 9, 2015, after I was introduced to the Gentlemen of the Press by the Editor, Williams Wodi. My fellow interns passed through a lot of drilling from the boss and the other reporters. We were directed to write one story on each working day. We covered many University events such as

courtesy visits on the Vice-Chancellor, seminars, workshops and interviews with staff and students. As part of our experience, we were also taken to TND Press, where the *UniPort Weekly* is produced.

My experience would not have been a fruitful one if not for the constant drilling by the Editor and mentorship contributions of Obinna Nwadiobi, Mercy Adimini, Otiuke Samuel, Humphrey Ogu and Ethel Timijohnson. They helped me edify my work; make them news worthy and reader-friendly. I would not forget the numerous pieces of advice by the Page Designer; Mrs. Chika King-Jones who drilled us on Layout and Design.

Finally, I relish the support I received from my fellow interns, Rukky Orlu-Makele, Cyndy Herbert and Chiemeeka Adindu, which helped me to keep striving as we took on the difficult challenge of working with the Editorial team on each edition of *UniPort Weekly* newspaper. My Internship experience will long be remembered. Thank you, IPPR, thank you *UniPort Weekly*.

CHIEMEKA ADINDU

"Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced," says John Keats, and this was my case as I was opportune to acquire real life skill of what real Journalism entails out in the field. During my few weeks of Internship at the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, University of Port Harcourt, I was acutely exposed to the rudiments of news gathering, writing and editing, as well as

Photojournalism. Every new day brought new ideas and challenges that set me on my toes throughout my stay in the Unit.

My four-year classroom experience in the Department of Linguistics and Communications Studies could be equated with the seven weeks of practical experience I had at the IPPR Unit as time rolled on very fast.

Interns Speak On Experiences At IPPR

Four Interns of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies in the Faculty of Humanities: MARVELLOUS ABEL, CHIEMEKA ADINDU, CYNDY HERBERT and RUKKY ORLU-MAKELE, who served their Internship programme in the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit of the University write on their experiences on the job:

Albert Einstein was right when he said: "The only source of knowledge is experience." My colleagues and I experienced the techniques that result in the production of the *UniPort Weekly* newspaper that commands wide readership on Campus. This reflection would be incomplete without acknowledging the Editorial Board led by Professor Eme Ekerwe and the Editor, Williams Wodi for their immense contributions in tutoring and mentoring me. Each staff of IPPR Unit contributed to the experience I have today, both in Journalism practice and in public service conduct and they deserve commendation for their professionalism and total commitment to duty. I will not also forget the in-depth excursion class that exposed us to the processes involved in the print media at TND Printing Press on Friday, December 4, 2015. The Editor, who personally took us to the Press, joined us on a tour of the expansive facility that further enriched our understanding of how a newspaper is produced.

As I end the programme, I also wish to plead with the Management of the University to ensure that the Internship programme of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies is registered with the Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) office to enable graduates of the Department to be properly exposed to the practical aspects of the Journalism profession.

To my younger colleagues, my advice is: there is joy in serving your Internship with *UniPort Weekly*. "Think Industrial Training, think IPPR Unit, think *UniPort Weekly*."

CYNDY HERBERT

My Internship at the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit has been a wonderful experience. I was opportune to work with skilled reporters which indeed contributed a lot throughout my stay and the experience will always stay with me. The IPPR Unit staff are the kind every student in media Internship would be willing to associate with due to their approachable manner in which they interacted with us. They were always on hand to guide us on what constitutes the right editorial policy without sounding intimidating.

My experience in IPPR is a fruitful one because it offered me a rare opportunity to acquire hands-on training in journalism practice through the *UniPort Weekly* medium. The Internship was a very unique opportunity for me because it took place in an academic environment that comprises professors and senior academics who evaluate everything we did. This situation called for extra caution in reporting and editing news items.

Serving my Internship in the IPPR Unit also exposed me to the Public Service environment. My Editor, Williams Wodi, contributed a lot to enrich my Internship experience. He brought out the best in me through effective mentorship and diligent application

of the rules of the journalism profession. He drilled me to understand the rudiments of practical journalism. Together with my colleagues, I had the opportunity to learn the Pro-Press, Press and Post-Press segments of newspaper production. We also learnt a lot from our facility visit to TND Press which took place on 4th December, 2015 and that was a memorable experience that will cherish for a very long time.

Having an experience and moving to the next level is one thing about life, but IPPR is a place where an Intern would have an experience and would love to remain there. As they say: "experience is the best teacher."

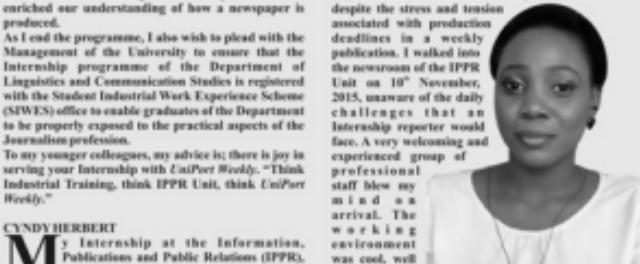
RUKKY ORLU-MAKELE

Serving my Internship with warm-hearted professionals made every day special and worthwhile at the office, despite the stress and tension associated with production deadlines in a weekly publication. I walked into the newsroom of the IPPR Unit on 10th November, 2015, unaware of the daily challenges that an Internship reporter would face. A very welcoming and experienced group of professional staff blew my mind on arrival. The working environment was cool, well ventilated and accommodating; one of the best that an Internship student would definitely want to work in.

In the course of my training, I was exposed to various tasks in news reporting techniques and general compartment in a public office. My work schedule, which involved gathering information within the University for publication introduced me to the much-needed hands-on skills in journalism. As Interns, the four of us were each attached to experienced staff writers to cover events; we would thereafter write our reports, which they meticulously edited, making sure we took proper corrections which have undoubtedly sharpened my writing skills.

I covered several beats as part of the design by the Editor to ensure that we were kept on our toes at all times, as no Intern was allowed to idle away in the news room. As much as readers take newspaper for granted, I came to realize that even an experienced reporter can be frustrated by the challenges associated with the job and I was not short of such moments as we battled to meet weekly deadlines without closing time. Also, the art of public speaking was not left out, as we accompanied the Editor to numerous University assignments that required speaking skills that showed that a good journalist could combine excellent writing skills with the spoken word. During such assignments, I was also opportune to visit the office of the Vice-Chancellor and report proceedings to readers of *UniPort Weekly*.

My experience was capped when the Editor also took us on a facility visit to TND Press to get us properly acquainted with the processes involved in the production of a newspaper. I cannot but express great joy for the level of exposure I received in such a very short time at the *UniPort Weekly* newspaper. I truly believe that this level of exposure and discipline instilled in me will serve me well in the journalism profession in graduation.



CYNDY HERBERT

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Eneh Advocates For Rights Of Newborn

Cont'd from p1

highest in Africa, in terms of neonatal deaths, and second highest in terms of neonatal deaths worldwide. Nigeria contributes about 8 per cent of the world's annual neonatal deaths and 15 percent of Africa's neonatal deaths. Child survival programmes have focused on diseases affecting children aged over one year and vaccine-preventable diseases. Safe motherhood programmes have focused on the mother and her newborn," the Inaugural Lecturer disclosed.

Professor Eneh noted that "Health systems in the high income countries emphasising and focusing quality care at birth, delivery through facility and community actions, focusing on the time of birth when most deaths occur and when most lives can be saved, and long-term disabilities averted. The health systems are responsive and health workers deliver high quality and timely skilled care."

"In Nigeria, skilled attendants at delivery rate is low and more than 60 per cent of births occur outside health facilities, the quality of care at delivery is defective. This is the time when most deaths occur and when most lives can be saved, and long-term disabilities averted, through higher coverage of effective interventions," she explained, adding that the strategy to reduce newborn mortality requires responsive health systems that are equipped with life-saving commodities and staffed with health workers who can deliver high quality and timely skilled care, including obstetrics care for small and ill newborn babies.

Ench, who noted that the majority of neonatal deaths could be prevented with existing interventions, including improved hygiene at birth and breastfeeding, disclosed that the hygiene of newborn babies has serious impact in later childhood, and adult life, adding that "just as the impact of poor newborn health extends beyond the neonatal period, the benefits of a healthy newborn also extends beyond the neonatal period, and impacts positively not only on the individual and the family, but also on society at large."

Defining Paediatrics as the branch of medicine that deals with the development, care and childhood diseases, the 12th Inaugural Lecture disclosed that three main reasons informed her focus on the newborn, including the sheer number of child deaths and the potential for far-reaching impact of effective newborn care. She explained that her focus on Paediatric HIV was as a result of the experience during her Part II Dissertation on Paediatric HIV.

On her contributions to knowledge, Ench revealed that her research activities tackled the challenges affecting acute pain in the newborn, congenital malformations, congenital congenital abnormalities in twins, congenital malabsorption Urethra and Neonatal malacia, blood transfusion in the newborn and Neonatal Jaundice, amongst others. She also identified poverty,

inadequate facilities to cater for the needs of the newborn in Nigeria, delayed presentation in the hospital, ignorance, superstition and religion, amongst other factors, as major challenges that militate against fulfilling the mandate of ensuring the right of children to a healthy start in life.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndewo Lale, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for enlightening the public on how best to take care of children, adding that bonding, which Professor Eneh recommended to parents, was very critical in the upbringing of children. He blamed the rising rate of social vices, lack of bonding between children and their parents in a society that is characterised by the new culture of material accumulation.

"There are two components in the title of the 12th Inaugural Lecture: the first part is how we can ensure the divine right of every child to a healthy start, while the second part centres on how we can fulfil this important mandate that would make all the difference in the birth and total wellbeing of our children, who are gifts from God. In my own opinion, Professor Eneh has undoubtedly contributed her own quota in fulfilling the mandate. It is now left for us to play our own role in fulfilling that divine mandate," the Vice-Chancellor's representative remarked.



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Eneh (arrowed) and other Professors before the Lecture

PRINCEWILL IKPEKA, IPS BGS,

"I feel very happy and accomplished today, I wouldn't say it was all by my effort that I got into the IPS and came this far. I think it is more of God's grace, favour and mercy upon my life. Each day, I try my best to learn as much as I can and ask questions, participate in group discussions and remain open to new ideas. I was never tired of trying to know more. That was the secret of my success in the Institute."

"My advice to new students is that IPS will squeeze them and they will go through very challenging times. IPS has a way of making you feel there is nothing inside you before it brings out something in you once you face the wall. The Institute drills you until it gets the very best out of you and restores your self-confidence. Again, in our Professional Mentor, Engineer Aboudia-Kida Musa, we say thank you, you are special and great."

MISS TOSIN SALAKO, PRIZE WINNER

"As an MSc graduate from the Institute of Petroleum Studies, I feel joyful and fulfilled to be one of the Inductees. I also feel something has been impacted into me during this one year in IPS. Having seasoned Lecturers who taught us all we need to know is a milestone achievement that I would cherish for the rest of my life. Now,

Inductees Speak On Experience At IPS

The Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) which is an international postgraduate institute for the training of Petroleum Engineers had her 12th Induction/Anniversary Ceremony on Thursday, December 26, 2015. In this interview with Correspondent, MERCY ADENIJI, some of the Inductees spoke on their experience in the Institute:

we are very much ready to get into the industry and exhibit what we have learnt. One major thing we were taught at IPS is to humble ourselves so that we can learn more and add to what we already knew in our dealings. Our successors should work very hard by putting in their best effort if they hope to make it through the Institute that has no respect for previous knowledge. Above all, they should put all they do in the hand of God and He will surely perfect it for them."

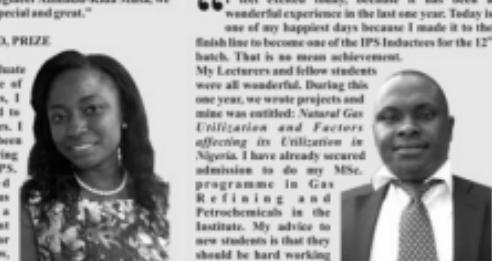
MRS SUNNY OTAVIE, PGD CLASS

"I feel excited today, because it has been a wonderful experience in the last one year. Today is one of my happiest days because I made it to the final line to become one of the IPS Inductees for the 12th batch. That is no mean achievement. My Lecturers and fellow students were all wonderful. During this one year, we wrote projects and mine was entitled: *Natural Gas Utilization and Factors affecting its Utilization in Nigeria*. I have already secured admission to do my MSc programme in Gas Refining and Petrochemicals in the Institute. My advice to new students is that they should be hard working

because the training in IPS is very tough and if they must succeed at the end of the day, they must be diligent in their studies, because it is a full time training that cuts no corners."

MISS CORINNE MEA, PRIZE WINNER

"IPS really grounded us well in the area of leadership and how to exhibit team spirit. We were exposed to various areas of leadership and management skills that went beyond Petroleum Engineering. I am from Côte d'Ivoire and it was a good experience to spend one year in Nigeria. In this one year, I have learnt a lot of things from the Institute and I now know plenty Nigerians I can relate to in my future career. After now, I would go over to the industry first and then see if I can earn to complete my PhD programme as a final icing on my academic cake. This one year was not easy at all and my advice to our successors is that they should stay strong and remain focused on their studies as there is no room for error as a student of IPS. Whatever the circumstances, they should always give their best, because in the end, they will reap the reward of their hard work."



GUIDEPOST**Eneajor Showcases Works At Arts Expo****SABBATICAL LEAVE**

Professor Josephine Ebong, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, granted a one year **Sabbatical Leave** to Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Enugu State, effective October 21, 2015 to October 20, 2016.

Professor Odikha Emeju, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, granted a one year **Sabbatical Leave** to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nsukka, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

Dr. Nene Jambu, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one year **Sabbatical Leave** to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nsukka, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, effective November 26, 2015 to November 29, 2016.

Dr. Adaku Ebim, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one year **Sabbatical Leave** with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Team of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Port Harcourt, effective January 4, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

Dr. Ifeajuna Otuwalor, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities granted a one year **Sabbatical Leave** to Federal University Lafia, Nassarawa State, effective December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Mr. Ifeanyi Iwana, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year **Renewal of Contract Appointment**, effective April 21, 2015 to April 20, 2016.

Mr. Stanley Nwadike, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted a one-year **Renewal of Contract Appointment**, effective January 10, 2016 to January 9, 2017.

Dr. Philip Azighie, University Library, granted a one-year **Renewal of Contract Appointment**, effective May 14, 2016 to May 13, 2017.

REGULARIZATION OF APPOINTMENT

Deborah Obuson, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted **Regularization of Appointment**, effective May 2, 2014.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mrs. Charity Frederick, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, elevated from Graduate Assistant Lecturer, effective July 31, 2015.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Adeniyi Elegbe, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year **Study Leave** with Pay to enable him complete his Doctoral Degree programme in Pure and Industrial Chemistry in the University of Port Harcourt, effective September, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

EXTENSION OF STUDY LEAVE

Mrs. Stella Oduakwe, Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted one year **Extension of Study Leave** with Pay, effective November 2015 to December, 2016 to enable her conclude her studies at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor, Malaysia.

RESUMPTION FROM STUDY LEAVE

Mrs. Charity Olisa, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, resumed from **Study Leave**, effective September 9, 2015.

CHANGE OF NAME

Mrs. NEZ OKANJE BARNABAS. Farmer Mr. Kamalo, Okanje Barnabas, of the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as **MRS. NEZ OKANJE BARNABAS**. All former documents bearing her former name remain valid. The University of Port Harcourt and the general public should take note.

MRS. NEZ GIFT MRA. Former Mrs. Kamalo, Gift Mba, of the Centre for Children with Developmental and Communication Disorders (CCCD), now wishes to be known, called and addressed as **MRS. NEZ OKANJE BARNABAS**. All former documents bearing her former name remain valid. The University of Port and the general public should take note.

MRS. EKINEH RICHMOND DORATHY. Former Miss Amadi-Ojeho Dorothy, of the University of Port Harcourt Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS), now wishes to be known, called and addressed as **MRS. EKINEH RICHMOND DORATHY**. All former documents bearing her former name remain valid. The University of Port and the general public should take note.

By Obinna Nwodim

It was a week-long showcasing of creativity in the arts as Professor of Graphic Arts in the University, Marshall Eneajor, displayed a collection of artworks produced by him at the National Arts Gallery, University Park, last week. The event, which was tagged: *The Thinker's Thoughts—Fine Jigga*, attracted art enthusiasts from within and outside the University community, including the 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nnamdi Briggs.

Declaring the well-patronised exhibition open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Luke, represented by Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemagwu, described "the arts as an important discipline that is central to the human evolutionary process. The arts cut across all spheres of human endeavour. There is no profession that does not involve one art form or the other," the Vice-Chancellor's representative told the gathering, commending Professor Eneajor for his high level productivity in the visual arts.

Also speaking, planner Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Emeritus Professor Ebiegbele Alagoa, who also commended Professor Eneajor for exhibiting high quality designs that are of immense value, advised him to involve the private sector and major industry players in the promotion of innovation and creativity in the University.

In his speech, former Head of the Department of Fine Arts and Design, Professor John Aghera, expressed

gratitude to the 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Briggs for his continued patronage of the arts, commending him for encouraging the arts in the University and for the role he played in building the National Arts Gallery in the University during his tenure.

Explaining his works to guests, Professor Eneajor said that as an exponent of straw art and the use of alternative medium in artistic expression in Nigeria, he was passionate about freely expressing himself based on everyday experiences. Eneajor added that the reason for the Expo was his "passion for the profession and the need to create a new art form that would be easily identified with the University community. It would serve as an encouragement to students of the Department seeking real mentorship in the use of alternative materials in artistic expression."

In his welcome address, Director of the Institute of Niger Delta Studies (INDS), Professor Abi Derefaka, said that the Institute supported the exhibition as part of its objective to promote indigenous creativity. The Director said that plans were afoot to make the event part of the University's annual academic calendar to bring it to the notice of a wider audience, disclosing that the exhibition which has a rich harvest of indigenous heritage would add value to the arts.

The over 50 works exhibited were in four main categories. They included *Straw Applique Works*, *Full Straw Works*, *Solar Window Film (Tit)* on Glass and *Graffiti Prints*.



Art Exhibition, Prof Eneajor (with mic), Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Enemagwu, Director, Institute of N'Delta Studies, Prof Derefaka and eminent Historian, Emeritus Prof. Alagoa

STOP PRESS**UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS GIFT**

This is to inform all members of staff that the distribution of Christmas Gifts items by the University will commence on Monday December 14th Friday, December 18, in the following order:

1st December, 2015: Humanities, Engineering, Basic Medical Sciences, Education, Works and Service, Management Sciences, Bursar's Office, Central Library, Health Services Department, School of Graduate Studies, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Social Sciences, UPS, Vice-Chancellor's Office, CCE.

15th December, 2015: Faculties of Agricultural Science and Science, Registrar's Office, Student Affairs Department, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Social Sciences, UPS, Vice-Chancellor's Office, CCE.

16th, 17th and 18th December, 2015: All groups not attended to on their scheduled dates and resolution of other related issues. Collection Centre is the new Department of Animal and Environmental Biology Building (Opposite former CBN Library, now Laboratory for the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University Park).

**DECISION OF SENATE ON PROVEN CASES OF CRIMINAL PLAGIARISM
BY GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Following the compulsory anti-plagiarism test for Graduate Students' Dissertations and Theses, there are now several proven cases of plagiarism against some Graduate Students. The Senate of the University has decided that plagiarism amounts to Examination Malpractice. After due deliberation on the matter, Senate has directed that in accordance with Section 9.3 of the School of Graduate Studies Brochure, any student in the School of Graduate Studies found guilty of Examination Malpractice of any description should be summarily expelled from his or her programme.

86TH GRADUATE SEMINAR

Doctoral Candidates from the various Faculties and Departments are by this notice directed to attend the 86th School of Graduate Studies Doctoral Seminar presentation scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2015 at the Seminar Room of the School of Graduate Studies, University Park. Time is 10am.
Contact: Dr. Agatha Araga, Graduate Studies Officer

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has commended Professor Nwosa Lake, on his giant strides within five months in office, describing him as a student-friendly Vice-Chancellor, who deserves support from all stakeholders in the University of Port Harcourt.

Vice-President of NANS, Venerable Ufoma, made the commendation when he led other national and chapter leaders of the Association on a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor on Friday, December 4, 2015, showering praises on Professor Lake for what the Association described as his total commitment to the welfare of students, which NANS said contributed to the existing peaceful relationship between Management and students of the University.

"We are pleased with you for your total commitment to the welfare of our members in this University and it is our hope that you will continue to place issues concerning our students front and center during your tenure. We are particularly happy that you took urgent steps in addressing the contentious discharge of one of our colleagues due to negligence on the part of some medical personnel at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). We are equally happy to note that those negligent medical personnel have been summarily dismissed from service as a deterrent to

NANS Commends Lale, Solicits Support For Anti-Cultism Campaign

By Otikor Sawail
 (with additional report from
 Rocky Orla-Makoko; Intern)

others who may wish to follow their bad example." Mr. Ufoma said the Vice-Chancellor, He presented Professor Lake with a giant-size congratulatory card on behalf of the Association to mark his appointment as eight Vice-Chancellor of UPH.

The student leader also used the opportunity to solicit support from Management of the University as the Association prepares to host a one-day sensitization on the issue of cultism on Nigerian University campuses. "We need the men for all stakeholders to intensify awareness campaigns on effective security measures aimed at ensuring a peaceful atmosphere for academic activities.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, who expressed gratitude to NANS for its new-found maturity aimed at resolving conflict flashpoints, praised the leadership on

the manner it engaged the University on the sad demise of Miss Kefechi Precious.

"Let me commend the leadership of the Association for presenting me with a giant-size congratulatory card which I will cherish for as long as I live. When the Student Union shows you appreciation like NANS has done, then you need to be grateful to the Association and also believe that you are on the right track. This is because students are always confrontational in their engagement with the authorities as a critical segment of society. So, I appreciate your kind gesture and resort to dialogue in place of fighting alone on every issue," Professor Lake remarked, acknowledging NANS to employ dialogue in resolving contentious issues.

In his remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, thanked the leadership of the umbrella body of the Nigerian students for visiting the University on a friendly platform. He also commended the Association for recognizing the existing excellent relationship between Management and students on Professor Lake's watch, hoping that the honour due him would spur the Vice-Chancellor to continue in his friendly disposition to students.



31-C, Prof Lale (3rd left, seated), flanked by Vice-President, NANS, Mr. Ufoma (3rd right, seated), and some Principal and Senior Officers of the University and members of the delegation

Principal Officers Fete Nwodo On Successful Tenure Completion, As V-C Tours Library

By Otikor Sawail
 (with additional report from
 Chinenye Adinde; Intern)

In line with the new tradition of honoring members who successfully serve out their tenure, Principal Officers of the University hosted Dr. Obasiageli Nwodo to a farewell reception as the 4th University Librarian on Friday, December 4, 2015. The brief, yet very symbolic ceremony which took place in the Vice-Chancellor's office, evoked sweet memories of the excellent services rendered by the former University Librarian, who in turn enriched her fraternal working relationship with her erstwhile colleagues in the last five years.

The dignified disengagement of Dr. Nwodo, commenced with an early morning visit to the Library where the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nwosa Lake, led other Principal Officers to inspect facilities, and also appraise the progress recorded within the five-year tenure of Dr. Nwodo, which was rounded off with a luncheon in town in honour of the departing University Librarian.

Speaking during the inspection tour, the Vice-Chancellor who restated his commitment to the development of the Library stated that: "There will be no end to learning, so we need to constantly equipping our Library with contemporary knowledge by making it a part of our everyday life in the field. We will do all that is within the limits of our resources to ensure that our Library continues to grow in line with global best practices and I am totally committed to ensuring that you get all the support that would be necessary to place our Library on top of the pack in the country."

On non-resistance of the non-statutory charges due to the Donald Ekong Library, the Vice-Chancellor promised to ensure that monies accruing to the Library are deducted and used to service the Department to enable it meet its statutory obligations to students, staff and the reading public. He thanked staff of the Library Department for supporting the 4th University Librarian

to succeed in her onerous assignment, expressing hope that Dr. Nwodo's successor will equally possess the right leadership and drive to take the Library to greater heights.

In her valedictory speech at the occasion, 4th University Librarian, Dr. Nwodo, who enjoyed joy at the successful completion of her tenure, stated that the task was very daunting at the outset, expressing gratitude to the Principal Officers and her colleagues at the Library for the show of support that enabled her plough through one of the most tasking assignments in the Nigerian university system.

"I am grateful for the glory for continuing my throughout the five-year tenure. I want to thank the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiekwe, for running a Library-friendly administration. It was the support given to us by the immediate past administration that translated into the high rating of the Library by rating agencies. Our high profile has been duly acknowledged by all the accreditation teams from the National Universities Commission and other professional bodies

that visited the Library on my watch," she remarked, soliciting the support of the Professor Lale-led administration to continue the upgrade of facilities in the library as a means of ensuring its sustainability.

"I am happy that I hosted your first official visit to the Library before exiting office. It was just right for you to see what we have on ground and how to better the Library for users before taking my leave from the office. We have subscribed to a number of electronic library resources which we renew periodically. The MacArthur Foundation of Chicago was initially funding our library resources, but it later withdrew such support which made us realize that we had to sustain the subscription on our own. So, we need funds to service our e-resources if we wish to remain globally competitive. We also need a dedicated staff to man our Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) to reduce theft of Library resources," Dr. Nwodo told the Vice-Chancellor, expressing gratitude to him, her other colleagues in the Principal Officers Meeting and staff of the Library for their support.

Some of the sections visited by the Vice-Chancellor and his team included the El-Sevier e-learning Room, Server Room, Library Vendor and Reference Sections, including the General Area for some faculties, as well as the emergent Department of Library and Information Science which temporarily operates from the Library complex.



31-C, Prof Lale (2nd left, seated), flanked by Acting Registrar, Mrs. Nwodo, DVC (Academic), Prof Joe (3rd left, seated) and immediate past University Librarian, Dr. Nwodo, & Registrar, Mrs. Martina Nwodo and DVC (Admin), Prof Ike