

UniPort Weekly

Vol. 31, Edition 301 October 31 - November 7, 2016

For information and enlightenment

ISSN: 1522-2225

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



Ekekwe Tasks Journalists On Investigative Reporting At ACCE Confab

Director of the Claude Ake School of Government in the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Eme Ekekwe, has identified poor investigative journalism and hostility towards journalists as some of the challenges that threaten the contributions of the mass media in their effort to entrench development in Nigeria, reports *Otikor Samuel.*

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Side Bar O&G Lecture

Professor C. T. John delivers the 2nd Obstetrics and Gynaecology Departmental Guest Lecture on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at UPTH Auditorium. Time is 12 noon
Details Next Week

~Editor

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Okoh Charges Younger Academics On Integrity

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135th Inaugural Onwuchekwa Maps Out Stroke Prevention Strategies

By Humphrey Ogu

In view of the rising cases of stroke in Nigeria and other parts of the world, a Neurologist, Professor Arthur Onwuchekwa of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, has called for moderation, sustained advocacy and media campaigns as ways of sensitising the populace on effective strategies to prevent the killer disease.

Delivering the 135th Inaugural Lecture entitled: "Stroke: A Preventive Disaster Waiting to Happen" at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, October 27, 2016, Professor Onwuchekwa observed that the saying: "prevention is cheaper and better than cure" was critically relevant in tackling the menace of rising stroke in Nigeria. He recommended "population-based strategies that would include community education, using printed materials, audio-visual programmes, lectures, television and billboard advertisements, and radio jingles, as major means of reaching out to the vulnerable segments of society. "Stroke is defined by the World Health

Organisation as rapidly developing clinical signs of focal (or global) disturbance of cerebral (brain) function lasting more than 24

hours or leading to death with no apparent cause other than vascular origin," the Neurologist noted, pointing out that stroke results when blood flow to the brain was suddenly interrupted, leading to the death of cell.

"This manifests as inability to move or have sensation on one part of the body, problems of understanding or speaking, feeling like the world is spinning (dizziness) or loss of vision to one or both eyes. This is usually sudden in onset within seconds and minutes. If the symptoms last less than 24 hours (usually 1

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The Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have directed the immediate past Students' Union Executive Committee to hand over power to the Acting Dean of Student Affairs within one week. The outgoing Executive was also directed to hand over all properties belonging to the Union within the same timeframe.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Late, handed down the directive when he led members of the Management Committee of the University in an emergency meeting with the erstwhile Students' Union, presidential aspirants in the botched Union election and Chairman of the Electoral Committee at the Governing Council Chambers, last Sunday.

Professor Late reiterated Management's resolve not to interfere in the affairs of the Union, especially the stalemated polls, reassuring the students that there would be no later interim Executive Committee to run the affairs of the Union. "We have no personal interest over who is elected into your Executive Committee or who becomes the Students' Union President. All we want is for the process to go on in line with your constitution so that the outcome would be acceptable to the generality of the students," the Vice-Chancellor said at the meeting, regretting that it had become obvious that the elections would no longer take place this Semester.

"The Second Semester Examinations commenced last Monday and I don't think that it would be feasible to conduct the polls while examinations are going on. I wish to allay the fears among some students that by the next session, some of the aspirants and members of the Electoral Committee may not be eligible to contest and carry out their responsibilities. I can assure you that based on what is on ground, aspirants to the various positions would be allowed to take part in the elections, while members of the Electoral Committee would be allowed to carry out their assignment without let or hindrance," the Vice-Chancellor said.

He also directed all the cleared and disqualified presidential candidates to put their concerns and grievances in writing to his office, assuring them that Management would ensure that the issues raised would be amicably resolved to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. Professor Late advised the students to go about their lawful activities in a responsible manner, reminding them that their primary purpose of being in the University was to study and become useful members of society on graduation.

Mgt Directs Outgoing S'Union EXCO To Handover To DSA, Promises to Address Protests

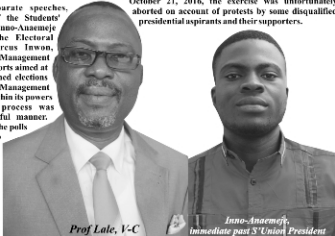
By Obinna Nwodin

"As students, you should study hard and be prepared to write your examinations without making untenable excuses that do not bely your status. I want to let you know that those who did not want the examinations to hold are enemies of the students and should be treated as such," he stated. The Vice-Chancellor frowned at a situation in which the elected student leaders would allow dubiously-motivated ex-students and non-academic students to influence their activities under the guise of so-called "stakeholders" that is not provided for in their constitution, adding that a situation in which big-time politicians pressured him through phone calls over a routine issue as Students' Union elections was detrimental to a free and fair electoral process which the students advocated.

Earlier in their separate speeches, erstwhile President of the Students' Union, Mr. Ephraim Inno-Anaele and Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Mr. Marcus Inwon, expressed gratitude to Management of the University for efforts aimed at ensuring that the botched elections held, conceding that Management had done everything within its powers to ensure that the process was concluded in a peaceful manner. They both agreed that the polls were aborted due to protests by some disqualified aspirants and their supporters, including the disruptive activities of some faceless elements that were bent on returning the University to a reign of anarchy.

In their separate speeches, the Presidential Aspirants, Felix Anams, Walter Orubibi, Noble Woned, Cyril Wunub, Naomi Okoroha, Tekena George and Queen Agui assured Management of cooperation to ensure that both the examinations and the elections were successful.

It would be recalled that following petitions by some students, exhaustion of funds in the account of the Students' Union and the poor level of preparedness for the polls, Management had engaged the Students' Union, Faculty Presidents, the Electoral Committee and the University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum (UPHPF) in several meeting to resolve issues surrounding the botched elections. After Management had assured the students of full logistic support for the elections which was scheduled to hold on Friday, October 21, 2016, the exercise was unfortunately aborted on account of protests by some disqualified presidential aspirants and their supporters.



Prof. Late, V-C

Inno-Anaele, Immediate past S'Union President

UniPort NAAT Gets New EXCO, Pledges Enhanced Service Delivery

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following the successful end of tenure of the Ambrose Ogbebe-led leadership, a new Executive has been elected to pilot the affairs of

the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) for the next four years.

Briefing a UniPort Weekly Correspondent on the successful transition of power last Wednesday, newly-elected Branch Chairperson of NAAT, Patricia Ijente, commended former Branch Chairmen, including her immediate predecessor, Mr. Ogbebe, for their immense contributions to the advancement of the Association in the University, promising to consolidate on their achievements.

"We will work together as a team with the Management of the University to uplift the image of our institution on the technology front. We will also encourage Management to support our professional development by sponsoring members on workshops and other training programmes that would add value to the system," she told our Correspondent.

Reiterating her unwavering commitment to the welfare of members of the Association, the new Chairperson said that since the creation of man, laboratory practice has continued to play a significant role in the overall wellbeing, technological, development, breakthrough and prosperity of mankind. "The place of the Laboratory Technologists in the society cannot be overemphasised as we touch virtually everything that ranges from health, research breakthroughs and quality technological education. We promise to engage the authorities of the University on issues concerning the career structure for the benefit of our members," she said.

Earlier, in a valedictory address presented at the end of his tenure, immediate past Chairman, Mr. Ogbebe, commended members of the Association for their support for his leadership in the last four years. He listed some of the achievements of his Executive to include the restoration of hazard allowances for both old and newly-employed Technologists in the University, including senior and Junior Laboratory staff.

"The period under review witnessed the employment of Technologists/Assistants, Attendants, Forest Assistants and Attendants, amongst others. Also, a total of nine qualified Junior Laboratory staff were converted to the Technologists cadre amongst other achievements," he noted, soliciting the support of members for the newly-elected Executive, Mr. Ogbebe also promised to work with the new Executive to reposition the Branch.

Other members of the new Executive include: Vice-Chairman, Mr. Kingsley Wurdia, Secretary General, Anyeloye Amadi, Assistant Secretary, Chinedu Nworgu, Financial Secretary, Mrs. Selipri Horsfall, while Mrs. Hellen Onoja and Mrs. Fausoh Oparum would serve as Treasurer and Public Relations Officer, respectively.

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Mrs. Ijente, new NAAT Chairperson

Decoding Nwince's Inaugural Address For Mgt Science Faculty

By Williams Wodi

"The Deanship election of our faculty is here and Thursday, September 1, 2016, is the D-Day. I humbly offer myself to serve you as your Dean and I most respectfully solicit your vote." That was the simple message in the campaign manifesto that tranquillised the academic staff of the Faculty of Management into casting their lot with Professor Barisun Nwince. A world-class Faculty. Inter-departmental collaboration. Academic and professional self-actualisation. Supremacy of the Faculty Board. Democratic decision-making process. International standard research. Creative and innovative teaching strategies. Research-generated knowledge. Staff and students' welfare. These were the cardinal principles upon which Professor Nwince launched his manifesto as he campaigned for the position of Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences last September. The election was literally an obstacle race that took on the force of energy and grit.

It was a highly combustible and acrimonious campaign that pitched two contestants at the dagger point for an apparent reason that could be associated with a refined academic environment. It was as if the rambunctious Donald Trump was pitched against the artful Hillary Clinton. Every known weapon of political knavery was invoked to advance each position. As the foot soldiers massed on the rearward to rationalise the suitability of their flagbearer, the main combatants knocked from door to door in an energy-sapping effort to convince an equally bemused electorate that did not understand why a mere Deanship election was inexplicably transformed into a popularity contest. Trust academics: they answered the knotty question with their votes on September 1, 2016. While Donald Trump is offering to "Make America Great Again", Professor Nwince offered to "Take the Faculty of Management Sciences to the Next Level and Make it Greater." Try beating that! Unlike the Inquisitor Mr. Trump, Professor Nwince was not grabbing and grugging women and engaging in "locker-room talk". The new Dean simply fixed his eyes on the ball and got his prize. He called his movement a "redemption and transformation train," and it became obvious that as the last voter cast his ballot paper, most members of the Faculty gleefully jumped aboard the "redemption and transformation train" as a version of *El Dorado* proposed by Professor Nwince. When voters placed both gladiators on the weighing scale, it was obvious that the candidate of "redemption and transformation" was going to carry the day by a pole position. His opponent, Professor Barisun Nwince, was so gracious to defeat as he congratulated the victor and horridly quit the stage. It was obvious that he would live to fight yet another day the way polished gentlemen do.

In his Inaugural Address on Monday, October 24, 2016,

Professor Nwince outlined the arduous task ahead of him as Dean of a fractions faculty of competing interests—much of it pecuniary in nature. Describing his inauguration as "the beginning of a new chapter in the life of this faculty," the new Dean came to terms with the "near insurmountable challenge of leading a great faculty in these uncertain times." Pledging to heal the wounds generated by the acrimonious campaign circuit through inspirational and transformational leadership, Nwince called for total support from his colleagues, including those whose votes he did not merit.

"My vision: to inspire, challenge and prepare our students to leverage on our experiences and contacts to build careers that reflect their values and longtime goals. We should teach and equip students to be able to navigate the path from school to career with clarity, competence and confidence," Nwince told his colleagues. He proposed change in the direction of curriculum review, using more focused "methodologies to that would beyond mere cognitive mastery of discipline to new pedagogical and didactic approaches to learning." Playing at the back of his mind was, of course, the shortcomings that must be overcome for the faculty to attain full accreditation of its programmes by predatory academic and professional regulatory bodies. The new Dean has every reason to count the ceiling boards in his bedroom at night. Out of the five Departments in the Faculty, only two have full accreditation status, while the other two wear uncomfortable "interim" uniforms, which means that they could be axed if they fail to shape up in time for the next round of accreditation exercise. Even more ominously, the fledgling Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management is due to face the accreditation firing squad for the first time since it was established in 2011. His predecessor, Professor Encka Okerke, had reeled out a litany of woes that tended to undermine academic and administrative excellence in the faculty that



Immediate past Dean, Prof Okerke (right) handing over to his successor, Prof Nwince

should be the flagship of academic excellence in the University. He has, however, scaled the first hurdle with full accreditation status granted the Department of Accounting by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) last Thursday.

Professor Nwince also wants the graduate programmes of the Faculty to be more market-responsive and competitive in a globalised knowledge economy, including a proposal to reinvent research along technology-enhanced learning. To achieve that ambitious goal, there will be a monthly seminar series for graduate students, some of who currently operate like undergraduates in their grotesque garishness. While not necessarily proposing tasteless buying and selling, Professor Nwince is interested in initiating projects and academic programmes that would rake in additional revenue.

The new Dean's vision stands on the ESG tripod where "E" stands for Energy, "S" for Synergy, while "G" stands for God-driven leadership. All these lofty targets cannot, of course, be achieved by a mechanical leader who is not bothered about staff welfare and sensitivity to the genuine needs of students. "As your Dean, I will work for you and with you to develop a world-class faculty in which staff would be offered adequate opportunity for academic and professional development. This is our Deanship, and not my Deanship," Professor Nwince told his colleagues. What else did they want to hear? We await the translation of this romantic manifesto by the youngest academic to head the Faculty of Management Sciences. Duty calls indeed!

ICAN Accreditation

V-C Rehears Call For Harmonisation of Regulatory Bodies

By Obinna Nwodin

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndolu Lale, has renewed his call for the various professional regulatory bodies to synergise with the National Universities Commission to carry out joint accreditation exercises in Nigerian universities. Professor Lale made the call while receiving the Accreditation team from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) to the Department of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Sciences in his office, last Tuesday.

He said that, if fully implemented, the move would make life a lot easier for university authorities as so much resources were currently being channelled towards addressing multiple accreditation exercises by various professional bodies that focus on the same issues without dissipating energies that could be channelled to other productive uses.

"As I address you, the cost of running higher institutions in the country has continued to rise by the day. We are looking forward to a day when there would be joint accreditation teams from the NUC and professional bodies so that verification exercises can be carried out at the same time without compromising standards," he stated, adding that the essence of the

exercise was to fit out graduates for purpose so that at the end of the day, they would compete favourably with their peers elsewhere. Professor Lale commended the Faculty of Management Sciences and Department of Accounting for furling well over the years, urging the staff and students to keep the flag flying.

Earlier in his address, leader of the team, Dr. Uche Uwaleke told the Vice-Chancellor that the exercise was not targeted at finding faults in the programme, but to ensure that graduates of Accounting measured up to approved guidelines that would prepare them to compete on the

global stage.

"What ICAN accreditation does is to help shape the students and fast-track their professional growth. Such an advantage enables them to skip seven, out of the 16 subjects offered in our professional examinations," Dr. Uwaleke told the Vice-Chancellor.

At the Exit Meeting which held last Thursday, Dr. Uwaleke commended the University for preparing the Department of Accounting to secure full accreditation status. "I wish to state that we were impressed by what we saw in terms of staffing, programme, infrastructure and library resources. The Department needs to stock ICAN Study Pack, in addition to other minor amendments that would position it to train students that can compete on a global scale." He disclosed that the team would look at the curricula, examination system, staffing, infrastructure, academic environment, library resources, as well as interact with staff and students.



V-C, Prof Lale (centre) flanked by Principal, Senior Officers of the University and visiting ICAN team

Students Speak On Preparedness For S'Semester Exams

Examinations usually come with mixed feelings in any academic setting. Under normal circumstances, students do not like writing examination, which they rightly regard as a form of 'punishment' by 'wicked' Lecturers. With the Second Semester coming to an end, UniPort Weekly sought to know from the students how they prepared for the examinations and what their expectations are. Their answers would intrigue our readers. Find out:

PRECIOUS EJIYERE, Computer Science, Year Four

For every examination I had previously written, I always made all the necessary preparations. I was, however, not well prepared for the Second Semester Examinations. I will simply say that I was not at all prepared. I would expect nothing less than a 'B' grade in each of the papers that I have so far written and I hope to come out in flying colours as I prepare to leave the University on a high note.



which is a reasonable expectation.

AMINATE EMESIOBI, Biochemistry, Year Two
I think I prepared as much as I could be; let's say I was 70 per cent prepared. I am optimistic that I had above 80% preparation and I am sure I will do better than last Semester, because I actually prepared more for this Semester than the previous one. I expect nothing but good grades.



SUCCESS OBODO, Accounting, Year Three

The Semester was so short and I am grappling with eight courses and classes were held every day even on Saturdays and Sundays to make up. It was so hectic that sometimes, we did not have time to read as we would have wished. Now that the exams are here, I am trying to balance my CGPA to make good grades. I will say I was 65 per cent prepared, but I will try not to leave any stone unturned to make high grades. I expect questions to come from the course outline that we used in class and I am fully prepared for it. I expect the questions to be in my favour.



FAITH ROWLAND, Biochemistry, Year Two

Well, it has been God all through to this stage of my academic career. I try my best to attend night classes and I have revised all my textbooks for the Semester. I can say that I was 80 per cent prepared for the examinations. My expectation is to get good grades in all the courses. I am targeting, at least, five "As", but I do not want anything less than a 'B' grade in any of my papers in line with my 80 per cent preparation



AKPAN OBONG, AEB, Year Two

To be honest, I was 80 per cent prepared for this examination. On my expectations towards the examination, I would say each examination comes with a new and refreshing experience. So, I believe I am ready for anything. I expect nothing less than a 'B' or 'C' grade, judging from my level of preparedness.



JUSTINA GODWIN, ICS Dept., Year Three

I can say that I started reading from day one. I have read some of my text books over and over again. I am a very busy person and so I devoted my time to my books as I expected of a serious student. I believe that reading should not be just for exams; rather, it should be a lifestyle that should last a lifetime. I expect nothing but the "A" grade in all my subjects. I hope the Lecturers would set what they taught in class to enable us respond to the questions appropriately.



Staff of the University have been advised to be alive to their duty schedules or be prepared to henceforth face unpleasant consequences in line with the terms of their employment.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor. Ndawa Lale, handed down the warning when he presided over an emergency meeting on the protest by some students over inadequate municipal services that apparently resulted in protests last Monday evening.

"We are passing through a lot of stress at the moment and the level increases each time we have to meet with students who table all sorts of demands just to undermine the system and paint us in bad light. I thank God that after holding several meetings with student leaders, our effort and patience paid off as the Second Semester examinations successfully commenced last Monday," the Vice-Chancellor said at the meeting.

He recalled that concerted efforts were made to head off impending student unrest, urging schedule officers to be up and about to deny trouble-makers the opportunity to cash in on grievances by some students to disrupt the

V-C Hands Down Marching Orders To Line Officers On Service Delivery

By Williams Wodi

system. "We are battling very hard to address the issue of epileptic electricity supply and other municipal services and it is very important that staff charged with responsibility to provide services must discharge their duties in a diligent manner without giving excuses to justify their incompetence," Professor Lale said.

"People still remember what happened on April 11, 2016, when students went on rampage over issues that could have been amicably resolved otherwise. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal Officers have so much to worry about and cannot be everywhere to address issues that have been properly assigned to schedule officers. I cannot be micro-managing everything because that is why I have subordinate officers. Staff must, henceforth, be up and about their hearts without giving unnecessary excuses that undermine the system," the Vice-Chancellor warned.

He urged the Works and Services Department to promptly identify fault lines in its service delivery system and report same to nip flashpoints of crises in the bud before they explode and engulf everybody. The Vice-Chancellor directed the comprehensive renovation of all disused water facilities that serve students' hostels to prevent protests that are sponsored by professional trouble makers.

"I wish to express gratitude to the Works and Services Department for the frantic efforts it has been making to address deficiencies in municipal services, but the Department must do more by being proactive in its approach to service delivery at all times. Our lives are at risk when critical municipal services stop running. I am disappointed that the generator turbines stopped working five months ago, a situation that has badly affected the power supply available to the Camps," he said.

In his response, the Director of Works and Services, Mr. Jibria Inedee, blamed the poor electricity supply in recent times on lack of power to the generating plants, gas to power the turbines and poor electricity supply from the public supply source. "The students must be made to understand that machines are man-made and can break down at any time. They must also realise that we too are human beings who would not deliberately deny them electricity or water supply. We promise to do our best to keep municipal services running, but people must appreciate what we pass through to ensure service delivery," he said at the meeting.

Also in attendance were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Odo, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, Mr. Franklin Swaoma, and the Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwa.



Stop Press

GSA Suspension

Management of the University has suspended the Graduate Students Association (GSA) and all Committees in the Postgraduate Hostels with immediate effect. A statement dated October 7, 2016, and signed by Secretary of the Principal Officers Meeting, Mr. Roland Wabali, disclosed that the decision to suspend the Association was taken at the 120th Meeting of the body on Thursday, September, 2016.

"The report of the Committee that investigated the irregularities in the allocation of hostel spaces to Graduate Students and financial impropriety against their Executive was considered by Principal Officers before arriving at the decision to suspend the Association. After deliberating on the report, Principal Officers decided to suspend the Graduate Students Association until all Hall Committees in the Hostels with immediate effect and until further notice," the statement read in part.

Cont'd from Page 1

hour) and resolves completely with no residual deficit, it is known as Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) or Mini Stroke," he explained.

Disclosing that stroke symptoms usually start suddenly within seconds to minutes, Onwuekwena said: "The symptoms depend on the area of the brain affected and the function of that area; the more extensive area affected, the more functions are likely to be lost. The commonest way to recognise stroke is by the use of FASE, which stands for Facial deviation, Arm weakness, Slurred speech, Time is brain (emphasising the urgency in stroke intervention).

"Every minute in which a large vessel ischaemic stroke is untreated, the average patient loses 1.9 million neurons, 13.8 billion synapses (junctions where these neurons join each other). Each hour in which treatment fails to occur, the brain loses as many neurons as it does in almost 3.6 years of normal aging," the Inaugural Lecturer disclosed, listing high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, high blood cholesterol, excessive alcohol intake, obesity, active and passive cigarette smoking, drug abuse, sickle cell disease, lack of physical activity, among others, as major risk factors that predispose people to stroke.

He stated that stroke can be classified into two major categories, namely: ischaemic, which is also known as cerebral infarction, caused by interruption of blood supply to the brain and haemorrhagic, which results from bleeding into the brain tissue due to the rupture of blood vessels, a condition called intra-cerebral haemorrhage (ICH), stressing the importance of teamwork amongst health workers to ensure effective treatment.

"Stroke is the new face of chronic, Non-Communicable Disease in sub-Saharan Africa, a forerunner of health transition in the developing countries, and a preventable disease waiting to happen! Dealing with stroke will involve policy-makers in health, education, transport, finance, power, agriculture, information, youths and sports, acting in concert," he stated.

"Stroke education should target prospective patients such as hypertensive patients, diabetics, old stroke patients, sicklers, the aged and the aging, including caregivers. The campaign should be carried to tertiary, secondary and primary schools, including churches and

Strategies For Stroke Prevention



Inaugural Lecturer (arrowed), V.C. Prof. Late (left) and other professors before the Lecture

mosques. All health workers, including medical practitioners should spend quality time to educate their patients on preventive measures and ability to recognise stroke," he submitted.

The Inaugural Lecturer noted that another important public education strategy was to advise patients and their relatives to take stroke victims to the hospital immediately it is noticed. "The right quality of food to prevent hypertension called DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet should be encouraged. The main goal is to eat more vegetables and fruits while limiting intake of fats," he recommended, adding that hypertensive patients have to be placed on drugs without delay for the rest of their lives. He also advocated regular exercise sessions of, at least, 30 minutes on a daily basis, maintenance of the right body weight in proportion to one's body mass index, low consumption of salt as some of the measures aimed at preventing stroke.

Professor Onwuekwena called for improved healthcare delivery system that would lay strong emphasis on primary care, adding that health promotion leaflets and regular health talks should be given by community health nurses to stress the importance of lifestyle changes and good nutrition. He also stressed the need for rehabilitation facilities for physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy to cater to the needs of those who eventually come down with stroke.

Regretting the absence of special centres for stroke management, the Inaugural Lecturer recommended that there should be trained specialists in clinical neurology, adding: "All these are hindered by lack of funds and commitment by policy-makers on health matters. These are worsened by unhealthy rivalry amongst health workers resulting in incessant strikes."

Speaking at the end of the lecture, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lade, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for his deep insight into the subject of stroke and how it could be prevented or managed. "Professor Onwuekwena has dispelled some of the fears we harbour about certain food items we consume in this part of the world. We now know that consumption of palm oil is not detrimental to our health as was speculated by those who may wish to market alternative products.

"The bad news is that stroke affects the poor, the middle class and the upper class, but quite unfortunately, the drugs available for its treatment are mainly available to the upper class that can afford the cost. I charge the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science to focus on research that would lead to the production of drugs for patients in the lower and middle class brackets. We need to live responsibly by practising moderation in our consumption patterns in line with the recommendations of our Inaugural Lecturer," the Vice-Chancellor told the audience that included three former Vice-Chancellors

Entrepreneurship Centre, Funky Four Foundation Partner On Talent Hunt

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Entrepreneurship Centre has entered into a partnership with a Non-Governmental Organisation, the famous air personality quartet known as Funky Four Foundation to identify and train talented students to be useful to themselves on graduation from the University.

Speaking at the maiden edition of the training which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park on Thursday, October 20, 2016, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, described the theme of the event: *Creative/Artistic Talent Development for Sustainable Self-Reliance and Wealth Creation* as a step in the right direction, especially in a distressed economy.

"Apart from teaching students hands-on training and vocational skills, development of creative talents should also be an important part of training that they receive here as a means of self-employment and also generating employment opportunities for others, as well as engaging in poverty alleviation programmes," he said at the opening ceremony.

Commending the Funky Four Foundation for the collaborative effort between *now and gone* as a way of giving back to society, Professor Fawehinmi also lauded the Acting Director of the Entrepreneurship Centre, Dr. Williams Olori for his willingness to partner other NGOs in the discharge of his statutory mandate.

"We would welcome further collaborations with the Funky Four Foundation in the harvest of talents and engaging students in productive ventures. This exercise is also a means by which the Funky Four Foundation has

decided to give back to the Institution that nurtured them to great heights," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor stated.

Event Coordinator of the Foundation, Tekenu Iyalla noted that the programme was aimed at harnessing talents from the University, saying that it also served to sensitize the students on the need to identify their innate talents that could be converted to wealth creation purposes.

"This programme would go round all the Niger Delta universities. We have just flagged it off in UniPort and we will come back to identify and nurture talented students to world-class status. We have the support of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)," he said.

"We partnered some alumni who distinguished themselves in the area of entertainment to share their knowledge in developing the skills of students, following the explosion in the entertainment sector of the nation's economy," acting Director of the Entrepreneurship Centre, Dr. Olori, disclosed in his address. He further added that the collaboration would develop talents in the area of entertainment within the framework of producing job-creating graduates.

Representative of the Acting Managing Director of the NDDC, who sponsored the programme and Director in charge of Youths, Sports, Culture and Women Affairs, Mr. Prince Alariza, reiterated the commitment of the Commission to the development of the University.

"The Management of the NDDC wishes to express appreciation to the Funky Four Foundation for the initiative to develop the skills and talents of the students and we are assuring them of our active participation in the programme. It is a pilot programme and we will come back fully prepared to

cut and develop the gifted ones amongst the students," he remarked.

It would be recalled that Michael Ogoin, Tekenu Iyalla, Daniel Nwoka (aka: Dan de Humorous) of the Funky Four fame and Godwin Njoku (Dr. Virus) are alumni of the University. Kunle Kakafo makes up the famous Funky Four quartet.



A cross-session of participants

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Professor Ekeke took the position in a lead paper presentation entitled: *Communication and Development: What Communication? What Development?* at the opening ceremony of the 18th National Conference of the African Council for Communication Education at the Ebitimi Banigun Auditorium last Wednesday. He argued that mass communicators would not do well when they are not properly trained in the art of gathering and disseminating information that would help the people make informed decisions and choices as is the case in other clinics. "Specialisation and expertise go with research capabilities. Watching the Nigerian communication world, dynamic as it is, the observer cannot fail, but notice the lack of research skills among a great majority of practitioners. This is vastly different from what obtains in other clinics where specialisation beyond the general communication skills is much emphasised. Thus, to work as a reporter, the reporter must have a subject specialisation and research skills beyond what the school of mass communication offers. This is in an attempt to give the readers verified information and thereby increase public confidence in the media," Professor Ekeke submitted, pointing out that lack of proper research gives way to what he described as single line stories.

"One of the consequences of the dearth of research skills among Nigerian mass communicators is the low-level of investigative journalism. Hence, it appears to be reporters that outside the African continent who often break major stories with astonishing details and orientation. From this stems the complaint that the Western media report mainly negative stories about Africa. It is tempting to be in sympathy with this complaint because of the single story perspective in which their reports are presented," he said. Professor Ekeke queried why African journalists could not break their own stories and tell them to the world as they happened, rather than allowing others to break such stories for them and present them in their own perceptions, stating that communication and development are inseparable and critical to the transformation of society.

Professor Ekeke queried why African journalists could not break their own stories and tell them to the world as they happened, rather than allowing others to break such stories for them and present them in their own perceptions, stating that communication and development are inseparable and critical to the transformation of society.

"I cannot emphasise enough the need for communication educators and indeed for all of us to help students develop

Ekeke Tasks Journalists On Investigative Reporting



National Coordinator of ACCE, Prof Gambo (arrowed) flanked by Guest Lecturer, Prof Ekeke (right) and other guests

perspectives and the skills of critical thinking, so that they can make the necessary choices in their individual lives and help society to keep demagogues and autocrats at bay. All other discipline areas need to do the same, but it seems that communication educators bear a heavier responsibility here because, as earlier pointed out, communication as such touches on every aspect of human activity and its practitioners often mediate what others in the society come to know," Professor Ekeke added.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lue, who was represented at the occasion by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Okoy Okunukwu, expressed gratitude to the ACCE for choosing the University as venue for this year's conference. He described the theme of the conference: *Communication for Economic Development*, as most appropriate going by the current economic recession facing the country.

"The Nigerian economy is presently depressed to the point of stagnation, where there is negligible or no growth. We would not have known this without the assistance of mass communication. So, your theme is very important and we believe that this conference will discuss how communication can shape opinions and suggest ways of addressing the current economic crisis," Professor Okunukwu told the participants.

In his welcome address, National Coordinator of the ACCE, Professor Danjuma Gambo, disclosed that the conference was organised in line with the vision of the Council which was geared towards enhancing sound scholarship, productive research, training and high standards of professional practice. "It is heart-warming to note that the 18th National Conference is coming at a time when this great University has significantly

overcome some of its most recent challenges, Professor Gambo disclosed.

"It is no longer news that Nigeria is in a recession. Policy-makers and academics seem to agree that the current situation is a result of the global economic meltdown characterised by low oil prices. But even locally, gargantuan corruption, militancy in the Niger Delta region, the Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast and the activities of some people suspected to be herdsmen have combined to slow down the nation's economy," Professor Gambo said, stating that the challenge for academics and professionals was how to fashion out and push recommendations to the domain of policy in order to guide decision-makers to the right action plan.

In their separate welcome remarks, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Dr. Walter Ikpejika and Acting Head of Department, Dr. Baridat Isaac, expressed gratitude to the ACCE for awarding the conference hosting right to UniPort, hoping that the gathering of experts would proffer solutions to the country's economic crisis and deepen professional practice.

"The sub-themes for the conference covered all aspects of economic development and attracted over 300 abstracts from communication scholars from within and outside Nigeria. This goes to show how the communication scholars here in this country and how deeply concerned they are about getting things right to put the country back on the path of economic recovery," Dr. Isaac noted.

Highlights of the conference included syndicate sessions and paper presentations.

Experts Brainstorm On Trade Negotiation Techniques At ITD Lecture

By Otiok Samuel

A part of efforts aimed at offering alternative ways of growing the country's economy away from depending on the hydrocarbon industry, experts in the academia and industry gathered in the University to participate in a one-day Public Lecture under the auspices of the Institute of International Trade and Development (IITD). With the theme: *The Fundamentals of Trade Negotiations and Implications for Africa*, the lecture which held at the NLNG Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals, UPS Park along the East-West Road, had the 2nd Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cooky, as Chairman and a Consultant with International Trade Policy, Dr. Olumuyele Alaba as Guest Speaker. Presenting his paper on the theme of the Lecture, Dr. Alaba, who stressed the need for proper capacity building to empower Africans to effectively engage in global trade, explained that opportunities abounded in international trade circles that could address Nigeria's declining economy.

"This lecture is coming at a time when our country is battling to diversify through promotion of non-oil trade. We are all aware of our dependence on oil and dependence on oil has been one of the limited attention directed at non-oil trade, the economy is suffering from foreign exchange earning shocks due to the dip in

the global oil market. A strong non-oil sector would have provided a good buffer under the current circumstance. However, we are suffering from our non-optimal policy decisions to neglect non-oil trade," the Guest Speaker pointed out.

"From history, experiences and practical analysis of Africa's participation in national, regional and multilateral trading systems, Africa requires significant capacity building if it must influence global trade rules towards its own development," Dr. Alaba said.

He commended the Institute of International Trade and Development for boldly responding to the yearning capacity gaps in national, regional and global trade policy-making processes.

The Guest Speaker, who listed some of the challenges faced by African countries in actualising the vision of contracting mutually beneficial trade partnerships, noted that: "Trade negotiations which promote fairness in global trade relations is key to mutually beneficial trade arrangements for Africa."

In his remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Ilakem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lue, described the topic as very relevant to the country as it was presently facing economic downturn.

"I am optimistic that decisions reached at this Lecture will assist in policy formulation and implementation in the economic

sector. I want to thank the Director of the Institute for fostering *zowu* and *gown* relationship by assembling top professionals from the academia and industry together to discuss trade and implementation processes. The idea behind the public lecture is in line with our vision as an Entrepreneurial University. So, we will continue to do all that is within our powers to contribute to national development," Professor Fawehinmi said.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Cooky, recounted previous involvement of African countries in global trade, saying that the continent had engaged in international trade for over 500 years, mostly with European nations that also had colonialism and slavery connections. The 2nd Vice-Chancellor noted that part of the weaknesses of the previous involvements in international trade was Africa's failure to add value to its raw materials due to its inability to produce requisite manpower and requisite technology.

Earlier, Director of the Institute, Professor Augustus Gbosi, said that the Institute was established in October, 2010 as the Bamaqua Tukor Centre for International Trade and Development, which he said was a direct response to the observed capacity gaps in trade-related policy processes in Nigeria and Africa.

"Since its establishment, the Institute has graduated three sets of students in the M.Sc. degree programme in International Trade and Development. Some of the graduates of the Institute have secured employment with international and national agencies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Nigeria Export Promotion Council and other trade-related industries. The first batch of our doctoral students in Trade and Development Programme commenced lectures since April, 2016. Application for admission into the M.Sc. and PhD programmes for the 2016/2017 session is still ongoing," Professor Gbosi disclosed.

Goodwill messages were presented by Mr. Aliyu Abubakar, who represented the Minister of Trade, Hon Charles Reke who is Chairman of the Rivers State branch of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and Dr. Alfred Agura of the Nigeria Customs, amongst other personalities that graced the event.



2nd V.C., Prof Cooky (arrowed) flanked by Director of Institute, Prof Gbosi (left), Guest Speaker, Dr. Alaba, DV-Chancellor, Prof Fawehinmi (right) and other guests

Commissioning Of UPWA Multi-Purpose Complex

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, accompanied by top functionaries of the University was at the International Daycare/Nursery and Primary Schools at the Gladys Cookey Resource Centre, University Park, to commission the second phase of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) multi-purpose building. Pictures of the event which took place at the School premises on Friday, September 16, 2016, was captured by our Camera man, **HEADMANALU**:



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale being received by UPWA members



V-C, Prof Lale, giving his speech



UPWA President and Wife of the V-C, Mrs Joy Lale giving her address



Chairman of the event and Executive Director of UniPort Foundation, Prof Henry Alapiki



Prof Alapiki and UPWA members lead the V-C, Prof Lale to the new complex



V-C, Prof Lale performing the tape cutting ceremony



Faculty Officer, Mrs Carol Nwakanna, who represented Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof Okey Onuchaba unveiling the plaque



Reading tables, chairs, and computer sets for use in a class room, auditorium and computer rooms, respectively



V-C, Professor Lale with Principal Officers of the University and UPWA Executive



V-C, Prof Lale, Principal Officers of the University and UPWA members



Landscape view of the building