

UniPort To Benefit From NLNG Grant

The Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) under its University Support Programme (USP), has selected the University of Port Harcourt among six Federal universities to benefit from a N2 billion grant for research and scholarship, particularly in engineering education, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

More on pg 3

Side Bar

The Nigeria Fellowship Evangelical Students (NIFES) donated books to the University last Thursday. Details next week.



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NIM Inaugurates UniPort Chapter, To Partner On Human Resource Dev



By *Obinna Nwodim*

The authorities of University of Port Harcourt have pledged to collaborate with the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) to promote best operational practices in management and enhance service delivery in the Institution. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, made the pledge when he received a delegation of the

National Executive Committee of the Institute, who were in the University to inaugurate the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Institute, penultimate Friday.

The Vice-Chancellor, who said that "we need to build a proper bridge so that professionalism would be encouraged," stated that the University looked forward to collaborating with the Institute for improved manpower development and full

capacity utilization, aimed at improved productivity.

Professor Ajienka stressed the importance of training and re-training of human resources in any organization, maintaining that the Institute has played a major role in assisting the University achieve the objectives. He noted that inauguration of the UniPort Chapter of the Institute would yield more benefits to

Cont'd on p6

**BASS,
S., JR**

CIPM
Sensitizes
UniPort
Administrators

Story on p3

**Story
on p3**

Ajienka, Others, Extol
Ex-V-C At 80

PUMSA Mounts Health Week

Story on p4

**SERVICOM Unit Trains
Marshalls On Service Delivery**

Story on p4



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Higher Education Needs Creative Thinking, Idea Sharing

With higher education "the object of high hopes, the site of rapid change and the focus of intense scrutiny", it was imperative to think creatively and share ideas about how to tackle the evolving issues faced today, Princeton University President Christopher L. Eisgruber told a high-level global forum of university leaders and policy-makers held in Paris last week.

The second Princeton-Fung Global Forum on "The Future of Higher Education" was held from 9-11 April and was co-hosted by Princeton and the Fondation maison des sciences de l'homme.

The first forum was held in Shanghai last year, a project of the Fung Forum, which was created as part of a US\$10 million gift to Princeton from 1970 alumnus and Hong Kong businessman William Fung. The forum is intended to enhance universities' international scholarly engagement and to inspire collaborative thinking about key global issues.

Some 250 participants - among them top government officials, university leaders, Nobel prize laureates - attended the forum in the Hotel de Ville.

"As this conference itself illustrates, higher education is globalising through networks that facilitate discussion of the challenges facing colleges and universities throughout the world," Eisgruber said.

On the agenda was the role of new technologies - notably massive open online courses or MOOCs, with Coursera co-founder and Daphne Koller among the speakers - universities in the global age, how to expand access to diverse populations, universities as agents of social change and "The Future of Undergraduate Education: Breadth or depth?"

Searching for sustainable models

In a session on models for sustainable success, moderator Matthew Bishop, US business editor and New York bureau chief of The Economist, talked about a recent survey of 900 college graduates of 20 years ago aimed at finding out if higher education had paid off. It found vast differences between the pay-offs of different degrees. Bishop said that talking to Economist experts, more and more often he heard concerns expressed about whether graduates from certain academic fields would

By Jan Petter Myklebust

experience difficulties finding jobs - and finding well-paid jobs.

With the costs of attending college having soared by a factor of five over the past two decades, the entire higher education business model was now up for grabs, Bishop argued. He asked the panelists to focus on what is currently on top of the world's higher education agenda.

Higher education costs topped the concerns of Cecilia Rouse, a professor of the economics of education at Princeton and dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

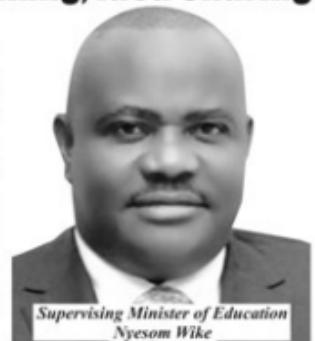
She described a steep decrease in the public share of higher education costs in the United States, from around 44% in the 1980s to 22% in 2009. The results had been soaring tuition fees, which had placed a significantly greater economic burden on students and their families. Caroline Hurych, professor of economics at Stanford University, said that the rate of return for a really good education was high, and that developing nations were now investing heavily in building world-class universities.

In highly developed countries, however, university education was being looked on as a cost, on a par with rising pension and health budget costs for a rapidly-aging population. Instead, it should be looked on as an investment in the young generation that would pay back in future.

Helga Nowotny, past president of the European Research Council and professor emerita of social studies of science at ETH Zurich, said the state-supporting model of university funding in continental Europe was sustainable and would continue to be so - even if it was showing some signs of stress.

However, there was perhaps a need for a new model of universities. "It might be time for Europe to re-import the model of liberal arts colleges that were exported to the US." That would allow for the cross-training between the natural sciences and the humanities that is needed for cognitive development and rounded human beings.

Also, Nowotny said, there are concerns about higher education not turning out to be the "big equalizer" - it was



Supervising Minister of Education
Nyesom Wike

hoped to be. For instance, a recent study had found that the average income of Harvard students' parents was US\$400,000.

As higher education expands to become non-elite, it would appear, there develop new forms of elitism.

Had the forum been held five years ago, Nowotny continued, its focus would have been on the knowledge economy and how to build it. "Not so today. The focus has shifted to the 'skills economy', and often questions are raised about if universities are giving students the skills they need."

"What has happened in Europe is a model of increased diversification of universities. The ERC programme of research excellence has contributed to this differentiation, by having universities across Europe work out dynamic strategic plans," said Nowotny.

Culled from world University News

STUDENT WORLD

Education Is Not All About Certificates ~Ebogidi

Unlike most of his peers in Nigeria today, Obinna Ebogidi, a year two student in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, believes that students should aim at acquiring skills, not just certificates. He spoke with HUMPHREY OGU on his experience and expectations as a student.

“When a child washes his hands clean he dines with elders,” says a very popular adage.

This axiom aptly captures the story of Obinna Ebogidi. He cut his teeth in journalism at the age of 15, handling a column for teenagers, “Let’s Talk

Teens” in the defunct Niger

Delta Standard newspaper. That was in 2007. Since then, he has written for newspapers and magazines, including Gift Essence Magazine, an entertainment and youth-oriented magazine and Part Harcourt City Times, an online newspaper, which he later edited. He currently works in the Press Unit,

Office of the Deputy Governor of Rivers State and currently edits Xcel Magazine.

He does not believe that knowledge is synonymous with certificates: “Our society only imposes certificates on people for status conferral. Journalism is all about skills. Once you have acquired the skills, nothing should stop you from practising it to the very best of your ability. As someone, who had had internship in reputable media houses, I am in the University to acquire a certificate to back up my practice of journalism. Enrolling into a degree programme in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies has exposed me to realities that were hitherto unknown to me. I find the lectures quite useful as they give expression to what I have been doing over the years,” he says, insisting that a certificate is not a guarantee that one can practise journalism effectively.

On lecture delivery in his Department, Ebogidi hailed the study of some linguistics courses such as semantics, phonetics and phonology as well as syntax, which he said are essential to the practice of journalism and broadcasting, stating that more needs to be done in the area of media and communication practice to expose students to the practical aspect of the profession. “As it stands now, much of what we do in communication studies

are theory-based. This is not good enough for students, who wish to go into journalism or broadcasting practice on graduation. We need more of the practical skills in the area of communication studies to enable us fit into the contemporary practice of journalism,” he observes.

Ehogidi, whose ambition in his formative age was to be a medical doctor, says: “Someday, I would like to see myself as an editor of a world renowned media title, with the capacity to influence policies of major governments of the world. I also see my career choice as an avenue to contribute my quota to nation-building, as well as a platform for me to add value to humanity.”

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UniPort To Benefit From NLNG Grant

Cont'd from p1

A statement issued on 19th March, 2014 and signed by the General Manager, External Relations of NLNG, Dr Kado Ezeala-Eke and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, disclosed that each of the six benefiting universities would get N340 million from the money to complement efforts aimed at improving the quality of education in the country.

"NLNG will spend N340 million (\$2million) in each university for the construction of modern engineering laboratories, equipped with cutting-edge equipment at the University of Ibadan, University of Ile-Ife, University of Port Harcourt, University of Maiduguri, Ahmadu Bello University and University of Nigeria, Nsukka in a project titled: NLNG University Support

Programme (USP)," Dr Ezeala-Eke said. The General Manager said that the six universities were selected based on established track record of their performance in the various geo-political zones as reflected in the rankings of the National Universities Commission (NUC) and other international bodies, adding that the universities were also selected for their contribution to local capacity development which paved way for grooming notable Nigerians.

The statement further revealed that educational intervention was a primary focus of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of NLNG, stating that the USP was part of the company's contributions to complement the efforts of government, the academia and other stakeholders to improve the quality of tertiary education in the country.



Prof. Ajienka, V-C

CIPM Sensitizes UniPort Administrators

As part of efforts aimed at promoting professionalism in the system, the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria has sensitized staff on the need to join the Institute with a view to embracing professional practice.

Speaking during the sensitization held at Ehimini Banigo Auditorium, penultimate Thursday, Chairman of the Institute, Rivers State Chapter, Mr Steve Ojeh, disclosed that the visit aimed at redirecting attitudes of members towards meetings of the State branch, regretting that some members mostly from UniPort were always absent during the meetings. It was the vacuum created by inability of UniPort members and its environs to participate in CIPM activities due to logistic challenges around the environment that brought the Institute to the university.

He said that the Institute decided to sensitize staff in the University on the need for them to participate in its programmes and create an opportunity for the Institute to return to UniPort to organise staff as a body of Human Resource (HR) managers.

"When you talk about a rule, every role should not end with the fact that one has a job now, which is a goal;

By Mercy Adeniji

every role is about growth and we should be growth-oriented. We should grow through daily experiences and your profession and HR in CIPM gives you that umbrella to grow and become a great professional; so even as an administrator today, you can grow to become a super administrator," Mr Ojeh said.

Also speaking, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnadi, disclosed that the essence of the sensitization was to encourage staff to offer quality service to the system. "As staff try to apply themselves to their job professionally, they become better at what they do. The regulations and rules are there, so you should try to know your environment and know what the job entails and apply yourself to the job, so no one looks down on you", she said, stressing that administrators need to carry themselves in such a way that people don't look down on them.

I am looking forward to a crop of Administrative staff that would be thoroughly professional in whatever thing they do; staff that would produce documents that are error-free, because Administrators are people who

are extremely careful. It would not be advisable for anyone to be in a system without people recognising or remembering that you were once in the system, so there is need to be part of the Institute to remain relevant," the Registrar said.

She further appealed to Administrators to always be very professional in the performance of their job schedules, expressing gratitude to the Institute for coming to partner UniPort. She further hoped that the Institute would partner the UniPort branch to transform the Registry Department for the future growth of the University. Highlight of the event was the inauguration of an Interim Executive with Dr Agatha Ataga as Chairman, Mrs Elizabeth Ndikoh (Vice-Chairman), Mr Job Bogbara (Public Relations Officer), Mrs Christy Nwora (Secretary), Mrs Dowye Alale (Assistant Secretary), Princewill Ntimeli (Financial Secretary), Mrs Helen Owhonda-Wespara (Treasurer), Mrs Justina Yakubu (Member) and Mr Furo Braide (Member).

Other Members of the Institute present were: Dr Banigo Yaupele, Messrs Albert Ogodi, Anthony Usifo, Samuel Ebokon and Mr Geoffrey Agarom.



Rivers State Chairman of CIPM, Mr Ojeh, his team and Senior Officers of the University at the event

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has paid glowing tributes to second Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Sylvanus Coosey, for the solid foundation he laid during his eight year tenure in the exalted office.

Professor Ajienka made the remark when he led senior officers of the University to pay Professor Coosey an 80th Birthday courtesy visit in his Port Harcourt residence, along Perkulu Street, last Wednesday.

The Vice-Chancellor, who said that successive administrations have built on the legacies of the solid foundation laid by the likes of Professor Coosey, stated that the University would ever remain grateful to him for his services. He said that "the challenges of leading

an Institution like UniPort are tasks and we wondered what you must have passed through during your tenure in office." Professor Ajienka said that they were in his residence to felicitate with him and wished the Octogenarian more fruitful and healthy years ahead.

In their separate speeches, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka; Director, Institute of Niger Delta Studies, Professor Abi Dereka; Dean, Student Affairs, Professor Henry

Bell-Gani; former Head, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Professor John Enemewiem; Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Photomedicine, Professor Omotayo Ebong; Professor Coosey's elder sister, Mrs Jemimah Nwanche; daughter-in-law, Dr Eremia Coosey and one of his Doctoral Supervisors, Dr Emma Gbene, extolled the natural qualities exhibited by Professor Coosey in both his public and private life. They described him as a leader and mentor, who did his best in his service to humanity in the academia, church and the larger society.

Responding, the Celebrant, Professor Coosey, who said that he was humbled by the surprise visit, advised staff to ensure that they leave legacies behind for the sustainability of the Institution. "People come and go, but the legacies left behind would suffice generations yet unborn," he stated.

The event featured presentation of a birthday card by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the University and musical performance by the University of Port Harcourt Concert Chorus.



7th V-C and celebrant, Prof Coosey (7th right) flanked by V-C, Prof Ajienka (left), DV-C (Admin) Prof Ethelbert Nduka (right), other members of UniPort delegation, family members and well-wishers in a group photograph

Diamond Bank Seeks More Partnership With UniPort

By Otikor Samuel

Preparatory to its full commencement of banking activities on Campus, Diamond Bank Plc, has proposed more partnership to include funding of projects, capacity building for contractors, project account services, biometric monitoring and student support initiatives. Speaking as head of a four-man delegation on a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka in the Committee Room on Tuesday, 25th March, 2014, the Director of Regional

Businesses, South, Chris Ofikulu, expressed readiness of the Bank to add value to the University in line with the vision of its Chief Executive Officer and Group Managing Director, Dr Alex Otti, who is also a Distinguished Alumnus of the University. Mr Ofikulu, who disclosed that Dr Otti is passionate about rendering quality service to his Alma Mater, also expressed willingness to partner the University to sustain some of its publications, such as *UniPort Weekly* and *Unique UniPort*. "We find the publications interesting. We will be glad to

come back to fine-tune the arrangement that would enable us factor our partnership into the publication process," the Regional Director said. In his response, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, said the Group Managing Director, Dr Otti was a huge asset which the University is proud of, stating that the University Community was waiting anxiously for the Bank to fully commence business operations on Campus, which was why the Governing Council speedily approved a new branch of Diamond Bank in the University.

"The name Alex Otti rings a bell here. He was a member of our Governing Council. He is a fine gentleman and that was part of the reasons we concluded the discussion at the level of the Governing Council. There are opportunities available here and banks can also assist us in different areas," Professor Ajienka said, pointing out the important role of the private sector to economic growth.

Other top officers of the Bank on the visit were: Regional Manager, Port Harcourt Region, Mr Paul Okorosfor; Business Manager, Ikwerre Road Branch, Ann Gozie-Naakenyi and Relationship Officer, Boma



V-C, Prof Ajienka (middle) flanked by Registrar, Mrs Nnadi (right), Director, Regional Businesses, South, Mr Ofikulu (left), some Senior Officers of the University and staff of Diamond Bank Plc

Briggs.

Immediate past Director, Institute of Maternal and Child Health, Professor Alice Nte, has emphasized the role of medical students in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, calling for concerted efforts from every stakeholder to achieve the seemingly impossible feat.

Professor Nte, who made the observation at a lecture titled: "Our Role in the Millennium Development Goals - A Healthier Nigeria Starts with you," to mark the 2014 PUMSA Health Week at the Ebinihi Banigo Auditorium, last Tuesday, lauded the students for their sense of commitment to their studies and healthcare of the University's host communities.

Nte stated that "there is urgent need to accelerate effort towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals as all hands must be on deck to ensure that these goals are achieved by helping to improve maternal health, reduce child mortality, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and also ensure environmental sustainability."

Highlighting the MDGs 4, 5 and 6, Professor Nte disclosed that studies have shown that HIV prevalence is highest among people within the age bracket of 15-24 years old, urging them to learn to protect themselves, adding: "We have to start doing things differently, by learning to adopt clean practices, make our homes a friendly place, so people would know that you are healthy in character and learning."

According to Professor Nte, the MDGs have significantly impacted on the lives of millions of vulnerable persons globally as several of these Millennium Development targets have already been met or are within close reach and making Nigeria

Ex-IMCH Director Stresses Importance Of MDGs At PUMSA Health Week

By Mercy Adeniji and Humphrey Ogu

healthier begins with everybody. The government has a responsibility to the health sector to ensure that these goals are achieved by 2015 and this can only be fulfilled by providing adequate health and social measures that would uplift the lifestyle of the people, the former Director said.

She disclosed that people have the right and duty to participate individually and collectively in the planning and implementation of healthcare programmes that affect them. "Global survey by the United Nations and partners ask us to choose our priorities for a better world. People should begin to think of innovative ways of helping the less-privileged. We should get involved in helping to accelerate the success of MDGs. Each of us can contribute in our own little way by learning to develop a personal plan of action and make our voices heard wherever we find ourselves, because a healthier nation starts with us," Professor Nte added.

Earlier, President of Port Harcourt University Medical Students Association (PUMSA), Lawrence Osanche, had said that the *Health Week* is an annual event where students showcase their talents and what they have learnt in the past years and their contribution to the society. "During our Medical Rural Outreach, we went to Omleria community in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, where we gave the people health

talk and enlightened the younger ones on early pregnancy and administered drugs to them," Osanche disclosed, expressing gratitude to Management for giving them an opportunity to showcase their talents and their sponsors, including Isolomie Noodles, Coca-Cola Bottling Company and Airtel Nigeria.

Elaborating on the theme of this year's PUMSA Week, Osanche said the MDGs, which include poverty eradication and ways of dealing with medicine, child and maternal mortality and safe motherhood, starts with everybody and not only the government. "So, we are looking forward to a situation where people would be responsible for their health and environment, because a healthy Nigeria is in our hands, not only in the hands of the health personnel."

Highlight of the event was an inter-College Parliamentary Style Debate and Quiz aimed at fostering unity among students in different Colleges and Faculties and also enhancing academic performances by the students. The topic of the Debate and Quiz, which featured PUMSA, Faculty of Humanities (FHUSA), Faculty of Social Science (SOSSA) and Faculty of Pharmacy was: "Anarchi's Primary Health System should be used as a model to achieve MDG 4 and 6" with PUMSA emerging overall winners. The *Health Week*, also featured an awareness campaign rally within the University and some of its host communities—Aliaz, Alakalila and Choba.

STOP PRESS 3RD UNIPORT BOOK FAIR

The third edition of the annual UniPort Book Fair would commence on Monday, 28th April, 2014 with an opening ceremony at Ebinihi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. The book exhibition would commence immediately after the opening ceremony and last till Friday, 2nd May, 2014. Major book publishers and vendors have already registered to participate in the Fair. They have also promised price reduction that will favour their patrons, especially staff and students. Besides regular curriculum-based books, there will be professional, as well as leisure time reading materials. The University Community and general public are invited.



Prof Nte (right) and PUMSA President, Mr Osanche (left) at the Health Week

As part of efforts aimed at formulating a good service delivery system in the University with a view to attaining internationally acceptable best operational practices, the SERVICOM Unit organised a workshop to train Marshalls and Brigadiers, last Tuesday, at the International Students' Centre, University Park. Declaring open the workshop, Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tony Arinze, who disclosed that the workshop was geared towards ensuring quality service delivery in the University, added that the newly-trained Marshalls and Brigadiers would police and enforce compliance of the mandate of SERVICOM at the various units. "This workshop is aimed at building your capacity to work effectively and carry out service delivery initiative, introduce you to your roles and responsibilities and teach you how to introduce change and advocacy in your service wins."

He recalled that the last time SERVICOM organized a forum, "staff were told that they are servants and that we are here to serve, whether as messengers, cleaners, technologists, administrators or whatever job we are assigned to do. We also said that the justification is meant to give a brand-based service to people as the major stakeholders in the University are students because the University was primarily set up for the students."

Professor Arinze, who doubles as the Focal Officer of SERVICOM in the University, said that since people come into the system to access services, they should be able to get proper attention on every desk, so that they can leave with a good institutional memory and also appreciate the fact that they have met civilized people. He stated that "our customers or clients are parents, pre-degree students, graduates, staff, contractors, collaborators, partners, agencies, host communities, organizations and the general public."

Professor Arinze said the competencies, knowledge skills

and experience required of each of the officers is "to spearhead the University service delivery initiative through SERVICOM compliance, supervise activities of staff of the Units, make available charters for public information, submit quarterly action plan to the SERVICOM office for consideration and approval, develop and carry out sensitization programmes for your Faculty, Department or Unit and also carry out

duties that may be assigned by the focal officer."

"We should congratulate ourselves because under the poor funding situation in which we find ourselves, we are able to do what we are doing," the Director said, commending the participants for gracing the workshop.

"You are making sacrifices, so the University can grow," he said, listing poor attitude to work, academic corruption, plagiarism, poor policy implementation, among others, as major challenges facing the university system.

SERVICOM Unit Trains Marshalls On Prompt Service Delivery

By Mercy Adeniji and Friday Marcus

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Focal Officers SERVICOM UniPort, Prof Arinze addressing the trainees

CCE Reviews Progress On A-Level Project

By Ottik Samuel

In readiness for the kick-off of full academic activities in September this year, Management of the College of Continuing Education (CCE), last Wednesday, met with implementation partners to ensure timely delivery of the Advanced Level School building project sited at the University Park.

Speaking during a meeting attended by the Implementation Committee, representatives of the Department of Physical Planning and Development

(DPPD), Contractors and funding partners, Director, CCE, Professor Steve Okadada, disclosed that the meeting was aimed at appraising the progress of work on the building project to ensure that the project is delivered on schedule as envisaged by management of the University.

"We are meeting to take critical decisions on the progress so far made on the A-Level School project and how we would progress beyond what we have already done and to draw attention to the fact that the project must be on the fast track. This is because by September this year, we

must take off and by virtue of the fact that we must take off, it is important that we must deliver the project early enough to enable those who are going to work here settle down as quickly as possible," Professor Okadada said.

The Director, who acknowledged that there were few challenges resulting from weather conditions, technical and other sundry issues, disclosed that considerable progress had been made, adding that the stakeholders would continue to meet until the project is delivered within the stipulated timeframe.

Responding, representative of the consulting firm, Prime Consultants, Mrs. Daboh Elechi-Awani, expressed confidence that the project would be delivered on schedule with the cooperation of all parties involved in its speedy realization.

In her remarks, Chairman, Advanced Level School Implementation Committee, Dr Ngoddy Odu, who stressed the need for all partners to work as a team, commended them for deliberating on knotty issues surrounding the project with a view to resolving outstanding issues to fast track its delivery.

The meeting was attended by Management of CCE led by the Director, Professor Okadada; College Secretary, Mr Ejikeme Ichendu and Mr Bruno Oaisigie. Others were the A-Level School Implementation Committee, Dr Odu; Epic Properties Services, Prime Consultants and the funding partner, Fidelity Bank Plc led by the Branch Leader, Vivienne Bucknor.



CCE Director, Prof Okadada (2nd left), flanked by Chairman, A-Level School Implementation Ctee, Dr Odu, College Secretary (CCE), Mr Ichendu (left), Branch Leader, Fidelity Bank Plc, Vivienne Bucknor (right) and other implementation partners

Elechi Amadi Turns 80 May 12

By Williams Wodi

Hurrah! Famous author of *The Concubine*, playwright, polemicist, essayist and elder statesman, Dr. Elechi Amadi, joins the honourable Class of Octogenarians on Monday, 12th May, 2014.

To mark the historic event, the organizers have lined up an International Conference under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajienka. Other literary and cultural events are also lined up to mark event. Elechi Amadi's 80th birthday is being organized under the auspices of the Rivers State branch of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA).

A statement signed on behalf of the organizers by ANA,

Rivers Chairman, Mr. Obioma Nwodim, disclosed that renowned academic, Professor Godwin Darah of Delta State University, will be Keynote Speaker during the opening ceremony, while the Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Honourable Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, is expected to be Special Guest of Honour at the landmark event, which is expected to attract guests from in and outside Nigeria. The statement further added that Elechi Amadi's birthday ceremony would hold on Monday, 12th May, 2014, at Ebirim Banigo Auditorium, University Park at 10:00am, urging the general public to attend the series of events lined up to celebrate Elechi Amadi at 80.

It would be recalled that Amadi is currently a Writer-in-Residence in the University of Port Harcourt, alongside other renowned Writers such as Gabriel Okara and Ifeanyi Aniebo.



Dr Amadi

NIM Inaugurates UniPort Chapter, To Partner On Human Resource Dev



V-C, Prof Ajenika (4th left front row), flanked by National President of NIM, Dr Uwaga, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim (right) and Dr Oda (left) and other Senior Officers and members of NIM

Cont'd from p1

its growth. "We are desirous to be a fully functional Chapter of the Institute that would contribute its abundant intellectual capacity for the benefit of NIM. It would avail us the opportunity to train a lot of staff and if staff are properly trained, the system would survive and grow," he stated, pointing out that it would also improve the quality of service delivery.

Professor Ajenika, who is a Fellow of the Institute, advised staff to take interest in membership of professional bodies to enhance their pool of experience and productivity. "My advice to our colleagues is for them to take interest in professional bodies. The benefits of membership are enormous. We will like to benefit from the

training programmes of the Institute," he stated. Earlier in his address, National President of the Institute, Dr Nelson Uwaga, who commended the authorities for being NIM-friendly, said that the Institute has a lot of programmes which the University could benefit from, adding that the Institute would come up with a full package on the areas of collaboration that would benefit staff of the University.

He commended the Vice-Chancellor for his vision which has brought a lot of innovations in the University. "The Vice-Chancellor has not stopped looking for what can improve the University. In recent times, we have been talking about entrepreneurship and that is what the administration is doing here," he stated.

The event which featured the formal inauguration of the University of Port Harcourt and Akpor Chapters of the Institute, had a Lecture titled: "Effective Management as a Tool for National Development", delivered by former National President of the Institute, Chief Lugard Amiuwu.

Members of the Executive Committee of the new UniPort Chapter are: Mrs Flora Iyanga, Chairman; Dr Edwina Amah, Vice-Chairman; Mr Ekanem Ekane, Secretary; Dr Felicia Aywo, Treasurer, while Mrs Blessing Korubio-Owiye is financial Secretary. Others are: Mr Anthony Nwaghara, Assistant Secretary; Mrs Selina Inko-Tarikh, Public Relations Officer and Mr Job Begbara, Auditor.

Two weeks ago, very grateful authorities of the University of Port Harcourt took delivery of a refurbished Food and Industrial Microbiology Laboratory donated by former Permanent Secretary in the Rivers State Ministry of Education, Dr Richard Ofuru. The gesture was in memory of a woman who played a major role in his life, Mrs Emily Okwukwu. The laboratory valued at millions of naira was a major boon in the enhancement of research in the Department of Microbiology. As we know, research is the core of any academic activity and when there is no research in any institution, such institution is as good as dead. It is in this light that such a gesture has put life back into the Department in a substantial way. Prior to this time, the Laboratory was in a very state with little or no equipment for use by staff; Laboratory staff idled away for the fact that there were no facilities to work with. It was a frustrating situation for them. This explained the reason why they were all full of smiles as the laboratory was handed over to the authorities of the University by the donor.

A visibly elated Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenika, said the gesture which was remarkable has taught the authorities and many people how to show appreciation for acts of kindness. This stems from the story of Dr Ofuru, who disclosed how the late Mrs Okwukwu took care of him as a child and nurtured him to what he is today. Ofuru had likened himself to the Biblical Moses, who was given birth to and taken to the bank of the River Nile by his mother, hoping that a Good Samaritan would see him and pick him up. That indeed was the case of Dr Ofuru. Today, he decided to immortalize his childhood mentor through the gesture of establishing a Laboratory in her honour. Donating the Laboratory to the University of Port Harcourt is a very special event that would be in permanent remembrance.

For the Vice-Chancellor, it is a great lesson for all to remember to show gratitude in a way that would benefit mankind through worthy activities that would immortalize legacies. Just as Dr Ofuru assured, the legacy would remain for generations yet unborn to appreciate the act of philanthropy and

Lessons From Ofuru's Philanthropy In Honour Of Emily Okwukwu

By Obinna Nwodim

how to requite it. Many did not know the Late Mrs Okwukwu, but today we know that a virtuous woman with a milk of human kindness in her heart walked through this stage of life and left an imprint on the sands of time. And as were made to understand, Dr Ofuru's kind gesture would soon extend to the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the Faculty of Humanities.

In all, it is worthy to commend the University of Port Harcourt Foundation for its ability to reach out when

it matters most. The Foundation was able to strike the right cord at the right time and the needed result was achieved. It goes a long way to justify the essence of establishing the office and also indicative of the fact that there is more to come. An old African adage says that the chick that would grow into a hen is known from the day it hatches. With the kind of leadership provided by the Acting Director, Dr Ngosi Oda, coupled with her unquenchable desire to get results, there is no doubt that better days for infrastructural development in the University of Port Harcourt through the Foundation, are coming.



V-C, Prof Ajenika (bending), Provost, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Prof Nnenna Frank-Peterside (behind) and others inspecting the Lab

GUIDEPOST

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Patience Akani, offered Temporary Appointment as Lecturer I in the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

Miss Linda Igwezie, offered Temporary Appointment as Graduate Assistant in the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor Nobel Nwaeze, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State, granted a one-year Sabbatical Appointment in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, effective on assumption of duty.

Professor C.R.C. Obasogie, Department of Polymer & Textile Engineering, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Imo State, granted a one-year Sabbatical Appointment in the Department of Pure & Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Samuel Udofia, Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, granted a one-year Sabbatical Appointment as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Chris Nwanneka, granted a one-year Sabbatical Appointment as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

Mrs Francis Ananue, Enugu Campus Library, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Enugu State, granted a one-year Sabbatical Appointment as Principal Librarian in the Donald Ekong Library, University of Port Harcourt, effective on assumption of duty.

RENEWAL OF ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Dr N.E. Agwas, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Science, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, offered Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Senior Lecturer, effective 13th April, 2014 to 12th April, 2015.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mrs. Chinweoke Ifeanyi-Obie, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted Review of Status from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective 28th January, 2014.

Dr Judith Nkechi Obiora, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, upgraded from the status of Lecturer II to Lecturer I, effective 24th April, 2013. This supersedes the earlier version published in March 24-31 edition of UniPort Weekly.

EXTENSION OF STUDY LEAVE

Mrs. Mary Igwezie, Information Services Division, Donald Ekong Library, granted Extension of Study Leave with Pay for six months covering April to September, 2014 to enable her conclude her studies at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

INTER-FACULTY TRANSFER

Dr Edward Bristow-Alaghbaria, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted Inter-Faculty Transfer to the Faculty of Law, effective 24th March, 2014.

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

NUC PLANS AUTISM STUDIES IN VARSITIES

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has disclosed plans to introduce the study of Autism in the country's university curriculum to build capacity in the field of special education. Executive Secretary of NUC, Professor Julius Okojie dropped the hint at a one-day seminar organized by the Commission in collaboration with a non-governmental agency, Autism Care and Support Initiative (ACS) in Abuja, penultimate Thursday.

IZUEGBUNEM EMERGES RSUST BGS

A graduate of the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Science and mother of one, Mrs Chidinma Ezeiegbohene, emerged the Best Graduating Student (BGS) at the 26th Convocation of the Rivers State University of



Supervising Minister of Education
Nyesom Wike

Science and Technology, Nkpolu-Otororukwo held last Month. She got a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.64 on a five-point scale.

USMANU DANFODIYO VARSITY MATRICULATES FRESHERS

A total of 4,024 fresh students have taken the Matriculation Oath for the 2013/14 session, which qualifies them as *bona fide* students of Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto State.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Risikuwa Shehu, who disclosed this during the ceremony, said 4,024 students were admitted from the over 9,000 applicants from both the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and Direct Entry processes.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS IHEJIENE U. NGOZI. Former Miss Egbedu Ngosi U.S. of the Pro-Chancellor's Lodge, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Ihejiene U. Ngozi. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

STOP PRESS

EASTER CHILDREN FUNFAIR

The Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, wishes to inform the University Community and the general public of its entertainment programme for children tagged: "Easter Children Funfair" to thrill children and pupils in Nursery, Primary and Secondary School levels. Separate releases signed by the Acting Head of Department, Dr Julie Umukoro, and Coordinator, Unipart Children's Training Programme (UCTP), Dr Faith Ken-Amaechi, disclosed that the event scheduled for Easter Sunday, 20th and Easter Monday, 21st April, 2014 would commence at noon each day and close at 5:00pm at the Arts Theatre (*The CRAF*), Delta Park. Activities lined up for the event include horse and train riding, spelling bees, quiz, acrobatics, puppetry, drama sketches, masquerade displays, King-Kong, Banay, Ben-Ten and Spiderman shows, cultural dances, amongst other side attractions.

SERVICOM CORNER

SERVICOM UNIT

The SERVICOM Unit of the University of Port Harcourt is to monitor, implement and publish the following services:

- Monitoring service delivery in all service windows of the University
- Take Complaints from all UNIPORT Customers.
- Address all complaints from customers.
- Routine check on all service windows.
- Checking staff present on seat.
- Taking attendance of early comers and staff at work.
- Ensuring effective service delivery within our University system.
- Consultation with all stakeholders.
- Organizing sensitization workshops on how to improve service delivery.
- Conducting opinion poll on our service delivery.
- Time table compliance
- Admission guidelines
- Directional signs in the University
- Compliance evaluation
- Timelines set by the University for

I. Release of Result

II. Release of Transcripts

III. Release of Certificates

IV. Maintain clean environment

Relate to other organs of the University and Quality Assurance/Quality Control Unit.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 13-SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 13 April, 2014	34.8	25.8	62	N	12.7 6.26-6.39	Strong thunderstorm expected... Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
MONDAY, 14 April, 2014	36.0	25.8	64	NE	-	Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 15 April, 2014	33.0	25.8	56	NE	-	Partly sunny day extremely hot day anticipated
WEDNESDAY, 16 April, 2014	33.0	25.8	62	N	-	Partly sunny and warm day expected.
THURSDAY, 17 April, 2014	33.0	25.8	59	N	2.2 6.25-6.38	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.
FRIDAY, 18 April, 2014	33.0	25.8	56	N	-	Partly sunny and warm day expected.
SATURDAY, 19 April, 2014	33.0	25.8	53	NE	7.1 6.24-6.30	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.

SANDRA NWABUFO
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOTU
DIRECTOR, (CDM/DIS)

Inaugural Brain Awareness Day

The Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences (CHS), joined the rest of the world to mark the 2014 edition of Brain Awareness Day on Thursday, March 13, 2014. Here are highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, HEADMANALU.



Chairman of the occasion,
Prof Blessing Didie, giving a speech



Initiator of the programme,
Prof Amadi Ihunwe, presenting an address



Deputy Provost, CHS,
Prof Owunari Georgewil, making a speech



HoD, Neurology, UPTH,
Prof Arthur Omenachukwu, (standing)



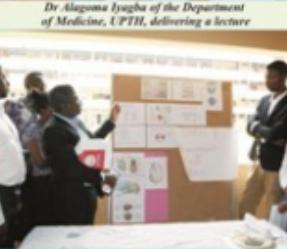
Dr Akaguma Izugba of the Department
of Medicine, UPTH, delivering a lecture



Ag Head, Department of Human Anatomy,
Dr Chukwueze Paul, speaking



A cross-section of students listening to the lecture



Students and staff at one of the exhibition stands



Another exhibition stand



Human Anatomy student
naming the brain in a Nigerian language



Human Anatomy student, Obinna Eze,
displays a study aid he produced



A group of students, displaying
a human skeletal system