



Magna Carta Can Deepen Nigeria's Democracy ~Walson-Jack

As Colleges, Faculties and other arms take turns to mark the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the establishment of UniPort, the emergent Faculty of Law which commenced academic activities in the 2014/2015 session also joined in the celebration with a weeklong series of activities last Monday, reports *Onikar Samuel*. More on p3

Side Bar

Prof Florence Nduka of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology delivers the 120th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week. ~Editor



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UniPort Signs Pact On Medical Outreach With Degema Community

By Obinna Nwodin

Barely five weeks after authorities of the University inspected a facility donated by the Oluoma Community in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State, for rural posting of students in the Department of Nursing Science, the University has formally taken over the facility, with a pledge to put it to proper use for the benefit of the community.

The impressive handover of the facility took place following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University and the Council of Tradition Rulers of the Community at the Palace of the Paramount Ruler, Alabo Omubo Tom Big-Harry, last Thursday. Speaking at the signing ceremony,

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who expressed gratitude to the Community over the gesture, described the development as "proof of the community's high level regard for projects geared towards rural development and total wellbeing of the people. It takes an enlightened leadership that understands the pressing needs of the people to accept this partnership

with the University."

He showered praises on the Oluoma Council of Traditional Rulers for showing understanding of the intrinsic value of the collaboration with the University. Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, assured

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NSMBM President Meets UniPort Members



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2015 World Voice Day



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ASUU Referendum



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Registry, CGS Celebrate UniPort Today



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NSBMB President Meets UniPort Members, Students

It was like using one stone to kill two birds as Professor Obinna Njoku, who was joined by Professor Lawrence Ezeanyika, availed themselves the opportunity of examining Final Year students of the University on their Viva Voce to interact with staff and students on the template of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL, covered the event for UniPort Weekly.

The renowned academics from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, were in the University of Port Harcourt as External Examiners in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences. After assessing the students, they held an interactive session on April 9, 2015, with students and staff of the Department at the Ebikent Banjo Auditorium and Emerald Energy Institute, respectively, to appraise their performances and brief them on the activities of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

President of the Society, Professor Njoku, praised the students for undertaking quality research at the Undergraduate level, soliciting full participation by Biochemists and students on the activities of the Society.

"I want to commend the quality of research by students of this University; from our interaction with some of the students, I have no doubt that research works carried out here are comparable to what is obtainable in other universities in and outside Nigeria," the President said.

"I will wish to use this opportunity to appreciate scholars like Emeritus Professor Emmanuel Anosike and Professor Obinuro Ayilogu for galvanizing our members from UniPort to swing the votes in my favour as President of the Society and to also acquaint some of you with programmes of the Society. My administration has in the past four years committed itself to strengthening our membership, giving the Society international visibility through conferences, seminars and partnering research institutes and the industry to expand our Society. We are, however, still facing some challenges that militate against the attainment of full status as a scientific organization," the President said, urging old and intending members



Head, Dept of Biochemistry, Prof Wegwu (2nd left) President, NSBMB, Prof Njoku, Profs Ayilogu, Ezeanyika, Monago, Onyike and other staff after the session

to fulfill the basic requirements specified for full membership of the body.

Njoku, who is nearing the end of his tenure, disclosed that the Society would host an international conference in Minna, Niger State, in June this year.

Also speaking, Professor Ezeanyika, who was former Head of Biochemistry at UNN, said the interactive session offered a rare privilege for the students to learn more from interactions with their teachers. He praised the Department for treating them well and providing a conducive atmosphere to assess the students on a professional platform.

Provost of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Naema Frank-Peterside, who stated that Biochemistry was one of the most sought-after Departments in the College, revealed that the College had to put a peg on the number of students seeking admission into the Department to conform to its carrying-capacity.

In a Power-Point presentation, Head of Department, Professor Matthew Wegwu, who briefed the visitors on the institutional profile of the Department, disclosed that it currently had 38 teaching staff, including seven Professors, 10 Senior Lecturers and 26 non-teaching staff.

Wegwu further listed the endowment of the Emmanuel Anosike Chair of Biochemistry, Emmanuel Paulker Chair of Sickle-Cell Research and Bene Willie Abhey Chair of Nutrition and Environmental Biochemistry, including the Gabriel Ekeke Centre for Sickle-Cell Research, as some of the remarkable achievements recorded by the Department in recent times.

Others who spoke at the session included: Professors Ayilogu, Ben Ndukwa, Comfort Monago and Ayalogu of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry Students, Michael Ezenzor.

Matriculation Beyond Merrymaking

By Humphrey Ogu

After the razzmatazz that accompanied the 36th Matriculation Ceremony on Tuesday, April 14, 2015; the big question now is: What next for the joyous Matriculants? This is one question that should agitate the minds of those candidates who were fortunate enough to secure a place in the Undergraduate programmes of the University of Port Harcourt. This is no mean feat. Not every candidate that wished to be admitted into the University actualised their dreams. There is really a tide in the affairs of men (women), as William Shakespeare would say.

Little wonder then that those 6, 930 lucky candidates, who were privileged to take the *Matriculation Oath* celebrated their success with pomp and pageantry into the wee hours of the following day. Such a huge success story deserves to be celebrated in grand style. It was, indeed, their finest hour and nobody had the right to stop them from climbing to the rooftops to proclaim their arrival in the University as *bona fide* students. It was a golden moment to cherish by the Fresh Students,

their parents, friends and well-wishers. Even their enemies could not help, but envy their spectacular achievement on that day. In a country where over one million candidates write the almighty Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) every year and nervously await the result, you would not blame the successful ones for gloating over their arrival at the hallowed corridors of the academia.

A Matriculation Ceremony is akin to an initiation rite into the academia. It confers on the newly-admitted candidates, a new status as *bona fide* students of the University. Now, however, the Matriculation Ceremony is over. The cannons are now silent and the new students have commenced the race—the academic race that brought them into the University. This is a very long distance race that requires all the energy and determination of the runners at every point.

Sadly, not all the students that celebrated their matriculation in grand style last Tuesday seem to have a clear idea why they are in the University. This is so, despite a well-organised Orientation programme that was meant to enlighten the new intakes on how to make

the best out of their studentship. Having succeeded in securing a place in the University, they feel they have arrived. In other words, they see their admission or may, the Matriculation as an end in itself. That is where they will be making a gross error of judgment. As they would soon find out, there is a huge gap between a mere Matriculant and a full-fledged Graduate. Sadly, there is no middle ground in-between the two extremities of their expectation.

The only way these new students can get the best out of their days as students in the University, is to make academics a priority—their new "idol". To the Matriculants, I will like to say congratulations! I congratulate you all with all honesty. However, do not lose sight of the fact that you are now in the cockpit as pilot of the plane that will take you to your new destination. That means you can fly it high and land safely or you may decide to over-shoot the runway without obeying air traffic control rules—just like that! So, know your destination; set a goal; stay focussed and work hard to achieve such goals—by arriving at your destination safely without announcing mayday. You could take the first class, second class, third class to your preferred destination or even choose to fall with distinction! Yes, that is also allowed here. But the choice is entirely yours to make. And the time to take the decision is now.

Right now, it is take-off time. So, fasten your seatbelt and get set on this defining journey to a destination of your choice. Meanwhile, I wish you exactly what you wish yourself—that is based on your preparation, your motivation and purpose! Let flight take off. Good luck folks!



A Cross-section of the Matriculants

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Magna Carta And Nigeria's Democracy

A major highlight of the celebration was a lecture delivered last Tuesday by renowned social activist and legal icon, Mr. Nimi Walsan-Jack, who treated guests to what could be described as a classic lecture entitled: *Magna Carta: An Icon of Freedom and a Document for the Democratic Process* at the Emerald Energy Institute, off the East-West Road, University of Port Harcourt.

The Guest Lecturer, who stated that the choice of the topic was influenced by the fact that members of the legal profession, human rights proponents and democrats around the world were celebrating the 800th Anniversary of *Magna Carta* with the theme, *Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law* this year, reasoned that the topic of his lecture would be a perfect mix of time and chance to commemorate the anniversary of an idea that helped shape constitutional democracy in the world. He added that the Celebrations would also deepen the understanding of the contributions of the Charter to the promotion of rights and freedom of individuals everywhere in the world.

Giving the background to the Lecture, Mr. Walsan-Jack stated that "the document that became known as *Magna Carta* was first issued in the meadow that is called Runnymede between Windsor and Staines, England on June 15, 1215. It resulted from negotiations, culminating in a meeting at Runnymede, between King John and rebellious English aristocrats, who drove the country to the brink of civil war. The 1215 Charter was handwritten in Latin on a single piece of sheepskin parchment approximately 18 inches square-about the same surface area as a 27" computer monitor or TV screen. Its text runs less than 4,000 words-somewhat shorter than that of the original 1787 U.S. Constitution."

Magna Carta, he said, is a Latin word for 'Great Charter' which had been cited and relied upon for judicial opinions and decisions in Courts of Law and Justice around the world in cases concerning due process of law, criminal trials, constitutionalism, antitrust matters, *habeas corpus*, civil rights and liberties, cruel and unusual punishment and excessive fines.

The Human Rights Lawyer, who explained the significance of the Charter to the administration of justice, said *Magna Carta* laid the foundations for most of the fundamental concepts in the legal system, adding that: "*Magna Carta* continues to inform our thinking about rights and liberty. When Eleanor Roosevelt introduced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the United Nations Assembly in 1948, she referred to it as an international *Magna Carta* for all humanity. Nelson



Staff and students of the Faculty of Law during procession

Mandela cited *Magna Carta* in his eloquent statement from the dock in the Rivonia trial in 1964. Courts around the world have referenced *Magna Carta* thousands of times. *Magna Carta* has transcended its original time and place and has become an enduring worldwide symbol of liberty and the rule of law."

Walsan-Jack, who stressed the need for every individual to seek an understanding of law in line with the dictum that the practice of law is for lawyers, while knowledge of the law is for everybody, congratulated the University for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of its establishment, stating that: "even though I did not have the privilege of being formally educated in this institution, I have enjoyed life-impacting relationships with distinguished members of this academic community. I have learnt a lot from associating with its students, faculty and graduates...The number of Inaugural Lectures I have attended in this Institution could qualify me for a Bachelor's degree in mixed disciplines."

In his address entitled: *Brief History of the Faculty of Law*, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Kanye Ebeku, who traced the approval for the establishment of a Faculty of Law to the 33rd Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Senate which held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, regretted the delay in the commencement of academic activities until last session, when his team kick-started the process with the pioneer set of Diploma students.

The Dean assured prospective students and parents that the Bachelor of Law (LL.B) programme would commence in the next session with some of the Diploma

students, who meet the stipulated standards at the end of their two-year programme.

Professor Ebeku praised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, for his unflinching commitment to the successful take-off of the Faculty. He also commended the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education for funding various ongoing projects for the Faculty in the University.

Earlier, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, welcomed guests to the Lecture; stating that even though the Faculty was the newest in the University, it had started on a sound footing to the admiration of many observers.

Other activities that formed the historic celebration were: a *Moot Court Session*, which tried a student for impersonation; *Law Clinic* which offered free legal advice to members of the University Community and Law Debate on whether it was proper to forbid same sex marriage in Nigeria. The celebration was wrapped up with a *Thanksgiving Service* at Our Saviour's Chapel (Interdenominational).

The celebration kicked-off last Monday with a procession from the temporary site of the Faculty at the Emerald Energy Institute to the Senate Building, where the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ekelebert Nduka, Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Celebration, Professor Tony Ariaze and Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, received the procession on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka.

UniPort Marks 2015 World Voice Day With Music, Poetry

By Humphrey Ogu

The central roles of the human voice in entertainment and promotion of peace in society took centre stage at the *Anamu Brinde Lecture Hall*, University Park on Thursday, April 16, 2015 as the University marked the 3rd World Voice Day Nigeria (WVDN).

Declaring the event open, Chairman of the occasion and Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemugwu, who described music as a recipe for life, expressed gratitude to guests for abandoning their other pressing engagements to grace the event. "Today, the

Faculty of Humanities is celebrating UniPort at 40 with music, which is something everybody enjoys. The voice, which we are celebrating today, is very important in the Faculty," he said, citing Linguistics and Communication Studies, Music, Theatre and Film Studies, English Studies, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History and Diplomatic Studies, Religious and Cultural Studies, amongst others, as disciplines that thrive on use of the human voice.

Welcoming guests to the World Voice Day, Head of the Department of Music and Convener, Professor Onye Nwankwo, described the voice as the oldest and the most versatile musical instrument that is known to man,

which could have a deeply soothing, healing and stimulating effect on humans.

Nwankwo, who noted that the event doubled as the Grand Finale of the Faculty of Humanities' celebration of UniPort at 40, said: "In this Information and communications Technology era, it is important to note that the voice is the oldest of the social media. This social-communicative role of the voice forms the basis of the global theme of this year's WVD celebration entitled: *Voice, the Original Social Media*. For this year's event, we have chosen the theme: *One Voice, One People* for our celebration in Nigeria," the HoD told the excited audience.

"The voice is one of the most essential elements of daily human life. It is the most commonly used medium of human communication and a very powerful tool that cuts across diverse areas of human endeavours, including music, broadcasting, teaching, medicine, acting, poetry, law, administration, and commerce," he pointed out.

Highlights of the event, which featured musical performances by the UniPort Concert Chorus, Chapel of the Annunciation Choir, De Noble Choral Voices, and a joint rendition by all choirs, was a presentation on *One Voice, One People* by a representative of Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND), Chief Lawal Africa, who is Network Coordinator of the body in the Niger Delta.

The event also featured a poetry reading session by Dr. Jones Ayuwu of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, and song rendition in French by Dr. Peter Nyah of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

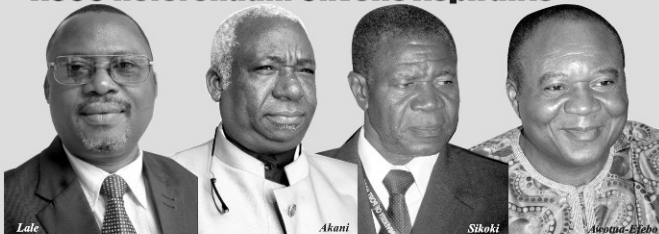


UniPort Concert Chorus performing with Precious Onuoku conducting

Race For 8th UniPort V-C

ASUU Referendum Unveils Aspirants

By Williams Wodi



Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Jung, once said that a man who has not passed through the inferno of his passions has never overcome them. Unlike passion, ambition is difficult to overcome—especially when it is legitimate. Man is born with that strong propulsion to excel in career and personal fulfillment. In a select community of scholars, those who put themselves forward for leadership positions must expect closer scrutiny than their counterparts on the national political circus.

Not every body would be in agreement on the appropriate modalities to achieve a common goal, and it showed last Wednesday, when the University of Port Harcourt branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) held a referendum to determine the most acceptable candidate to sit on the exalted executive chair as the 8th Vice-Chancellor. English political philosopher, John Locke, may have envisaged what transpired at the referendum venue when he argued that “New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any other reason but because they are not already common.”

It was obvious that a few feathers were ruffled by the referendum. Those who disagreed had a point: how could a referendum commence when the Governing Council was yet to shortlist suitably qualified candidates for the contest? But the beauty of democracy is entirely predicated on the iron will of the nebulous majority that must have its way at all times!

Consistent with its operational vision, ASUU offered aspirants for the soon-to-vacant Vice-Chancellorship position a veritable platform to advertise their ambition and weigh their popularity in the court of public opinion. It was an unscripted playlet that would have made Hollywood and Nollywood envious.

The referendum which took place at the expansive Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, attracted a large crowd of curious Union members, some of who approached the exercise with an admixture of circumspection and surging enthusiasm. ASUU members, who were promised a memorable experience, got much more than

they bargained for on that grisly morning of great expectations. The aspirants were understandably not at ease at all, despite their best efforts to conceal their anxiety. You could cut the tension with a blunt kitchen knife!

Setting the stage for what turned out to be a refined political sitcom, Chairman of the branch, Professor Anthonia Okerengwo, regretted the inability of ASUU to organize the referendum before the last contest for the position of Vice-Chancellor, describing the reason for the development as “not-satisfactory.” According to her, “The eventual winner of the referendum does not necessarily have to be appointed Vice-Chancellor by the Governing Council, but it is very important that we as a Trade Union should have a strong voice in who emerges as the Number One Citizen of this University. Our aim is to choose a suitable candidate, who would hopefully do well at the interview.” Trust the storming petrel to marshal her points so bluntly.

Having dispelled lingering apprehensions by some of the aspirants concerning the legitimacy of the exercise, Professor Okerengwo proceeded to announce the following names as applicants for the exalted office that would be vacant in mid-July, 2015: Oze-mekuri Ndimole, Blessing Didia, Francis Sikoki, Bio Louis Nyanayo, Israel Owate, Chris Akani, Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo, Tamunopriye Agiohenbo and Ndowa Lale. The ticket applicant from the Rivers State University of Science and Technology was not on hand to join the gladiators in the shadow-boxing exercise that raised blood pressures in some quarters. Also on record is the fact that Professors Akani, Sikoki, Agiohenbo, Awotua-Efebo and Nyanayo had compelling reasons to be away, while Ndimole offered to address Congress without participating in the referendum.

Procedural matters out of the way, it was the turn of one of the Empires, Professor Emmanuel Emaxiala, to roll out the ground rules for the presentation by the aspirants. Each speaker was allowed just fifteen minutes to lay out his vision and qualification for the job. Doctors Austen David and Tina Harry completed the election

administration quartet. On closer scrutiny, the speakers appeared to have centred their manifestos around electricity, more classroom space, discipline, productivity, staff welfare, inclusiveness, entrepreneurship, research, information technology, improved academic performance, strengthening internally-generated revenue, partnerships and aggressive resource mobilization in the face of dwindling statutory allocations.

Then came the actual referendum; each prospective voter had to be properly accredited and issued with a customized ballot paper. Close to one thousand academic staff lined up to exercise their franchise in an atmosphere totally devoid of intimidation or power cleavages. The basic paraphernalia of election was fully deployed. Only Attahiru Jega's ubiquitous card reader and mysterious result sheets were absent from the balloting process. It was a smooth sail.

At the end of a keenly competed exercise, Professor Ndowa Lale of the Department of Crop and Soil Science in the Faculty of Agriculture, emerged runaway winner of the referendum with a total vote tally of 248, as against his closest rival, Professor Blessing Didia of the Department of Human Anatomy. Nigerian politicians needed to be at the venue of the exercise to learn how to conduct rancor-free elections. A few hurried handshakes; and it was over. It was a gentleman's contest that left a refined taste on the palate of all participants. With the successful conduct of the referendum, it was self-evident that the process has evolved to a more respectable level of acceptance by a disproportionate number of ASUU members. The search for the 8th Vice-Chancellor of this University has reached an irreversible key moment! Attention can shift to the hallowed chambers of the Governing Council, where the final decision will be taken on who wears the cap. Only one candidate will work out of the Chambers with the appointment letter. We wait to say congratulations to that contestant. That is what makes Unique UniPort more unique indeed



Celebrating Excellence In Faculty Of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Over the years, the pharmaceutical sciences have been given prime attention due to the importance of effective healthcare delivery to the populace. Capacity building in the critical sector is a major plank upon which the medical sciences and its allied disciplines are hinged. When the College of Health Sciences was established, the idea of also establishing a Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences was mooted at the time.



Prof Oforisakwe

This, however, did not immediately materialize due to unforeseen logistic difficulties. At the 259th Meeting of Senate held on January 30, 2002, the Senate of the University of Port Harcourt

By Obinna Nwodin

approved the establishment of degree programmes in Nursing, Pharmacy, and Dentistry in the College of Health Sciences. The approval stipulated that Pharmacy should be taught and coordinated in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences which should not be an integral part of the College of Health Sciences. There is no doubt that the decision turned out to be a positive development.

The new Faculty did not take off until January 30, 2005, when the pioneer Dean, and one-time Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Professor Oleka Udeala, accepted an appointment to assume duty in the University. On arrival, this fine academic and consummate administrator was saddled with the responsibility of building a Faculty that would transform into an enviable status and also meet global standards. The vision outlined for the emergent Faculty was the development of manpower in every aspect of Pharmacy profession; to be a centre of excellence in the processing and production of direct compression excipients for pharmaceutical production; establish a quality control laboratory

students for careers in any aspect of pharmaceutical practice; academic (teaching and research); distribution/supply; hospital and community pharmacy; industrial (production and research); national and international drug administration and quality control/assurance; packaging and drug information. Within the short period of its existence, the Faculty has made modest contributions in line with the uniqueness for which the University of Port Harcourt is widely acclaimed. The Faculty is making stringent efforts to solve its pressing accommodation problem, as work is progressing steadily on the laboratories and office accommodation. The medicinal garden, which is part of the requirements for accreditation by relevant professional bodies, is also an added boost to the resources of the Faculty.

At present, the Faculty has five Departments namely: Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacy Management; Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry; Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology; Pharmaceutical Microbiology, as well as Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy. Its modest achievement in the training of skilled Pharmacists has attracted distinguished scholars and academics that have added value and enhanced the standard of teaching and research in the Faculty. Professors Vincent Idemvor of the University of Illinois, Chicago; Kio Abo and Ebere Orisakwe, have brought in their rich pool of experiences and diverse backgrounds to lay a solid foundation for the Faculty, which currently boasts of over 150 academic staff in the various Departments.

As the Faculty joins its counterparts to mark UniPort at 40, the Dean believes that the Faculty is an essential part of the future of the University, considering the lofty heights it has attained in so short a time. For him, the Faculty has one of the most robust University/Industry partnerships with a Governing Board made up of household names in the Pharmaceutical Industry and the private sector. Professor Udeala believes that if adequately cultivated, the Faculty is bound to excel in teaching and quality research, as its mission statement has given it a road map to a bright future.

Bearing this in mind, there is need to see a Faculty that would be fully engaged in not only training world-class Pharmacists, but also engage in the manufacturing of quality drugs through cutting-edge research and partnerships.



Prof Udeala, Dean

with proper drugs manned by professionals to complement and work with the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC); to re-orientate professionals going back to ancient tradition in training students who comply with ethical standards, cognate and diligent for the 21st Century pharmaceutical practice. With these objectives, the Faculty set out on a mission designed to add value to healthcare delivery. The process was rough from the outset, particularly as the new Faculty had to commence activities from a one-room apartment in the Ofirima Complex at the University Park.

Today, the Faculty has braved all odds to make modest achievements in the overall growth and development of the pharmaceutical sciences in the country. The Faculty which had about 34 students at inception currently has a total student population of about 240. So far, it has trained and presented four batches of Pharmacists, who have been inducted by the Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria (PCN).

According to the Dean, the Bachelor of Pharmacy degree curriculum is designed to provide the required education, development and training of



Prof Vincent Idemvor, Visiting Scholar

Stop Press

CHS Kicks-Off 40th Anniversary Today

The College of Health Sciences (CHS), will commence its weeklong series of activities marking the 40th Anniversary of the University with a Keynote Lecture and Panel Discussion today at the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium at 10:00am and 2:00pm, respectively. A statement jointly issued by the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato and Chairman of the Planning Committee, Professor Atuboyedla Obianime, disclosed that 3rd Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Kelsey Harrison, will deliver the Keynote Address entitled, *Healthcare and Manpower Development: Contemporary Issues*, while a panel discussion will focus on prostate, cervical, breast, colon, blood, childhood and oral cancers.

On Tuesday, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs will deliver a Lecture, while the panelists will discuss diabetes mellitus, hypertension, stress and mental disorders, obesity and aging. The statement further revealed that College Rally/Community Outreach will hold at 10:00am and T.I. Francis Memorial Lecture on *The Making of Doctors in Nigeria*, will take centre stage at the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium on Wednesday at 1:00pm. The celebration will be rounded off with a Dinner Night on Friday, May 1, at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.

UniPort Signs Pact With Degema Community



DVC (Admin), Prof Ndaka (arrowed), representatives of Degema Community, staff and some Nursing students after the signing ceremony

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the community of the continued cooperation of the University and judicious use of the facility.

In her speech, new Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, who was visibly elated at the development, hailed the gesture as a rare display of enlightened leadership in the community, commending the Council for recognizing the importance of bringing quality healthcare closer to the doorstep of rural folks.

"We do not have many examples such as this one, and we promise to fully maximize the mutual benefits that would accrue from this important partnership. The College is so impressed at this kind gesture by Oluoma community and we promise not to disappoint the people," she added, stressing that the College would be willing to partner them in other areas of need.

Welcoming the delegation to the community, Paramount Ruler of Oluoma, His Highness, Alabo

Omba Tom Big-Harry (Odibo VI), who was represented by Chief Kalada Samuel, said that it was heart-warming that the agreement has finally been formalized by both parties; disclosing that the partnership agreement was the contribution of the community towards the training of skilled paramedical staff that would cater to the increasing health needs of the people.

Also speaking a member of the Traditional Cabinet, Chief Opakris Harry, said that the Community was not only happy, but proud of the gesture, expressing hope that the partnership with the University would usher in accelerated development in Oluoma and other neighbouring communities. He said that the people were happy that the University chose their community for the important project, hoping that the move would be a positive step towards quality healthcare delivery in the area.

Speaking to *UniPort Weekly* after the handover ceremony, President of the UniPort Chapter of the

Nigerian Universities Nursing Students Association, Mr. Eze Oluoma, expressed gratitude to both the authorities of the University and Oluoma community for the facility, pointing out that it would go a long way in enhancing the mandatory rural posting of Nursing students. He appealed to authorities of the University to give a facelift to the facility to make it more befitting for them to inhabit.

Present at the event were Chief Opakris Harry and Chief Tonye Harry, amongst others. Also on the University's delegation were: Associate Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor Patrick Eghwradjakpor; Acting Head of the Department of Nursing, Dr. Abigail Horsfall, immediate past Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Grace Robinson-Bassey, Acting Director of the Physical Planning and Development Unit, Mr. Isaac Ewa, Head of the Legal Unit, Mr. Eric Agbonimi and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwa, amongst others.

The Faculty of Agriculture joined its counterparts in other Faculties and Colleges last Tuesday, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the University of Port Harcourt. The impressive one-day event kicked-off with a symposium, an exhibition and inauguration of the Young Agri-Entrepreneurs of Nigeria (YAE).

Declaring open the event, which held at the International Students' Centre, University Park, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who was represented by the Chairman, Research and Development, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, commended the Faculty for keying into the celebration of the University's 40th Anniversary.

"In the past five years, the University has been trying to transform into an Entrepreneurial University and today, we are seeing the result of that effort. The Faculty of Agriculture is only 10 years old, but has achieved quite a lot. Today, everybody agrees that the Faculty has done very well in research and community service. We also have to commend the Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), which laid a solid foundation that resulted in the emergence of the Faculty," she said.

According to Professor Willie Abbey, Agriculture is the in-things in the face of growing graduate unemployment and food scarcity. "Everything started with agriculture; food came before clothing, without food, none of us can survive. Agriculture is the only discipline where it is easy to secure research grants. I challenge those students who have processed wildlife products that they should not just

Agric Faculty Celebrates UniPort At 40

By Mercy Adeniji

stop there; they should go out there to seek viable partnerships with companies that can add value to their practice. I challenge you to think more about research, processing, preservation and taking the produce to the market."

Delivering the 40th Anniversary Lecture which also marked the 10th Anniversary of the Faculty of Agriculture entitled: *Agricultural Entrepreneurship: Key to Economic Growth and Sustainable Livelihood*, Guest Lecturer, Professor Chukwemeka Okoye of the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, commended the Faculty for celebrating 10 years of its landmark achievements.

"I am happy that the Faculty is now talking about *Agripreneurship*. I want to say that nobody has any doubt that agriculture is very important in this country. With a population of about 170 million people and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about 80.2 trillion naira, I think that whatever we do, agriculture should take the centre stage because much of the country's GDP is contributed by agriculture," he said.

Professor Okoye, who described agricultural entrepreneurship as the ability to create and build something new from practically nothing, said that

Nigeria was endowed with arable land, skilled work force and good weather, pointing out that agriculture employed more than 70 per cent of the active labour force.

Earlier in her welcome address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ekam Wokoma, commended Management of the University and the pioneer Dean, Professor Ndowa Lale, Ambassador Godkowns Igali, invited guests and students for honouring the Faculty, stating that "the celebration afforded the Faculty a rare opportunity to reminisce on our past experiences and reposition ourselves to become pace-setters in Agriculture. The cassava variety known as TMS 419 that is widely distributed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, is a product of the Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD) of the University of Port Harcourt. The variety was released by Dr. Zachary Russom. In 2013, the Faculty released three varieties of upland rice through the groundbreaking research effort of Dr. Andrew Elise of the Department of Crop and Soil Science."

Giving a brief history of the Faculty, Pioneer Dean, Professor Lale recalled that the Faculty of Agriculture was one of the three new Faculties established in 2005, with the mandate to conduct research that would result in cutting-edge technology to facilitate productivity in the sector.

In his contribution, Special Guest of Honour, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Power and Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability, Ambassador Igali, who spoke through a Director in the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Femi Odumosu, said, "I have endowed a Professorial Chair in the Faculty of Agriculture on Wetland Management in Agriculture. The Niger Delta with its seven thousand parameter land area is entirely Wetland and can be considered as Nigeria's Garden of Eden."

Also speaking, Acting Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Dr. Ngugi Odu, stressed the need for proper implementation of the Strategic Plan as it concerns the Faculty of Agriculture, promising that her Unit would be willing to support such effort.

Other highlights of the well-attended event were the conferment of awards and recognition of distinguished Alumni and Staff for their contribution to the growth of the Faculty.



Rep of the V-C, Prof Willie Abbey (2nd left) and others at one of the Exhibition Stands

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Chijioke Nwuche, Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine*. The two-year appointment will terminate on April 14, 2017.

Dr. Juma Kala, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment will terminate on April 3, 2017.

Dr. Hamilton Oparum, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine*. The two-year appointment will terminate on April 14, 2017.

Dr. J.L. Nwosu, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Coordinator, Geology and Mining Technology of the School of Science Laboratory Technology*. The two-year appointment will terminate on April 10, 2017.

Dr. Catherine Stanley, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment will terminate on March 31, 2017.

INDUCTION

Professor Chinyerem Madumere-Obike, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, has been inducted as a *Member of the Nigerian Academy of Education (NAE)*.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Chioma George-Answare, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted Review of Status from *Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II*, effective November 26, 2014.

Dr. Amadi Ahiamadun, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted Review of Status (Contract Appointment) as *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 10, 2014.

Mrs. Bukola Akinwale, Department of Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, granted Review of Status from *Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II*, effective November 26, 2014.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Professor C.E. Heherem, Department of Preventive and Social Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Science, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective April 1, 2015.

Professor Donatus Igboke, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Physical and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Renewal of Appointment and upgrade from Adjunct Reader to Adjunct Professor*, effective March 4, 2015.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. Kalu Wusu, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Sabbatical Leave*, effective 1st April, 2015 to 14th April, 2016.

Professor Victor Ukaegbo, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Sabbatical Leave*, effective April 10, 2015 to April 9, 2016.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS. JULIET CHIKAICHECHUKWU, Miss. Obindah Juliet Chika of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as **MRS. JULIET CHIKAICHECHUKWU**. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

Registry, CGS Celebrate UniPort At 40 Today

By Obinna Nwodin and Otokor Samuel

It is now set for the Registry Week celebration as part of activities marking UniPort at 40 Celebration beginning today. A statement from the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Dr. Celestina Johnson, indicated that the highlight of the celebration would be a Lecture on *University of Port Harcourt At 40: Chronicling the Activities of the Registry Department in the Last Four Decades* to be delivered by the Director, Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, May 7, at 10:00am. The Lecture will be preceded by a Health Seminar and Medical Check-Up for all staff on Tuesday, May 5 at the same venue at 9:00 am, while a novelty football match between male and female staff of the Registry and their counterparts in the Bursary Department will also take place on Wednesday, May 6, at the Sports Complex at 4:00pm.

The statement added that the event which would open on Monday May 4 with an Awareness Rally would end with a Registry Forum that would afford all categories of staff the opportunity to clarify issues bothering on Establishment matters. It further enjoined all staff of the Registry Department, both senior and junior to

actively participate in all the activities lined up for the Celebration.

Similarly, the College of Graduate Studies would also commence its weeklong series of activities with a rally this morning, while the handover of Postgraduate Common Rooms to the Colleges of Health Science, Natural and Applied Sciences and Faculties of Management Sciences and Humanities is billed for 2:00pm the same day.

A statement jointly signed by Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konya and Chairman of the Organising Committee and Dean, Graduate School of Natural and Medical Sciences, Professor Gregory Awriri, disclosed that a Roundtable Discussion will hold tomorrow at the *Amata Braide Lecture Hall* at 12:00 noon. The opening ceremony which will feature hosting of Alumni and recognitions is scheduled for Thursday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium at 10:00am. The celebration is expected to be rounded off with a *Thanksgiving Service* at Our Saviour's Chapel (Interdenominational) on Sunday, May 3. Time is 10:00am. The organizers advised Graduate Students and the general public to grace the events.



Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Registrar



Prof Konya, Provost, CHS

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 26 – SATURDAY MAY 02, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 26 APRIL, 2015	35.0 25.0	54	NE	-	6:22 18:38	Afternoon clouds expected.
MONDAY, 27 APRIL, 2015	33.0 25.0	64	NE	-	6:22 18:38	Partly sunny day expected.
TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2015	33.0 25.0	65	NE	3.7	6:21 18:38	Widely scattered thunder storms expected. More clouds than sun expected
WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2015	35.0 25.0	69	N	-	6:21 18:38	Partly sunny day expected.
THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2015	35.0 25.0	68	N	4.3	6:21 18:38	Thunder storm expected early in the day. Partly sunny day forecast.
FRIDAY 01 MAY 2015	34.0 25.0	67	NE	3.8	6:20 18:38	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day.
SATURDAY 02 MAY 2015	35.0 25.0	63	N	3.4	6:20 18:38	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day forecast.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr Prince Mmoms
Ag. Director, (CDRMS)

SERVICOM CORNER

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2. Abide by all the guidelines regulating the operations of the University.
3. Provide the University with constructive suggestions and feedback that can improve the University.
4. Remain honest, prudent, fair and reasonable when dealing with UniPort.
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First Diete-Koki Memorial Lecture

Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences held a Memorial Lecture in honour of the late Professor Kenneth Diete-Koki at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, February 12, 2015. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the event as shown below:



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka, making the opening remarks



Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Prof Iyosua Stimintilayi welcoming guests



Chairman of the occasion, Mrs. Seinye Lulu-Briggs, speaking through her rep, Mrs. Julia Jacks



Guest Speaker, Dr. Kodjo Soroh, delivering his paper



Provost, College of Graduate Studies, Prof Roseline Konyia, decorating the Dr. Soroh with UniPort Muffler



Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof Christie Mato, presenting a plaque to distinguished alumnus, Dr. Soroh



Immediate past Provost, CHS, Prof Chris Akani presenting a plaque to Special Adviser to the President on MDGs and CHS alumna, Dr. Precious Gbenet



Prof Akani presenting a plaque to the RS Commissioner of Health and UniPort Commissioner of Health and UniPort, Dr. Samson Parker



Profs John Ogunranti and Atuboyedun Obianime, paying tributes to the late Prof Diete-Koki



Sons of Diete-Koki (arrowed) holding a painting of their late father



Bayelsa State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Ayibatonye Owei paying tribute to late Prof Diete-Koki



Former Provost, CHS, Prof Blessing Didia, paying tribute to the late Prof Diete-Koki



V-C, Prof Ajienka and former associates of the late Diete-Koki