



## UNIPORT Honours Engineers, Sports Administrators At Chancellor's Dinner

In recognition of outstanding professional performance by Alumni and Friends of the University, the authorities honoured some Engineers and distinguished personalities in the discipline, reports **Obinna Nwodin**.

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### Side Bar

Professor Tambari Leton of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering would deliver the 101<sup>st</sup> Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week - Editor



# UNIPORT Weekly

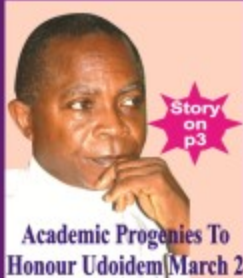
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## Good Governance Tour

# Maku Commends IPS Model

By Obinna Nwodin

**M**inister of Information, Mr Labaran Maku, has lauded authorities of the University for establishing a world-class Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) aimed at boosting local capacity in the petroleum industry. Maku made the commendation when he led the Federal Government's Good Governance Team on inspection of projects in the University, penultimate Thursday.

The Minister, who was conducted round project sites by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, advised the students to make the best of the opportunity provided them to develop the petroleum industry in Nigeria. "We are impressed with what we have seen here. It is necessary for us to indigenize our crude oil production processes. It is a pity we did not look at this from the beginning of the development of the oil and gas industry", he stated, adding that if the local content development policy was given consideration early enough, Nigeria would have been the hub of the oil and gas industry. "But to achieve this there is need for complete reform of the sector. Getting the manpower is the most important strategy and we want you



L-R: V-C, Prof Ajienka, Maku and Gov Chibuike Amaechi

to think of what the future of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria should be", he advised the students. Receiving the Minister, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, informed him that the Senate building, as well as the Donald Ekong Library were built from Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and partly from intervention

funds by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). He disclosed that construction of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology building, Faculties of Law, Social Sciences, Agriculture, Department of Music, as well as the Central Office Complex were being constructed

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# Biometric ID Card Matters Arising

By Abel Ejiowhor

The introduction of what is now known as Biometric Staff Identification Card by authorities of the University of Port Harcourt was widely accepted as a welcome innovation aimed at addressing some emergent security challenges that confront a modern university environment. Issues of insecurity have risen quite exponentially that nobody is safe anymore, whether at home, on the street or in the office. Thus, whatever measures that can be initiated to checkmate infiltration of the University environment by those, who had passed a death sentence on educational institutions is a welcome development. It is self-evident that those who had threatened to disrupt the educational system mean business and should not be treated with kid gloves.

It is, therefore, understandable why our University should also take certain pre-emptive and proactive measures to ward off such uninvited guests before they cause mayhem on our Campus. Regrettably, it has become obvious that it is one thing to have brilliant ideas and quite another to successfully implement such lofty

ideas. The process of actualizing the new ID card dream is becoming somewhat cumbersome to some staff and students.

For instance, I have had five different snapshots to actualize my dream of owning an ID card as a bona fide staff of the University. I was first registered at the Senior Staff Club; did another one in front of the Senate building and have since participated in three more such exercises near the

his own that very soon, students without ID cards may not be allowed to write examinations, while staff may be restricted from certain areas of the Campus without it. With the snail-speed the exercise is taking, I wonder if the effective date of actualizing the Chief Executive's directive will ever be realized.

It was Oscar Wilde who said, "Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes". I have also observed from those who have the ID card that it was signed by the Chief Security Officer, rather than the Registrar. This is a misnomer because ID

cards are given to staff by their employers. Right from the inception of the University, the Registrar, as the Secretary to the University Governing Council signs Staff ID cards. That function is sacrosanct and should be respected.

Whatever security input that should warrant a Chief Security Officer to sign it should be weaved around the Office of the Registrar. This is an academic institution and not a limited liability company, where staff do what is known as "clacking" at the Security Post. With due respect to whoever is concerned, let the right thing be done; and quickly too!

*\*Comrade Ejiowhor is the immediate past Chairman, SSANU, UNIPORT*

## Letter To The Editor



power-generating plant house at the University Park. I am not alone in this unnecessary rigmarole that now threatens the entire project. The biometric record should be a secret containing the security record of individual staff and students. A situation where one is being registered and a lot of people are milling around would not allow people to disclose their correct record.

Who will disclose that he/she has tuberculosis or HIV in the midst of a jostling crowd? What is the reason for the delay in concluding this exercise? Is it that it is being handled by amateurs, or bedeviled by other logistic problems? Pray, when will some of us receive our own? The Vice-Chancellor had disclosed on the day he received

## Appeal for Reconstruction Of Aluu Road

By Headman Alu

I wish to sincerely appreciate the effort of the Rivers State Government in undertaking the reconstruction of Aluu Road in Ikwerre Local Government Area. This I believe is to ease movement of inhabitants of Aluu and its environs. I only want to draw Government's attention to four major bad spots that need urgent attention before the rains set in, as failure to commence

work on the bad spots would cut Aluu off from other parts of Rivers State. This will also affect staff and students of University of Port Harcourt residing in the community.

I therefore use this medium to urge the construction company in charge of the road project to urgently fix the bad spots, especially as the first quarter of the rainy season is fast approaching. We need more action and less talk.

*Alu is a resident of Aluu*

## STUDENT WORLD

## I Combine Business With Academics

**RHEMA ODOI**, a Final Year Student in the Department of Accounting Faculty of Management Sciences, shares her experience as a student and budding entrepreneur with our Intern **JULIET NNAMDI**, on how she combines Interior Decoration and Baking with her academics. Check it out!



Rhema

new to this final year student of Accounting. So, when the University insisted on all students taking a course in Entrepreneurial Skills as a mandatory requirement for graduation, it was just like preaching to the Choir, as this young lady was already honing her trade with some impressive profit to show for her skills to the admiration of her peers.

"I have always longed to be part of this reputable University since I finished Secondary School, because my older relations, who graduated from the University of Port Harcourt turned out to be successful icons in society; so I wanted to emulate them by coming to UNIPORT," she disclosed, adding that though she had wanted to be in the Business School, she had never regretted reading Accounting in Unique UNIPORT.

"I do not stay in the hostel, because I live with my parents at Accra Street in New Ghana-Ama, University Park. Despite not staying in the hostel, I still concentrate on my studies and make good grades in my examinations." When asked about her saving habit as a budding entrepreneur, she replied: "Though there will always be a difference financially between staying at home and in the hostel, I sometimes walk to school due to the short distance between my residence and classroom, thus saving some money for other purposes. Sometimes, my parents also give me money", Rhema said. She added that she had to go into baking cakes and

interior decoration to also help herself financially, advising other students to think of something to do in order not to be involved in ungodly acts that are now in vogue amongst young women for the sake of money. Odoi is computer literate and spends reasonable time at the Donald Ekong Library twice a week. She keeps few friends and hates night outs for reasons of safety. She commended her lecturers, especially Professor Clifford Ofurum, whom she referred to as her mentor in the academia.

When asked what she desires for life after school, she said she would like to seek more professional training and practise Accounting, while still looking out for other lucrative opportunities.

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## UNIORT Honours Engineers, Sports Administrators At Chancellor's Dinner

*Cont'd from p1*

The event which took place at the Gymnasium Hall of the Sports Complex at the 3rd Chancellor's Dinner was part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony. The fun-filled event attracted dignitaries and friends, as well as corporate partners of the University.

Welcoming guests to the event, the Chancellor, His Majesty, *De Wheno Aholu Menu-Toyi I*, thanked them for honouring his invitation, noting that the event was in recognition of professional excellence by individuals, who have excelled in various branches of the Engineering profession.

Also in his welcome address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, said that through the Dinner, the authorities aimed at honouring distinguished Alumni of the University and encouraging them to do more in their chosen career lines.

Acting Pro-Chancellor, Rev Walter Eneji, in his remark said that the Council would continue to do its best to demonstrate the uniqueness of the University through enunciating sound policies for its accelerated development.

Those honoured were Engr. Abiye Membere, a distinguished Alumnus and Group Executive Director of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation

(NNPC). Also honoured were President of the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE), Engineer Mustapha Shehu, Engr. Pedro Egbe, Engr. Paul Obelley, Engr. Gesi Asamowa, Engr. O. Anyaeji, Engr. Giandominico Massari, Engr. Enoch George, as well as Engr. Vincent Nnadi. Some distinguished sports personalities were also inducted into the Institute of Sports. They are: Chief Solomon Ogba, Dr Patrick Ekeji, Mr Dan Ngerem, and Engr Sani Ndanusa.

Responding on behalf of the sports administrators, Dr Patrick Ekeji, thanked the authorities for finding them worthy of the honour, assuring them that the recipients would continue to support the growth and development of the University, especially through sports.

In his response, President of the Nigeria Society of Engineers, Engineer Shehu, also thanked the authorities for the honour done them, pointing out that it was in continuation of the excellent relationship between the Society and the University.

Also present at the event was the Monaco-based



*Pro-Chancellor, Dr Eneji, presenting a plaque to Dr Patrick Ekeji*

President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), Dr Lamine Diack.

It would be recalled that last year, the University honoured some distinguished Alumni, who made the Institution proud in the Nigerian home movie industry known as Nollywood.

## Igali Lays UNIORT Alumni Secretariat Foundation

*By Ethel Timi-Johnson*

As a follow-up to the last Home-coming ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association, a foundation-laying ceremony for a befitting National Secretariat held penultimate Thursday besides the International Students' Centre, University Park.

Performing the ceremony, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources and pioneer Alumnus, Ambassador Godknows Igali, commended the Alumni Association for its foresight in leaving a lasting legacy in the University by embarking on the project. Promising to mobilize fellow Alumni to ensure speedy completion of the project, Igali also commended the University Management and other distinguished Alumni like Prince Tonye Prinewill for their support and contributions towards the realization of the important project.

Disclosing that universities globally are mostly developed by their Alumni, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, expressed delight that the Alumni of the University have initiated a project that would contribute to the advancement of the University. "We are very proud of our Alumni. We are indeed proud of this day as we witness the foundation-laying of a befitting National Secretariat of the Alumni here in the University", he said.

Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of the Association, Honourable Sampson Ngerebara, who described the Secretariat as a project for all Alumni, reiterated the Association's commitment to the completion of the project in 2015. He acknowledged the effort of public-spirited individuals and groups that have made donations towards the realization of the project.

"UNIORT occupies a unique place in the history of Nigeria, having produced the President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan and Governors, including Rt Hon Rotimi Amaechi of Rivers State. It is, therefore, time to build a befitting National Secretariat as part of our contribution to the development of our beloved *Alma Mater*", the State Chairman added.

In their separate speeches, representative of Prince Tonye Prinewill, Chief Eze Eze and Chairman, Building Committee, Chief Lucky Weje, described the project as a milestone achievement for the Alumni Association. The duo urged members to ensure that the project was completed within the stipulated timeline.



*V-C, Prof Ajenka (4<sup>th</sup> from left), Alumni Executive and members. Inset: Amb Igali laying the foundation stone*

## Academic Progenies To Honour Udoidem March 2

Ex-doctoral students of Professor Iniobong Udoidem of the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Humanities have put together a Festival of Seven Books to celebrate their teacher and mentor at 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

The event which is expected to hold on Saturday, March 2 at Chapel of The Annunciation, Catholic Chaplaincy, University Park, would also serve to unveil three books in Philosophy and four in Spirituality authored by Professor Udoidem on diverse subject areas.

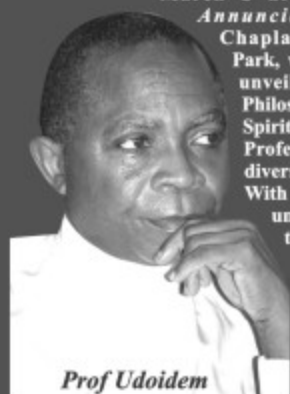
With about 25 years of uninterrupted service to the University of Port Harcourt and 30 years of teaching career, Professor Victor Inoka, Professor Frank Ugoimoh, Dr T.V Ogan, Dr

*By Ethel Timi-Johnson*

I.U Gwunireama, Dr I.F Esikot, Dr A.D Nbeta and Dr C. Chinedu, all former students of the celebrant, said the celebration would enable them appreciate the efforts and contributions of their teacher per excellence, Professor Udoidem to their academic achievements.

The books include *Philosophy, Remembrance, Narrativity and Knowledge, Will You also go Away, The Footprints of Bishop Makoz, Hospitality as Holiness, The Virtuous Nun and Indigenizing Philosophy*, which celebrates African indigenous Philosophers, including, Ebegberi Alagoa, Elechi Amadi, Gabriel Okara, Ken Saro-Wiwa and Charles Nnolim.

Professor Udoidem, who is a senior Catholic Priest, told our Correspondent that dependence of foreign systems of thought had been detrimental to Africa's indigenous thought processes, arguing that nation makes progress while depending on alien models of development. He said that the books were his own contribution to expanding the corpus of available literature on aspects of African indigenous philosophy and thought.



*Prof Udoidem*

# Pink House Shines At UDPS Sports Meet

**I**n a bid to promote the spirit of sportsmanship amongst children and enhance their physical development, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has promised to build a recreational park for the children, stating that a lover of children has offered to build the park in the next three months, expressing optimism that work would soon commence on the project.

Professor Ajienka, who made the disclosure at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Inter-House Sports competition organized by the University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS), at the University Sports complex, penultimate Friday, commended the Headmistress and staff of UDPS for their commitment to excellence. He congratulated the School management for organizing such an important activity to complement academic work, assuring them that the gratitude of children would continue to follow them.

Professor Ajienka observed that many students, who passed through the School have done well in their higher academic pursuit. "We wish and hope that the School would continue to grow from strength to strength and have better facilities to train the children", he said, promising to support its activities at all times.



V-C, Prof Ajienka, presenting the trophy to the Rep of the Winning House

By Mercy Adeniji

In her address, Headmistress UDPS, Mrs Georgina Umeogu, said: "This competition was organized to strengthen the spirit of sportsmanship, co-operation, teamwork, sharing and obedience among our children, parents, teachers and management of the School", adding that through sports at this level, talented pupils are discovered earlier and directed on the way to attain their goals in future. She noted that with proper guidance and motivation, pupils of the school would make it to any level.

She expressed gratitude to some sports-loving persons who donated trophies and supported the School with various facilities, such as the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bene Willie-Abbey,

Professor Israel Owate, Joseph and Julie Okoh, Dr Christie Omego, Lolo Phina Nnubia and Proprietress, Coronet International School, Rumuokwuta, Mrs Theresa Obiadi.

Chairman of the occasion, Professor Mark Anikpo, congratulated Management of the School for the wonderful outing, charging parents to continue to support UDPS and their wards in sports and academic development.

Chairman, Board of Governors, Dr Ofonime Ndioho, also expressed gratitude to parents for finding time to participate actively in the activities of the Schools, urging them to always encourage the children to imbibe the habit of engaging in sporting activities to develop the body and mind.

Pink House emerged overall winner with 181 points, Purple House came second with 97 points, followed by Blue House with 91 points. Green House scored 80 points, Red House got 50 points, while Yellow House scored 47 points, respectively.

Highlight of the event was a spectacular March Past which brought together students, parent, ex-pupils, and sport lovers, who graced the event. Other activities of the day included track and field, filling the bottle, catching the train, sack race, and an invitation relay by other Schools.

## UDSS Marks Maiden Cultural Day

By Otikor Samuel & Mercy Adeniji

**A**s part of its contribution to the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, pupils and staff of the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) staged an impressive cultural carnival to the Senate Building, where the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka led Principal and other Senior Officers to receive them.

Addressing the staff and pupils, who all turned out in traditional attire, Professor Ajienka praised their academic exploits as evidenced in the recent Senior School Certificate Examination results, stating that the cultural performance was the first of its kind in the history of UDSS.

"We are completely uprooted without culture

which blends education. This is the right time to inculcate cultural consciousness in the pupils so that they can grow with it. We are proud of UDSS and hope that the infrastructure of the School will continue to improve as in other areas," the Vice-Chancellor said.

In his speech, Principal of the School, Mr Ogechi Anele, who stated that the cultural performance was informed by the need for the educational curriculum to develop the child holistically, explained that until the cultural carnival, the School had not effectively explored the socio-psychological aspects of the curriculum which is meant to inculcate societal values and norms in the child.

The Principal commended parents and guardians for not only attending the maiden

event, but for also adorning their wards with cultural wears which contributed immensely to the success of the show, promising that the cultural carnival would be observed annually to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the country.

Goodwill messages were presented by the Chairman, Board of Governors, Professor John Otaigbe, Professors Tony Arinze, Ibitamuno Aminigo and Chairman, Parent-Teacher Association, Mr Jones Ayuwu, amongst other guests.

Other highlights of the event were drama presentation titled: "United We Stand" and cultural performances from the various ethnic nationalities among pupils of the School at the Permanent Site of the School.



UDSS Students displaying their dance steps. Inset: Prof Omotayo Ebong, V-C, Prof Ajienka, Chairman Board of Governors, Otaigbe and Principal, Mr Anele





Rep of V-C, Prof Awiri (arrowed), Director of the Centre, Dr Ofurum, Dr Ogunkule, other Lecturers and pioneer Executives of NASE

## NASE Inaugurates UNIPORT Chapter

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of the requirements of the National Universities Commission (NUC) to prepare students with hands-on-skills on graduation, the Network for Africa Students Entrepreneurs (NASE), University of Port Harcourt chapter has been inaugurated.

Inaugurating the young student entrepreneurs at the Conference Room of the Entrepreneurial Centre, penultimate Wednesday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who was represented by the Dean,

Graduate School of Natural, Applied and Medical Sciences (GSNAMS), Professor Gregory Awiri, appealed to them to always work as a team to attain their objectives, urging them to key into the entrepreneurial vision of the present administration by attracting the Secretariat of the network to the University and make it proud when they meet with other students during the national election.

"As pioneers of this network, you have been called to duty; you are called to build and so in the next one year, you would hand over the baton", Professor Awiri said, charging them to ensure they work hard, to enable

them become self-employed and also employers of labour on graduation.

Declaring the programme open, Director, Entrepreneurial Centre, Dr Clifford Ofurum, said the aim of the programme is to have a global platform, where African students can come together to exchange ideas on entrepreneurial issues, come up with different projects and also coordinate themselves and present the right strategies for funding.

"It is in line with NUC's directive to have a local chapter in each University through which it can meet with students", he said, appealing to other

students to join as the benefits of the programme are enormous.

In his contribution, a Lecturer in the Department of Management, Eniola Taiwo, reiterated that the essence of the network is to encourage collaboration among students and ensure that they are properly equipped with requisite skills on graduation, promising that "as a Centre, we would help you conceptualize your dream and ensure that you leave the University to become employers and not job seekers".

The elected pioneer Executive of NASE comprises Uchechukwu Bekee, President, Evans Okhlaru, Vice-President, Evi Addoh, Secretary, Victor Steven, Director of Programmes, Gogo Thompson, Public Relations Officer, Awajimugwem Osaat doubled as Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

As part of activities that marked the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University, the Donald Ekong Library, penultimate Friday, launched the Library Integrated Management project funded by MacArthur Foundation of Chicago.

Declaring open the new facility, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who described the Library as a centre of academic activities, said that the project represented a major milestone achievement in the history of the University. Commending staff, who were instrumental to the actualization of the project, Professor Ajienka pointed out that the global concept of the Library is changing in line with evolving technologies that now enable users to access information without being physically present in the Library.

"We are in an Information Communication Technology (ICT)-driven age and we have to move in the IT direction to remain relevant. I am happy for the success story we have recorded in this area as a University", the Vice-Chancellor said, advising staff and students to access the vast resources available in the Library for studies and research purposes.

University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, thanked the University Management and MacArthur Foundation for upgrading facilities in the Library to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century ICT needs. "The Donald Ekong Library has undergone processes that qualify it as an e-library with an e-entrance, as users would henceforth be admitted only through their automated identity cards", she disclosed.

## Donald Ekong Library Launches Automation Project

By Ethel Timi-Johnson  
and Henrietta Otonnah

The MacArthur Foundation Liaison Officer in the University and Deputy Librarian, Dr Henrietta Otokunefor, who recounted the University's relationship with the Foundation since 2003, noted that the Library Automation Project was one of the six core projects of the Foundation in the University. "We are celebrating successive efforts of past administrators as this project has passed through the tenure of three Vice-Chancellors. It is a thing of joy to launch the project which is proof of an efficient and effective administration in the University", she remarked. Highpoint of the commissioning ceremony was the unveiling of a plaque and

the use of the Integrated Library Management System by the Vice-Chancellor, who accessed documents at the touch of a computer button to demonstrate the new technology.



V-C, Prof Ajienka commissioning the Automation Library system

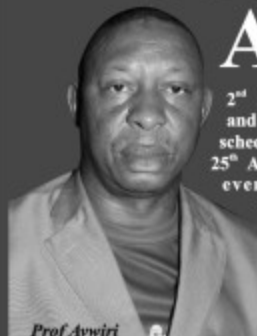
## Ex-DG To Speak At UNIPORT Research Fair

By Obinna Nwodin

Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), Professor Olusegun Adewoye, as Keynote Speaker. Chairman of the Research Fair and Conference Committee, Professor Gregory Awiri, who disclosed this to *UNIPORT Weekly*, said that the objective of the Fair is to exhibit innovative research projects and outputs from the University and sister institutions, highlight innovative and creative effort of Colleges, Faculties and Institutes in research and development, provide opportunity for networking and collaboration among researchers, institutions and industry, as well as provide a forum for industry players to select research outputs for possible mass production and commercialization.

He further stated that sub-themes for the Conference would include: University-Industry Collaboration for National Development; Role of Entrepreneurship for National Development; Bridging the Inventor/Investor Relationship for National Development; Entrepreneurial Education: Roadmap to Job Creation. Professor Awiri said that the organizers expect that all academics involved in research activities should avail themselves of the event to show-case their research findings at the Fair, adding that Colleges and Faculties would be provided with exhibition stands to enable them exhibit their works.

It would be recalled that the maiden edition of the University of Port Harcourt Research Fair and Conference took place between 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.



Prof Awiri

Cont'd from p1

# Maku Commends IPS Model

through funding from TETFund, adding that the Central Instruments Laboratory and Power Systems Engineering building were also sponsored through TETFund project intervention.

The Vice-Chancellor, who also disclosed that the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) were putting up buildings in the University, also took the Minister to the construction site of the Centre of Excellence in Management and Economics Building funded by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).



V-C, Prof Ajenka, holding microphone, flanked on the left by Info Minister, Maku, on the left by R/S Commissioner of Health, Dr Samson Parker and DV-C, R&D, Prof Bene Willie-Abbey

## I Accomplished My Goals In Dentistry Faculty ~Obiechina

*Professor Ambrose Obiechina is the immediate past Dean, Faculty of Dentistry. On his assumption of duty in December, 2007, he set himself a 3-point agenda. As his tenure came to a glorious end last December, our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, engaged the distinguished Dental Surgeon on his experience as Dean. The report:*

**P**lans by the authorities of the University to set up a proper Dentistry programme were almost scuttled when the pioneer Dean suddenly left without a proper succession plan. Professor Ambrose Obiechina was on Sabbatical in the University at the time. When he was approached to fill the void, the famous Dental Surgeon initially hesitated before reluctantly accepting to step in on what turned out to be a rescue mission.

That was in 2007. Six years down the line, Obiechina has not only graduated the first batch of world-class Dental Surgeons, this humble Medical Educator has positioned the new Faculty into a reference model among Dental Schools in Nigeria, to the extent that his colleagues are coming from other Schools to learn the secret of the trade.

As his glorious tenure came to an end last December, Obiechina, who is comfortable in the limelight, reluctantly agreed to speak to speak about how he fledgling Dental into a first choice School for the best destined bra ins in the field to general applause! He listed full accreditation of the Dentistry programme, graduation and induction

came to an end last December, Obiechina, who is comfortable in the limelight, reluctantly agreed to speak to speak about how he fledgling Dental into a first choice School for the best destined bra ins in the field to general applause! He listed full accreditation of the Dentistry programme, graduation and induction

n of the pioneer set of Bachelors of Dental Surgery students within the stipulated academic time-frame and establishment of a Faculty of Dentistry of international standard, as his 3-point agenda. He was able to accomplish every target he set for himself and the new Faculty before he bowed out as Dean, last December.

"What I and my team set out to achieve was to ensure that we set up a Dental institution that met international standards with the capacity to compete with similar institution anywhere in the world and to ensure that our graduates met minimum international benchmarks," he pointed out, acknowledging that there were hurdles to cross in his bid to achieve the ambitious goals he set for the new Faculty.

The hurdles, according to him, included the accreditation of facilities by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) and verification by the National Universities Commission (NUC) for undergraduate programmes, which were in phases, while the National Postgraduate Medical College of Surgeons handled professional postgraduate accreditation.

How did the Faculty scale through the accreditation hurdles? Well, having been part of NUC accreditation team in the past, where he took part in drafting the Basic Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS) for teaching and practice of Dentistry, Professor Obiechina knew exactly what the accrediting agency expected from an emerging Faculty if it hoped to scale the hurdles.

Hence, he left no stone unturned in providing those requisite resources, including quality manpower to accomplish the feat in record time.

"My position as Chairman of the Faculty of Dentistry of the West African College of Surgeons, member of Senate of National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, as well as member of Board of Examiners for both Colleges was very useful in the process," Obiechina pointed out, disclosing that he was able to identify successful candidates

during Fellowship examinations and encouraged them to join in building the Faculty of Dentistry in UNIPORT.

In view of the acute dearth of manpower in the oral health discipline, Obiechina, who is a former Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Ibadan, ensured that the Dental Surgeons were able to do their Housemanship at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). Disclosing that out of the nine students that sat for the final examination, five sailed through, the former Dean expressed hope that by the time the Faculty stabilises, its carrying capacity would increase from 15 to about 30 or 35 students.

"The only way a new School of Dentistry can secure the services of professionally qualified Postgraduate specialists is to produce its own," he noted, disclosing that having secured Postgraduate accreditation from the West African College of Surgeons and National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, the Residency programme in Dentistry has since commenced at the UPTH Dental Centre.

"The successful outcome of the accreditations and comments from team members, the university community and other stakeholders confirm that our training is of international standards," Obiechina said. Need more proof? "The Provost of one of the emerging Dentistry programmes was recently advised by members of MDCN accreditation team to visit us to see what a true Faculty of Dentistry looks like," the former Dean disclosed with a measure of self-satisfaction.

## STOP PRESS

### PROCUREMENT UNIT

Vote Controllers, Finance Officers and members of staff are informed that a Procurement Unit has been established in the Vice-Chancellor's Office to effectively control and harmonize purchases in the University. All requisitions for items to be purchased must henceforth be referred to the Procurement Officer after prior approval of the Vice-Chancellor. Purchases made without passing through this process will not be paid for, while the officer responsible for such purchases will be issued appropriate sanction.

### AFRICAN COMPOSERS' SUMMIT

The Department of Music in collaboration with the Centre for Black African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) will host the *African Composers' Summit* at the Theatre Arts Lecture Hall, University Park, from 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.

Contact: Head, Department of Music.

## GUIDE POST

## APPOINTMENT

Professor Henry Njoku, Department of Microbiology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Managing Director, Consultancy, Research and Development Centre (CORDEC)*. The appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

Dr O.G. Omitola, Department of Oral Pathology & Oral Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, appointed Associate Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, effective 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2015.

Dr Ayanna Umanah, Department of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, appointed Coordinator of Department, effective 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013 to 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

## PROMOTION

Mr Okey Waleru, Student Affairs Department, promoted *Senior Porter*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Mini Ebubechi, Student Affairs Department, promoted *Senior Portress*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Maxwell Victor, Works & Services Department, promoted *Assistant Works Supervisor*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Osiawe Samuel, Works & Services Department, promoted *Assistant Works Supervisor*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Kingsley Ogbegbe, Works & Services Department, promoted *Artisan Grade II*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Chikweru Achinewhu, Works & Services Department, promoted *Assistant Works Supervisor*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Lucky Owhonogwu, Science & Engineering Workshop, promoted *Artisan II (Carpentry)*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Wekere Agbovu, Science & Engineering Workshop, promoted *Assistant Works Supervisor*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Ojibu Levinus, Science & Engineering Workshop, promoted *Assistant Works Supervisor*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

Mr Clarence Felix, Student Affairs Department, promoted *Assistant Hall Supervisor*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor J.M. Adotey, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted a two-year *Renewal of Expatriate Contract Appointment*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

Professor A. B. Agbadudu, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Renewal/Extension of Adjunct Appointment*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013.

Professor B. E. Okoli, Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014.

Dr Ignatius Iwegbue, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 to 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.

Mr James Ogbu, Department of Linguistics & Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of Part-Time Teaching Appointment*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013.

Mr Charles Mezie-Okoye, Centre for Ethnic & Conflict Studies, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2013 to 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2014.

**STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY**

Barikpoar Ebenezer, Department of Clinical Pharmacy & Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a three-year *Study Leave With Pay* to Birmingham City University, United Kingdom, effective December 2012 to November 2015.

Mrs Amaka Awanye, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a three-year *Study Leave With Pay* to Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom, effective 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2016.

Mrs Ngozi Udeh, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted *Study Leave With Pay* to University of Nigeria, Nsukka, effective June, 2013 to June, 2015.

51<sup>ST</sup> DOCTORAL SEMINAR

The 51<sup>st</sup> Doctoral Seminar of the College of Graduate Studies holds today at the Seminar Room, University Park. Time is 10:00 am. Heads of Department and Deans of Faculty are advised to inform their candidates.

Contact: College Secretary

**CHANGE OF NAME**

MR JOSHUA BARRY UELOR. Former Mr Barry Uelor A. B. of the Sports Complex Management now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mr Joshua Barry Uelor. All documents bearing his former name remain valid.

MRS OKPARA JONAH NKECHI. Former Miss Benjamin Nkechi of the Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Okpara Jonah Nkechi. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

## V-C Commends CGS On Annual Report

## ... As College Rewards Diligent Staff

By Otikor Samuel

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has praised the College of Graduate Studies (CGS) for documenting past activities of the new College in its maiden Annual Report, describing the document which covered programmes of the defunct School of Graduate Studies for the 2010/11 session as the first to be documented by any Unit, Faculty or College in the University.

Professor Ajienka, who made the commendation at an End-of-Year Party held at the International Students' Centre, penultimate Friday, lauded the pioneer Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konya, for rewarding outstanding staff, stating that such gesture would motivate others to contribute their best to the growth of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor promised to grant some level of financial autonomy to the College to enable it deliver on its mandate, disclosing plans to provide office space to Doctoral candidates in the Graduate School Buildings under construction to assist in translating research into products for the good of society. Provost of the College, Professor Konya, who announced Mr Samuel Gonce of the Library Unit as the Best Performing Staff for his exceptional dedication to duty and excellent services to the College, also named Mrs Nwike Barikui (Result & Board Unit), Ezinwo Festus (Accounts Unit) and Anyanwu Kelvin (Documentation Unit) as outstanding staff for their commitment to the

College last year.

"All our staff are hardworking due to the enormous workload in the College, but we cannot recognize them in one ceremony. We chose the ones we did for meeting the criteria set aside for the purpose. We have prepared Certificates of Recognition as a way of encouraging them to greater productivity," Professor Konya said.

She also stressed the need to commence compulsory courses in Information and Communication Technology and Entrepreneurial Skills at the Postgraduate level, disclosing that the University has started part implementation of Postgraduate Benchmark Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS), pending when areas of discrepancies and conflicts would be addressed for its full implementation.

Chairman of the occasion, Professor Florence Ndaka, praised the College for documenting its Annual Report, stating that the document would assist in the evaluation of activities of the College to plan further programmes. A goodwill message was presented by former Dean of old School of Graduate Studies and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey.

Highlights of the ceremony were presentation of prizes to outstanding staff and immediate past Graduate Studies Officer, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville, who is now Director, Council Affairs and former Accountant to the School, Mrs Helen Owhonda-Wopara.



L-R: Provost, CGS, Prof Konya, Chairman of the Occasion, Prof (Mrs) Ndaka, DV-C, (R&D), Prof Bene Willie-Abbey, V-C, Prof Ajienka, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Ndaka and Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Ebi Bio Avotua-Efobo

# DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## WEATHER OBSERVATORY

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY, 24 - SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNSET AND SUNRISE (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 24 FEB. 2013	34.4 25.6	63	E	9.7	6:45 6:45	Strong thunderstorms expected. Day predicted to be mostly cloudy and hot. Chance of rainfall is 75%.
MONDAY, 25 FEB. 2013	35.0 25.6	62	NE	7.6	6:45 6:45	Thunderstorms late in the day. More clouds than sun. Day expected to be hot and sunny.
TUESDAY 26 FEB. 2013	33.9 25.6	62	N	-	6:44 6:45	Partly cloudy and warm day expected.
WEDNESDAY 27 FEB. 2013	33.9 25.6	63	NE	-	6:44:45	Partly cloudy and warm day expected.
THURSDAY 28 FEB. 2013	33.3 25.6	64	NE	-	6:44:45	More cloud than sun predicted. Day predicted to be warm. Minimal chance of rainfall.
FRIDAY 01 MAR. 2013	33.3 25.6	63	NE	-	6:43 6:45	Partly sunny and warm day expected.
SATURDAY 02 MAR. 2013	33.9 25.6	60	NE	-	6:43 6:45	More sun than cloud. Day expected to be hot.

VREMUDIA WEKPE  
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

PROF. SAMUEL B. AROKOYU  
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)





Guest Lecturer and pioneer Alumnus, Ambassador Godknows Igali, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, and wife arriving at the auditorium. Walking beside them are Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe and a guest



5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs exchanging pleasantries with the Guest Lecturer and wife

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Founders' Day Lecture

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Founders' Day Lecture held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, as part of activities that marked the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, Highpoints of the event which attracted dignitaries and distinguished Alumni were captured by our camera man, **HEADMAN ALU** as shown below:



Professor Francis Sikoki and Ambassador Igali in a warm handshake



(L-R) Ambassador Igali, Chairman of the occasion and President Nigeria Bar Association, Okey Wali (SAN), Vice-Chancellor, Prof Joseph Ajenka, Profs Ndaka and Joe rise for University Anthem



Okey Wali and V-C, Prof Ajenka



Ambassador Igali handing over a copy of the Lecture to the V-C, Prof Ajenka as Wali looks on



Ambassador Igali being decorated with the Unique UNIPORT Muffler by the Registrar, Mrs Manilda Nnodim, while his Wife watches on



Ambassador Igali and Wali in a chat



Ambassador Igali delivering the Lecture



Okey Wali (SAN) giving his Address



A cross-section of guests at the Lecture



Mrs Nnodim and Mrs Igali



Dignitaries and Principal Officers of the University pose for photograph