



V-C Reads To Students At TOTAL Book Reading Day

In recognition of his sustained efforts in the promotion of the Arts, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, was nominated as a Guest Reader and Role Model at the 2013 Total E&P Book Reading and Book Donation Day, last Friday, at the expansive premises of the multinational oil giants located at the Trans-Amadi axis of Port Harcourt. Reading from the book, *A Few Little Lies* by Joane Bloch, Professor Ajienka demonstrated practical skills that students need to imbibe on their way to acquiring effective reading habit, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

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Side Bar

Faculty of Clinical Sciences elected a new Dean last Thursday. Details next week. -Editor



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~Otaigbe

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Council Holds Inaugural Session Today, Meets Staff At Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium

The new Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt is expected to hold its Inaugural Session today at the Council Chambers. The historic session will form part of a two-day working visit to the

By Otikor Samuel & Williams Wodi

University, following the inauguration of new Governing Councils for Federal Universities at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, two

months ago. The gathering will be part of the 139th Meeting of the Governing Council of the University.

Director, Council Affairs, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville, disclosed that the new Council would meet with staff of the University at 10.00am at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. A statement issued by the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, through the Director of Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, directed all staff to be seated in the Auditorium at 9:30am prompt. The Meeting is expected to address some vital policy matters concerning all categories of staff of the Institution, including the recent Federal Government directive on staff and student audit for effective planning and implementation purposes.

Dr Charles-Granville further disclosed that Members of the Governing Council headed by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Chief Gesi Asamaowei, would embark on a guided tour of the Campus to assess ongoing projects, with emphasis on the highly combustible issue of the University land which is now under threat from land speculators. The tour would be rounded up at about 12.00 noon before the Inaugural Meeting of Council during which new Council Boards and

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Chief Asamaowei
Pro-Chancellor



Prof Ajienka
Vice-Chancellor



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We Are Fulfilling ELPU's Mandate ~Otaigbe

From 2006 when the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU) was carved out from the University Advancement Centre (UAC) with a mandate to position the University of Port Harcourt as a foremost Institution in Africa to attain an enviable international profile through linkages and exchange programmes, the Unit has since recorded tremendous feats to fulfil the mandate, reports OTIKORSAMUEL

Director of the Unit, Professor John Otaigbe, who spoke with our Correspondent last Tuesday in his office, said about 20 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have so far been signed with several universities and institutions for collaboration in teaching, research, exchange of staff and students, capacity building seminars and training, as well as other outreach programmes, stating that 17 other activities were ongoing in the Unit, some of which were facilitated by concerned staff of the University, who are alumni members of those institutions abroad. Professor Otaigbe revealed that the proposed partnership between the University of Port Harcourt and University of Witwatersrand, South Africa was initiated by the Unit, disclosing further that some staff of the University would be travelling to Ghana this month on an exchange programme with Kumasi Polytechnic, where they are expected to nurture the institution by building capacity of staff and students and develop curricula for some of its programmes, just as the third batch of staff and students of University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Ghana are expected in the University early this month in continuation of the five-year exchange programme. "The collaborations with other institutions are aimed at internationalizing higher education at home. We now have what is known as Visiting Professors and

Experts Programme (VPEP) scheme in the Unit, which is similar to the Linkages with Experts in Academics in the Diaspora Scheme (LEADS) of the National Universities Commission (NUC). The essence of the scheme is to expose our students to global best practices through the use of experts from Africa, who have attained international recognition in research and teaching. Our choice of African experts is to maintain cultural congruity," the Director said, advising all categories of staff and students to avail themselves of the limitless opportunities in the Unit to improve their skills like some of their colleagues that have benefitted from the programme. The Director listed the regular exchange of students through the AIESEC program me as one of the partnership areas that expose

in various countries around the world, stating that Projects YES, The Nigerian Child, Nigeria, Clean among other ones only are designed to benefit not the students, but also the communities.

He advised the students to take advantage of international students' organisations to broaden their knowledge of the world.

students to their counterparts



Prof Otaigbe

STUDENT WORLD

Umofia Tackles Community Development Challenges

INEMESIT UMOFIA, a Doctoral Degree Candidate in the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, let our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, into her world as a student and spoke on a variety of issues bordering on her research interest and experiences, so far as well as her future plans.

Armed with a Bachelor's degree in Adult and Community Education from the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), Inemesit Umofia headed to Unique UNIPORT for a Master's degree in Adult and Non-Formal Education, specialising in Community Development. To assuage her intellectual thirst and love for community development, Umofia enrolled into the doctoral degree programme.

"Community Development is a process of collaborative action on the part of the people to identify, recognise, and provide strategies to solve the common problems they face, improve their current living conditions, as well as their level of advancement in society," she pointed out, adding that Community Development is truly achieved and sustained when the people concerned are involved and can claim ownership of the process.

She noted that "Abandonment or lack of sustenance of community development projects is a national problem, especially when it is capital-oriented rather than people-oriented. Emphasis is d more on ding structures the people need, instead

how they will benefit from or participate in it. Involving the people will not only ensure continuity in the implementation of projects, but will also minimise wastage of resources."

Worried by the spate of community development challenges plaguing the Nigerian society, Umofia observed that until services of experts are employed and the intended beneficiaries involved in project planning, development will continue to elude communities in the country, stressing the need to enlist the services of Community Liaison Officers and Community Development Officers to assist in realising developmental goals in communities.

"I think that practical training should be given to better prepare the Community Development Officers to effectively perform the job in the field."

Umofia, who is currently researching on the "Assessment of the Impact of the National Youth Service Corps Activities on Community Development in Rivers and Akwa Ibom States" said: "I aim to take a closer look at the contributions that the NYSC scheme has made in terms of Community Development and what impact is felt by the beneficiaries—the host communities."

"For years, the scheme has taken development to the grassroots and a lot has been achieved in terms of organisation of skills acquisition programmes, sinking of boreholes and wells, renovation of classroom blocks, public enlightenment campaigns and signposts, agricultural projects to mention a few" she pointed out, disclosing that she surfs the Internet and consult textbooks rather than visiting the library for relevant literature on the topic.

Emphasising the need to sustain such projects after the corps members who organised them shall have passed out of the scheme and left the communities, Umofia, who resides off-Campus, disclosed that "I want to find out the level of participation of the beneficiaries in these projects and if their felt needs were properly addressed by the projects," adding that development is not only about infrastructure, but it could be educational, economic or political.

"In the past, education in Nigerian could only offer beneficiaries certification in theories and concepts, with less emphasis on practice," she observed, stating that "in order to learn the practical aspects of a field of study, one has to go beyond the walls of the institution. I appreciate the fact that Entrepreneurial Studies have been included in the curriculum, and I think that the practical aspects of Community Development, where students are attached to communities to experience what their problems are firsthand, should be encouraged and incorporated into the curriculum."

"The current trend of research in the University is definitely improving. Research topics are being reviewed by the Departmental Boards to ensure originality and eradicate 'arm chair research', where past research works are copied verbatim with little or no fresh contributions," Umofia noted, advocating that experts in Community Development should be contacted by the NYSC scheme to organise lectures or workshops for the Corps Members during Orientations and in their places of primary assignment. Umofia, who is also a creative writer, with short stories in anthologies to her credit, including *The Beggar's Story and Other Tales*, edited by Elechi Amadi, hopes to publish a novel and collection of short stories after her doctoral programme, adding that "In ten years, I hope to work for international organisations or lecture, or both. Either way, I want to gain the practical experience that my course requires and in turn impart this knowledge to others."



Miss Umofia

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V-C Reads To Students At TOTAL Book Reading Day

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Welcoming guests to the event, Deputy Managing Director of Total E&P, Port Harcourt District, Mr Nicholas Brunnet, who was represented by Executive General Manager, Port Harcourt Administration, Mr Peter Igbinovia, said that the company promotes education and sustainable development of youths in its host communities and the society in general, adding that "the partnership with the University of Port Harcourt in establishing the Institute of Petroleum Studies is a demonstration of TOTAL's unflinching commitment to quality education of our youths". He said that the company was striving to make children imbibe the culture of reading, stressing that the choice of Professor Ajiienka was to use him as a worthy role model to motivate the youths towards attaining greater heights in their studies and personal life. Mr Brunnet thanked the Vice-Chancellor for supporting TOTAL's vision of achieving its goals of sustainable development in the educational system. "It is encouraging to know that the Vice-Chancellor is in total support of our

objective of bringing back the books to our schools and society", he said.

In his speech, Rivers State Commissioner of Youth Development, Mr Owene Wonodi, who described

country.

Also speaking, President of the Rivers State Chapter of All Nigeria Conference of Principals of Schools (ANCOPS), Dr Augusta Fubara, enumerated some causes of the declining reading culture in schools, calling on both parents and government at all levels to assist teachers mould the students to achieve the best in their educational pursuits.

In his remark, famous Author and Writer-in-Residence in the University, Dr Elechi Amadi, who read some paragraphs from the simplified version of his novel, *The Great Ponds*, advised participants



R-L: Mr Igbinovia, V-C, Prof Ajiienka, Commissioner of Youth Development, Mr Wonodi, Poet Laureate, Dr Gabriel Okara, Drs Amadi and Fubara with other participants at the event

the event as one of its kind commended, the company for its commendable effort in enhancing societal development through sustainable education. He advised the students to take up the challenge by reading, at least, one book each day. He decried the loss of value in books, pointing out that it has resulted to the decline of quality education in the

to cultivate the culture of reading as many books as they could lay their hands on, urging them to always use the Dictionary to explain words they did not understand.

The event which had the theme, "Imbibing the Habit of Reading" also featured presentation of books to participating schools.

CELTRAS Plans Transportation Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

Osi Akpogomeh, has unfolded plans to commence a Department of Transportation in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Professor Akpogomeh made the disclosure in an interview with *UNIPOINT Weekly*, last Tuesday, stating that the emergent Centre would encourage study of the science and art of logistics and transportation, provide educational programmes through research, leading to the award of the Postgraduate degree in logistics and transportation, as well as provide students with intellectual, theoretical, methodological foundations and skills to function competently in varied logistics and transportation planning and management positions in the public and private sectors of the economy.

"The Centre is domiciled in the Faculty of Social Science with a temporary office at the Centre for Risk and Disaster Management facility at the Library Building. We currently have 22 Candidates in the Doctoral, Master's and Postgraduate programmes for this academic session", the Director disclosed, directing prospective students to enrol into any of the programmes at www.logisticsandtransportcentre.org. "Candidates with a First Degree in Transport, Logistics or related disciplines such as Town Planning, Economics, Geography, Civil Engineering, Urban and Regional Planning and a minimum CGPA of 3.5 from the University of Port Harcourt or any other recognized University, an HND or its equivalent will be acceptable for consideration into relevant

programmes of the Centre," the Director said.

Professor Akpogomeh, who also doubles as Chairman, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), Rivers State and Bayelsa Branch, explained that the essence of the Centre is to professionalise Transport and Logistics studies in Nigeria.

"We have the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) as our Professional Institute and I am a Member of Council of that body", he said. He lamented that before now transport and logistics have not been professionalised in Nigeria, stressing that "There is a Bill before the National Assembly on professionalizing transport in Nigeria and by the time the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, nobody would be allowed to practice transport in Nigeria without being a Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport. This is a major reason why the Centre was established in this University to fully professionalise the sector to take the challenges associated with the critical sector".

"The Vice-Chancellor advised that some of the teaching staff at the Centre should come from the industry and the idea behind this is to forge that truly symbiotic relationship between town and gown. We also have plans to partner all transport related bodies such as Rivers State Transport Management Agency (TIMARIV), Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Nigeria Institute of Transport Technology (NITT), National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA), Federal Airports of Nigeria (FAAN) and other relevant bodies."



Prof Akpogomeh

In a bid to fill the knowledge gap and provide practical skills aimed at understanding and solving the logistics and transportation problems in Nigeria, as well as generating international support in funding exchange programmes through conferences, seminars and publications, Director of the Centre for Logistics and Transportation Studies (CELTRAS), Professor

Clinical Sciences Lecturers Donate Power Plant To Faculty V-C, Provost, Dean, Praise Effort

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of efforts aimed at supporting the smooth-running of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, public-spirited Lecturers in the Faculty have donated a power generating set to the University to improve electricity supply that would enhance their productivity.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony in the Dean's Office, penultimate Thursday, a visibly delighted Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, lavished praises on the Lecturers for their generous donations and support to the development of the Faculty and University, commending such laudable effort to other Departments and Faculties in the University for its accelerated development.

"What you have done is very touching; you have shown that you can make personal sacrifices to this great University even in this harsh economic climate, by supporting a good cause that would benefit majority of staff and students in the Faculty of Clinical Sciences in their work. Let me wish you the strength to continue to exhibit the spirit of philanthropy which is responsible for developing similar institutions in other countries", he said.

Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, noted that what the



D V-C (Admin), Prof Nduka cutting the tape to commission the generating plant, Provost, CHS, Prof Akani and outgoing Dean, Clinical Sciences, Prof Ikimalo and others look on

Lecturers had done was worth emulating across board, adding, "We expect a lot from you people and you have shown us that you can give in line with your humanitarian calling as Caregivers. I hope other Faculties will take a cue from what you have

done, both for yourselves and the University".

In his contribution, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akani expressed joy over what the Lecturers did, adding, "I am part of this Faculty; but today marks as a memorable day in our effort to ensure regular electricity supply that would enable us do our work in the Faculty of Clinical Sciences and by extension the entire College of Health Sciences of this University. It is very gratifying to know that we now have a brand new power generating plant to support the smooth running of activities in the Faculty."

The Provost, who commended the Managing Director of Forte Medical Foundation, Dr Tombari Gbeneol, for contributing to such a noble cause out of his own free volition, charged other public-spirited individuals and groups to emulate his kind gesture through donations to public institutions.

Also speaking, Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor John Ikimalo, who facilitated the project, commended the Lecturers for their immense contributions towards the growth of the Faculty, describing the gesture as something that would be remembered in the Faculty, the College and University for a long time to come.

"Last year, during the Faculty Board Meeting, I made an appeal to my colleagues on the parlous financial situation of the University and stressed the need for us to assist ourselves without waiting for the Administration for help. I was overwhelmed by the response of my colleagues, which culminated in a donation by a public-spirited individual, who generously gave the power generating plant to us through the *Life Forte Medical Foundation*. The last Executive of the Port University Medical Students Association (PUMSA), also donated N130, 000 to the University, while the Akwa Ibom State Medical Students constructed a pathway that now links the University directly to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH)" the Dean said.

"In the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, we are trained to give and we do give a lot as part of our humanitarian calling. I am very pleased to note that our Medical Students are also imbibing what we are doing here and it is my hope that we would all continue to contribute towards the overall growth of the College and the University."

It would be recalled that a total of N1.92 million has so far been realized from the Dean's appeal for donations towards the purchase of a power generating plant that would ensure uninterrupted electricity supply in the Faculty.

GSAESS To Contribute To N'Delta Dev

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of its contributions to the development of the Niger Delta region, the Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences (GSAESS) in the College of Graduate Studies, has disclosed plans to drive quality research that would address contemporary issues such as militancy, oil prospecting and pollution, and social insecurity, in addition to providing relevant data and research findings that would aid effective policy formulation and implementation in the area.

Speaking during an interview with a *UNIPORT Weekly* Correspondent last Tuesday, Dean of the School, Professor Martins Ifeancha, who advised that Government policies should be informed by results of quality research done in universities and appropriate research institutions, said that every university ought to be a Centre of Excellence in research that should address societal issues. "The Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences would ensure that our Graduate Students are exposed to current research trends that would enable them make informed and meaningful contributions to knowledge by breaking new grounds", he added.

Professor Ifeancha, who said that emphasis would henceforth be placed on the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to facilitate research,

said that without ICT input, students would continue to vegetate on outmoded ideas that would not advance the frontiers of knowledge, adding that assessment mechanisms would be put in place to ensure compliance with ethical standards in research procedures.

The Dean, who also revealed collaborative efforts with some industry players on Human Resources Management and Development, said that such emergent partnerships would involve Human Resources Managers who can provide practical sessions aimed at complementing classroom theory.

"We are exploring the possibility of inviting seasoned labour practitioners, political scientists and public issue analysts, to participate in regular interactions with students with a view to broadening their perspectives on national, regional and global issues. We can no longer afford to train students who think in a silo in the new knowledge society, where students are expected to go beyond the confines of their subject areas, if they hope to compete along global benchmarks."

"We are also working on regular training programmes that would address specific issues, such as current approaches in research supervision, referencing methods and basic counselling procedures to achieve enhanced productivity," Professor Ifeancha disclosed, adding that in line with the new entrepreneurial vision of the University, the College has designed a compulsory entrepreneurial course for all Postgraduate students. He pointed out that accomplished Entrepreneurs would also be invited to be part of regular interactions with the Graduate Students as a means of forging a critical symbiotic relationship between town and gown.

Professor Ifeancha, who disclosed that some Graduate Students have been selected to compete at the forthcoming *Best Dissertation Competition* under the auspices of the National Universities Commission (NUC), said that Postgraduate Seminar series and the Post-Seminar Correction Verification Committee, have put appropriate measures in place to ensure originality of research works carried out by students to check possible plagiarism.



Prof Ifeancha

There are strong indications that some international sports stars with Spanish League giants Barcelona Football Club and renowned sports heavyweights would soon storm the University of Port Harcourt to participate in a talent hunt show aimed at young people in the oil city. The landmark event is expected to hold at the Youth Sports Training Centre (YSTC), located inside the NUGA 2004 Sports Complex in fulfilment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the University and Senegal-based *Fondation Internationale Olympafrica*, last August.

Technical Director of *Fondation Internationale Olympafrica*, Mamadou Sambe, who broke the cheering news when he led the Country Representative of the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC), Abdulmalik Ibrahim on a Courtesy Visit to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, last Thursday, said the visit was to inform the University authorities of the formal commencement of the Youth Sports Training Centre in pursuit of the MoU.

Mr Sambe, who stood in for the Executive Director, Mr Thierno Diack, said that the partnership which would commence with the *FootballNet* project is supported by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Football Club of Barcelona and United States Olympic Committee to give international impetus to the Centre, pointing out that the partnership was the first time *Olympafrica* would engage in training collaboration with any University in West Africa.

He unveiled sports equipment brought in to facilitate the exercise, explaining that the training would be carried out through practical demonstration sessions in the field and classroom, where the six values of the project, including commitment, respect, responsibility, tolerance, effort and teamwork would be taught. The Technical Director restated that funds for the implementation of all the programmes in the Centre would be provided by

Olympafrica Commences Training In UNIPORT

...Int'l Sports Stars To Storm Campus Soon

contributions towards the realization of the foremost Youth Sports Training Centre in West Africa, hoping that

By Otikor Samuel

Olympafrica as contained in the MoU, while the University would provide logistics, some personnel and facilities for the training.

In his response, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, commended the Management of *Olympafrica* for fulfilling its part of the agreement which he said, would provide sporting skills and employment opportunities for youths in the area, assuring the team that the University would do its best to ensure that the Centre attracts patronage.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to the Director of Sports, Dr Ken Anugweje, for his immense

the Centre would consolidate on the legendary exploits of *Team UNIPORT* in national and continental championships.

Also commending *Olympafrica* for promptly implementing the terms of the MoU, Chairman, Sports Management Committee, Professor Mark Anikpo and Director of Sports, Dr Anugweje promised to continue to put in their best to promote sporting activities in the University, the West African sub-Region and the rest of the Continent. Meanwhile, Dr Chuks Agi of the Department of Radiology in the College of Health Sciences, has been appointed pioneer Acting Director of the new Youth Sports Training Centre.



L-R: Head, Protocol & Logistics, Dr Sylvester Udeorah, D V-C (Acad), Prof Joe, Technical Director of Olympafrica, Mr Sambe, Director of Sports, Dr Anugweje and Country Rep of NOC, Mr Ibrahim, unveiling training kits

2013 CGS Orientation Revisited

It is beyond argument that the academic barometre of reputable universities is read from the quality of their graduate programmes. And so when the College of Graduate Studies (CGS) recently held its 2013 Orientation Exercise for Fresh and Returning Students at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, the University Community took notice of what was undoubtedly a well-packaged event. The Orientation which was well-attended by graduate students at various levels, was the first organized by the new College. The impressive level of participation was indicative of the level of enthusiasm and commitment of graduate students to comply with the new rules and regulations guiding enrolment and graduation at the College.

Incisive papers were presented on: *Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Postgraduate Education in Nigerian Universities*; *E-Learning Resources in the University of*

By Obinna Nwodin

Port Harcourt, *Sourcing for Graduate Research Grants and Scholarships*, and the *Registration Process in the College of Graduate Studies*.

The 2013 Orientation was aimed at acquainting new students with programme guidelines, and returning students on the new policies required of them for graduation. The interactive session was well received as participants sought answers to questions on various issues of concern to them.

A major issue addressed by the College Management was the need for graduate students to engage in research activities and ensure that they publish aspects of their research works in reputable journals as a precondition for graduation. This is imperative because the graduate programme is a researched-intensive activity that

ensures that students put themselves to work in order to advance the frontiers of knowledge. Graduate students are

supposed to work assiduously to attract research grants that would aid their work.

It is also gratifying to note that the College has initiated steps to cross-fertilize ideas with local and international universities to attain global best practices in research and development.

At the event, students were advised to work towards winning grants that would help in carrying out their research activities in line with best global practices.

It is obvious that most renowned universities are rated high because of the quality of the graduate programmes they offer. Indeed, the University of Port Harcourt has come of age and stands at the vantage position of fostering strong and virile graduate programmes that should attract global attention. This can be achieved by giving graduate students the required orientation on the nature of the programme and requirements in order to keep them abreast of current trends.

Another outcome of the exercise was that the era when students deliberately over-stayed on their programmes was over, as the College authorities have decided to implement the policy of graduation within the stipulated timeline by students. The practice whereby some students defer payment of fees until the end of their programmes was frowned upon, as the College now insists on full payment of fees as a precondition for course enrolment. Indeed, the open door policy of the Provost and the semi-financial autonomy granted the College is an added boost to enhance the quality of service delivery.

It is important to state that graduate students should have a conducive academic environment for study. There should be well-equipped laboratory and library facilities that would enable students embark upon effective research work. The University authorities must be commended for ensuring that students gain access to e-resources that would expose them to a wide spectrum of knowledge. Much is expected of the students to justify the enormous resources expended by the authorities on the graduate programme. In the end, we expect the graduate programme to be the flag ship of a truly unique University that is bound to excellence. The transformation into a College is a major step in that direction.



A cross section of participants during the Orientation exercise

Council Holds Inaugural Session Today

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Committees would be constituted at the Governing Council Chambers inside the Senate Building. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka is also expected to brief Council on the state of the University at the Inaugural Meeting.

The two-day maiden Council session would continue on Tuesday with the 139th Meeting to address some academic and administrative issues aimed at delivering on the core mandate of transforming the University into a foremost Institution in teaching,



New Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Chief Asamaoewi (Centre) flanked by V-C, Prof Ajiienka (left) other members of Council and some Principal Officers after inauguration at Abuja

research and community service.

It would be recalled that the Pro-Chancellor, Chief Asamaoewi, visited the University last month to see things for himself as part of his process of familiarizing himself with the workings of the University. The new Council comprises five external members: Mrs Joyce Bozimo, Alhaji Mohammed

Iyimoga, Dr Nelson Olaniyi and Mr Okey Ajunwa and six internal Members, who are Professors Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo, Anthony Ibe, Regina Ogali and John Ikimalo (Representing Senate), Professor Owunari Georgewill and Mrs Dorcas Otto (Representing Congregation). Principal Officers of the University are also Members of the new Council.



Willy-Willy Reappears With A Bang!

Lovers of soap opera in Nigeria between the 1980s and 1990s would fondly remember "Hot Cash", a hilarious and horrifying Soap Opera that ruled the screen. Our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, spoke with the brain behind the popular TV drama serial, Dr Innocent Ohiri, who was not only Director and Producer of the soap, but also played the role of what could be described as the eponymous hero, Willy-Willy. ALUMACO sponsored the hit drama.

The bad news is that those very popular television drama series stopped running since late 1990s. Why did those widely-watched educational soaps stop? "I transferred my services from the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) to University of Port Harcourt in 1999. I had some challenges associated with my transfer of service then. When I came here with a bag-full of recorded tapes to be interviewed, I had hoped that they would enhance my appointment but the Panel would assess based only on notes," Ohiri explained. "At

were into production; we didn't focus on publications, otherwise, I had many scripts that I had written and produced that I would have published. I was employed as Lecturer II, when my contemporaries, who had PhD with me in 1988, were already Senior Lecturers. This was 11 years after my PhD. So, I suspended all production activities and took it as a personal challenge. While at NTA, I was Part-Time Lecturer at Imo State University and I also taught here for one year before I joined the services of the University," he added.

Ohiri, who had the intention of becoming a Full-Time Lecturer in UNIPORT, while continuing with production on a Part-Time basis, said: "With that challenge, I said production should wait to enable me face academics. I became a Senior Lecturer in 2005, and felt I could go back to production, but we had no sponsors. Although I did one production called *Ejumble* in Imo State and another titled *Ojukwu*—a musical show was on the screen in Enugu State. I could have continued the production, but lack of sponsorship scuttled the project. Shortly after, I was appointed Head of Department and that office did not require any form of distraction."

Ohiri regretted that NTA did not show much interest in continuing the programme, saying: "NTA Port Harcourt is not far from here; if they had shown concern, I would have continued with them. It was a very big minus for the station, because that programme won NTA laurels and made it popular."

The good news is that viewers will soon enjoy another TV series from the stables of the ace filmmaker. Hear it from Dr Ohiri: "We are warming up to go back to production with what is called the 'Return of Willy-Willy', which will be on the screen in November this year; recording will commence before September. We have acquired the necessary equipment and we are looking for sponsors to sustain the project. Many of my fans have been expecting the production and their wish would soon be granted."

"We are at the first stage of production, which is the

research stage; we would soon get to the rehearsal stage. Luckily, some of the original cast of *Willy-Willy* are alive—Nchelem and Mazi Ikpa are around. What I'm doing now is sensitizing them that we shall soon start. Most of them are very keen to be part of the production. We also have one other production known as "Vengeance of the Dead" in the making," said Ohiri (alias Willy-Willy).

"There is one wrong impression I want to correct as we hope to resume our TV series. Some people are saying you want to go back to that *devilish* programme. It is not a *devilish* programme. I want to drum it to the ears of my viewers that *Willy-Willy* was my own personal crusade against the evil activities of secret societies that are inflicting so much misery on society. In the past, people warned me that I would run into trouble with secret society barons. *Willy-Willy* was the very first film that exposed the inner workings of secret societies—especially how to use people for money-making rituals," he explained.

It was after I produced "*Hot Cash*" that horror films started in Nigeria. So, I am a pioneer of sorts, if you like. Such other horror films as *Rituals*, *Circle of Doom*, followed along the *Hot Cash* concept. It was a life-changing experience I had of how humans were used for rituals by people possessed by the get-rich-quick syndrome". Ohiri, who also created another popular TV serial: *Prize of Evil*, observed that *Living in Bondage*, which has received a lot of credit as a pioneer film in Nollywood was an adaptation of his *Hot Cash* serial.

"They picked the story, made the person, who was to be sacrificed a wife, instead of a relation of the man; they just did it in Igbo language, while *Hot Cash* was done in English. Every other thing; how they went to the secret society to acquire money, the hunting stunt and all that, was exactly the same thing as what we did in *Hot Cash*," Dr Innocent Ohiri, who is now a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts disclosed.

Ohiri, who advised young actors and actresses to de-emphasise money until they come to limelight, said when Actors become celebrities, filmmakers go after them, noting that some talented and budding stars ruin their chances of hitting it big in the industry by making so much monetary demands before starting in films.

There you have it. Fasten your seat belts folks and wait for the man from the burial ground with a lot of disappearing stunts. His name? Aha! *Willy Willy* is back with a bang! ALUMACO should resume sponsorship of this iconic soap brand. It's good for business.



Dr Ohiri

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr Best Odinioha, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The appointment, which is for two years, takes effect from 23rd May, 2013 and terminates on 25th May, 2015.

Dr Kennedy Wariso, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The appointment, which is for two years, takes effect from 23rd May, 2013 and terminates on 25th May, 2015.

PENSIONABLE APPOINTMENT

Dr Catherine Ukala, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, offered *Pensionable Appointment*, as Lecturer II, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr O. T. Amie-Ogan, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, offered *Pensionable Appointment*, as Lecturer II, effective on assumption of duty.

Mrs Blessing Isiguzo, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance & Counselling, Faculty of Education, offered *Pensionable Appointment*, as Lecturer II, effective on assumption of duty.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Dr Chioma Chukueggu has assumed duty as Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Technology and Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education. Effective 14th March, 2013 to 13th March, 2014.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr Deborah Obafemi, Department of Curriculum Studies & Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, granted *Review of Status* from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective 23rd January, 2013.

Fresh Students Relive First Semester Exam Experience

Away from the elementary experience from their foundational levels, fresh students who gained admission into the University for the 2012/2013 academic session, relived their experiences so far especially, following the First Semester examination, reports OTIKOR SAMUEL



Lemuel

“After listening to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, who was represented by the Dean, Student Affairs, Professor Henry Bell-Gam and other senior officers of the University at the Orientation exercise who emphasised on commitment to studies and mulled over the Oath which I took at the Matriculation ceremony, I am determined not to fail myself, disappoint my family, the University and well-wishers,” said Inoida Lemuel, a student of the Department of Educational Foundations (English Studies option) in the Faculty of Education.

Describing his first experience in a university examination hall as a test for academic best brains, Mr Lemuel stated that he prepared adequately for the task of earning a degree, which is awarded to students who are found worthy in character and learning. “I realised that super brains from various secondary schools are those competing for the best grades in examinations. I am also aware that if I should complete my studies successfully with excellent grades in the University of Port Harcourt which is known for its uniqueness, I would be accepted anywhere in the world”, the fresher added.

Miss Confidence Nnamdi, one of the pioneer Students of the Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, said she passed through enormous stress to complete her registration procedures because the Department is newly established in the University. “The examinations have been successful so far; it has been quite simple,

maybe because I prepared very well ahead of them. I remember back in my Secondary School days, one would go to examinations unprepared and come out with good grades, but here, one needs to read far and wide to stand a chance of making a good grade,” the student said.

“Unique UNIPOINT is an Institution to be due to its exceptional potentials in training students to deliver their best; it has been interesting so far and I know there are more interesting things about the University that are yet to come as we sail deeper into the academic ocean,” Miss Nnamdi said, expressing hope to graduate with First Class at the end of it all.

Also speaking, a student of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Science, Miss Goodness Nwanen, said that “the examinations were not stressful as the question set by

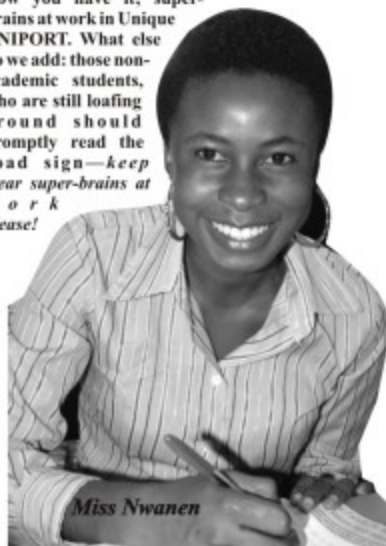


Miss Nnamdi

Lecturers were what they taught and revised in classroom. I would say that this examination which was my first experience in the University is a good one. We saw some of the results, especially the GES Courses immediately after the examination, which is very encouraging to us.”

Miss Nwanen, who expressed optimism of graduating with not less than a Second Class Upper Division, said the preparation to realize the dream had just started, stating her resolve to contain any form of distraction to her tertiary education.

Now you have it; super-brains at work in Unique UNIPOINT. What else do we add: those non-academic students, who are still loafing around should promptly read the road sign—keep clear super-brains at work please!



Miss Nwanen

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE, 2- SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (AM) (PM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 02 JUNE, 2013	32.0 25.0	70	NE	3.1	6:18 6:42	Isolated thunderstorm expected. More clouds than sun. Day anticipated being warm.
MONDAY, 03 JUNE 2013	33.0 25.0	68	NE	2.5	6:19 6:42	Isolated thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny and hot day predicted.
TUESDAY 04 JUNE, 2013	31.0 24.0	75	NE	4.0	6:19 6:42	Few thunderstorm predicted. Day predicted being mostly cloudy and warm.
WEDNESDAY 05 JUNE, 2013	33.0 25.0	68	NE	3.0	6:19 6:42	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Day expected to be mostly cloudy and hot.
THURSDAY 06 JUNE, 2013	31.0 24.0	62	N	6.3	6:19 6:42	Isolated thunderstorm forecasted. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.
FRIDAY 07 JUNE, 2013	30.0 24.0	61	NE	4.2	6:19 6:43	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY 08 JUNE, 2013	31.0 23.0	61	NE	3.8	6:19 6:43	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Day predicted to be mostly sunny and warm.

VREMUDIA WEKPE
RESIDENT METEOROLOGIST

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)

Wits V-C's Visit To UNI^{PORT}

The University of Port Harcourt and Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, South Africa, recently agreed to partner on Petroleum Engineering Studies through a split-site programme for Doctoral candidates, amongst other areas of mutually-beneficial collaborations. Pictures by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, show highlights of the visit.



Vice-Chancellor and Principal Designate, Professor Adam Habib on arrival



V-C, Professor Joseph Ajenka, welcoming Professor Rob Moore



L-R: V-C (Designate), Prof Adam Habib, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Advancement and Partnerships), Professor Moore and Mr Oliver Seals, Director, Special Projects



Both Teams at a Roundtable



Outgoing V-C, of Wits Prof Nongxa making a presentation



D V-C (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe and Prof Nongxa



V-C, Prof Ajenka, explaining a point to Prof Nongxa



D V-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie-Abbey and Prof Habib



V-C, Prof Ajenka, presenting Souvenir to Prof Nongxa



V-C, Prof Ajenka, presenting Souvenir to Prof Moore



Prof Nongxa presenting Souvenir to V-C, Prof Ajenka



L-R: Directors QADC, Prof Tony Arize, UAC, Dr Ngazi Odu, Exchange and Linkages Unit, Prof John Odeigbo, DV-C (Academic) Prof Igbo Joe, Wits DV-C (Advancement & Partnerships), Prof Moore, V-Cs Prof Nongxa and Prof Ajenka, DV-C (R&D) Prof Bene Willie-Abbey, Prof Habib, University Librarian, Dr Obageli Nwoda, Mr Seals, Provost, CGS, Prof Roseline Kenya and D V-C (Admin) Prof Ethelbert Nkhalu