

New Engineering Provost Meets Post-HND Students

The Provost, College of Engineering, Professor Dulu Appah, has promised that his tenure would witness graduation of Post-Higher National Diploma (P-HND) students within the stipulated time line in line with the new vision of administration, reports *Mercy Adeniji*.

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Side Bar

The third batch of students and staff of University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Ghana on Exchange Programme now in UNIPORT. Details next week. -Editor

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V-C, Prof. Ajienka (arrowed) Director, CCE, Prof. Steve Okoduwa (4th from left) and the students

V-C Meets Part-Time Students On Fees

Following representations by Second Year Students of the College of Continuing Education (CCE) on the current fees regime, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has sounded it loud and clear that the University cannot condescend to exploiting its students, stating that Management did not increase fees for the Class as was being speculated, rather it cut down from what the Class had paid in the previous academic session. Professor Ajienka, who made the correction in a meeting with

By *Otikor Samuel*

representatives of the concerned students Course Leaders Forum from the College, penultimate Friday at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, corrected the impression by the Class that it was going to pay the same amount which previous Year Two had paid at the last academic session, explaining that the slight difference in the fees was part of measures aimed at restructuring operations of Part-Time programmes to meet new guidelines

by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

The Vice-Chancellor, who challenged the students to come on a negotiation table to work out operational modalities to make the College more viable and beneficial to all stakeholders, warned them against provocative protests such as the ones recently experienced at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, which led to death of some students including officers of the National Association of Nigerian Students

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Engineering Academy Confers Fellowship On V-C

By Williams Wodi

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has been conferred with the prestigious Fellowship of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering (NAE). The Award was formally conferred on him at an impressive ceremony held in Lagos last Friday. Conferment of the Fellowship followed the Vice-Chancellor's nomination, assessment and election by the Governing Board of NAE, which is the highest Academy of Engineering Practice in Nigeria. A thorough-bred Petroleum Engineer and Educator spanning nearly three decades in the profession and academia, Professor Ajienka studied Petroleum Engineering at the premier University of Ibadan, before coming to the University of Port Harcourt, where he was privileged to be taught and mentored by the great Professor Chi Ikoku of blessed memory, who bestrode the hydrocarbon space like a colossus. On what the Award means to him, the Vice-Chancellor said: "I am happy to be so recognized at the highest level of professionalism by the Nigerian Academy of Engineering. This recognition means more hard work and

contributions to the development of society. It also tallies with my concept of an Entrepreneurial University, where 25 per cent of researches should be directly linked to the industry."

Election into the Academy, according to Professor Ajienka, puts him in a position to recommend other deserving Engineering professionals from the University for the Award, which would in turn "We are inaugurating Advisory Boards for some Faculties and Institutes to enable them reach out to industry players and other stakeholders in the affairs of the University. For instance, we want to capitalise on our strength in oil and gas training to reach out and become relevant to the hydrocarbon industry," Professor Ajienka said, stressing that research done in the University must be globally competitive and locally relevant to be meaningful.

Advising Professors to engage in quality research that would earn them recognition through collaborative ventures with experts in their fields in industry and the University, the Vice-Chancellor promised that the Administration would do everything within its powers to create an enabling atmosphere for enhanced productivity at all levels.



Prof Ajienka, V-C

STUDENT WORLD

Academic Performance Is Linked To Competence In Language ~Doctoral Candidate

Ways of building an educational system from which learners benefit maximally from the process is the main concern of Ataisi Gladday, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies. Our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, reports.

Ataisi Gladday has always had interest in ensuring that students derive the best from their educational programmes. With this in mind, she began her voyage into the academia from the then Rivers State College of Education, where she obtained the Bachelor of Education (BEd) Degree in English of the Institute of Education, University of Ibadan, to which CoE was affiliated.

With a clear roadmap in view, Mrs Gladday enrolled in a Master of Arts (MA) programme in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, University of Port Harcourt, where she specialised in Clinical Linguistics. She did a thesis on the "Challenges in the Management of Children with Communication Disorders in Port Harcourt Local Government Area of Rivers State". The groundbreaking research work, which was later published by Lambert Publishing Company in

Germany, is also available online.

"The study aimed to proffer solution to challenges encountered in the management of Children with Communication Disorders. We found out that, at least, three in every 100 children in Rivers State, would have communication disorders. That means that government needs to factor their needs into its policy on education. The Nigerian policy on Education makes provision for special education. Besides, if the right teaching aids are put in place, and teachers taken care of to enable them improve on their skills and be committed to their jobs in mainstream schools, some of the challenges could be tackled," she submitted, defining communication disorder as "any abnormality in hearing, speech or language that interferes with the communication process."

Gladday, who is currently a Doctoral degree candidate in Applied Linguistics—Language Teaching and Learning, disclosed that she is doing a dissertation on: "The Enhancement of Communicative Competence: A Study of the Impact of Remedial Language Instruction on Low-Achieving Students", describing low-achieving students as those who perform poorly in academics, due to a combination of factors being addressed by the research.

"Students with learning disabilities, communication disorders and language-disadvantaged students are also classified as low-achieving students; they are usually incompetent in, at least, one of the language skills—listening, speaking, reading and writing," she explained, adding that "Remedial language instruction is a special language pedagogy that seeks to correct identified language or communicative deficiencies in an individual."

Gladday, who noted that "remedial language instruction is provided to improve the language skills of low-achieving students,"

disclosed that the study aims at improving the language skills of low-achieving students with a view to fully integrating them into the mainstream of society.

"If students are equipped with good language skills, the rate of examination malpractice would reduce; and if they can read textbooks and understand and also understand what teachers explain in class, they would not need to indulge in examination malpractice. The social, economic and academic success of students is tied to their competence in the use of language, which permeates every activity of man," Gladday noted.

Does she advocate use of mother tongues? "No, because our languages are not well developed. I speak Obolo as my first language; if, for instance, I trained in Obolo at the Primary School level and move on to study science subjects in Secondary School, I would certainly have serious difficulties learning. Most of our native languages do not have orthography that would carry the curriculum content at the Senior Secondary School level," she said.

Gladday, advocated publication of research by graduate students, which she believed would encourage policy-makers to implement some of their recommendations, noting that "every year, students write theses and make recommendations. These research works come from various disciplines such as environment, sciences, education, humanities, amongst others, and contain useful recommendations that can solve societal problems."

Gladday

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Provost, COE, Prof Appah (in bowler hat) poses for a photograph with Post-HND students after the meeting

New Engineering Provost Meets Post-HND Students ...Promises Timely Graduation

Cont'd from p1

Professor Appah gave the assurance while addressing the Post-HND students at the maiden edition of a special interactive session titled: "Post-HND Day with the Provost," organised by the College of Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering Drawing Studio, Choba Park, penultimate Saturday.

The Provost, who commended the students for turning out *en masse* to grace the event and their sense of commitment to the success of the programme, charged them to study hard to graduate with good grades, promising that the interactive session would henceforth be held twice a year to allow all stakeholders brainstorm on issues concerning the College and the welfare of students.

"The Management of the College is gender-friendly and

we are interested in the progress of women. We want you to develop both the family and the home. The former Faculty of Engineering was upgraded to a College of Engineering by Senate of the University on 25th March in line with our vision of making our activities relevant to modern Engineering practices", Professor Appah said, expressing joy that the students would graduate from the new College.

The one-time Head of Department and Dean, disclosed that the new College now has three Faculties namely; Faculty of Infrastructural System Engineering which has the Departments of Civil, Environmental, Structural/Geotechnical, Water Resources, Highway and Transport Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy System Engineering, which houses the Departments of Chemical, Gas, Petroleum, Nuclear and Petro-Chemical Engineering and the Faculty of Production, Power System

Also speaking, Secretary of the College, Mrs Mite Ngeh, stressed the need for the students to pay their fees on time to make them eligible for registration numbers and become *bona fide* students of the University.

In his contribution, Dr Tobin Briggs, expressed gratitude to Management of the University and the College for organising the event, stating that before now, most of the Post-HND students were not enlightened about the scope of the programme. "We have a performing Provost and we are here to remind him to deliver on his electioneering promises. We encourage you to be part of this new move aimed at repositioning the College to deliver on its mandate," Dr Briggs said.

The meeting which recorded a large turn-out of P-HND students also served as an interactive session during which they discussed issues of concern to them.

and Communication Engineering, comprising the Departments of Electrical, Electronic Computer, Mechanical, Mechatronic and Agricultural Engineering, respectively, he said, expressing optimism that in the next one month, the new Departments would commence with structures in place for Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes.

Professor Appah, who is the current Occupant of the Chi Ikoku Professorial Chair in Petroleum Engineering, charged the P-HND student to think of

what they would be remembered for as the College is in dire need of a befitting structure to house the programme. He urged them to always feel free to come to him and other staff for relevant information on matters of concern, assuring them of a listening ear at all times.

Members of the Nigerian Association of Dermatologists (NAD) converged at the Conference Hall of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), last Wednesday to sensitize health workers on ways of managing skin diseases.

The Workshop, which had "Common Skin Infections in Dermatological Practice", as its theme, was part of the 7th Annual Scientific Conference of the Association, with "Quality of life in Dermatology Practice" and "Occupational Skin Diseases in the Oil Industry," as theme and sub-themes, respectively.

Briefing *UNIPORT Weekly* on the event, a Registrar in the Department of Internal Medicine, Dr Ekechi Amadi, said that the Workshop, was aimed at educating other health workers and the public on the management of skin infections.

According to her, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Dr Dasetima Altraide, disclosed that the choice of the theme and sub-themes for the gathering was to enlighten Dermatologists, as well as other health workers about the impact of dermatological problems on the quality of life in children and adults.

"There is also a need to address skin diseases arising in persons who work in the oil industry, particularly in Port Harcourt, which is one of the major oil cities in Nigeria," Dr Altraide, who is a Consultant Dermatologist and Senior Lecturer in the University added.

Some of the topics covered in the workshop which had Drs M. Amaewhule, Ofondu, Eshan Henshaw, Onyekonwu, as speakers, included: "Management of *Onychomycosis*", "Management of Skin Infections", "Management of Parasitic Infections", "Management of Scabies", "Management of *Onchocerciasis*", "Management of Herpes Infections", "Management of Skin Impetigo", amongst others, as sub-themes.

Other notable participants at the Workshop included:

Dermatologists End Pre-Confab Workshop At UPTH

By Humphrey Ogu

Consultant Dermatologists and the National President of the Nigerian Association of

Dermatologists Dr Bola Ogunbiyi, Consultant Dermatologist, University College Hospital Ibadan (UCH), Professor Kunle George, Deputy Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC), Projects/Linkages & Research), Dr Macleans Akpa, and Consultant Dermatologist, Dr Bolaji Otiike-Odibe, who is Secretary, LOC, and Dr Belema Abbey, Treasurer. Other members of the LOC included Drs Mercy Edet, Bunmi Ajala Yetunde Ikuru and Maureen Nnaji, amongst



L-R: Drs Altraide, George, Otiike-Odibe (middle), Akpa (3rd from right), Ogunbiyi (2nd right) and others at the event

ENACTUS Trains Rumuekpe Women On Soap Making

By Humphrey Ogu & Mercy Adeniji

As part of its Skills for Life Project aimed at empowering communities in the University's catchment area, ENACTUS, a student organisation, has concluded training a group of women from Rumuekpe Community in Emohua Local Government Area on soap-making skills.

Briefing *UNIPOINT Weekly* on the project that took place at the Convocation Arena, last Monday, Team Leader of ENACTUS in the University, Setutsi Eyo, said the essence of the skills acquisition programme was to empower women from Rumuekpe community with hands-on skills that would enable them earn income as part of the organization's sustainability project for the 2013 service year.

"We built a relationship with the women from our previous project, which was on oil-mill production, last year. In the process of running the project, we discovered that the community was rich in oil palm production; but we also found out that Rumuekpe was engulfed in an avoidable communal conflict that was not conducive to development. So we had to embark on skillful conflict-resolution with the women as our target audience. Through them, we engaged the men and youth, who were major actors in the conflict," Eyo said, adding that ENACTUS facilitated the birth of a Co-operative Society that was registered with the Local Government Council, before training the women on soap-making skills to complement their

earning power as rural farmers.

"The training was conceived as a train-the-trainer project, following which the direct beneficiaries will train others in the community, as well as members of their own families. We would also train them on basic accounting skills; equip them with start up kits and other packages to get them started in business," Eyo disclosed.

She explained that the organisation partnered the Department of Chemical Engineering, which sourced facilitators that trained four of its members on how to make soap and hair conditioners.

Eyo expressed gratitude to Management of the University and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), for financing most of the projects in line with the present administration's vision of transforming the Institution into a truly Entrepreneurial University.

In her contribution, a trainer from ENACTUS, Miss Amarachi Olei, who is also a Second Year Student of Accounting, stated that the training she received equipped her to train the Rumuekpe women. "What I have learnt would enable me assist myself in school and improve my own entrepreneurial skills," she said.

Some beneficiaries of the training expressed gratitude to ENACTUS for the empowerment, promising to put the skills they acquired into practice to boost their earnings and also train other women in the community.



ENACTUS members and the trainees with their start-up kits after the exercise



Dr. Adedokun

UNIPOINT Lecturer Wins Agric Research Award

Lecturer in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Olatayo Adedokun, has again emerged winner of the prestigious African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Dr. Adedokun told *UNIPOINT Weekly* penultimate Wednesday, that the first selection of

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

awardees held in 2011, when she was picked out of 789 candidates, who applied for the coveted Fellowship from eleven African countries. "In 2012, I was also selected for the Advanced Research Training. Out of 43 Post-Doctoral Fellows that applied for the competition, 27 were selected for the training," she said. Having gained double placements, Dr. Adedokun has just proceeded on a ten-month training in Biosciences for East and Central Africa (BeCA-ILRI-Hub), taking place in the Kenyan capital Nairobi and the University of Pretoria, South Africa, commencing from 1st June, 2013 to 31st May, 2014.

A visibly delighted Dr. Adedokun further disclosed that her research during the training would focus on identification, molecular characterization and nutraceutical properties of selected indigenous mushrooms of the Niger Delta. "I would also work on *Advances in mushroom breeding at the University of Pretoria*", she added.

STOP PRESS

CALLING BATCH 'B' CORPS MEMBERS Prospective Corps Members for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Batch 'B' 2013 Service Year, are advised to obtain Call-Up Letters from the Student Affairs Department, which commenced last Friday, 21st June, 2013.

A Memo dated 14th June, 2013 and signed by the Director, Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro, directed those affected to present original and photocopies of relevant documents, including Success Letters, Bank Tellers and Identity Cards as part of their documentation for mobilization. The Director further advised them to present themselves for the exercise, warning that the Call-Up Letters will not be issued by proxy.

The Call-Up Letters are issued in the Student Affairs Department not the respective Departments as was earlier reported in our last edition of *UNIPOINT Weekly*. The mix-up is regretted.

NUC To Inaugurate UNIPOINT SERVICOM Unit Sept

By Otiokor Samuel

In response to the directive by the Federal Government to Vice-Chancellors of Federal Universities to establish SERVICOM Units to improve service delivery in their institutions, Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Julius Okojie, is expected to formally launch and inaugurate the SERVICOM Unit of the University of Port Harcourt on 18th September, 2013. The inauguration is expected to form part of the 4th Quarterly NUC Parastatal SERVICOM Committee (PSC) meeting to be hosted by the University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, had in a Letter to the Executive Secretary of NUC, dated 14th May, 2013 and obtained by *UNIPOINT Weekly*, accepted to host the 4th Quarterly NUC Parastatal SERVICOM

Committee meeting at which the SERVICOM Unit is expected to be launched and inaugurated in the University.

Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) Unit, Professor Anthony Arinze, who is the Focal Officer of SERVICOM Unit, said that SERVICOM was established to effect positive lifestyle among the workforce for improved service delivery, pointing out that when fully operational, lax attitude to work, bribery and corruption, inefficiency, dereliction of duty, indiscipline and indecency, which contributed to loss of public confidence in the system would be addressed by the Unit, in addition to monitoring service delivery in all service windows of the University.

The emergent Unit would also take complaints from all UNIPOINT customers and stakeholders; it would address them and embark on routine checks on all service windows and taking attendance of staff who report early to work and identify absentees for appropriate sanctions.

Professor Arinze, who stated that staff, students, contractors, host communities, stakeholders and the public would be targeted by the Unit as clients, further disclosed that staff of the QAQC Unit would be re-designated to fill such positions as Charter Desk, SERVICOM Customer/Complaint Desk and Service Improvement Officers to ensure quality service delivery.

"The Unit will monitor and carry out survey of services and customer satisfaction, students are the main customers we have in the University and they have a right to demand quality service," the Focal Officer declared, promising to justify the confidence reposed in him by rendering timely, fair, honest, effective and transparent services in line with the expectations of the SERVICOM Pact.



Prof. Okojie, NUC Scribe

The Dean, Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences (GSAESS), Professor Martins Ifeanchio, has commended the Departments of Theatre Arts and Linguistics and Communication Studies for organizing an important Workshop aimed at sensitizing Graduate Students on current research trends, observing that undertaking quality research had always posed a major challenge to most Graduate Students and researchers. He expressed optimism that the training would go a long way in assisting participants in their bid to produce quality research works.

Similarly, the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimie, represented by the Chairman, Department of Theatre Arts Graduate Studies Committee, Professor Emmanuel Emasealu, thanked the Guest Lecturer, Professor Robert White, on what he described as a wonderful Lecture, stressing the need to replicate the training in other Departments.

In a PowerPoint presentation, Professor White, who is an erudite Scholar with vast knowledge in research and publication, with several decades of teaching and research experience at the Gregorian University Rome, London Resource Centre, St. Augustine University, Tanzania and University of Nairobi, amongst other institutions, trained participants on critical areas of research such as writing good abstracts, qualitative and quantitative research methods, data gathering methodologies and proposal writing, outlining the appropriate sub-headings and other relevant requirements in Theses and Dissertation writing.

Speaking on the inter-Departmental collaboration, Acting Head, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr Walter Ihejirika, said the Workshop aimed at building a research base for Graduate Students from the two Departments, stating that the Lecture would be beneficial to the

Visiting Scholar Trains Graduate Students On Research Methods

In a bold move aimed at tackling some of the challenges faced by young researchers, the Departments of Theatre Arts and Linguistics and Communication Studies, teamed up to mount an inter-Departmental Workshop on research and publication for Graduate Students at the New Theatre Lecture Hall, penultimate Tuesday. OTIKOR SAMUEL & HUMPHREY OGU report.

Departments which share media arts, film studies and other disciplines.

The Workshop, which also featured an interactive session, had the Director, Institute of Arts and Culture, Professor Julie Okoh, Acting Head,

Department of Theatre Arts, Dr Julie Umokoro, Professor Femi Shaka, Coordinator, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies Graduate Committee, Dr Esther Oweleke, other staff and Graduate Students in attendance.



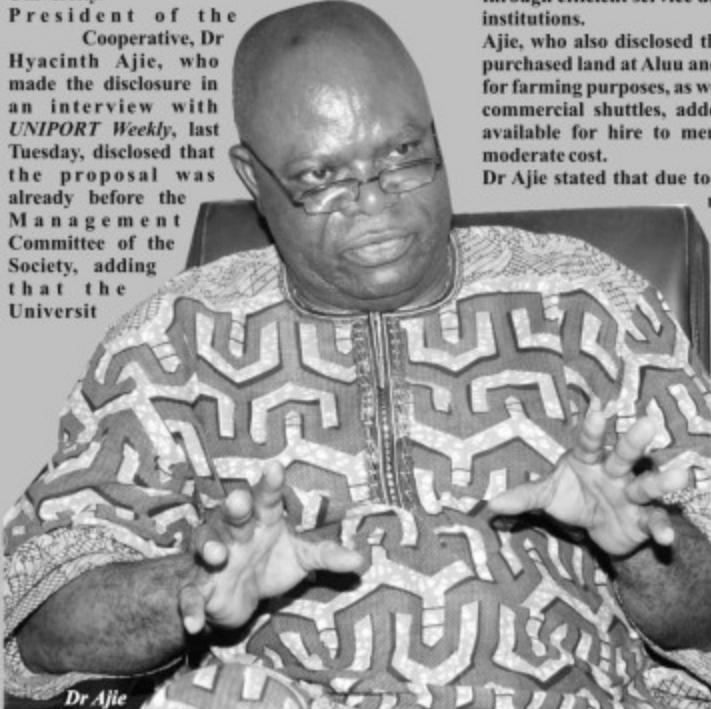
Some of the participants during the Workshop

UNIPORT Cooperative Society Plans Micro-Finance Bank

By Obinna Nwodin

In a bid aimed at boosting its capacity to provide better services to improve the welfare of its members and other clients, the Unique UNIPORT Choba Cooperative Investment and Credit Society Limited, says it is fine-tuning plans to establish a Micro-Finance Bank in the University.

President of the Cooperative, Dr Hyacinth Ajie, who made the disclosure in an interview with *UNIPORT Weekly*, last Tuesday, disclosed that the proposal was already before the Management Committee of the Society, adding that the University



Dr Ajie

y Management would be notified once the proposal was approved. He said that the Bank would be located at the University Park to make it assessable to clients.

Dr Ajie dispelled fears that the proposed Bank would create unnecessary rivalry with the already existing U&C Micro-Finance Bank, explaining that it would rather create room for healthy competition through efficient service delivery by both financial institutions.

Ajie, who also disclosed that the Cooperative has purchased land at Aluu and Omagwa communities for farming purposes, as well as buses that now run commercial shuttles, added that the buses were available for hire to members of the public at moderate cost.

Dr Ajie stated that due to increasing demands by members for loan facilities, the Cooperative has secured another N1 billion facility from ECOBANK Plc, bringing the total amount so far received to N3 billion. "We are securing another N1 billion loan from ECOBANK. Very soon, those who applied for credit facilities will have a sigh of relief. We are in the process of documenting the request of members, preparatory to actual disbursement of the loan facility", he said, adding that plans are

already in place to secure another credit facility from Enterprise Bank for distribution to members. On the quality of services rendered to members, Dr Ajie noted that the Management Committee of the Cooperative is fulfilled that it is helping to provide financial assistance to its members, describing it as an indication that the Cooperative Society is fulfilling its mandate.

Speaking on the level of compliance in loan repayment, the President said that it was encouraging. "I can say that the level of compliance is 95%. As a matter of fact, we pay about N67 million monthly to the Bank as part of our loan repayment schedule", he further disclosed, commending members over the level of cooperation so far received. The President revealed that, "We have set up a Committee headed by Professor Enevie Akpokodje to look at ways to recover funds owed the Cooperative. Indeed, we have come up with a policy that will ensure that all borrowed funds must be insured. This will help us take care of the problem that may arise as a result of the death of members who borrowed funds from the Cooperative".

STOP PRESS

Professor A.O. Kilani, Department of Religious & Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed Chairman, Professional Ethics Committee. Other members are: Professors Josephine Ebong and I.M. Siminalayi, Drs Udensi Udensi, U Ironkwe, O.A. Akadiri, O. Okorie, Ngozi Orazulike, Mrs Nwira Mbanefo, Mr I.E. Iwegbue and Mrs E.N. Ndiokho.

V-C Meets Part-Time Students On Fees



One of the student leaders, Mr Moses (standing), addressing the V-C, Prof Ajenka (Centre) at the interactive session

(NANS).

Cont'd from p1

"We are doing our best to assist our people access

tertiary education, but we have to run the CCE programme in a way that it will be mutually-beneficial to all of us. CCE is like a private

University because it is not supported by the National Universities Commission, so it would be in our best interest to ensure the survival of the programme. Also know that your certificate is not inferior to the regular students," Professor Ajenka said, charging them to thoroughly appraise the situation to arrive at a lasting solution at subsequent meeting. Anozie Moses and John Fubara, who led the students on the visit, described the session as a form of father-son interaction. The duo on behalf of their colleagues, expressed satisfaction with the vision of the present administration, appealing however to authorities of the University to assist them pay exactly what the previous set had paid or cut down on the present rate.

The new Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt headed by Engineer Gesi Asamaowei, recently held its Inaugural Meeting to develop a road map aimed at transforming the Institution into a true centre of academic excellence. The meeting was preceded by an interactive session between the new Council and staff of the University at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium.

The impressive turn out of staff and Principal Officers of the University to welcome Members of the new Council, was a clear indication of the great expectations and readiness of staff to give them support as they settle down to direct the affairs of the Institution. This is important because great achievements can only be accomplished when there is cooperation among the various segments that make up a system. That was just what the new Pro-Chancellor, Engineer Asamaowei, did when he reassured members of the University Community that the new Governing Council would work assiduously to achieve the vision and core mandate of the University during his tenure.

The reassuring content and precision of the Pro-Chancellor's Inaugural Address spoke volumes about the commitment of Council Members to provide the needed road-map to assist the Administration in its efforts to develop the University. The assurance that they were in the University to lighten the burden besetting Management, particularly in the area of funding to run the system was music to the ears of all staff at the meeting that morning.

The Governing Council is the highest policy-making organ of any University, which provides the needed policy framework for the day-to-day running of the system. There is no gainsaying the importance of an effective and responsive Governing Council in the successful administration of the University.

From what we have seen so far, it is quite obvious that the University is set to experience better days ahead with the

Task Before New Governing Council

By Obinna Nwodin

new crop of Council Members, whose body language show unmistakable willingness to make a remarkable difference in the fortunes of the Institution on their watch.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, was right on the mark when he declared at the maiden interactive meeting that: "This is the Council of our dream". It is indeed! The fact that the new Council comprises men and women, who have distinguished themselves in their various professional endeavours, confirms the Vice-Chancellor's optimism on what to expect from them.

Since July 2010, when the Professor Ajenka-led administration took over leadership of the University, there has been a robust attempt to reposition the Institution to become a truly world-class Entrepreneurial University. This vision has brought about sweeping changes in the way and manner things are done here, showing that the University is truly unique in all ramifications. In this regard, teaching and learning, research activities and industry partnerships have been given new meanings.

The assurances of the Pro-Chancellor that the new Council would work assiduously to make the Institution one of the best in the country is most commendable and a welcome development indeed.

From what we have seen so far, expectations are very high that the new Governing Council would transform the University before its tenure comes to an end.

An African proverb says that a chick that would grow into a hen is known from the day it hatches. The outcome of the interactive session with staff indicates that the

University would witness the needed transformation in terms of infrastructural development, capacity-building and staff welfare under the new Council. It is expected that staff and students, as well as other stakeholders in the affairs of the University would join hands with the new Council to achieve the UNIPORT of our dream. We heartily welcome Engineer Asamaowei and other Members of the new Governing Council!



Pro-Chancellor, Engr Asamaowei



A cross-section of University staff at the meeting

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr Victor Ogunleye, Department of Human Kinetics & Health Education, Faculty of Education, offered *Pensionable Appointment*, effective on assumption of duty.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr Tam-Jones Atuboyedja, Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 15th July, 2013 to 14th July, 2014.

George Kobani, Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 15th July, 2013 to 14th July, 2014.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mr Ekishi Henshaw, Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, granted *Review of Status* from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective 8th December, 2012.

Mr Munachiso Ogbo, Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, granted *Review of Status* from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective 19th December, 2012.

STUDY LEAVE

Mrs Sotonye Orji, Library Department, granted a two-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her undertake a Master's degree programme in Library and Information Science (MLIS) at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, effective 1st June, 2013 to 31st May, 2015.

CONFIRMATION OF DOCTORAL DEGREE

Dr Collins Wizar, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, completed his *Doctoral Degree* programme in Geography & Environmental Management (Urban Geography).

PART-TIME APPOINTMENT

Dr Mfoniso Umoren, Department of Mathematics/Statistics, Faculty of Physical Sciences & Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, offered a one-year *Part-Time Teaching Appointment* as Adjunct Associate Professor, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Gladson Nwokah, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, offered a one-year *Adjunct Appointment* as Senior Lecturer, effective on assumption of duty.

NFC FELLOWSHIP

Dr A.I. Emodi, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted permission to attend a Fellowship Programme (NFC) at the University of Wageningen, holding between 9th to 20th September, 2013.

RETIREMENT

Professor Reginald Ukwuije, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance & Counselling, Faculty of Education, *retired* from active service, effective 10th April, 2011.

Dr Stephen Etawo, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, *retired* from active service, effective 25th April, 2011.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr A.U. Nwannekezi, Department of Curriculum Studies & Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, granted a 12-month *Sabbatical Leave* to Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, effective 1st April, 2013 to 31st March, 2014.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Dr Marian Ofor, Department of Crop Science and Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, offered a one-year *Sabbatical Appointment* in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, effective on assumption of duty.

PROMOTION

Dr Longinus Ehirim, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Editor's Note: This supersedes earlier publication

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE, 23- SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 23 JUNE, 2013	31.0 24.0	76	NE	11.9	6:22 6:46	Thunderstorms expected with occurrences of broken clouds. Day expected being warm.
MONDAY, 24 JUNE, 2013	28.0 24.0	88	NE	36.9	6:22 6:46	Heavy rainfall expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted. Chance of rain is high.
TUESDAY 25 JUNE, 2013	31.0 23.0	75	NE	37.3	6:23 6:47	Heavy rainfall expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted. Chance of rain is high.
WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE, 2013	29.0 23.0	57	NE	6.0	6:23 6:47	Isolated thunderstorms expected. More clouds than sun anticipated. Day is expected to be warm.
THURSDAY 27 JUNE, 2013	29.0 23.0	70	NE	14.4	6:23 6:47	Thunderstorms expected. Cloudy and warm day forecasted.
FRIDAY 28 JUNE, 2013	29.0 23.0	72	NE	12.9	6:23 6:47	Thunderstorms expected. Day is predicted to be cloudy and warm.
SATURDAY 29 JUNE, 2013	28.0 23.0	75	NE	24.6	6:23 6:47	Strong thunderstorms expected. Day is forecasted being mostly cloudy and warm.

VREMUDIA WEKPE
RESIDENT METEOROLOGIST

PTDF Announces Annual
Research Grant Competition

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In pursuit of efforts aimed at building indigenous capacity for the oil and gas industry, the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), has announced its fourth Annual Oil and Gas Research Grant Competition.

Open to Nigerian citizens resident in the country and employed in academic and research institutions, companies, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the competition is aimed at enhancing the capacity of locally-based researchers to conduct research relating to oil and gas technology development, encouraging retention of such capacity and applying it to industry needs.

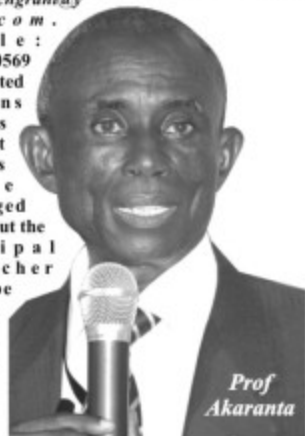
A letter obtained by *UNIPOINT Weekly* from the Office of the Director, Centre for Research Management (CREM), Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, said that the Grant Competition is expected to motivate young Nigerians with the capacity and ability to conduct quality research that would aid technological development in the country's critical oil and gas sector. The competition is also expected to address various themes on Petroleum Prospecting and Exploration, Production and Exploration, Refining and Petrochemicals, Engineering, Technology, Renewable and Unconventional Energy Resources.

"Proposals are hereby requested from interested persons based on the following formats: Theme/sub-Theme to be stated on the cover page, Literature review, indicating perceived gaps and motivation for current study, as well as objectives

of the study, methodology of proposed study, research plans, capacity-building components of research, budget, references, proposals, Curriculum Vitae, Letter of Introduction from Heads of Department or Deans of affiliated institutions should accompany the proposal and evidence of collaboration", the letter read in part.

"Research proposals should reach the Head of Research and Documentation Division, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Plot 672, Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Area II, Garki, Abuja, within three months of the call for applications by either post or email. Email: research@ptdf.gov.ng, ptdfresearchgrant@yahoo.com.

Mobile: +2348037056958. Interested Nigerians citizens resident overseas are encouraged to apply, but the Principal Researcher should be resident in Nigeria, the letter said.



Prof
Akaranta

STOP PRESS

REGULARISATION OF
ADMISSION OF STUDENTS
WITHOUT JAMB LETTERS

Students of the University whose admissions have not been regularized by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and contained in a list with the Student Affairs Department are directed to contact their respective Departments to ensure that their names are forwarded to the Admissions Office for onward transmission to JAMB Office. A Memo signed by the Director, Student Affairs Department, Mrs Bridget Nzimiro, advised the students, particularly prospective Corps Members for Batch 'C' to attach proof of payment of JAMB regularization fee of N4,600.

"We have received a list of students whose admissions have been regularized by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB). The students are to, in due course, use the JAMB Registration Numbers duly assigned to them, to access their admissions letters online," the letter read in part.

UNIPOINT DOCTORS GET
AWARDS AT NYSC 2012
BATCH 'B' SERVICE YEAR

No fewer than four Medical Doctors namely: Ateke Joshua, Ovundah Nyeche, Donald Ogolo and Alamina Belema, were recipients of State Awards in their various states of national assignment. A Letter dated 14th June, 2013, which was addressed to the Vice-Chancellor and signed by one of the recipients, Dr Ateke Joshua, said some of them received honorary chieftaincy titles for their community development strides in addition to the State award.

"It will please you to note that four UNIPOINT Alumni all Medical Doctors from the College of Health Science did the state proud by emerging recipients of the state award in their various states of national assignment," part of the Letter read, adding that three of them emerged overall best Corps Members in their various states which are: Kogi, Ekiti and Ebonyi, while the fourth Doctor served in Lagos State.

PASSAGE

Mrs ISUKWEM NGOZI

The death has been announced of Mrs Isukwem Ngozi, who passed away on 16th May, 2013 at the age of 49 years. Until her death, she was a staff in the Pro-Chancellor's Lodge. Her remains were laid to rest in her residence at Umuaba, Isu Nwangele Local Government Area of Imo State, last Saturday.



Late Mrs Ngozi

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMDS)

Pix: Headman Alu