

NUC Inaugurates SERVICOM In UniPort

Nine years after the Federal Government established the Service Compact with all Nigerians, (SERVICOM) with a mandate to ensure that employees deliver maximum value and quality service with measurable results to the public, the University of Port Harcourt has joined the league of Parastatals that have set up SERVICOM Units, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

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Side Bar

The Curriculum Organisation of Nigeria (CON) held its 26th Annual Conference titled: "Teacher Preparation and Climate Change Curriculum in Nigeria" in the University, last Thursday. Details next week -Editor

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For Information and Enlightenment

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NIAS Inducts UniPort Animal Scientists

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Rex Lawson Chair Attracts UK, US Scholars

By Humphrey Ogu

Barely 10 months after its establishment and appointment of Professor Onyee Nwankpa as Chair Occupant, the Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson Chair in Highlife Music, has started attracting Scholars from all over the world. The latest arrivals are from the Universities of Cambridge, UK and California, Irvine, USA. Speaking during a courtesy call on the

Vice-Chancellor, penultimate Thursday, Dr Ndubuisi Nnamani of the Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge, Professors Bryan Reynolds and Mark LeVine of the Departments of Drama and History, University of California, expressed willingness to partner the University in research on West African Highlife Music. The visitors commended the University for recognizing the importance and impact of highlife

music on the culture of the people in the West African sub-Region, promising to assist the Chair Occupant in efforts aimed at fully harnessing the goals for which it was set up by the University. The trio, who thanked the University for the reception accorded them, listed the rapid growth of the Department of Music in just three years of existence as a welcome development that needed to be supported. They also praised the wealth of experience of the Occupant of

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UniPort To Partner Swedish College On Fellowships

By Obinna Nwodin

An emergent partnership between the University of Port Harcourt and the Right Livelihood College, Stockholm, is underway with a proposed launch of the Right Livelihood Fellowship Award in the Institution once details are worked out.

This was the outcome of a visit to the University by the Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Mr Nnimmo Bassey, last Monday. Mr Bassey, who is also one of the Fellowship Laureates, said that the award which is a joint venture of the *Universiti Sains Malaysia* (USM) and The Right Livelihood College is intended to offer Fellowships to outstanding students and researchers to study at the *Universiti Sains Malaysia* in Penang, Malaysia. According to him, the package would focus on Master's and Doctorate degree programmes which link and further the works of Laureates, who have received the Right Livelihood Award, popularly known as "The Alternate Nobel Prize", adding that the study should specially contribute towards realizing the vision and mission of the Award.

In his speech, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapiki, who expressed delight over the partnership, said that the Faculty was fully prepared to tap from the programme,

promising that everything possible would be done to ensure its success. He said that the Faculty would bring together all stakeholders, including graduate students in order to sensitize them on the gains of the programmes. He said that adequate preparations would be made for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which is expected to coincide with the Faculty Roundtable.

The Right Livelihood Fellowship is a global initiative of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Stockholm, and the *Universiti Sains Malaysia* (USM), to harness the wisdom and experience of the Laureates of the Award. It is widely recognised as the

world's premier award for personal courage and social transformation.



Prof Alapiki receiving some publications from Mr Bassey

STUDENT WORLD

Documenting Pollution In Bonny, New Calabar River Estuary

What are the environmental and pollution profiles of the Bonny/New Calabar River Estuary in the last 100 years? Omorontionwan Omokheyeke, a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, provides answer to this question. HUMPHREYOGU reports

After obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of Benin, Edo State, Omorontionwan Omokheyeke headed to the University of Port Harcourt, where she enrolled for the Master of Science degree in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology. Apart from graduating with a distinction, Omos, as she is popularly known, also distinguished herself with a research in water hyacinth, which in addition to tackling the environmental challenges posed by the waterweed, discovered its use as raw material for the production of furniture.

Although, Medicine was her initial choice of discipline, Omos later saw the need to specialise in environmental science, because as she puts it: "Environmental studies would be a major area of focus in Nigeria and beyond in the next 50 years and beyond."



Omokeyeke

This has been demonstrated in Nigeria's increasing concern for environmental protection and resource conservation."

Omokheyeke, who is currently concluding a doctoral dissertation entitled: "Environmental and Pollution Archiving, Using Sediments and Nuclear Techniques in Bonny/New Calabar River Estuary in Nigeria", said she has now shifted focus from water hyacinth to monitoring marine pollution.

"With marine pollution monitoring, we can establish the age of sediments which can enhance restoration and remediation of contaminated sites. One of the objectives of using water hyacinth as a bio-remediation agent for crude oil-contaminated site in my earlier research was also to enhance restoration and remediation initiatives," she explained, revealing that her research aims at establishing pollution record of over 100 years by properly and professionally dating the sediments.

Omokheyeke, who disclosed that she prefers the Internet to the University Library, said: "we need to surf the Internet for new trends in research and development. It is no longer fashionable to carry out research alone; the research findings must be developed to impact on our society."

"My research aims at chronologically ascertaining the pollution events that occurred in the past decades with a view to providing evidence that would proffer solutions to environmental problems. The sediments are archives that uptake and release variety of contaminants over a period of time," she said, disclosing that she already has the record of pollution history of over 80 years with respect to total hydrocarbon contents and phosphorous.

"The results reveal heightened

industrial activities between 1973 and 2002. This corresponds with years of massive oil spill incidents that occurred in Nigeria such as the Exxon Mobil spill that impacted on the Bonny Estuary. High sedimentation rate obtained from the data suggested that flooding events occurred in the 1990s. The profile distributions of radionuclide in seafood and sediments were also established in the study," she said, listing mullet, tilapia, crab and oysters as some of the seafood she focused on in her research.

On challenges faced in the course of research, Omokheyeke regretted that *Alpha* and *Gamma* Spectrometer, which is a critical equipment for analysing radionuclide, was not available in the University at the time of her data analysis, a situation that necessitated her traveling to Morocco for the analysis.

Omokheyeke, who is currently a Research Fellow at the National Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety, University of Port Harcourt, disclosed that "the Director of the Centre, Professor, Francis Sikoki, who is also my supervisor, facilitated my trip to Morocco, under the sponsorship of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)". She, however, expressed delight at the availability of the equipment in the University now.

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Inauguration of the UniPort Unit coincided with the 3rd Quarterly Meeting of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Parastatal SERVICOM Committee (PSC) meeting held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Focal Officers of Federal universities across the country.

Speaking at the inauguration, Executive Secretary of NUC, Professor Julius Okojie, who disclosed that the forum provides avenues for SERVICOM Units of Federal universities to network and share experiences on best practices, said the National Universities Commission would continue to encourage and sustain initiatives aimed at ensuring effective service delivery in the nation's universities.

Represented by the NUC Nodal Officer and Chairman, NUC Parastatals SERVICOM Committee, Mr John Ahmadu, Professor Okojie noted that the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit of UniPort would complement SERVICOM to reposition the University to make it truly unique in learning and research.

He explained that the SERVICOM initiative was introduced to add impetus to the activities of Government by ensuring that employees show commitment to national development through quality service to the people, adding that the Commission is championing the process of change and innovative practices for the delivery of quality education.

The Executive Secretary stated that "in addition to the accreditation of academic programmes, we are also set to embark on an institutional accreditation exercise. Recently, Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian universities witnessed the formal launch of the African Centres of Excellence (ACE) project, designed to address regional development challenges and strengthen the capacity of the universities to deliver high quality training and applied research."

Professor Okojie listed the roles of SERVICOM Unit to

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NUC Inaugurates SERVICOM In UniPort



Nodal Officer & Chairman, NUC Parastatals SERVICOM C'ttee, Mr Ahmadu (4th left in front row), UniPort Focal Officer, Prof Arinze, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ndaka, Univ Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, Chief SERVICOM Officer, Ms Nnenna Akajemeli, Senior Special Asst to the President/ Nat Coordinator, SERVICOM Office, Mr Obriki and other Focal Officers

include providing support to University Managements to overcome some of the challenges in the system, such as sale of handouts, sorting, delay in release of results or processing of transcripts, illegal admission and monitoring of teaching and non-teaching activities, amongst other cases of service failure. He commended the University of Port Harcourt for accepting to host the 4th NUC PSC meeting.

In his goodwill message, Senior Special Assistant to the President and National Coordinator, SERVICOM Office, Mr Silbriks Obriki, who is also an Alumnus of UniPort, noted that the universities play essential roles in all sectors of development, pointing out that when things go wrong in the universities, they affect every sector of society. He advised public officers to ensure that standards are observed in the workplaces to justify the remunerations paid by the government from tax payers' money, adding that "there is no project that is more important than service delivery".

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka, welcomed the guests to the University, expressing commitment to the ideals that would foster quality service delivery through SERVICOM.

"It is our hope that when the draft copy of SERVICOM Charter is approved and implemented, our staff would not only be more dedicated, but will offer quality, prompt, efficient, and courteous services at the various SERVICOM windows," Professor Ajienka promised.

In his response, newly-inaugurated SERVICOM Focal Officer of the University, Professor Tony Arinze, said that the Unit has in the 3rd Quarter, prepared a draft copy of SERVICOM Charter awaiting approval by the Senate, initiated measures aimed at creating awareness amongst staff and students, appointed mail trackers in different Departments to ensure speedy mails delivery, monitoring punctuality of workers and gradually institutionalising the SERVICOM concept in the University.

Mgt Meets SSANU On August Salary, Allowances

By Mercy Adeniji

Following delay in the remittance of allocation by the Federal Government for the payment of August salary and other earned allowances, Management of the University met members of the University of Port Harcourt branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), last Monday, in a last ditch effort to explain the situation to them, with a view to seeking their understanding and support towards its amicable resolution.

Speaking during the meeting which took place in front of the Senate Building, University Park, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, commended members of the Union for advertising their grievances with decorum and a shared sense of responsibility over the delay in payment of their salaries.

"I wish to assure you that Management will pay all the outstanding entitlements of staff as soon as we receive our statutory allocations from the Federal Government. Let me also assure you that Management shares your pain at this moment and is doing everything possible to lighten the burden", Vice-Chancellor told the visibly anxious crowd of SSANU members.

Professor Ajienka, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-

Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka, explained that the reason for the delay in payment of August salary was due to a standing directive from the Federal Government to Management of universities to separate the entitlements of staff on duty from those members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), who embarked on an indefinite strike action to pressure Government into implementing the contentious 2009 Agreement. He appealed to staff to bear with Management, assuring them that the money would be paid as soon as practicable.

Also speaking, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, expressed satisfaction with the sense of maturity exhibited by the Union Executive and members, charging them to continue in that spirit in the interest of the University.

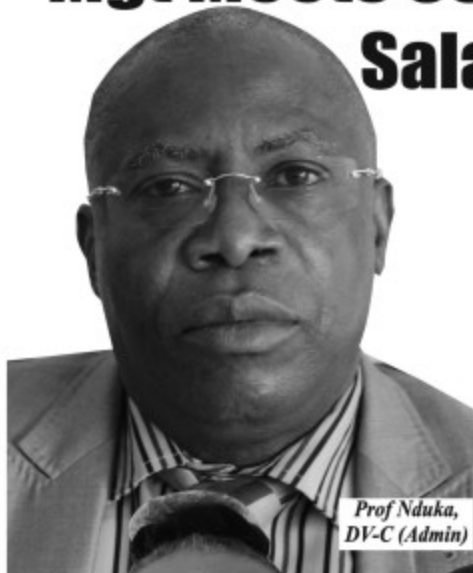
"Many universities and stakeholders hold University of Port Harcourt in very high regard. I receive calls from colleagues in other institutions asking how we are doing it in our University. We should continue to hold our heads very high because other institutions hold us in very high esteem", she said, appealing to the Union to recognize the good work being done by the Administration, rather than concentrating on the negative points.

She recalled that during one of the Management Meetings, Principal Officers of the University were informed that the Federal Government has released money to offset the earned allowances under the close supervision of the Governing Council.

"It is my desire that we pay this money to those who have worked; you will receive the alert as soon as the modalities for disbursement are worked out" she promised.

In his contribution, the Bursar, Mr Vitalis Allezi, who acknowledged that some universities may have paid the August salary, however, disclosed that Vice-Chancellors of such institutions were queried for violating the directive of the Federal Government on the principle of no work, no pay. "I wish to assure you that earned allowances would be paid to both Teaching and Non-Teaching staff".

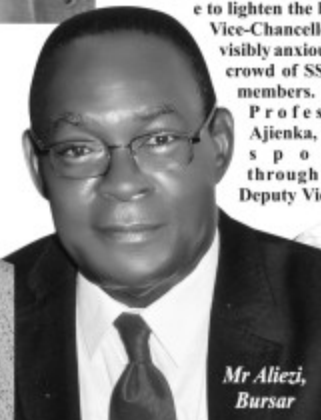
Earlier, Chairman of the Association, Mr Bikume Syder, appealed to Management to pay workers their outstanding August salary from Internally-Generated Revenue (IGR), to ameliorate the plight of workers. He also tabled a five-point demand, including the incorporation of all the Unions into the body that would calculate the earned allowances and committee to address security issues on Campus.



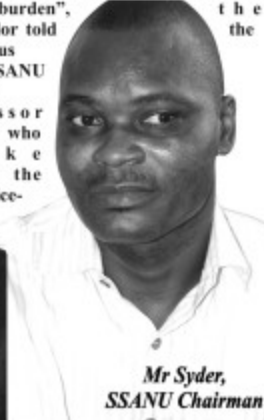
Prof Ndaka,
DV-C (Admin)



Mrs Nnodim,
Registrar



Mr Allezi,
Bursar



Mr Syder,
SSANU Chairman



R-L: Agu, Dr. Beka, Prof Nwaogazie, Mrs Agorom and Hannah Ismaila

COHSE Student Gets PTDF Scholarship

By Humphrey Ogu

entrepreneurs, consultants, civil servants, technocrats and so on.

The award presentation, which was done on behalf of PTDF by the Director of COHSE, had in attendance, the Assistant Director of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences, (CPG), Dr. Francis Beka, who collected the parcel from PTDF, Abuja office on behalf of COHSE and Administrative Assistants, COHSE and CPG Hannah Ismaila and Charity Agorom.

Responding, the recipient, Mr Agu, who obtained his bachelors' degree from the Department of Microbiology, in the University, expressed gratitude to God for his mercies, thanking PTDF for the opportunity to benefit from the PTDF Local Scholarship Scheme and IPS, under which the Centre operates, for availing him the enabling environment to actualise his professional dream.

Agu who explained that he applied for and performed well in a screening test conducted by the Fund, said: "I want to express gratitude to the Federal Government for its commitment to providing quality postgraduate education, especially in oil and gas, through PTDF. I am also grateful to IPS for providing me the platform to fulfil my desire for academic excellence in my chosen profession."

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), has awarded scholarship to a student of the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (COHSE), an affiliate of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS).

A Letter signed by the Director, COHSE, Professor Ify Nwaogazie and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, indicated that the student, Chigozie Agu, who is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Occupational Health and Safety, also received a laptop computer as part of the award last month.

Explaining that the Centre is one of the institutions that benefit from the PTDF scholarship scheme, the Director disclosed that the Fund sent four awardees to the Centre for the MSc programme in the 2011/2012 and one in

2012/2013 academic sessions, respectively. "We are happy with the level of confidence the PTDF reposes in our programmes, not only as a Centre of Excellence, but also where early completion of programmes in 12 calendar months is guaranteed each year without any interruption," he said.

"Going by the principle of local content initiative, I want to believe that the skills of Nigerians are what we need to build the nation. We are rising to this challenge through the MSc programme in Occupational Health and Safety run only by COHSE in the entire West Africa. The beneficiaries of the scholarship are encouraged to make the best use of their awards for academic empowerment, thus paving way for others to benefit from the scheme," Nwaogazie said, adding that on graduation, they can become

Niger Delta Institute Calls For Papers

... As Society Announces Fellowship Competition

By Otikor Samuel

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies has called for papers from interested members of the public for publication in the next edition of the *Journal of Niger Delta Studies*. A letter dated 16th September, 2013 and signed by the Director of the Institute, Professor Abi Derefaka, advised contributors to send seven hard and soft copies of each manuscript to the Institute's Office at Delta Park, University of Port Harcourt and electronic address at abi.derefaka@uniport.edu.ng.

The articles, according to the Director, should be based on original field and library research from all disciplines, but with focus on the Niger Delta. "The title should be brief and describe the contents of the article. The abstract should be informative and completely self-explanatory, briefly present the major points made in the article, provide significant information about methodology for data gathering and analysis, and point out major findings and conclusions, he said".

Professor Derefaka, further advised contributors to send in their articles on or before 31st November, 2013 with three to ten key words, Modern Language Association (MLA) style sheet and concise tables. "Authors should feel free to make any other inquiries before

submitting their manuscripts," the Director added.

In a related development, the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), with financial support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, has announced for Dissertation-competition Fellowships in Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda and Early-career post-Doctoral Fellowships in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa.

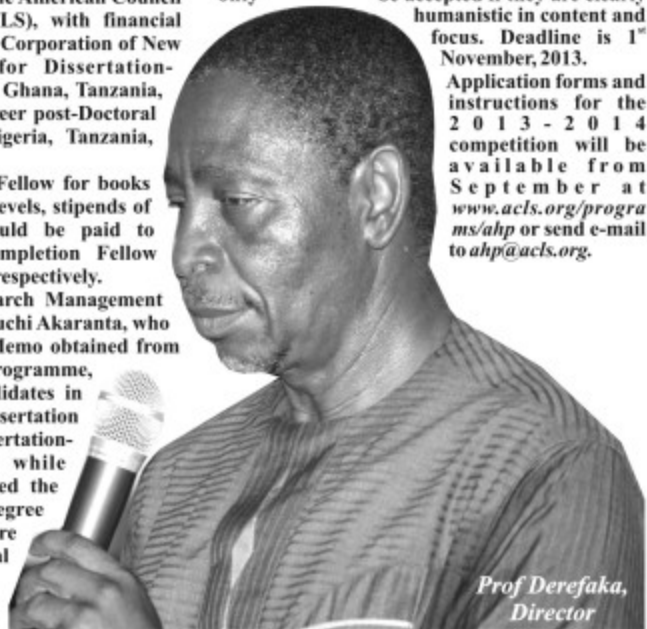
In addition to \$1,000 per Fellow for books and media at both award levels, stipends of \$10,000 and \$17,000 would be paid to successful Dissertation-completion Fellow and post-Doctoral Fellows, respectively.

Director, Centre for Research Management (CREM), Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, who made the disclosure in a Memo obtained from the African Humanities Programme, stated that Doctoral Candidates in the final year of writing dissertation are eligible for the Dissertation-completion Fellowship, while scholars who have obtained the Doctor of Philosophy degree within the past eight years are eligible for the post-Doctoral Fellowship.

All applicants who must be citizens of a sub-Saharan

African country and working in any of the countries listed earlier, while proposed projects must be areas in the Humanities such as History, Language, Anthropology, Archaeology, Performing Arts, Linguistics, Literature Studies, Religion and Philosophy. Projects in Social Sciences would only be accepted if they are clearly humanistic in content and focus. Deadline is 1st November, 2013.

Application forms and instructions for the 2013 - 2014 competition will be available from September at www.acls.org/programs/ahp or send e-mail to ahp@acls.org.



Prof Derefaka, Director

Of the ten graduands of the Department of Animal Science and Fisheries in the Faculty of Agriculture, who sat for the maiden qualifying examination of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS), nine of them came out in flying colours. Only eight, however, participated in a colourful Induction Ceremony held penultimate Wednesday at the National Centre for Women Development, Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* in her office on her return from the event last Monday, Acting Head of Department, Dr Folasade Ajayi, who said that graduands from 16 universities across the country took part in the Induction Ceremony out of the 17 institutions that initially participated in the pre-Induction examination, disclosed that a graduand of the Department, Abel Ofuokwu, emerged the third best out of 580 candidates that sat for the examination conducted by the apex professional regulatory body, just as the Department's institutional capacity was also rated third best in the country as proof of the high benchmark on offer in the Department.

Dr Ajayi, who named the successful graduands as Stephen Amaechi, Prince Ibe, Chimuanya Okeke, Abel Ofuokwu, Tamada Adugba, Dominic Ekanem, Chidinma Amadi, Akugbe Ogbeide and Chukwuma Anum, said that all successful candidates at the examination are now qualified Graduate Animal Scientists (GAS) for meeting the statutory requirements for professional practice.



Ag. HoD, Animal Science and Fisheries, Dr Ajayi (arrowed) with the new inductees

NIAS Inducts UniPort Animal Scientists

By Otikor Samuel

Expressing satisfaction with the commitment of students of the Department to hard work, the Acting HoD said, "Our students and graduates are doing very well in various sectors of society. A graduate of the Department, Miss Inemesit Udom, who did her National Youth Service Corps in Ebonyi State, returned this year with a State Award for embarking on some landmark projects as her Personal Community Development Service (PCDS). A significant part of her projects included setting up a mini-fish hatchery for the production of a species of catfish, which was first of its kind by that State's Ministry

of Agriculture.

"We have capable hands in the Department and if we can go this far with the little we have, then with adequate facilities, we will contribute our best to the accelerated growth of the University," Dr Ajayi said, appealing to Management of the University to increase funding to the Department to enable it purchase basic equipment that would facilitate its accreditation and continue to engage in quality research that would be of relevance to the agricultural sector.

There is a time for everything on the surface of the earth, says the Preacher.

A time to sow and a time to reap; a time to sorrow and a time to rejoice; a time to be born and a time to die. This is the reality of life. Most often, mankind has struggled to grapple with this phenomenon called death. Every individual is like an actor on the stage of life. He plays his part and quits the stage once his time is up. Perhaps, this is an attempt to grasp the fact that there is a point in time when an individual is taken away from his loved ones, friends and colleagues. There are some occurrences that make death to be described as a cruel phenomenon.

Indeed, the death of Mr Justin Eme Wede, may be described as one of such jig-saw puzzles that defy conventional explanation. Mr Wede's sad demise on Saturday, 13th July, 2013, at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) at the age of 54, came as a surprise package to those who knew him from close quarters. He was a Chief Accountant in the Bursary Department. When news of his unexpected demise filtered into the University, many received it not only with shock, but with great disbelief. Why a good man should be taken away when he is most needed, many asked?

Eulogizing the qualities of late Mr Wede at a Service of Songs in his honour last Wednesday, Deputy Bursar, (Budget Control), Mrs Helen

Exit Of A Gentleman

By Obinna Nwodin

Owhonda-Wopara, described late Mr Wede as a fine gentleman, who was resolute and dedicated in



Late Wede

his service to the University, noting that he rose through the

ranks by dint of hard work to the position of Chief Accountant. According to her, he was also a man of integrity with a pleasant disposition towards his colleagues.

Also, Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, (SSANU), Mr Bikume Syder, described Mr Wede as a hardworking staff, who gave his best for the system to survive. He observed that Wede demonstrated strong commitment in his duties, with a strong sense of focus and determination.

In his eulogy, Professor Ben Ndukwa of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, said that Late Mr Wede lived an exemplary and godly life, and served both the University and his community diligently, noting that he totally committed himself to whatever he did.

Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Ezema Kalu, described late Mr Wede as a dedicated staff, who carried out his duties conscientiously, adding that he would be surely missed by his colleagues in the Faculty.

Mr Wede who was buried in his home town Ozuoba, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area on Saturday September, 14, 2013 would surely be missed by those with whom his part crossed. He was a complete and accomplished gentleman.

Cont'd from p1

Rex Lawson Chair Attracts UK, US Scholars



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (arrowed) Principal Officers and other Senior Academics of the University and the visiting scholars

the Rex Lawson Chair, Professor Nwankpa, the strategic location of the University in the Niger Delta and the rich cultural heritage of the region, citing them as some of their reasons for choosing UniPort for their research.

Describing the Niger Delta as the hotbed of highlife music, Nnamani said: "If we have to do any serious research, it has to be in a university. The late Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson is from the Niger Delta, his music talked about the Niger Delta struggles before the issue came to limelight."

The scholars, whose research interests included the role of arts, relationship between music and the other arts, as well as resistance through highlife music, stressed the importance of

encouraging interdisciplinary research in the University.

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who lauded the visiting delegation for recognizing the efforts of the University in documenting the legacies of musical greats such as Rex Lawson and Harcourt Whyte, disclosed that the Management of the University was recently in the Kalabari Kingdom, the birthplace of Rex Lawson and musical maestro, Harcourt Whyte.

"We are open to collaborations. You are in the right place," he assured them, recalling that "we used to hear of Ghanaian, Kenyan, Congo music and so on. But Rex Lawson was so popular that he was recognised as *King of Highlife*. His

outstanding performance also earned him the name 'Cardinal'. We hope to establish a museum for highlife music in this University."

Others who spoke at the event, which had in attendance principal officers of the University and senior academics, included Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, and Head, Department of Music, Professor Nwankpa.

It would be recalled that shortly after the appointment of Professor Nwankpa to the newly-established Rex Lawson Chair in Highlife Music, the Chair organized the maiden Rex Lawson Concert, featuring the surviving members of the late Cardinal's Band and his children to the applause of a very impressive audience.

"How easy it was to erase a man's past and to construct a new version of him...against which it seemed impossible to fight?", asked the literary fugitive, Salman Rushdie, (in)famous author of *The Satanic Verse* that raised a tempestuous wind amongst the Islamic faithful. Rushdie was, of course, referring to the *fatwa* passed on him by the late Ayatollah Khomeini, the tyrannical Mullah of Iran, who vanquished the Shah in the 1979 Islamic revolution. Someone somewhere appears determined to erase the past and construct a new version of education in Nigeria. If you are in doubt, turn to *Cartoon Network* and watch *Tom and Jerry* doing their hide and seek game!

In the Nigerian context, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is up in arms against a behemoth. No, the Union is up against an immovable object in defiance of the law of gravity. What goes up in Nigeria just goes up and up. The law of Physics does not apply

Now Showing On Cartoon Network FG And ASUU

here. ASUU embarked on an indefinite strike action at a wrong time! Yes. What with politicians clenching their fists, tightening their lips and banging the table in advancement of their pecuniary grievances in the build-up to the 2015 election—all in the interest of the people? The lawmakers even declared a civil war on the floor of the House of Representatives last week in an impressive display of their martial art skills.

What really is the use of an agreement if it was not intended to be implemented? How can a country willfully behead its university system just because of a disagreement over a piece of paper signed by beneficiaries of quality university education? Who speaks for the students who are now learning new sinister trades outside their classrooms?

How can a country hold its educational sector in such supreme contempt without calculating the disastrous consequences on its future leaders? Why should politics override education in a knowledge-driven age? More questions than answers.

In the troubled political waters of today, *foul is fair and fair is foul* (excuse me Mr Shakespeare). Most politicians are parochial, petty, and characteristically consumed by provincial and utterly pecuniary interest to the exclusion of all else. The common weal is thrown to the winds in this unruly and tasteless juvenile game of attrition. The level of infantile regression we have so far witnessed is ample proof that Nigeria is a democracy without democrats, while the ruling party is in government and also in opposition to itself—a paradox that defies conventional logic in party politics.

Before our very eyes, politics has become the biggest industry in Nigeria, while everything else waits in the locker room. Who cares? The gladiators are ready to behead the country along with the helpless citizens, who are compelled to helplessly watch the puppetry from the sidelines. The economy, municipal services and education—yes,

education—all have become embarrassing anachronisms as politicians revel in invidious triumphalism! *Quid pro quo* vendetta, translation: "do me I do you..."

The *Social Contract* with the people is in tatters as self-interest rules over the sovereignty of the governed in this emergent animal farm. Soon, there will be no more grass for the rampaging elephants to trample upon. As W. B. Yeats' "ignorant armies clash at night", the horrendous Armageddon predicted for Nigeria in 2015 appears to be ringing true to specification! The pressure cooker is rising beyond boiling point. We are trapped in a primitive political space in which only the sharks can swim. The first rule in the Nigerian political space is to rule out your conscience!

About three centuries ago, the empiricist philosopher, John Locke, codified his *Social Contract* theory into a binding golden rule under the regulation of impartial wise fellows in the hallowed temple of justice. Locke sought after the good and happiness of the greatest number of citizens—not those of the political predators and conquistadors—or those the Senate President recently described as *political jobbers*. This is in the understanding that we only outsourced our sovereignty to our rulers. Power is held in trust and not usurped by conspiratorial political mafia groups driven by tasteless materialism. Our rulers lost the moral high ground because they have far exceeded the limits of Locke's *Social Contract* with the people. It is obvious that the Nigerian people have been driven to a slippery political slope where they are now at liberty to act, in Locke's pregnant word "energetically" in their own self-defence from political knavery; not through a revolution, but by actively interrogating power that does not serve their interest. That way, rulers are denied "the divine right to govern wrong". Justice is the sole condition for citizens to submit to constituted authority. We are tired of watching this unending *Tom and Jerry* show on the Nigeria's *Cartoon Network*!

*I was away, by the way. Welcome back to my world!



Tom and Jerry

GUIDE POST

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

APPOINTMENT

Dr B.O Akinbami, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 16th September, 2013 to 17th September, 2015.

Dr Prince Mmon, Department of Geography and Environment Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a One-Year Part-Time Teaching Appointment as *Adjunct Senior Lecturer* in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt, effective on assumption of duty.

Professor Francis Sikoki, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a One year Part-Time Teaching Appointment as *Adjunct Senior Professor* in the Department of Animal and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt, effective on assumption of duty.

CONVERSION

Dr Sixtus Anyanwu, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, converted from Full-Time Appointment to *Adjunct Senior Lecturer*, effective on assumption of duty.

STUDY LEAVE

Mrs Charity Fredrick, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Study Leave without pay* to enable her pursue a Master's Degree programme of Science (Research Methodology), at the Jomo Kenyatta, University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) Kenya, effective 6th May, 2013 to 31st May, 2015.

Mr Chimenem Wigwe, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Study Leave without pay* to enable him pursue a Master of Philosophy Degree in Agricultural Extension at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, effective 3rd August, 2013 to 2nd August, 2015.

STOP PRESS

UniPort BANS COMMERCIAL MOTORCYCLES

Henceforth, all unauthorized motorcycles spotted on Campus will be impounded. This followed a renewed resolve by the authorities to enforce extant laws banning operation of commercial motorcycles on Campus. A Statement issued on behalf of the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim and signed by the Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, however, stated that members of staff, who commute to work by motorcycles are advised to register them with the Security Unit as from 23rd September, 2013. They were also advised to make available to the Security Unit their biometric identity cards, as well as documents showing proof of ownership of such motorcycles.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER, 22 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 22 SEPT, 2013	29.0 24.0	72	N	13.0	6:21 6:28	Thunderstorm forecasted. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
MONDAY, 23 SEPT, 2013	28.0 24.0	86	NE	10.8	6:21 6:27	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY 24 SEPT, 2013	29.0 23.0	81	NE	-	6:21 6:27	More cloud than sun expected. Day anticipated being warm.
WEDNESDAY 25 SEPT, 2013	29.0 23.0	64	NE	3.3	6:22 6:28	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. More clouds than sun. Warm day anticipated.
THURSDAY 26 SEPT, 2013	29.0 23.0	67	NE	9.4	6:22 6:29	Thunderstorm expected. More clouds than sun day predicted being mostly warm
FRIDAY 27 SEPT, 2013	32.0 24.0	70	E	11.1	6:25 6:29	Thunderstorm expected. More clouds than sun.
SATURDAY 28 SEPT, 2013	28.0 24.0	59	NE	13.5	6:22 6:29	Day expected to be cloudy and warm.

NWABUFO NKECHI
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)

PAU Starts Undergraduate Programmes 2014

Pan-Atlantic University (PAU), has announced that the school will commence undergraduate programmes from September, 2014.

Registrar of the University, Mrs Rosemary Okolo, who represented the Vice-Chancellor while making the announcement at a press conference in Lagos, explained that for 11 years the university has been a graduate institution which offered exclusively postgraduate programme and executive education courses.

Mrs Okolo disclosed that the University will extend its activities to become a full-service university that would also offer first degree programmes. "The programmes would begin in the 100 hectare campus of the university which is currently being developed in Lekki, Lagos State", she said, adding that the programmes would be in professional fields such as business and mass communication.

OAU Architecture Alumni Plan 30th Anniversary

As part of its milestone achievement, the Alumni and students Association of the Department of Architecture, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife has announced plans to host an anniversary ceremony next month, 12th

October, 2013 at Seven Star Event Centre, Ikeja, Lagos State.

The event is aimed at strengthening the link between students and the alumni Association, create an avenue to foster and mentor-protégé relationship between the students and alumni, provide financial educational and moral support to the Department of Curricular Innovation and Teaching, Learning and Evaluative Process.

The event will also mark the formal establishment of the OAU Architecture Alumni Association to forge a deeper relationship among the alumni.

Ojo Now Bowen Vice-Chancellor

The Nigerian Baptist Convention-owned University, Bowen University, has

appointed Professor Matthew Akintunde Ojo, as its new Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Ojo is expected to provide sound spiritual and academic leadership that would enable the school to achieve the vision of its founder to raise Godly and selfless leaders for the country.

The Vice-Chancellor has taught in different universities within and outside the country. Aside from teaching, he also holds membership of different academic and professional bodies. Professor Ojo has also published articles in both local and international journals.

UST Launches E-Senate

The Senate of Nigeria's pioneer Science and Technology University, Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), has gone paperless to lead the university to the status of Nigerians foremost e-University, a process expected to save cost for the university.

OUR ERROR

KALABARI MONARCH
PROMISES MICROBIOLOGY
CHAIR

Contrary to a report in our last edition of *UniPort Weekly*, the Kalabari Monarch, King Theophilus Princewill, pledged support for the Rex Lawson and Harcourt Whyte Chairs, including endowment of a Professorial Chair in Microbiology and not in Biochemistry as we erroneously reported. The error is highly regretted.

Editor

ELTAN National Conference

English Language Teachers Association of Nigeria (ELTAN) held its 7th National Conference/Workshop at University of Port Harcourt, Tuesday, 3rd and Wednesday, 4th September, 2013. Our Correspondent, **HUMPHREY OGU**, captured highlights of the event as shown in the pictures below.



Convener of the Conference and Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, welcoming guests



Representative of V-C, Prof Joseph Ajiienka, DV-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie Abbey, declaring the event open



Prof Emeka Otagburuagu of UNN, delivering the Keynote Address



Prof Willie Abbey and resources persons at the Conference



Prof Otagburuagu, responding to questions after delivering the Keynote Address



Prof Omolara Ogundipe, speaking at the conference



A cross section of participants



L-R: Profs Willie Abbey, Ndimele, HoD, English Studies, Prof Nkem Okoh and an official of ELTAN



Another view of participants



A cross section of Local Organising Committee members



Profs Ndimele, Okoh, Willie Abbey and Mr Jones Ayuwu, after the opening ceremony