

RSG Presents Cheque For Claude Ake Professorial Chair

In fulfilment of its pledge to endow a Professorial Chair in honour of renowned Political Economists, late Professor Claude Ake, the Rivers State Government has presented a cheque of N25 million to authorities of the University of Port Harcourt to actualize the laudable project promised by Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi at the last Convocation Ceremony of the University last February, reports *Obinna Nwodin*. [More on pg 3](#)

Side Bar

Your favourite UniPort Weekly is back on your desk. You are sure to receive the best from us in 2014. Welcome back and Happy New Year -Editor

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Academic Activities Resume In UniPort

By *Obinna Nwodin*

Normal academic activities have resumed in the University of Port Harcourt. A statement by the Registrar of the University, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, indicated that lectures for both Returning and Fresh students commenced last Monday, advising all students to resume classes immediately. This is in line with the decision of the Senate of the University which approved the revised academic calendar at an Emergency meeting, last December.

Our Correspondent, who monitored the development, last week, observed that students were seen taking lectures, while Lecturers were busy dusting up and updating their lecture notes. The laboratories are also open to students for research and experiments. At the Convocation Arena, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, Professor Steve Tamuno, of the Department of Economics and Professor Regina Ogali of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry were seen

interacting with a large number of students.

Lecturers were also sighted at the Permanent Site Lecture Halls and the MBA

Hall in the Ofirima Complex, respectively, delivering lectures to visibly elated students, who could not hide their joy at resuming classes. Deputy Vice- Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, was also seen, last week, in various Faculties, monitoring the level of response by staff and students to the new academic calendar. Students who spoke to *UniPort Weekly* expressed delight for the opportunity to return to School to resume lectures. Lilian

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Prof Ajenka, V-C



Prof Joe, DV-C, Academic



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Any prolonged absence of the brain and the physical body from their accustomed routine do not constitute part of the happy part of human existential reality. Having reveled in the false embrace of a not too Merry Christmas and a certainly unhappy New Year, I represent an unyielding testimony of how the human mind can reach the limits of human endurance in utter adversity.

I bear no envy to my happy colleagues, who remained trapped in the starry-eyed romance of the nursery rhyme of Christmas Jingle Bells and the split transmutation of time that we refer to as New Year. The split quarter of a second that marked the sudden demise of 2013 and the wishful arrival of a New Year was a difference that made no difference to me as I sat in front of the television—watching the transition of time as city after city rolled into 2014 without any visible sign of cosmic movement in space-time continuum.

By some inexplicable twist of fate and time zone, the inhabitants of a remote Island in New Zealand known as Chatham, are usually the first to roll into the New Year—a healthy 24 hours plus, before the rest of Oceania and the rest of the world. I remember the transitory frenzy decay and rebirth. As I watched the side shows and waited for the big bang roll-overs that are characterized by spectacular balls of fire off Sidney Harbour in Australia, St Petersburg in Russia, Thames Bridge in London and the eagerly-awaited count down at New York's Time Square, I was tormented by the grim absence of African countries on the speeding New Year soul train! Even Dubai announced a noisy arrival on the merry-go-round circuit with tranquilizing balls of fire that spewed from tall skyscrapers that hid half of their impressive frames in the unyielding evening haze.

Just then, some rather dangerous messengers began to assail my brain. My subconscious sent diverse odd vapours, invisible shadow-figures, torments and deluding images into my already overcrowded mind. I quickly remembered Thomas Mann's dangerous preposition of that very thin line separating the fragile realms of sanity from insanity. Could I be unconsciously crossing the invisible borderline into the treacherous realm of insanity on New Year's Eve?

The fascinating choreography of the Yuletide and uncertainties that ushered in the New Year combined with my personal losses to further torment my sleep for the rest of the transitory night of a thousand possibilities and false wishes of Happy New Year. Psychoanalysis, the intrepid science of interpreting dreams and mythologies, has long taught me to be extremely circumspect of unverifiable images in the passage of time. That night, I experienced the stagnation of time and its false promises. Just seconds after the New Year set in; hell was let loose

with fireworks and fabricated messages flying on the social media and the GSM networks. A continuous chorus of Happy New Year sounded like a broken record caught in the groove of a needle! Something new out of the decay of human existence? I switched off my phone to retain my sanity. That is the way of the world all through the ages.

On the first morning of the New Year, wish-makers built fantastic castles of diverse treasures in the air without any visible means of achieving their highfalutin pipe dreams. Chants of Happy New Year is the application of healing balm on the fatal injuries of a dying year that failed to deliver what was wished for by the faithful when it set in. 2014 is again set to conquer their dreams of a new beginning. When I returned to the world of reality—away from my fantasies about what 2013 failed to deliver—I watched the great adventure of revelers into the enchanted night, soaked in alcohol, weed and women.

In this difficult threshold of transformation, it dawned on me that my many infantile fixations about the birth of a Saviour and a New Year were all part of human configurations to keep hope alive as Jesse Jackson would say on the lectern. It has always been the role of mythology and tradition to supply the symbols that lift the human spirit to unimagined dimensions of belief. What do people really believe about Christmas and New Year?

I remembered the mantle of vocation of Pentecostal Warriors, Seers and sundry Politicians, who clothe themselves in the garment of the Messiah in celebration of their egocentric self-aggrandizement with self-serving messages of peace, unity and a good life in the New Year. They are yet to prophesy how many big men would die this year or if Nigeria will win the World Cup in Brazil. They claim whatever happens. Those, who like the king of fabled Island of Crete, appropriated the public weal to private gain, engaged in lubricated moral niceties. This contemptible Messianic banquet blighted the land as the ignorant amongst us rolled out a basketful of wishes for the New Year without reference to their tortured psyche in 2013. Many Pastors prophesied El Dorado in the New



Fireworks ushering in the New Year

Year, while some prosperity New Year Crusades are still ongoing with misguided faithful wearing large banners, proclaiming the promised miracle of deliverance, healing, prosperity and invidious triumphalism! The inflated ego of the New Year will, again, become a cause for many celebrations this year, no matter how many false promises of prosperity Prayer Contractors may make to their gullible followers in 2014. The giant of fake promises of a prosperous year is a message of disaster waiting to be wished away at midnight of 2014. We live on false expectations! In my mind, I entertained myself with the many existential problems that tormented my little corner of the world in 2013; the loss of another older sibling, the pain of separation that would not go away and the many foibles of politicians in search of renewed mandates to usurp in 2015.

Life is a continuous resurgence of births, living, aging and inevitable decay of the human frame. When our day comes for the victory of death, we are powerless, just like an old year is powerless before the advancing onslaught of a New Year. The real Self is comprehensively irrepressible as a golden seed. The New Year, to many people, represents a vivid renewal of life. Like time, we are all huddled onto a fast-moving train that stops to drop old passengers and pick up new ones. On and on it groans along the rail lines of our lives.

The dismally audible call of the New Year holds out hope of a new beginning to many a reveler, but the din lingers on, only but for awhile to accommodate the forlorn hopes of men. What is life, if not an unending adventure into the labyrinthine haze of living and hoping for better days that may never arrive?

As I lingered on the perils of the dangerous, solitary transition into 2014, I remembered the ubiquitous quote in the Sanskrit:

*A sharpened edge of razor, hard to traverse,
A difficult path is this—poets declare!*

And so we declare our New Year resolutions, which teach us the mystery of dismemberment by an impassioned mistress named time. The happy ending and a new beginning are all misrepresentations of time in our subconscious realms. Sometime in the middle of this highly-celebrated year, we will again behold scoured and lacerated faces, proclaiming how difficult the New Year has been. We are all incurable optimists who fixate our attention on the future because we cannot contend with the here and now of our fractious lives.

Let the New Year roll on in whatever shape or name it may choose. New Year's Eve is the tragedy that shatters and dissolves men's faces and their hope. It is the kiss of our gradual annihilation as mere mortals in an unfathomable world. Is your New Year still a happy one? Quit this cynicism. Join Generation Change. Forget your apathy. Take action folks!

Let me out of mere convention still wish you a Happy New Year all the same.

SSANU Marks End Of 2013 In Grand Style

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) held an elaborate End-of-Year meeting and Get-Together for members last December at the Ebiliti Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Speaking at the event which provided an opportunity for the Branch to reflect on the activities of the Association, Chairman, Mr Syder Bikume, briefed members on the payment of Earned Allowances, Welfare Policy, Needs Assessment Report, Pending Committee Reports, Work Attitude and Challenges,

Convocation of special meeting for members on levels 13 and above, the Bio-data compilation for members and the thirteenth month salary.

The Chairman, who disclosed the new National Universities Commission (NUC) policy on the Integrated Payroll Personnel Information System to members of the Association, commended Management for its commitment to staff welfare. He urged members to review their efforts and attitude to work in a bid to curbing behaviours capable of hindering the success of the University.

"I urge staff to turn a new leaf and make the non-teaching staff proud as we carry the banner of the

University to a higher pedestal," he said, advising staff to make contributions towards improving the newly-developed SSANU Welfare Scheme initiated to cater for the welfare needs of members. In their goodwill messages to mark the End-of-Year activities in the University, Directors of Work, Jubril Inede, Council Affairs, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville and Personnel Affairs, Mr Rowland Wabali, commended staff for their hard work in the past year, while wishing them a more fruitful 2014. The event was rounded off with lots of music, jokes, dance and enough food that went round.



Cross-section of SSANU members at the event

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RSG Presents Cheque For Ake Chair

Making the presentation on behalf of the Government, Chairman of the Claude Ake Memorial Lecture Series, Mr Levi Gogo-Charles, said that the fulfilment of the pledge formally transferred the organization of the annual Claude Ake Memorial Lecture Series to the University of Port Harcourt, noting that as a distinguished scholar, who contributed immensely to the growth of academics in the University, Nigeria and the world, the Institution was rightfully placed to organize the Lecture on account of Ake's immense contributions to the academic growth of the University of Port Harcourt. He pledged the assistance of government to enable the Lecture Series take-off properly and take root in the University.

Mr. Gogo-Charles, who is also the Honourable Commissioner of Budget and Economic Planning in Rivers State, expressed optimism that the University would justify the essence of the endowment. Also speaking, Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Augustine Nwokocho, said that the Claude Ake Memorial Lecture was instituted to honour a man who brought pride to scholarship in Africa and also to ensure that the legacies he left behind were sustained through serious academic activities.

Nwokocho, who is also Honourable Commissioner of Power in Rivers State, said that through the Lecture Series, the philosophy which the late Professor Ake propagated would be in permanent remembrance.

Receiving the endowment, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who thanked the Rivers State Government for the gesture, said that the endowment was a great honour done to a man who distinguished himself in the field of political economy and a polemist, who impacted his environment in a special way. He said that as



V-C, Prof Ajienka, and Mr Nwokocho displaying the dummy cheque, while Mr Gogo-Charles makes a presentation

an eminent scholar, the late Professor Ake's name did not only ring a bell in the University of Port Harcourt, but all over the world on account of his original thinking.

Professor Ajienka said that the late Professor Ake provided both academic and administrative leadership that have continued to resonate long after his unfortunate death, adding that the fruits of his labour are manifest in the quality of academics and students he left behind to carry on his great legacy.

In his Speech, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapiki, expressed gratitude over the gesture by the Rivers State

Government. He said that the Faculty would promptly set all necessary machinery in motion to organize befitting annual Lectures in honour of the great academic giant, stressing that Late Professor Ake was instrumental to the solid foundation on which the Faculty presently stands.

It would be recalled that during the 2nd Late Professor Claude Ake Memorial Lecture, the Executive Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Honourable Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, announced the endowment of a Professorial Chair in honour of late Professor Claude Ake in the University.

Housing C'ttee Commissions New Staff Quarters

More staff would soon get the opportunity to choose whether or not to live on Campus. This is as a result of ongoing effort aimed at redressing the acute shortage of accommodations for staff. Chairman,

By Otiakor Samuel

Housing Committee, Professor Francis Sikoki announced the cheering news at the

commissioning of a twin bedroom flat to flag off the initiative at Delta Park, last December.

The Chairman, disclosed that the conversion of service quarters to terrace buildings of two-twin bedroom flats was in line with the resolve of the Committee to address the problem of accommodation with minimal resources, assuring the University Community that on completion, 24 of such two-twin bedroom flats would be made available to cushion the effect of inadequate accommodation for staff on Campus. Professor Sikoki explained that the Committee employed direct labour to save cost using only N4.9 million for each of the twin-bedroom flats, stating that each of the flats consisted of a large sitting room, kitchen, toilet facilities and two rooms.

Speaking before cutting the tape to commission the project, a Member of the Governing Council, Muhammed Iyimoga praised members of the Committee for their commitment to the task assigned to them by the University. Also speaking, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who could not hide his joy for the prudent management of resources in the construction of befitting staff quarters, charged the Committee to continue to do its best for the rapid growth of the University.



The new staff quarter. Inset: V-C, Prof Ajienka, Council Member, Alhaji Iyimoga, Prof Sikoki and others at the commissioning

Staff, Student Relieve Experience After Festivities



Mr Amaele



Miss Owo



Mr Okwu-Beniah



Mrs Deniran

The Year 2013 ended with so many challenges in the educational system across the country. The suspension of academic activities on July 1, 2013 was due to an industrial action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities across the country. And following the Federal Government's eagerness to end the strike in public universities, the University of Port Harcourt announced resumption of normal academic activities for the Second Semester 2012/2013 last year, as staff of the University resumed from the Christmas/New Year holidays, following a memo issued by Management of the University. Some staff and students of the University, spoke to *UniPort Weekly*, last Tuesday as they explained how they spent the holiday and what they aspire to achieve in 2014.

A staff of the Council Affairs Department, Mr Promise Amaele said "the Christmas celebration went well, only that salaries were not paid early, but

we thank God and we express our gratitude to Management for finally paying us our salaries while we were still celebrating the Yuletide".

On plans for the year, Mr Amaele disclosed that he believes the year would be a successful one, stating that since the year has started on a good note, it would also end well.

Mr Amaele, who is an Assistant Registrar, thanked Management for its hard work last year, despite the many challenges, advising it to ensure that ongoing project are speedily completed by the various Contractors. He called on colleagues to be up and doing this year, urging them to put in their best and continue to work as a team, so as to achieve the desired goals of the University.

Miss Patience Owo, a Part-Time Student of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, said that she spent her holiday at her elder

By Mercy Adeniji

brother's place after which they all went out for shopping and sightseeing.

She explained that she is indeed happy that ASUU has finally called off the strike, expressing optimism of a better academic year. "During the period of the strike, I did not relent, rather I was busy working to ensure I complete my Project Work, so I can have time for my class activities as soon as School finally resumes,"

Miss Owo stated.

Another staff of the Senior Professional Administrators and Technologists (SPAT) cadre, Mr Ernest Okwu-Beniah, lamented that the Christmas break was not too fine. "We did not get all we expected last year, but all the same, we thank God for bringing us together again into the New Year as staff and students".

My advice for Management this year is to improve on the welfare of staff to enable members give of their best to the University", Mr Okwu-Beniah said, appealing to staff to put in more effort this year to enable them achieve their goals, despite the shortcomings associated with 2013.

Also speaking, Mrs Constance Deniran, a staff in the Bursary Department, said: "I had fun with my family during the festive period, as we visited places such as the SilverBird Cinema, Zoo, Nembe Waterside for a boat drive and we also visited loved ones and had a little picnic with them."

On her expectation in the New Year, Mrs Deniran appealed to staff to continue to be hard-working and ensure they put on their seatbelt and be ready to work, charging them to be focused and ready for the challenges of the year. She called on Management to continue in the direction of taking the university to greater heights.

Actor, Producer, Actor and Teacher, Adiele Onyedibia, has been conferred with a prestigious lifetime achievement award known as *Legend of Nollywood Award*. The award ceremony, which took place at the expansive Banquet Hall of the National Theatre, Igamu, Lagos on 7th December, 2013, attracted participants from all walks of life. Onyedibia, who has been a long-standing Patron-Saint of the big screen and great mentor, was

Onyedibia, UISS, Bring Honour To UniPort

By Williams Wodi

particularly honoured for his masterful television adaption and production of Chinua Achebe's epic novel: *Things Fall Apart*, which ran on the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) for months to the delight of ecstatic audiences in and outside the country. Legendary Nollywood Actor, Pete Edochie, played the character of Okonkwo in the epic television adaptation of the multiple award-winning novel, that was published in 1958 by Heinemann, London.

Onyedibia, who currently teaches in the Department of Theatre Arts, was recognized as a genuine pioneer of quality TV Soap Operas and is a highly-respected Producer and Actor in the Nigerian theatre circle, where he helped to train many of the current crop of Nollywood stars, who are ruling the big screen today at home and abroad.

A letter signed on behalf of staff and students of the Department of Theatre Arts by the Acting Head, Dr Julie Umukoro, congratulated the living legend for what was described as his numerous exploits on the big screen and quality production of home movies in those days, when Nigerians were hooked on Chinese, Indian and Western movies. The letter added that Onyedibia's recent investiture with the *Legend of Nollywood Award* had brought great honour and pride to both the Department and the University of Port Harcourt.

"We proudly associate with your achievements and we applaud your remarkable professional acknowledgements by those who recognize your

solid contributions to the growth of the theatre and Nollywood," the statement further said.

Meanwhile, the University of Port Harcourt International Secondary School (UISS), has been awarded the title of *Third Best* participating institution at the 2013 Literary Competition for Secondary Schools in Rivers State.

The landmark event organized by a Port Harcourt-based outfit, *Joyce Book Plus Media*, attracted participants from Secondary Schools in the State. A letter signed by Principal of the School, Mr. Ejima Okechukwu, conveying the award to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, recalled that the UISS won 1st Prize at the Literary Quiz Competition organized by the Rivers State Branch of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) presided over by renowned authors, Elechi Amadi and Gabriel Okara.

The achievements came on the heels of a 100 per cent pass rate recorded by students of UISS in the last Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE), with some Candidates obtaining Distinction in all their subject entries.

Reacting to the spectacular performance of the School, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, congratulated the Students, their teachers and Management of the College of Continuing Education (CCE) for making the University proud at various times through their commendable achievements, urging them to keep up the good work, which he described as proof of the success that awaits those who work hard. He pledged more support to the School to enable it attain its full potentials in the years ahead.



Onyedibia

Rural Posting Student Nurse Tackles Chronic Foot Ulcer

Miss Christiana Onyiahara was one of the 43 Batch 'B' 2013 Student Nurses posted to Usokun Community in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State. She distinguished herself when she fully utilized her three-month posting period to treat a patient with a debilitating chronic foot ulcer, reports OTIKOR SAMUEL

The Batch 'B' Student Nurses posted to Usokun arrived the community on Monday, 15th July, 2013. As is the usual practice, the students on the third day embarked on home visits to personally appreciate rural lifestyle and explore such an opportunity to identify cases that required urgent medical attention. That was how Miss Onyiahara met a 56 years-old man with chronic foot ulcer that threatened his left leg. Later identified as Mr Charles Kaizer, the patient, who also suffered from necrotic toes, narrated that he started noticing heaviness on the affected side of the leg while he was inside the water plying on his dug-out



Miss Onyiahara

boat.

After an initial medical treatment which was interrupted by financial constraint, Mr Kaizer resorted to an herbalist, who mixed some arcane concoctions, which he applied on the wound that gradually became chronic as a result of wrong diagnoses and treatment. "On arrival to my client's home with other students, I noticed that his left leg had a very big ulcer; very offensive and covered with reddish herbal concoction. As we talked with the client on the cause of the wound and the treatment he had received so far, I noticed he was helpless and really could not do anything but rely solely on the herbalist, who at the time tried to answer all the questions referred to the client," the student narrated.

Moved by the pathetic scenario, Onyiahara requested to proffer medical solution to the fast degenerating situation. "Let's see if those chemicals you use will be better than our natural herbs," was the herbalist's boastful response, according to her. That was another poser that prepared her to face the challenge squarely. On a familiarization visit to Chairman of the Local Government Area, Mr Daddy Pikoma, by the Nursing students, Miss Onyiahara availed the forum to report her pitiable finding to the Local Government boss, who promptly released a specified sum of money to assist in timely medical treatment of Mr Kaizer.

Aside from the prudent management of the resources which she also accounted for and spent in deficit in her report, the student made the extra commitment of taking the patient all the way from his community to Port Harcourt until he was finally operated upon at the Kelsey Harrison Hospital located along Emenike Street in Diobu Port Harcourt.

"The Patient was admitted on 18th September, 2013 at the Kelsey Harrison Hospital on free medicals. He spent a total of 50 days and was discharged in good health on 6th November, 2013 and was taken back to his community," she disclosed further, adding that the wound went

through debridement as against the previous plan of possible below knee amputation before skin grafting was carried out successfully.



Mr Kaizer on discharge from Kelsey Harrison Hospital

Beyond Mere New Year Wishes

A few weeks ago, it was fashionable to say: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as an appropriate greeting mode. Actually, everyone was looking forward to a very happy New Year. Now, the much-talked about New Year is here with us. How happy or sad it becomes is largely dependent on choices made by individuals. Important as it seems, mere expression of good wishes to friends and well-wishers doesn't translate to attainment of a happy year. Conversely, planning and actions are critical elements in the attainment of desired goals at all times. One of the most common things people do at the end of an old year or beginning of a new one is to make *New Year Resolutions*—a basketful of wishes. They often express their desire to do away with certain habits or lifestyles. Oftentimes, they vocalise their intentions to turn a new leaf or attain certain goals in life. This again

By Humphrey Ogu

doesn't translate into anything except deliberate efforts were made to actualise such dreams. Planning alone doesn't work, action is required.

For instance, most people are inclined to set goals for themselves without making commensurate efforts towards fulfilling their desires. For such persons, nothing will change. Similarly, chances are that for some students, 2014 is their scheduled time to cut down on frivolities, get serious with their studies and record better academic results. Unless such decisions are followed by actions, nothing will change as far as academic records are concerned.

Attaining a happy and fulfilling 2014 requires a lot of efforts. Hard work, as the age-long axiom says, leads to success. This is an incontrovertible truth. That

planting precedes harvest is a common knowledge. It is, therefore, natural for anyone who expects a harvest to start the journey by sowing. No one reaps any fruit just because someone has wished him a bumper harvest.

Happiness is a destination, anyone who wishes to get there needs to be on the right track and embark on the journey early in the day. It begins with having a clear-cut destination, a roadmap and lots of efforts. Attaining a happy New Year requires much more than mere pleasanties; it requires action. Expecting a happy New Year without making effort is tantamount to daydreaming or chasing the wind.

For parents, staff and students alike, whose goal is to have a happy New Year, time to embark on the journey is now. No time for frivolities, idle talk or gossip. The advice is: get serious from the very first day, the "go" gun has gone off already. For those who were not on their marks when the whistle was blown, signalling the

commencement of the race, it is still possible to get to the finishing line.

With a defined destination, clear-cut roadmap, hard work and discipline, anyone can achieve whatever he or she desires to achieve—be it happiness, academic success or professional development.

Whether an individual prefers to end up as a mediocre or wishes to attain greater heights in 2014 is a matter of choice. Everyone is at liberty as to what he or she wants to achieve this year. Achieving such dreams is possible.

Do have the 2014 of your choice. Happy New Year!



Students receiving lecture in the New Year

Academic Activities Resume

Cont'd from p1

Egamba, a Fourth Year Student of the Department of Linguistics and Communications Studies, said she was very excited to come back to School.

"I feel very excited after spending so much time at home. I hope that now that we are back, I shall have the opportunity to receive more lectures, although the strike has affected us a lot," she said.

Daniel Nwafor, Final Year student of the Department of Economics said: "I feel great to resume classes. We have prayed that the issues surrounding the strike be resolved and we thank God that the protracted crises have finally been resolved. I expect lectures to hold as scheduled and that the academic calendar as revised



Lecture in session

is implemented properly."

Gbarale Barinemeka, a First Year student in the Department of Petro-Chemical Technology in the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) felt delighted at the resumption of academic activities. "I feel very happy and thank God that we are back to School. Our prayer is that this kind of strike should not happen again in Nigeria," she stated.

Peter Ovie Akus of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies noted: "I am happy to resume lectures after the long strike. I expect to continue from where we stopped and hopefully

graduate in the next three months."

Chidera Okonkwo, a First Year student of the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education had this to say: "I feel very happy to return to School after waiting for so long. It is what I have longed for. I want to pass through the School and also let the School pass through me."

It would be recalled recall that the over five months strike action embarked upon by members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) halted academic activities in the universities from July 1, 2013.



Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Registrar



Egamba



Akus



Udochukwu



Barinemeka



Okonkwo

How Not To Use Car Tallies

By Humphrey Ogu

In view of the security challenges being faced in the country in recent times, it became necessary to redouble efforts towards ensuring maximum security of lives and property in and around public institutions. This includes taking particular note of movement of persons and vehicles in and around such institutions. One of the effective means of achieving this is through issuance of car tracking tallies.

It is in realisation of this project that the Security Unit in the University of Port Harcourt introduced tallies to check vehicular movement on Campus. Since last year, the security guards at the two gates into the University Park have been issuing tallies to private car owners. This is a welcome development following a call for the

introduction of tallies by this writer in *UniPort Weekly* sometime ago and its adoption by Management of the University.

Commendable as the introduction of tallies is, the manner of issuing these tallies leaves much to be desired for reasons that shall shortly be adduced. For instance, there is no proper documentation of vehicles issued tallies. One often observes that some drivers merely need to say that they were not issued a tally at the point of entry and they would be given a pass on their exit based on such unacceptable claims. This is not how to use tallies. In fact, this inefficient use of tallies defeats the aim of what would have been an effective security measure of checking insecurity and car theft.

There is, therefore, a compelling need to improve on the administration of tallies to boost security of lives and

property on Campus. The time to do that is now that 2014 is still new. Although there was no noticeable security breach on Campus in 2013, improving on security strategy in this New Year is of utmost importance. It is no longer fashionable to wait for calamities to happen before taking retroactive steps to assuage them.

In the health sector, for instance, attention has been shifted from curative to preventive medicine. In engineering, professionals talk of troubleshooting rather than waiting for trouble. In the industry, one hears of safety precautions. In the computer world, there are antivirus software meant to prevent viral attacks and eventual crash of the hardware, which usually results in enormous loss of data and resources.

It is only proper, therefore, to take proactive security measures to safeguard lives and property on Campus at all times. Virtually all the security challenges witnessed in the country in the past years resulted from inadequate proactive measures to nip such attacks in the bud and save lives.

As we settle down to work in 2014, it is imperative to work towards putting in place efficient security strategies to ensure effective protection of lives and property. This includes an efficient management of the car tally system by issuing them to all private car users and documenting same properly to prevent security breaches. Cars entering the Campus should be properly documented to check their movement and know when they leave too. A situation where tallies are issued without records by security guards is truly in a very bad taste and does little to reassure the University Community that enough is being done by the Security Department to safeguard lives and property on Campus. We cannot stress this critical matter enough.

When contacted, the Chief Security Officer of the University, Lt Col Reginald Isiguzo (rtd), appealed to car users to co-operate with the security personnel for effective administration of the tallies system, explaining that the exercise is in the best interest of members of University community.



Security officials issuing tallies at the main gate

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr J. E. Chikwe, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Coordinator, General Studies (GES) 300 – Entrepreneurial Development*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on 17th December, 2015.

Dr Olorunfemi Eseyin, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective 2nd January, 2014.

CONTACT APPOINTMENT

Dr Obadijah Elekima, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, offered a five-year *Contract Appointment* as Senior Lecturer, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Chijioke Nwaozuzu, Emerald Energy Institute, offered a one-year *Contract Appointment* as Senior Lecturer, effective on assumption of duty.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Mr Godwin Nnaikwe, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems & Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 9th November, 2013 to 8th November, 2014.

Dr Felix Njoku, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science & Information Technology, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 2nd January, 2014 to 1st January, 2015.

Mrs Mina Long-John, Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 12th March, 2014 to 11th March, 2015.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Francis Sikoki, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, proceeded on *Sabbatical Leave*, effective 2nd December, 2013 to 1st December, 2014.

STUDY LEAVE

Dr Bliss Moore, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him undertake a Master's Degree programme, effective 2nd December, 2013 to 1st December, 2014.

Mr Charles Magbo, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Infrastructural Systems Engineering, College of Health Sciences, granted a two-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him undertake a Course of Study in Civil Engineering (Geotechnical Option), effective 6th January, 2013 to 5th January, 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 12-SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 12 JAN, 2014	36.0 24.0	48	NE	-	6:44 18:36	Partly cloudy day. Warm day anticipated.
MONDAY, 13 JAN, 2014	35.0 24.0	51	NE	-	6:45 18:37	More sun than cloud. Hot day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 14 JAN, 2014	36.0 24.0	47	NE	-	6:45 18:37	Mostly sunny and hot day forecasted.
WEDNESDAY 15 JAN, 2014	36.0 24.0	52	NE	-	6:45 18:38	Partly cloudy day. Extremely hot day anticipated.
THURSDAY, 16 JAN, 2014	36.0 24.0	51	N	-	6:45 18:38	More sun than cloud forecasted. Day is expected to be hot.
FRIDAY, 17 JAN, 2014	36.0 24.0	48	N	-	6:45 18:38	More sun than cloud forecasted. Day is expected to be hot.
SATURDAY, 18 JAN, 2014	36.0 24.0	44	N	-	6:46 18:38	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. More sun than cloud. Hot day expected.

More Interns Join AIESEC Projects

No fewer than ten Interns from universities across West Africa have arrived the University of Port Harcourt to participate in *Projects Pink and Sunshine*—the organization's ongoing and

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

phase of the Project. "As part of the World Cancer Day on February 4th, the team would continue its community-to-community



Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi (Centre) in a group photograph with AIESEC Interns and UniPort members

new initiatives. An international student organization with membership in over 124 countries, AIESEC UniPort is currently working on creating awareness on child abuse and cancer prevention in selected communities of Rivers State.

Nana Sagoe, Maame Adofoah Yamoah, Ayornu Patricia, Hilda Latsu of the University of Ghana, Legon, Kwarteng Evans, Maison Emmanuella, of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Nkrumah Derrick of the Regional Maritime University, Ghana, Malick Traore of University Instec of Cote D'Ivoire, Kassi Alexis of University of FUPA, Cote D' Ivoire, Ettile Benoit and Kone Bognan of the University of Cote D' Ivoire and University of Houphouet Boiregny, Abidjan, Cote D' Ivoire, respectively, would spend a minimum of six weeks in UniPort working on both Projects which are running concurrently.

AIESEC Vice-President, Business Development, Emmanuel Anwanaodung, who accompanied the Interns to the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit (IPPRU) of the University, last Monday, said that the *Project Pink* team has covered two communities in Ahoada and was ready to begin campaign in Alesa, Eleme and Onne. One of the Interns, Kone Bognan, who has already spent over six weeks in the University working on *Pink Project*, disclosed that the team would be collaborating with Women Associations in the State in the second

awareness campaign", she added.

"The goal is to train the leaders of the various Associations so that they would continue the awareness campaign at the end of the Project and the emphasis is on early screening," she added. Deputy Registrar, IPPRU, Williams Wodi, who welcomed the visibly elated students to the University, distributed some copies of the University's publications to the visiting delegation.

STOP PRESS

AAU GRANTS

The Association of African Universities (AAU), has invited applications from suitably qualified Candidates for grants to enable them pursue their Doctorate Degree Dissertations.

A statement by Director of the Centre for Research Management, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, disclosed that the grants are available in the following areas of specialization:

- Economics and related disciplines
- Engineering and Information Technology
- Education, Gender and HIV/AIDS
- Agriculture, Food Security and related disciplines

The statement further directed interested staff of the University to contact the Desk Officer, Centre for Research Management, College of Graduate Studies Building, University Park for more information, adding that entry closes on Friday, 31st January, 2014.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS BEAUTY IHUOMA CHINEDUM
AKANDU.

Former Miss Ihuoma Beauty Worlu of the Bursary Department now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Beauty Ihuoma Chinedum Akandu. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.