

Stakeholders Brainstorm On Emergent UniPort Law Programme

Preparatory to the commencement of the Faculty of Law programme, stakeholders, mostly legal luminaries from the academia, government and private sector thronged the new Emerald Energy Institute Building along East/West Road to chart a way forward for the emerging of the emergent Faculty of Law in the University, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

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Side Bar

Your favourite UniPort Weekly goes on a short break. Merry Xmas & Happy New Year in advance see you in 2014 - Editor

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V-C Lauds Staff, Students' Strides In 2013 ...Appeals For More Hard Work In 2014

By Obinna Nwodin

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has thanked the Governing Council, Staff and Students for their cooperation in ensuring that the objectives of his administration were achieved in the outgoing year, charging them to rededicate themselves to greater service in 2014.

Professor Ajienka, who made the statement in a message to mark the end of the year, was full of praises to staff and students for the high level of productivity exhibited in the outgoing year. He also commended the Engineer Gesi Asamaowei-led Governing Council for giving strategic policy direction for improved service delivery of the University as it promised on assumption of office.

He disclosed that despite the five-month old nation-wide strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), a lot was still achieved within the year, as proof of the resilience of the human spirit to transcend limitations. "For me, it has been a year full of experiences. Difficult as it turned out to be, we have to thank the Almighty for His goodness towards us and for the modest

achievements we have so far recorded as an institution. To students, parents and teachers, a substantial part of the year was lost, which is quite unfortunate," he acknowledged, expressing hope that the lessons learnt would lead the country to a better future.

Professor Ajienka regretted that, given the prevailing situation, many of the targets set at the beginning of the year were not met, describing it as a painful experience, particularly academic activities at the College of Continuing Education and other non-NUC funded programmes that could not go on under the circumstance.

Professor Ajienka said that despite the regrettable situation, the administration made impressive marks as it signed a number of Memoranda

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Christmas is around the corner once again. Members of the University Community, like their counterparts elsewhere, are warming up to have a joyful celebration. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. It is, however, foolhardy to go about the festivities without being circumspect on some fronts. This is so because Christmas season has its own hazards, lurking in the background, in addition to the merry-making. In this part of the world, Christmas coincides with the harmattan season, which makes the environment prone to fire outbreaks. Therefore, Christmas could be described as a peak period for fire incidents on account of the high humidity.

Apart from improper handling of stoves and gas cookers in some homes, most fire incidents are often caused by electrical appliances. For instance, when electrical appliances that are not in use are switched on, fire outbreak could result. Hence, experts in safety advise that all appliances should always be switched off when not in use. Storing of petrol in jerry cans is another possible cause of fire disaster. Most people store fuel in their houses to forestall frustrations attendant with scarcity of the petroleum product, usually at short notice. There are cases where individuals turn fuel into

Towards A Safe Yuletide and Happy New Year

As the University Community prepares to go on Christmas break, HUMPHREY OGU writes on the need to be safety and security conscious before, during and after the holidays to make room for a Happy New Year.

their power-generating sets when they are already switched on or using the GSM as torchlight during the process of fuelling power plants. Experts always advise against such highly combustible habit.

Talking about power-generating plants, especially the use of the ubiquitous "I Pass my Neighbour", poses yet another dangerous challenge resulting from fumes. There have been instances where fumes from power generators wiped out families. This stems from using the machine in or very close to the bedrooms, while the people were fast sleep. The challenges of power supply and the intensity of heat in these parts are well known to merit a rehash here. However, providing comfort by running generators in proximity to bedrooms is tantamount to committing suicide.

Beyond domestic safety, drivers are known to over speed during Christmas to earn additional income to facilitate elaborate celebrations. In some cases, some drivers operate under the influence of

alcohol, marijuana or other mind-bending substances. These put the lives of both the man behind the wheel and the commuters in grave danger. Some people erroneously attribute mishaps recorded on roads, sea or air to ill-luck, witchcraft or handiwork of the enemies; others define them in superstitious terms—as an act of God. But most of these so-called accidents are preventable, if only the drivers or pilots of the vehicles, boats or aircraft, as the case may be, did not throw caution to the winds.

Safety is not the only challenge there is during the Yuletide. Security is also there. Most miscreants choose the period to unleash mayhem on innocent people. This ranges from robbery to rape and other atrocities. Sometimes, children indiscriminately use fireworks at this period. The resulting noise often confuses unsuspecting members of the public as gunshot by robbers could be mistaken for fireworks. It, therefore, behoves parents to advise their children against use of bangers. Anyone who desires to have a merry Christmas should be safety and security conscious.

Food consumption is also important here. Some people eat anything they see during Christmas without considering their health. It is a well-known fact that most food types are not good for human wellbeing. And most diseases these days thrive on poor eating habit. Again, substance abuse and excessive alcohol intake are usually high at Yuletide. This puts the health of consumers of these substances in jeopardy, and sometimes people around them. Lifestyle has been known to be of critical importance to human health.

To have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, you need to be safety and security conscious, eat right and live right. It is only when all these conditions are fulfilled that a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year are guaranteed.

Do have a Joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year!



Fire Service men and facilitators after a training session

I Rarely Slept In My Days As A Student ~IPS Valedictorian

Miss Mirian Ufomaduh graduated in 2010 with a Second Class (Upper Division) from then Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, but her enrolment into the famous Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) brought her to limelight as she individually and jointly carted home 12 of the 21 coveted prizes on offer at the 10th Induction. How did she perform "the magic"? She spoke with our Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL

Genius, they say is 90 per cent perspiration and only 10 per cent inspiration. Hard work is the sure route to success in any endeavour we choose to undertake. Miss Ufomaduh cuts the image of a go-go woman with the universal tool-kit to solve every challenge thrown at her as an Undergraduate of the University of Port Harcourt and Graduate of the IPS. What was her motivation for her ascension to the top? "I got to know more about IPS during my Industrial Training (IT) with TOTAL, where I met some of my senior colleagues, who graduated from the Institute. I got the inspiration to run my Master's programme when they told me about the quality of training they received at IPS," the budding Petroleum Engineer recalled.

To Mirian, the IPS is a place to beat in the oil and gas training anywhere in the world. "Choosing going to study overseas, whether United Kingdom or elsewhere over IPS is not a good decision, because whatever the person is looking for outside is in abundance here. The high calibre of lecturers drawn from France, University of Port Harcourt, the Industry and practical experience on field trips are better and available here than elsewhere," Miss Ufomaduh said, pointing out that the only difficulty candidates would encounter in IPS is the rigorous selection process to secure admission places which are highly competitive and very limited.

The Valedictorian, who attributed her success to God and extra commitment to her studies, disclosed that "there were weeks I slept only 12 hours. There were days I slept only 30 minutes to one hour due to crowded academic activities. Sometimes, before you understand the concept of the course, the weekly examination is just by the corner, so I had to open myself to learning. It is highly competitive; for any person to pass through IPS, he or she must certainly work hard."

Miss Ufomaduh, who solely won and also shared 12 prizes, including PTDF Prize for Best Overall Graduate and Valedictorian, Emmanuel Chiejina's Prize for Best Overall Graduate, Chi Ikoku Prize for the Best Graduate

in General Module and Best Graduate in Production Engineering Module, undertook a research on the "Impact of Completion Screens on Well Performances," to ascertain by how much well productivity is affected when sand screens, which are common features of wells in the Niger Delta, are used for the completion of horizontal and vertical wells.

"My Thesis work aimed at finding out how much the screen affects the productivity of such wells. I identified different screens and analysed how they affect oil production. I found out that the shrouded metal screen both for horizontal and deviated well give the best productivity. Based on my findings, I recommended a ranking for completion of horizontal and deviated wells using screens," the Valedictorian, who was supervised by the Vice-Chancellor himself, Professor Joseph Ajienka, disclosed.

Another major research area for Miss Ufomaduh is the sub-sea fluid transport system. "I have developed the scheme, but I still have to work on the simulation to see how that will work," she disclosed, explaining that she would adopt the pipe-in-pipe system to study the separation of crude oil before transportation against the regular or conventional system.

"The regular or conventional system uses two pipes to transport crude and do the separation on the process platform. The difference is that in the pipe-in-pipe system, you have the oil passing through the smaller or inner pipe, while the gas goes through the annulus," the prize-winning genius added with a dose of uncommon humility.

On her future career prospects, Mirian responded: "I need to gain more field experience to blend with my little academic exposure before coming back hopefully to teach. When I gain practical knowledge, I can better impart knowledge." Rounding off the interview, she declared: "I have no regrets going through the University of Port Harcourt and the Institute of Petroleum Studies. The University gave me a very good

background and exposure, while the Institute opened my intellect to a new career line that I will cherish for the rest of my life."



Ufomaduh

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Stakeholders Brainstorm On UniPort Law Programme

Speaking at a one-day sensitization Workshop to review the draft curriculum for Bachelor of Laws programme, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, disclosed that the Workshop was aimed at examining the curriculum content of the programme in fulfillment of part of the requirements of the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Council of Legal Education (CLE), stating that the Workshop fashioned out a viable curriculum that would comply with the Benchmark for Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS) set by National Universities Commission and the Council of Legal Education.

Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, recalled that Senate of the University had approved establishment of the Faculty of Law at its 337th Extra-Ordinary Meeting and consequently approved a Faculty building which is under construction.

"I am particularly pleased to observe that with the array of erudite scholars and other stakeholders present in today's workshop, to make valuable contributions to the draft curriculum, the University of Port Harcourt is sure of kick-starting the programme in the next academic session," the Vice-Chancellor said, commending the Supervising Minister of Education, Chief Nyesom Wike; Keynote Speaker, Barrister Onueze Okocha, (SAN);

pioneer Dean of the Faculty, Professor Kaniye Ebeku and his team for the numerous efforts made towards the successful take-off of the building and ensuring that minimum standards were maintained in the design and implementation of the of the prescribed global benchmark.

Professor Ajienka called on well-meaning citizens and other stakeholders to endow Chairs in the new Faculty, as well as collaborate with the Faculty to run legal education programmes to further teaching, research and engage in community service.

In a Keynote Address, Chief Okocha, who doubled as Chairman of the event, congratulated the University for what he described as bold and commendable steps to establish a Faculty of Law with emphases on the proposed Oil and Gas and Environmental Laws, pointing out that the proposal for specialized training in Oil and Gas and Environmental Laws is strategic to assist research and tackle challenges in the oil-rich Niger Delta.

Okocha, who is Chairman of Council of Legal Education, said the Council is also vested with the responsibility of offering professional input that would enable higher institutions secure accreditation to run Law programmes, listing some of the criteria to include standard facilities conducive for teaching and learning, student-lecturer

ratio, availability of Moot Court and lecture halls, amongst other critical requirements for the takeoff of the new Faculty.

In his address, pioneer Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ebeku, said the new Faculty has the objective of producing graduates with exceptional legal skills and expertise, provide the much-needed manpower in the area of oil and gas law and environmental law, especially to meet the needs of the oil and gas industry in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, produce researchers who would be able to undertake cutting-edge research and provide an avenue for *pro bono* community legal advice and assistance. Professor Ebeku, who presented the draft curriculum in two sessions, said the Bachelor of Laws programme would run for five years on a sound academic footing.

In their goodwill messages, representatives of NUC, Mr Ahmed Ingawa and CLE, Mr Abraham Afolanyan, commended the University for following due process before full commencement of academic activities in the new Law Faculty, advising other institutions to borrow a leaf from the University of Port Harcourt.

Also, a High Court Judge in Rivers State, His Lordship, Justice Biobele Georgewill, who co-chaired one of the sessions, observed that the establishment of a Faculty of Law in the University was long overdue, expressing gratitude that he was part of the commencement process of the Faculty, even though he did not fulfil his original intention to train in the University. Solicitor-General of Rivers State and Permanent Secretary, Barrister Rufus Godwin, who spoke through his representatives, also shared ideas on how to attain high quality legal education to turn out vibrant Lawyers that would meet the emergent needs of the energy sector.

Major highlights of the Workshop included inspection of the new Faculty building under construction and Moot Court at the temporary site located at the Emerald Energy Institute Building, along the East/West Road. Some other dignitaries who graced the event included the Branch Chairmen of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) from Rivers and Bayelsa States, Dean, Faculty of Law, Niger Delta University, Professor Finine Fekumo and Deans of other Faculties in the University.



DV-C (Academic), Prof Joe (middle) flanked by Dean of Faculty, Prof Ebeku, Justice Georgewill (right) and O.C.J. Okocha (SAN) and a guest (left) in the Moot Court

Nwauzor, Nwanyanwu, Chikere, Win NUC Dissertation Award

Three Dissertations from the University of Port Harcourt have won the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Nigerian Universities Doctoral Thesis Award Scheme (NUDTAS) of the Nigerian Universities Commission. The winners are: Dr Adaku Nwauzor of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences; Dr Augustine Nwanyanwu of the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Dr Chikere Chikere of the Department of Microbiology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

Dr Nwauzor's work is titled: "The New Media and Social Change: A Study of the Changing Patterns of Fashion in Six Selected Nigerian Universities, Dr Nwanyanwu's study is titled: "Chinua Achebe's Fiction: Study in Stylistic Criticism, while Dr Chikere's thesis is on "Bacterial Diversity and Community Dynamics during the Bioremediation of Crude Oil Polluted Soil". The Theses were supervised by Professors Martin Ifeanacho, Onyemaechi Udumukwu and Gideon Okpokwasili, respectively.

Speaking to *UniPort Weekly* in his office, last Monday, Professor Ifeanacho, expressed delight over the development, pointing out that "we must trace the success to where it really started. It was in 2006 when Professor Bene Willie Abbey, as Dean of the then School of Graduate studies, designed the final doctoral dissertation seminar presentation. What influenced the quality of the seminar was the fact that the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, sponsored the seminar from the Emmanuel Egbogah Chair, which he occupied. "What the programme did was to expose supervisors and supervisees to a wider audience for criticisms and suggestions aimed at improving the entire work. If we had maintained the old system, where such presentation is limited to the Departments and Faculties, we would not have gotten here," he added.

By Obinna Nwodin

Professor Ifeanacho who is also Dean of Graduate School of Management, Arts and Education, noted that the current Provost of College, Professor Roseline Konya has taken the process higher, stating that "When one knows that as a supervisor that he is going to face a panel of such magnitude, he will not allow his student to produce a shabby work. He will insist on quality and originality knowing that your integrity is attached to the work."

"When I was supervising Nwauzor's work, we were told that the quality of the dissertation was good, but needed some touches. The Panel saw the Sociology in it, but advised that we get input from the Department of Fine Arts and Design. At the end of the day, I looked at the final work and was satisfied. So when the call for submission from NUC came, I was convinced that the work was good and should be submitted," he stated.

Professor Ifeanacho reiterated the importance of graduate programmes in the promotion of the image of any university. "We have always stressed that the ranking of any university is fundamentally a function of the

research output of graduate students in that university. If we, as supervisors, make some sacrifices to read through submissions of our supervisees and guide them appropriately, the quality of our research output will improve and our ranking will experience an upward drive," he said.

In her remarks, Dr Nwauzor, who was very much elated at the development, said that the purpose of the study was to investigate how fashion systems or patterns worn in the six selected universities were influenced by the new media and in turn, affected social behaviour. "I have always loved to do a good work. I want to be original in my work. That has been my motivating factor," she stated, thanking Professor Ifeanacho, who she said has been her academic supervisor for her Master's and Doctoral programmes, as well as others who assisted her to pull through the work. The findings of the study suggested that people should select styles of fashion that would send positive signals and enhance their personality and that every season, environment, physique, ceremony and profession has its own dress code, thus fashion behaviour should be guided by these to avoid the abuse of fashion.



V-C, Prof Ajienka (5th right), Provost, College of Graduate Studies, Prof Roseline Konya (4th right), 5th V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs (2nd left), awardees and their Supervisors

Respondents Want Increased Print Run Of UniPort Weekly ...Few Access Online Version

In an emerging technology world where digitalization is gradually taking over, only few persons in the University are accessing the online version of UniPort Weekly. Respondents to our questionnaire, rather preferred increment of the number of copies to reach more readers, reports OTIKORSAMUEL

Of the 400 questionnaires distributed to our readers last October, only 46, representing 11.5 per cent returned their questionnaires to the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, while 354 representing 88.5 per cent could not be accounted for. The figure shows that 27 male and 19 female respondents returned their copies. Teaching Staff, who unfortunately were on national strike accounted for seven of the respondents, 36 were Non-Teaching Staff, while three persons did not specify their category.

43 respondents received the printed version of the publication and an additional one person, making 44, got it on weekly basis, two said they did not receive it, but one respondent received it occasionally, while another person did not indicate how often he or she received it.

None of the respondents confirmed ever accessing UniPort Weekly online when asked how they accessed the publication, but three persons stated that they occasionally read the online version. In response to how regular the publication should run; 33 respondents wanted it to continue to be weekly, seven voted for biweekly and six respondents ticked monthly.

Though a whopping 42 persons said they liked the contents of the publication, 23 respondents in another poser, noted that the publication was not effectively distributed, possibly because of insufficient print run. 36 of the respondents wanted increment in circulation figure; six respondents wanted the figure to remain, while four persons did not respond.

33 persons said UniPort Weekly should not be sold, 10 were of the opinion that the paper should be sold to sustain publication, while three persons were

undecided. When asked how much it should be sold? The few respondents to the question suggested twenty, fifty, one hundred and three hundred naira, respectively. "Selling the newspaper will defeat the aim,

Coskey Endows Chair On Malaria Studies
A new endowment has been established to support research on malaria, a leading cause of death in the tropics. The University of Port Harcourt has received a grant from the Coskey Foundation to establish a research chair in malaria studies. The grant will be used to fund research projects, purchase equipment, and support staff. The University of Port Harcourt is committed to advancing research in malaria and other tropical diseases.

UniPort Gets World Bank Grant On Oilfield Chemicals
The University of Port Harcourt has received a grant from the World Bank to support research on oilfield chemicals. The grant will be used to fund research projects, purchase equipment, and support staff. The University of Port Harcourt is committed to advancing research in oilfield chemicals and other related fields.

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Management should, instead, call for voluntary donation," stated one of the responses.

A good number of respondents praised the aptness of contents, captions, picture quality, story length and choice of colour. "Picture always speaks volume of any event. The quality and the designs are very good. The layout and design validates the true picture of what is happening in the Institution," read some of the responses.

On their free comments, some wanted adequate representation of the three Parks: Choba, Delta and Unipark, others suggested that events from host communities should substitute some national issues in the Weekly. More coverage of news from students' angle, social events such as marriages, goodwill messages for birthdays and other internal celebrations, were suggested.

"There is need for UniPort Weekly to introduce adverts, no matter, how little. The University is a wide market with banks, etc and other corporate organizations. Initially, it may be difficult, but once you break the ice, it will help the publication to be sustainable overtime," advised a respondent.

"The publication should steer the intelligentsia, academia and industry players towards proactive initiatives, keeping in mind the nation's need to transcend the present underdevelopment and infrastructural decay," a respondent said, while another advised the editorial crew to "Beam its satellite on the infrastructural deficiency on the Campuses, especially, staff inadequate office spaces and hostel accommodation for students in order to stimulate both international and national socio-economic investment."

The Pro-Chancellor, Engineer Gesi Asamaoewei, has commended members of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) for embarking on efforts aimed at accelerating development in the University while assuring it of the Governing Council's commitment to ensuring completion of ongoing projects initiated by the Association in line with the vision of Council to develop the University. Speaking during the formal fund-raising ceremony for a Multipurpose Building located at the Gladys Cookey International Day-care/Nursery, penultimate Thursday, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, as part of activities marking the 2013 UPWA Week, the Pro-Chancellor, pledged continued support for the activities of the Association. The new building will also house a model Primary School. A Member of Council, Barrister Joyce Boderick-Bozimo announced an undisclosed cash donation by Council towards the realization of the project. The reviewed UPWA Constitution, Second Edition of the UPWA Voice

Pro-Chancellor Commends UPWA on Projects

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

magazine and the UPWA Uniform/Wrapper were also launched at the event.

Chairman of the event, Architect Peter Ogan, lauded the women for coming together to ensure the accelerated development of the University, describing the building project as a worthwhile investment in education. "The University should appreciate the effort of building a multi-million naira project for the children and ensure that the project is realized within the stipulated timeframe," he said.

UPWA President, Mrs Mercy Ajienka, who remarked that the UPWA Week is celebrated annually to mark the end of year activities of the Association, noted that the Week kicked-off on 2nd December with the traditional health walk and talk, which dwelt on the benefits of good nutrition and exercise by women. "It also featured interactive

sessions on health, safety and environment, etiquette and mannerism," she added.

In his Address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who thanked the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Engineer Gesi Asamaoewei and other Members of Council for identifying with UPWA, congratulated the women for their efforts towards ensuring the speedy completion of the building project, even with the limited funds at their disposal.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Professor Love Akonye, expressed delight with the support received by the Association from the Governing Council and University Management, promising that UPWA would continue to support the growth of the University.

The weeklong event climaxed with the Vice-Chancellor's Children Christmas Party penultimate Saturday for staff children.



UPWA members pose for a group picture with Pro-Chancellor, Engr Asamaoewei, V-C, Prof Ajienka, some Council Members and Senior Officers



Prof Nduka, DV-C (Admin)

As activities wrap up in the University signifying the end of year 2013, Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Administration and Academic), Professors Ethelbert Nduka, Igbo Joe and Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim have in their separate speeches expressed their gratitude to staff for working hard all through the outgoing year. They have also expressed great expectations for the New Year in an interview with a *UniPort Weekly Correspondent*. Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Nduka, said: "As we mark the Christmas which is a festival of love, may we all radiate love in all our dealings this season, so that in the New Year, we shall all

DV-Cs, Registrar, Deliver End-of-year Messages

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

become new in our being and our dealings with one another".

In his own message, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), Professor Joe implored staff to be more dedicated to their duties and take the University as their own. "I guess most of them have decided to take a lifelong career in this place. Therefore, they should give their total commitment to this place because the University has its own in-built mechanism for rewarding hardworking, dedicated and loyal staff. It can also easily detect those who practice eye service in



Prof Joe, DV-C (Acad)

the line of duty. Punctuality and total commitment to assigned responsibilities should be the main target of all staff in 2014. I wish all staff members and our returning students a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

In her remarks, Registrar, Mrs Nnodim stated: "Thank God for bringing us to the end of yet another year. I thank staff for working hard and ensuring that the University did not collapse, despite all the difficulties we passed through as individuals and as an institution. As we celebrate Christmas and New Year, let us come back with more vigour to work. We cannot wish to be in a better place than UniPort. Let us build the UniPort of our dream so that we can leave a lasting legacy to hand over to the future generation. 2014 is yet another year for even harder work". She admonished staff to emulate the exemplary life of

the late South African President, Nelson Mandela as they prepare

to return to work in the New Year. The Registrar also advised all categories of staff to stay out of trouble during the festivities so that they would return to work.



Mrs Nnodim, Registrar

Nyakno-Abasi Obott commended the Institute for all it had done for them as students expressing gratitude to God and to his Lecturers at the IPS for the top-rate exposure they received as students. "I say a big thank you to all my Lecturers, including the IFP Lecturers from France. They were very dedicated; they took their time to bring to bear all their experiences, which fortified us to face the challenges in the oil and gas industry. The synergy between the academia and the industry is what makes IPS a special place to study", Mr Obott said.



Obott

On how Mr Obott feels about the Induction, he said "It is a very historic moment for us; I feel ecstatic, happy and privileged to be inducted by such a high profile Institute. It is a very rare opportunity and privilege for you to see a school that combines the best of the academia and industry experience. The

quality of people that trained us at IPS have experience that is far ahead of the decades, so the learning process was not just theoretical, but they brought to bear real life scenarios and for an Institution to have such synergy is very rare in Nigeria. Mr Obott, who also won some prizes, disclosed that having been equipped with so much knowledge, it is time to practise what has been taught. "The fact is that we are trained to make a difference in the oil and gas industry. Before now, there was no indigenous participation in the oil and gas prospecting and exploitation sector, but the vision of the Institute as part

IPS Inductees Relieve Experience

The Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) is an international postgraduate institution established between the University of Port Harcourt and IFP School France. IPS has enjoyed strong ties with the industries over the years by way of professional mentorship, volunteer lectures among others. So far, IPS has graduated 197 petroleum engineers making remarkable contributions to the oil and gas industry and has become the pride to University of Port Harcourt and a model in the Nigerian educational system. In this interview with our Correspondent, MERCY ADENIJI, some Inductees disclosed their experience on the journey through the Institute.

of the Nigeria Content Development (NCD) is to increase indigenous participation and also to make the gas and oil industry better through availability of competent hands."

In her contribution, Miss Emem Udoh expressed gratitude to the Institute for teaching her all she needed to know. "I read

Chemistry in my undergraduate days. It has been a great experience in IPS.

We all came from different fields and places and we got to mix together as one big academic family.

IPS has really grounded us well in the area of leadership and in class, we worked as a team. We were exposed to various fields in the area of leadership and management skills not just petroleum", she said, expressing optimism to go back for her Masters. "I already have admission to do my MSc Programme in Petroleum Refining and Petrochemicals in the Institute."

Also speaking, Mr Dike Akarolo said he feels excited, because it has been a wonderful experience this one year. "The industrial experience, the lectures and the studies were all wonderful. During this one year, we wrote projects and mine was titled: "Gas Condensate Reservoir Performance Prediction", and in this area, you have to be able to analyse the reservoir and come up with your own contributions to knowledge", he disclosed.

Another Inductee, Miss Yewande Shokoya, expressed gratitude to her Lecturers, urging them to keep up the good work for the benefit of successive students in the Institute. She thanked God for seeing her through her one year journey at the Institute.

On her future plans, she said: "We have been taught all we need to know; we are very much ready to get into the industry and dish out what we have learnt in this one year. One major thing we were taught is to humble ourselves, so we can learn more and add to what we already know," she disclosed, urging upcoming students to work hard and put in their best in all their endeavours.



Akarolo



Udoh



Shokoya

V-C Lauds Staff, Students' Contributions In 2013

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of Understanding (MoU) with various organizations and agencies in order to enhance the entrepreneurial drive of his administration; received a World Bank grant and more endowment of professorial chairs to support quality research. The University has also become a partnering Institution of the African Virtual University (AVU) in the training of students through the Open and Distance eLearning (ODEL) programme.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed delight that within the year under review, the National Universities Commission (NUC) lifted the suspension slammed on the Part-Time programme of the University, noting that the University of Port Harcourt Business School was doing well as plans were on to establish a programme where civil servants would undergo training in Public Administration to enhance their efficiency.

He said that the administration has repositioned the Consultancy, Research and Development Centre (CORDEC), with the UniPort Water Company revitalized for better services. "CORDEC has been repositioned. Its major concentration is now on consultancy, research and development. It is saddled with the responsibility of developing the Technology Park, where the UniPort Bakery and the Bakers' Institute is located," he disclosed.

Professor Ajienka also disclosed that it was gratifying to note that three Doctoral candidates from the University emerged winners in different categories of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 National Universities Commission's (NUC) Doctoral Dissertation Award, while foremost

educationist and a one-time Dean of the Faculty of Education, Emeritus Professor Otonti Nduka also received the NUC Distinguished Scholar Award.

He also said that the UniPort Debating Society is now alive, having emerged in the second place position during the contest held at the University of Calabar recently, adding that the Institution was a partner in the successful hosting of the 6th edition of the Port Harcourt Book Festival.

Congratulating the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) for carrying out a number of activities within the year, the Vice-Chancellor noted that "UPWA has improved the intake in its school and has also commenced construction of a primary school section, launched its magazine and had a well organized UPWAWeek."

Professor Ajienka also stated that the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) celebrated its 10th Anniversary in the outgoing year, while the Emerald Energy Institute building was also commissioned. He noted that the software developed by Professor Adewale Dosunmu has been successfully evaluated by Shell Group, while a Centre for Petroleum Research and Training (CPRT) has been established under the headship of Professor Ogbonna Joel.

On his expectations in the forthcoming year, Professor Ajienka advised students to exhibit hard work and dedication to make up for lost time. "I know that it will be a great challenge; we all need to work hard to ensure that we make up for the losses already incurred. Staff need to work harder in order to realize set objectives."

"If we dedicate ourselves to hard work, the University would make more landmark achievements, which all



Prof Ajienka, V-C

stakeholders would be proud of," Professor Ajienka said, thanking all for the experiences of 2013, while looking forward to more commitment to work in 2014. The Vice-Chancellor recalled that at the beginning of the year, his administration made a pledge to make some savings for a 13th month salary for all staff, but regretted that the five month strike affected the plans since most of the programmes did not run. "This is one of the milestones, which we are not able to achieve in 2013, but we shall try to ensure that we provide the usual bags of rice to enable staff celebrate the Yuletide," he assured all stakeholders.

Registrar Commends Faculty Officers For Hard Work

By Mercy Adeniji

Registrar of the University, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, has commended the Faculty Officers Forum (FOF) for rendering quality services that have aided the growth of the University in the past year.

Mrs Nnodim, who made the commendation during an End-of-Year Get-Together organized by the Forum, penultimate Friday, at the Governing Council Chambers, expressed gratitude to the officers for holding the fort in their respective places of assignment, despite the demands of the job. She assured all hard-working Registry staff of upward mobility and a rewarding career, while promising hard times ahead to those who have cultivated the unacceptable habit of truancy, absenteeism, gossip and gross indiscipline.

"It gives me great joy to be in your midst, God in his wisdom and love has kept us alive so far to count our blessings as we look forward to the end of the year and beginning of another service year. The formation of this body seems to be encouraging people; there was no self-esteem prior to this time, such that when you live a gap, such a little gap becomes one big hole that scuttles the smooth-running of the entire administrative machinery of the University. I think we have woken up the spirit of service with pride amongst the Faculty Officers in this University and from now on, it would be forward ever and we would not look back again," she said.

On the need to reward diligent Faculty Officers, Mrs

Nnodim disclosed that many staff had stagnated and it has been difficult to promote Principal Assistant Registrars that are qualified to the position of Deputy Registrar. "There was a hitch when I approved the matter. This year, I had in mind that these things should be done, but was told there was no budgetary provision. I hope that in the first quarter of next year, Management would get it done with so that people will move, because if we don't do this, we would lose seniority in the system", she disclosed.

Mrs Nnodim, who congratulated the officers, recalled that before now, there were complains amongst officers, stating that due to the formation of the Faculty Officers Forum, such complains have drastically reduced and no one hears of such complains anymore. "When it is good news, no one hears about it, but when it is bad news, it flies all over the place because bad news travels faster than good news. We have improved and it is encouraging. Looking back some years ago, we were not where we are today, it shows we are evolving. People are now beginning to believe in themselves and am happy and can only say, let's keep the flag flying, let us not let the light go out; let us not bring our heads low; let us continue to enlarge our coast," she advised the Officers.

Responding to some issues raised, which include registration exercise of students, remunerations, imprest and minute-taking, Mrs Nnodim promised to look into the matter to ensure that officers perform their duties well, charging them to learn to tidy up their

offices, so their subordinates can emulate them.

Speaking earlier, Director, Academic Affairs, Mrs Dorcas Otto, disclosed that "In line with our welfare scheme, we have gathered to specially thank God as a family, to interact and refresh ourselves. Last year, we did the same thing and we are here again to repeat the feat in even a bigger and better way as a token of encouragement to our Faculty Officers. It has not been easy, but we have kept on."

Mrs Otto, who is a Member of the Governing Council of the University, reminded the Officers to be good ambassadors of the Registrar, who is the mother of all the Faculty Officers and the Chief Administrative Officer of the University, urging them to see themselves as representatives of the Registrar wherever they may be posted.

"Whenever we come to make our request, you have always given us attention, direction and enablement to carry out our activities. This is something our Registrar has brought about in the system," Mrs Otto said, expressing gratitude to God for his mercies and for keeping the officers in good health to see another year. She wished every staff and Faculty Officers more fruitful days of service in the coming year.

In their separate speeches, Mrs Bridget Nzimiro, Former Faculty Officer, Dr Godwin Ndene, Mrs Philomena Etu-Efeotor, Mrs Faosate Sanni and Mr David Anyanwu, thanked Management of the University for giving them the opportunity to serve in their various Units. They expressed gratitude to the Director of Academic Affairs, Mrs Otto, for also encouraging them, stating that they have been influenced by the way she pioneered the affairs of the Forum "You have influenced us positively; your character has been your power and we are imitating you," one of the officers said.

Highlight of the event was the presentation of gifts, free speeches and cutting of the end-of-year cake.

Other officers present were: Mrs Virginia Naanen, Flora Iyagba, Mite Ngeh, Christiana Nworu, Mr Nimengoka Ibelema, Mrs Christy Egwin, Dr Kate Onyige, Boma Lawson, who represented Mrs Elizabeth Igwiloh and Mrs Rodalyn Eronini, who represented Dr Anna Brambaifa.



Registrar, Mrs Nnodim (arrowed) flanked by Directors, Academic Affairs, Mrs Otto (left), Council Affairs, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville (right), Faculty Officers and some Senior Officers

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr Chinyelu Ojukwu, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Managing Editor*, University of Port Harcourt Press. The appointment which takes immediate effect is for two years and will terminate 4th December, 2015. Other Members of the Board are: Professors Ndu Eke, Tambari Leton, Mrs Dorcas Otto, Drs Etido Inyang, Gideon Imoh, Ebi Amakoromo, M.A. Oyebamiji, Isaac Ngulube, Olufemi Adesope and Chinonye Mac-Ogonor.

Professor Ifeoma Anochie, Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, re-appointed, *Director, Clerking Skills Laboratory*, effective 28th October, 2013 to 29th October, 2015.

Professor Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo, Dean, Faculty of Education, appointed *Chairman, Governing Board of the Mac-Arthur Funded Clerking Skills Laboratory Project*, effective 3rd December, 2013 to 4th December, 2015.

Professor Anthony Ibe, Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), re-appointed *Director*, effective 18th November, 2013 to 19th November, 2015.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Professor Cyril Osifoh, Department of Pharmacy and Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a one year *Renewal of Appointment*, effective 1st June, 2013 to 31st May, 2014.

RESUMPTION FROM SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Julian Osuji, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, resumed from *Sabbatical Leave*.

Dr I.P. Okoye, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, resumed from *Sabbatical Leave*.

STOP PRESS

The University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU), has praised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka for his timely intervention to save the life of its Chairman, Mr Benson Young, who was attacked by unknown gunmen in his residential quarters a few months ago.

In a letter dated 6th December, 2013, addressed to the Vice-Chancellor and signed by the branch Treasurer of the Union, Mr George Nwobueze, the Union expressed gratitude to the University for the sound Medical treatment its Chairman received, describing Management's gesture to intervene in sponsoring the complex treatment as a demonstration of sincere and honest services to humanity and the Almighty God.

The Union prayed God to continue to protect the Vice-Chancellor and other Principal Officers of the University, as they sustain the good work in steering the ship of the Institution to greater heights.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER, 15 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 21, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAI N (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 15 DEC, 2013	34.0 23.0	46	NE	-	6:32-6:23	Morning clouds forecasted. Hot day expected.
MONDAY, 16 DEC, 2013	34.0 23.0	46	N	-	6:32-6:23	More sun than clouds. Hot day anticipated.
TUESDAY, 17 DEC, 2013	34.0 22.0	33	N	-	6:33 6:24	Morning clouds expected. Hot day forecasted.
WEDNESDAY 18 DEC, 2013	33.0 22.0	46	N	-	6:33-6:24	Day expected to be mostly sunny and warm.
THURSDAY, 19 DEC, 2013	33.0 22.0	46	NE	-	6:34-6:25	Day predicted to be sunny and warm.
FRIDAY, 20 DEC, 2013	33.0 22.0	48	N	-	6:34-6:25	More sun than clouds expected. Day anticipated being warm.
SATURDAY 21 DEC, 2013	33.0 22.0	50	N	-	6:35 6:26	Mostly sunny and warm day forecasted.

SANDRA NWABUFO
OFFICER IN CHARGEPROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMDS)The 2013 Worlds
AIDS Day

(WAD) may have come and gone, but the issues concerning Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which causes the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) will continue to take centre stage as long as experts are yet to find a cure to the dreaded pandemic. What with the frightening statistics released by the Federal Government on the prevalence rate of the killer disease in Rivers State, there is really a cause for alarm in the State and neighbouring areas.

According to the result of a survey released on the heels of WAD 2013, Rivers State has the highest HIV/AIDS rate in the country. However, official reports from the state Ministry of Health was said to have frowned at the statistics, dismissing it as a falsity.



Some of the students at the HIV awareness campaign

"Rivers State has had prevalence rate of 3.1 per cent, but today, we are seeing a prevalence rate of 15.2 per cent. We are terribly worried and alarmed by these figures. This is because, to the best of our knowledge, these figures do not reflect the true health position. Not from our hospitals, not from activities we have in our outreach programmes," Technical Assistant to the Commissioner of Health was quoted as saying.

Whatever may be the case, this should cause sleepless nights to all stakeholders. This is no time to play the blame game, but a time for action. Everyone must work towards battling and defeating this monster called AIDS. After all, the prevalence of the scourge puts everyone—both the sufferers and the rest of

Winning War Against
HIV/AIDS

By Humphrey Ogu

the society at risk. Although, indiscriminate indulgence in casual and unprotected sex is the chief means of acquiring HIV, which culminates in AIDS, sharing of sharp objects such as razor blades and needles also puts one at risk.

It is in realisation of this that the Youth Friendly Centre (YFC), University of Port Harcourt, joined the rest of the world to mark World Aids Day. Although the World Aids Day is usually marked on the 1st December every year, this year's edition fell on a Sunday.

This prompted YFC to mark the day with a rally on Monday, 2nd December 2013.

"The Youth Friendly Centre didn't want to be left out in joining the whole world to mark the day, despite the ASUU strike, which had kept most students away from the Campus. What we did was to reach out and mobilise the few peer educators, who lived on Campus to join an awareness rally," Administrative Officer at the Centre, Mrs Ifeoma Ofurum told *UniPort Weekly*.

"We felt this rally was necessary at a time like this to remind people that HIV/AIDS is real and there is still no better way to prevent it than knowing how to avoid contracting it. Our target audience were the students still on Campus, as well as members of Choba, Alakahia, and Aluu communities, especially the young people," Ofurum said, adding that this year's theme, 'Getting to Zero' which incidentally was also last year's theme, would remain the theme till 2015.

"We felt creating more awareness on HIV/AIDS amongst the neighbouring communities would help achieve this. Getting to zero stands for; zero HIV infections; zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination. Achieving this is now everybody's responsibility," she said.

SSANU Holds
End-Of-Year Meeting

The University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) holds its End-of-year Meeting/Get Together on Thursday, 19th December, 2013 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park at 12 noon.

A statement by the Chairman, Mr Bikume Syder, appealed to all SSANU members and friends of the body to attend.

UniPort Partners Rightlivelihood College

Authorities of the University of the Port Harcourt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rightlivelihood College, Stockholm, Sweden to promote knowledge and research in ecological balance and environmental sustainability. The event was also marked with a Lecture by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation. Pictures show highlights of the event as captured by our Carmerman **HEADMAN ALU**.



DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka, signing the Agreement on behalf of the University



Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, signing the MoU



Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof Henry Alapiki, signing the Agreement



Dr Monika Griefhan, Co-Chair, The Rightlivelihood College, signing for the College



Executive Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Mr Nnimmo Bassey, signing the document



Prof Nduka exchanging the Agreement with Dr Griefhan



Prof Nduka presenting a souvenir to Mr Bassey, while Dr Griefhan watches on



Co-ordinator, Oil Watch, Ghana, Mr Noble Wadzah making a presentation at the Lecture



Former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof Willy Okowa, speaking as Chairman of the event



Members of the high table at the Lecture



A group photograph of Senior Officers of the University and Rightlivelihood College at the event



A group photograph of participants