

UniPort Student Wins AIRTEL Car Prize

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, telecoms giant, AIRTEL Nigeria Limited, has presented a brand new *Rio Kia* car and a recording deal to a 22-year old First Year student of the Department of Music in the Faculty of Humanities, Mr. Jeffery Jackson, for carting away the first prize at the just-concluded AIRTEL 1 MIC competition, reports *Mercy Adeniji*.

More on p3

Side Bar

The 58th Meeting of Congregation held last Thursday at the Ebirimi Banigo Auditorium. Details next week. ~Editor



UniPort Weekly

Vol. 23, Edition 219

March 2 - March 9, 2015

ISSN: 1850-1859

For Information and Enlightenment www.uniport.edu.ng

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Adukwu-Bolujoko Heads New UPBS Board

By Obinna Nwodin

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has inaugurated the Governing Board of the University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS), with a charge to members to use their vast contacts and professional experience to position the School as a centre of academic excellence in business studies.

Performing the inauguration at the Governing Council Chambers, last Thursday, Professor Ajienka who expressed delight that the new Board comprised people with vast professional experience, said that the move was in line with the desire of his administration to tap from the vast experience of the industry to deliver quality service to stakeholders in the.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, the Vice-Chancellor, expressed hope that with the distinguished personalities on the Board, the School would achieve the purpose for which it was set up. He expressed hope that the new Board will formulate policies that would

enable the School be in tune with current developments in global business education.

He stated that "the University is in its fourth epoch of development which focuses on increased interaction with industry players, who are the ultimate consumers of our end product. We are tapping into the experiences of the industry in order to add

UPBS Board

value chain to our service delivery to various clients," he said, commending the Director, Professor Clifford Offurum, for

Cont'd on p6



CPG Students Shine At National Exhibition

Story on p2

Macdonald Students Visit UniPort Library



Story on p4



New V-C Senate Elects Reps Into Selection Board, Search Team



Artsville Gets Rave Reviews At Senate Performance

Story on p7



Read UniPort Weekly Online at www.uniport.edu.ng



SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS



Overworking Is Bad For Us, Especially With Robots Waiting In The Wings

By Stefan Stern

“Buy two suit jackets,” the bankers of SG Warburg used to be advised. If you wanted to get home at a reasonable time, without being spotted missing from your desk when co-founder Henry Grunfeld dropped by for a word, you left a jacket on the back of your chair. With any luck the boss would move on, believing he had just missed you and that you were still hard at work somewhere in the building.

This story sounds quaint today. With smart phone and laptop technology, you may be allowed to leave the office, but when do you actually clock off? The beeps and flashing lights of gadgetry never seem to stop. Flexibility is one thing, perm work another.

This is a global phenomenon unaffected by the gaps between time zones. Now we hear that in Japan the government is considering making it a legal requirement for employees to take at least five days of paid holiday a year. Yes, five. At the moment, Japanese workers are apparently just refusing to take the holiday that is due to them. It will have to be imposed on them, as it were.

Overwork, with its cousin, low productivity, are a growing modern phenomenon. In Japan a combination of insecurity about your place in the organization, fear of falling behind and the pressure to match colleagues' commitment, seem to be behind the culture of work addiction. Not that this has helped the Japanese economy very much over the past two decades, where growth has been modest to say the least.

Indeed, not only has Japan given us the concept of “karoshi”—death by overwork—but also the anthropological phenomenon of “*ma d a g i w a z o k u*”—window-seat tribe—employees who remain at the company staring out the window and not necessarily achieving very much.

Collectively, we are being pretty stupid about how we organize and allocate work. Talk of a UK “jobs miracle” is overdone and misleading. The workforce is bigger—the population has

grown—but productivity is low (17 percentage points behind the other G7 economies in output per hour in 2013). Productivity remains much lower in the UK than in the US, France and Germany.

However, there is no neat, straight-line connection between the amount of paid holiday workers receive and their productivity. While French employees may enjoy as many as 25 days of paid leave, with a famously laid-back August in particular, and Germans get 20, US workers receive far fewer, with the picture varying state by state. What matters is the management of time and the skills and attitudes employees have.

Some British people are working for far too long, with damage being done to health and family life. Others do not have nearly enough work to do. Low pay rates force some into taking on a second job; over a million people now do this (although not all of them—MPs, for example—because of poverty), while just under 2 million people remain out of work.

And now, if insecurity wasn't high enough already, we are told that the robots are coming to replace some of us altogether. But on this last point there was some comforting news recently, also from Japan, reported in the FT. Junji Tsuda, chairman and president of the Japanese robotics company Yaskawa Electric, explained that while robots were useful they did not match up to humans in many ways. It is a challenge to build them, and growth in their use will be steady, not spectacular. “Human hands have incredible precision,” Tsuda said. “There are more than 10,000 sensors in here [the human hand]. To put more than 10,000 sensors in a piece of hardware ...” And we need more, not fewer clever humans to build them: “Growth is held back by the number of engineers who can do that,” he added.

We need a rethink. Perhaps not quite as radical as one as proposed a couple of years ago by the



Stefan Stern

New Economics Foundation—a 21-hour working week—but a redistribution of work and a reassessment of priorities nonetheless.

Holiday is good for us, and makes us more productive when we return. If we are going to resist the advancing robots, humans have to maintain their edge, by doing imaginative things which create value and surpass what any robot could ever do. Death by overwork is not a wise option.

In Bhutan, conventional measures of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) were abandoned four decades ago, to be replaced by something called gross national happiness (GNH). Although still a poor country by western standards, Bhutan has other goals in mind. The pursuit of happiness has replaced the pursuit of accumulating ever more consumer goods.

Mind you, guess how many days paid holiday you get there? A rather Japanese-sounding five.

<http://www.theguardian.com/>

CPG Students Shine At National Exhibition

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following their participation and impressive performance, three students of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG) in the Institute of Petroleum Studies, have won various prizes at the 50th Annual International Conference and Exhibition of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGSS) which held in Benin last year.

According to a letter signed by Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Francis Beka and made available to a Correspondent of UniPort Weekly through the office of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajinka, the Centre submitted ten out of the rigorously selected and shortlisted abstracts for presentation at the NMGSS Conference. “The papers dwell on diverse aspects of Petroleum Geosciences, including Geosciences Modeling and Basinal Evaluation, Integrated Petrophysics and Petroleum Hydraulics, Reservoir Characterization and Management and Geomechanics,” the letter disclosed.

“CPG made an impressive presentation and assessors were highly impressed by the technical content, contribution to knowledge and presentation mode of the students. Mr. Olatunde Ige, Mr. Ugochukwu Uwazaka and

Mr. Lawrence Akubue, would be conferred with their awards at the forthcoming 51st Annual International Conference of the NMGSS holding in Lagos from March 15 to 20, 2015,” the letter stated.

While attributing the successes recorded by the Centre to the quality of teaching and research orientation impacted on the students by a team of international and local resource persons and mentors in the academia and industry, Dr. Beka commended the Vice-Chancellor and the MacArthur Foundation of Chicago for supporting the activities of the Centre.



Dr. Beka

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Joseph Ajinka - Publisher
Prof Eme Eleweke - Editorial Chair
Austin Sado - Editorial Advisor
Williams Wodi - Editor
Obinna Nwodin - Associate Editor

Correspondents: Mercy Adeniji, Olorun Samuel, Humphrey Ogu, Ethel Timi-Johnson
Secretariat: Gladys Amadi (Mrs)
Graphic: Chika King-James (Mrs)
Photography: Headman Ali, Mitchell Ejiyor

Call: 08033093371

Cont'd from p1

Making the presentation in front of the Senate building at the University Park, last Monday, AIRTEL'S Southern Regional Operations Director, Veronica Onoja, expressed gratitude to Management of the University for gracing the presentation of the car gift to one of its students.

Mrs. Onoja disclosed that the *AIRTEL 1 MIC* initiative was a promotion the company ran in a bid to touch the lives of young people through talent discovery. "What we try to do is to develop local talents; so we organized a country-wide musical competition for budding artists to sing. We commenced the competition at the state level; then we progressed to the zonal and then the regional levels. The event we are celebrating today covers 12 States in the South-South and the South-East regions and a student of the University of Port Harcourt happens to be one of the lucky winners.

"Four winners emerged from the four regional locations in which we staged the event. These winners would come together again to participate in a national competition, where a winner will emerge," she disclosed. This is just a way of discovering and developing talented students. We want them to discover themselves and also offer them a platform to drive their careers.

"Out of the many contestants, this young boy emerged winner and it is something worth rejoicing," Mrs. Onoja said, promising that AIRTEL would continue to be part of the University with one of its programmes titled: *Touching lives*, aimed at positively impacting the lives of young people.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka lauded AIRTEL for the initiative, which he said would encourage young people discover themselves. "We have been reading about competitions such as this one, but this is the first time this is happening on this Campus. Indeed, we are very happy that a student of this University won this competition, and I believe this coveted prize should serve as an incentive for others to cultivate the spirit of competition. We have always known that the Department of Music would go places as a trailblazer in the University," the Vice-Chancellor noted.

Professor Ajienka further expressed gratitude to Mr. Jackson, his parents and AIRTEL for making the

UniPort Student Wins AIRTEL Car Prize



Jeffrey (2nd left) flanked by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Wenigha Jackson and V-C, Prof. Ajienka

University proud. "We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the University, so we want to encourage AIRTEL to be part of this celebration that would last till June this year.

"We want you to participate in such a manner that you would make profit; so we are inviting AIRTEL to be active in the University as a partner in progress. The company can create a cloud in the University and let people pay for such a vital service which is still up for grabs in a captive market. We thank you for making this possible, because it would encourage young people to study and also engage in other extra-curricular activities."

In his own contribution, Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Professor Andrew Efeini, who expressed gratitude to the company for rewarding the student, recalled that when he heard the good news, he felt that

Management of the University should be part of the ceremony to drive home its importance to other students.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* after receiving the key to the car, the beneficiary, Mr. Jackson thanked the company for rewarding hard work. "I want to thank God and AIRTEL Nigeria for organizing the competition, because it has actually exposed me to greater possibilities. I also want to thank my parents, Mr. Wenigha and Titilayo Jackson and my Producer, Richie Mullah, for all their support and I promise not to disappoint you all."

Also present were the Regional Head of Commercial, Mr. Ranti Owoborode, Zonal Business Manager, Chizogie Njoku, Regional Marketing Manager, Lawrence Odesiran and other Principal Officers of the University.

I Will Take Animal Science Dept To Greater Heights ~Akinola

By Humphrey Ogu

Newly-appointed Acting Head of the Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Leton Akinola, has promised to use her position as Secretary, Membership Committee of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) to enhance the Department's capacity to train professionals. Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent, last Wednesday, Akinola, who was the South-South Co-

ordinator of NIAS, disclosed plans to focus on professionalizing and making Animal Science a more attractive discipline to prospective students and other stakeholders in the faculty of Agriculture. She promised that on her watch, the Department would strive to produce graduates who would make the University proud as professional animal scientists, citing an instance in which a graduate of the Department emerged among the best two in a NIAS professional examination in the past.

Akinola, who is also Chairman of the Intra-Faculty Bio-Enterprise and Agribusiness Committee, promised to bring her wealth of experience in the profession to bear on her tenure as Acting HoD. "We work hard to encourage our students to distinguish themselves in agribusiness and entrepreneurship to boost livestock production and job creation. We are preparing our students to win the Third Students' Entrepreneurship Competition of the Faculty of Agriculture. The Department won the first edition, but was beaten to second place at the second one," she disclosed, promising to rectify the anomaly at the coming competition.

Cognisant of the enormous challenges associated with running such a practice-oriented Department, the Acting HoD appealed for support from the University administration and other stakeholders to enable her achieve the purpose for which it was established. "With the necessary support from Management and other stakeholders, we hope to meet our mandate and also break new grounds by repositioning the Department in the training of professional animal scientists," she avowed stakeholders.

Akinola, who noted that leadership entailed harnessing all available human and material resources to achieve organizational goals, promised to build on the achievements of her predecessors to take the Department to greater heights. "My tenure will be anchored on an open and inclusive leadership style that will mobilize all available resources to advance the cause of the Department. We shall seek mutually beneficial partnerships and funding sources that would boost

teaching research," Dr. Akinola revealed.

"Before NIAS was set up by Act No. 26 in 2007, only Veterinarians were recognised in livestock production; but today, NIAS is in place to regulate the production and practice of animal science," she explained, calling for cooperation from staff and students of the Department to meet her mandate.

STOP PRESS

DV-C Heads C'ttee On UniPort Web Ranking

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, has been appointed Chairman of a new Committee charged with the responsibility to improve the University of Port Harcourt Website Ranking. A letter to that effect signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, was made available to *UniPort Weekly*, stated that Acting Director of the Academic Planning Unit, Dr. Peter Kpolovie, would serve as Co-ordinator of the project. The Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to members of the Committee for accepting to serve the University on such a strategic assignment.

Other members of the Committee include: Director of Information and Communication Technology Centre, Professor Anthony Eke, Deputy Registrar (Information) Williams Wodi, SAV-C, Kingsley Wogwa, Deputy Registrar (Vice-Chancellor's Office), Kehoy Makole, Deputy Registrar (Establishment), Steven Eke, and Exams and Records Officer, Mr. I. Jonathan.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee, according to the letter of appointment, are to ensure that: All publications are uploaded on the Web, all events are video-documented and uploaded, accreditation documentations are uploaded, list of all staff with their profiles, as well as links to all Institutes Centre websites are also available online to enhance the digital visibility of the University of Port Harcourt.



Dr. Akinola

V-C, Others Charge CELTRAS Students At Orientation

By Mercy Adeniji

Students admitted into the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS) for the 2014/2015 academic session have been advised to be disciplined, hard-working, focused and abide by the rules and regulations governing their admission into the University.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenkwa, gave the advice while addressing the students during an orientation exercise held at the International Students' Centre, University Park on Friday, February 20, 2015.

Professor Ajenkwa, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ekebert Nduka, congratulated the students for gaining admission into the University. "We welcome you as student members and to this very important occasion aimed at introducing you to the University's guidelines that would be of immense benefit to you as you commence your studies here," he told the new students, advising them to be diligent in their studies. An Orientation exercise is not something you think you have outgrown at any point in time; even at your doctoral level, you still need Orientation to familiarize yourselves with the rules," he said, noting that "the Orientation you may have received at the Undergraduate level is quite different from what you would receive as a graduate, so it is very important you participate because in the long run, it would be of importance to you."

In his contribution, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, who spoke on *Academic Policy of the University and its relationship to your Studies*, charged the students to embrace

hard work, attend lectures, do their assignments, shun all forms of examination malpractice and avoid whatever would jeopardize their stay in the University.

Also speaking, the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, who was represented by the Director of Academic Affairs, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, spoke on *University Administration*, charging the students to always imbibe the virtues of hard work, honesty, commitment to their studies and ensure they complete their programme at the stipulated timeframe, describing administration as an act of managing people or the activities in order to plan, organize and run a business or an institution.

Director of the Centre, Professor Osi Akpogomeh, recalled that the Centre was established in January, 2012 with a mandate to provide adequate knowledge and practical skills for understanding and solving logistics and transportation problems in Nigeria, as well as mobilize funding to support conferences, seminars, workshops and publications.

"The Centre desires to redress the general absence of proper planning, coordination and efficient management of logistics and transport activities in both the public and private sectors of the economy

by preparing and training qualified logistics and transport professionals to manage that sector of the national economy," he said.

Professor Akpogomeh further highlighted the academic programmes of the Centre, its major landmark achievements and future direction, stressing that, "it is pertinent to note that the first set of PGD Students admitted into the 2012/2013 session has graduated and many of them are in the current M.Sc programme."

Talks were also given on: *Brief History of the School of Graduate Studies*, by Provost of the College of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konyia, *The Use of the Library* by the University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, who was represented by Dr. Susan Umecor, and *The Student and Security*, by the Chief Security Officer Lieutenant Col. Reginald Isiguro (rtd).

Speaking on behalf of the Master's Class, Course Leader, Mr. Thompson Onwuchekwa, expressed gratitude to Management of the University for providing the students an enabling environment to study, promising that they would abide by the rules and regulations governing the terms of their admission.

Macdonald Students Visit UniPort Library

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As a way of encouraging good reading and learning habits, students of Macdonald International Institute paid a facility visit to the Donald Ekong Library to ascertain how the complex is organized.

The Secretary of Extracurricular Activities Committee, Mirrian Okhwerere and Librarian, Alice Okeke, led the student members of the Library Book Club of the School located at Igwuruta on the facility tour of the University of Port Harcourt, last Friday.

Disclosing the purpose of the visit to the University, Okhwerere and Okeke noted that the trip was necessitated by the recent inauguration of a Book Club in the school for students in the Senior Secondary classes, who may aspire to become writers in future. "The University Library would also provide an opportunity for them to appreciate the importance of reading and preserving books," the duo told our

Correspondent.

Receiving the visibly elated students, Deputy Registrar in charge of the Vice-Chancellor's office, Mr. Kelsey Makele, advised them on the need to be committed to their studies so as to end up as professionals in future. "Studying well today will ensure that you get admitted to the University of Port Harcourt and other top institutions to study the courses of your dreams."

"We have various Faculties and Departments that train people to become Doctors, Engineers, Pharmacists, Managers and Journalists among other notable professions," he told the students, advising them to study very hard to achieve their objectives in life.

Makele, who recounted the giant strides recorded in the University so far, also explained the various responsibilities of the administrative and teaching arms of the University to the students. "We also have Centres and Institutes which provide specialized training to those who apply to read there or engage in

research work," he explained to the students. Responding, President of the Book Club, Prince Jack, Library Prefect, Golden Iruanyama and Secretary of the Club, Immanuela Dabonda, commended the University Management for affording the students an opportunity to tour the Library.

"This visit would boost our reading culture and study habits," the trio said, lauding the University for its clean and green environment, including impressive facilities.

STOP PRESS

NAOC Tertiary Scholarship Scheme

The Nigerian Agip Oil Company Limited (NAOC) has called for applications for its 2014/15 Tertiary Scholarship Scheme.

An e-mail received by the Vice-Chancellor and made available to *UniPort Weekly* said that the application opened on Monday, February 9 and would close on Monday, March 9, 2015.

The e-mail, which stated that the scholarships are in two categories said: "Host Communities Merit Award is strictly for applicants from NAOC Host Communities in any course of study, while National Merit Award is for applicants from Non-Host Communities studying Engineering, Geology and Geosciences only."

"To qualify for consideration, applicants must be registered full-time Undergraduates in a recognised Nigerian Tertiary Institution, a certified 100-level student at the time of application and must have gained admission during the 2014/2015 academic session," the mail said.



Deputy Registrar, V-C's Office, Kelsey Makele (arrowed), UniPort officials, staff and students of Macdonald International Institute in a group photograph after the facility visit

By Obinna Nwodin

As the University steps up the process of appointing its 8th Vice-Chancellor, Senate met last Wednesday at an Emergency session to elect its representatives into the Selection Board and Search Teams for the purpose.

After a keenly contested election that followed due process, Professors Chukwudi Onyiaso of the Faculty of Dentistry and Alice Nte of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, both of the College of Health Sciences, polled 170 and 95 votes, respectively, to beat three (3) other contestants into the Selection Board for a new Vice-Chancellor.

Professors Gordian Obute and Femi Shaka, were unanimously returned unopposed into the Search Team. The elections set the stage for the input of Senate into the process of selecting a new Vice-Chancellor for the University to replace the incumbent, Professor Joseph Ajienka, whose five-year tenure ends in early July, this year.

Senate also deferred deliberation on the Report of the Implementation Committee on the Collegiate System and College/Faculty Boards position for its next meeting in March.

The meeting which was chaired on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, also considered results from the Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Social Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Faculty of Management Sciences, College of Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Colleges of Health Sciences and College of Graduate Studies.

Recommendations for External Examiners were approved for the Departments of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Theatre and Film Studies, Animal Sciences, Fisheries, Pharmaceutical Technology, Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Requests for temporary withdrawal from studies and application to write examinations as first attempts, were also approved as they were presented from the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Faculties of Social Sciences, as well as Management Sciences.

Before calling for the motion for adjournment of the meeting, Professor Nduka frowned at a situation in which most members of Senate only turned up only during elections, calling for a change in attitude as attendance at Senate meetings was a statutory

404th (Emergency) Senate Meeting

Senate Elects Reps Into Selection Board, Search Team For New V-C ...Congregation Too



Senate in session

responsibility of senior academics, especially Professors.

A Minute's Silence was also observed in honour of late Professor Doris Ihoma Uchendu of the Department of Medicine, who died on January 26, 2015.

Also in attendance at the Meeting were the 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs and Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwelu.

In a related development, Professor Tammy Orunaboka of the Faculty of Education and Mr. Eric Aboneni, Head, Legal Unit have also been elected to represent Congregation on the "Search Team" for the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt. They were unanimously elected at the 58th Meeting of Congregation held last Thursday at the Ebithimi Banigo Auditorium.

Bursar Bemoans Economic Meltdown At Thanksgiving Service

By Otokor Samuel

With the global economic meltdown pervading every sector of the Nigerian economy, the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alije, has called for appropriate measures that would minimize the adverse effects of dwindling statutory allocations on the University. He predicted more challenges in funding the activities of the University if drastic measures were not applied to tackle the situation at all levels.

Mr. Alije, who made the observation at the maiden Annual Thanksgiving Service of the Bursary Department held at Chapel of The Annunciation on

Sunday, February 15, 2015, stressed the need for alternative funding sources to meet the ever-increasing demand of universities for revenue to fund their activities.

Elaborating on the reason for the annual End-of-Year Party and Thanksgiving Service, Mr. Alije said it was the Department's little way of showing appreciation to staff for their unwavering commitment to duty, while also dedicating a new service year to God's guidance.

"The Bursary Department does not only service the Governing Council, the University Management, Staff and Students; it also service project contractors, as well as local suppliers, amongst others. These functions make the Bursary Department the

most frequently visited place in the University, with all the attendant pressures such a situation exerts on our activities. Different supervising agencies from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, such as the Office of the Auditor-General, Federal Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission (NUC), amongst others, visit the Department on almost weekly basis to ascertain our financial status or seek information. That means that what we do as a strategic Department comes under intense scrutiny on daily basis from diverse regulatory agencies and stakeholders," the Bursar said, calling for understanding from staff and students of the University while appropriate measures were being devised to contain the situation.

Continuing he said: "If salaries are not paid on time arising from circumstances outside our control, we lose sleep; not only because of agitations from the Staff Unions, but because we realize that families will be adversely affected in terms of their capacity to provide for their daily bread, as well as in the prompt settlement of the statutory obligations of the University."

It would be recalled that the Bursar had announced the date for the Thanksgiving Service at an End-of-Year Party held for serving and retired staff of the Department at the Ebithimi Banigo Auditorium. The event also offered him an opportunity to reward retired Chief Accountants of the Department, including Mr. Eugene Owhonda, Mrs. Eban Bare and Special Assistant to the Bursar (SAB), Mr. Morgan Achi for their excellent services. Also honoured were the 4th and 5th Bursars, Sir Michael Eke and Mr. Mark Roman, including Mrs. Juliet Achi of the Treasury Unit, who was feted for her dedication to duty.



Bursar, Mr. Alije, his predecessors, Mr. Roman, Sir Ekeh and Deputy Bursar, Mrs. Helen Owhonda-Wopara

Cont'd from p1

his determination to develop the Port Harcourt Business School into a first choice destination for business studies.

In her acceptance speech, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Sally Adukwu-Bolujoko, thanked authorities of the University for finding members worthy to serve in such an important capacity, promising that they would bring their industry experience and contacts to enhance the quality of UPBS in the shortest possible timeframe.

Adukwu-Bolujoko, who noted that "the School has a vision to produce leaders and managers that can take up responsibilities in the world of work and business," assured that "we are going to do our best to bring our professionalism to bear on our new assignment." She said that an emerging economy such as Nigeria needed a robust Business School

to accelerate economic development, assuring the authorities that they will help the University raise the profile of the School.

Earlier in his address, Director of the School, Professor Offurum, said that the composition of the Board was to strengthen its activities and widen the capacity of the PHBS to better serve its increasing clientele, adding that the School which

commenced with 25 students in 2011 now has over 250 students.

Other members of the Board are: Chief Osinakachukwu Ideozu, Mr. Tari Ekpebu, Engineer Pedro Egebe, Dr. Emi Membre-Otaji, Dr. Monday Akpan, Mr. Grant Orughani, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, Professor Steve Okodudu, as well as Professor Offurum.



Dr. C (Admin) Prof Ndaka, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Adukwu-Bolujoko, other top officials of the University and Board Members

Celebrating 40 Years Of Excellence In CNAS

By Obinna Nwodin

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences commenced academic activities with the School system under the guidance of distinguished scholars, who converged on the University from many parts of the world. The system started with the School of Physical Sciences, School of Biological Sciences and School of Chemical Sciences. Following agitations for the establishment of the position of Head of Department, which had no room in the operational structure of the then School system. The three schools were later collapsed into a new Faculty of Science to create room for a three-tier system—Department, Faculty and Vice-Chancellor. The new Faculty recorded many landmark achievements in terms of research breakthroughs and introduction of new courses. Not too long ago, the Faculty tabled a request on the floor of Senate to be transformed into a College status; and so was born the College of Natural and Applied Sciences with three restructured Faculties, namely: Biological, Chemical, Physical and Information Sciences.

After 40 years of research and robust academic engagement, the College of Natural and Applied Sciences could beat its chest in self-fulfilment of having made an impressive impact in advancement of science and innovation. From all indications, it is evident that the aims and objectives for which it was established are being incrementally realized through the efforts of a dedicated crop of scholars and seasoned administrators. There is no doubt that the College has been able to sustain capacity in the sciences by providing the requisite manpower to advance the frontiers of knowledge in this area of specialization. It has, so far, achieved research breakthroughs by erudite scientists in the hallowed corridors of the College.

Such trademark names as Francis Onafeghara, Bruce Powell, Gabriel Ekeke, Samuel Okiwelu, Emmanuel Aaosike, Alphonsus Anusiem, amongst others, rang bell in the world of science and university scholarship. They made the sciences thick in the University of Port Harcourt and Nigeria. These accomplished scholars have in turn produced academics who are following in the excellent

tradition established by the giants of the College.

Currently, the College boasts of the highest number of professors in the University, which is a no mean feat considering the tortuous processes involved in joining the professoriate. A major contribution to humanity from this College which will be remembered for a long time to come is the invention of CIKLAVIT—a dietary supplement for the management of sickle cell disorders by late Professor Gabriel Ekeke of the Department of Biochemistry. There was global acclaim when the World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed this wonder drug which is today manufactured by Pharmaceutical giant, Neimeth. The drug is marketed in Nigeria and some West African countries with remarkable improvements among patients.

The discovery of CIKLAVIT by a team of dedicated researchers led by late Professor Ekeke is a major boost to the image of the College and University of Port Harcourt. That is what research and development is all about—finding solutions to human problems. There are also significant research findings by other researchers in the College, particularly in Plant Science and Biotechnology, Industrial Chemistry and Microbiology.

With the establishment of the Emmanuel Pauker Professorial Chair in Sickle Cell Anaemia aimed at resurrecting the ground-breaking research work of Ekeke, there is hope that the next 40 years will witness more groundbreaking research that would bring global recognition to Unique UniPort. The Chair which is currently occupied by one of Professor Ekeke's protégés, Professor Augustine Uwakwe, who is now working with a team to find lasting solution to the genetic abnormality that still has no known cure.

It is heartening that a new building for the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology is almost ready for occupation, while the Central Instruments Laboratory building has attained about 80 per cent completion rate; so also the *Animal House* meant for experimentation of specimens. After 40 years of robust engagement in teaching, research and community service, the College has been able to produce distinguished alumni, including the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, who incidentally is 100 per cent made in the University of Port Harcourt. It is no mean feat to produce the Number One Citizen of the most populous Black Country in the world. It is great kudos to the College for achieving this rare feat that has brought immense goodwill to the University. This is, indeed, a feat worth celebrating.



Emeritus Prof Okiwelu



Prof Nnennu Frank-Peterside, Provost CNAS

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Prof Henry Njoku, re-appointed *Managing Director, Consultancy Research and Development Centre (CORDEC)*, effective from February 16, 2015 to February 17, 2017.

Dr. N. Umara-Okoko, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Co-ordinator, General Studies (GES) 100—Communication Skills in English*, effective January 21, 2015 to January 23, 2017.

Dr. B. Vikoo, Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, appointed *Assistant Director, Open and Distance Learning Centre*, effective February 16, 2015 to February 17, 2017.

Dr. Letorn Akinola, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective February 3, 2015 to February 6, 2017.

Dr. Ngeri Benebo, appointed *Expert-in-Residence on Environmental Policy and Management in the University*.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Dr. Josephine B. Etowa of the University of Ottawa, Canada, offered *Sabbatical Appointment* at the Centre for Health and Development (CHID), College of Health Sciences.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Leo Osuji, Department of Pure & Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Sabbatical Leave* to the Nigerian Content Development & Monitoring Board, effective February 2, 2015 to February 1, 2016.

Professor M. L. Godwin-Egein, Institute of Agricultural Research and Development, granted *Sabbatical Leave* to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkplu-Oroworukwo, effective August 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

REGULATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Felicia Ifeoma Uzogwu, Department of Adult & Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, granted *Regularisation of Appointment* as Lecturer II, effective February 3, 2014.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Humphrey Igbinosa Aigbe, Department of Forestry & Wildlife, Faculty of Agriculture, elevated from *Assistant Lecturer* to *Lecturer II*, effective December 3, 2014.

PROMOTION

Mr. Obioro Wizoma Ogeh, Department of Educational Foundation, Faculty of Education, promoted to the rank of *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2014.

Mrs. Ezinne Chidinma Abe, Department of Curriculum Studies & Educational

Technology, Faculty of Education, promoted to the rank of *Lecturer II*, effective 10th October, 2014.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 01 – SATURDAY 07, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 01 MAR 2015	34.0	22.0	60	NE	1.8	6:44 18:45	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. Partly sunny day forecasted.
MONDAY, 2 MAR 2015	34.0	23.0	62	NE	2.9	6:43 18:45	Thunder storm expected late in the day. More cloud than sun expected.
TUESDAY 03 MAR 2015	33.0	24.0	63	NE	5.0	6:43 18:45	Widely scattered thunder storm expected. Decreasing cloudiness anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 04 MAR 2015	34.0	25.0	59	N	2.3	6:43 18:45	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
THURSDAY 05 MAR 2015	34.0	24.0	62	N	2.2	6:42 18:45	Thunder storm expected early in the day. More sun than clouds forecasted.
FRIDAY 06 MAR 2015	35.0	24.0	60	NE	-	6:42 18:45	Partly sunny day expected.
SATURDAY 07 MAR 2015	35.0	24.0	60	NE	2.3	6:42 18:45	Thunder storms expected early in the day. More sun than clouds.

Dr Gladys Emenike
ACTING HOD

Dr Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMD)

Artsville Gets Rave Reviews
At Senate Performance

By Humphrey Ogu

Following intrepid interpretation of a play entitled: *Exodus* by the Institute of Arts and Culture at the University Arts Theatre—The CRAB, last Wednesday, the cast and crew have received rave reviews for their dramatic expertise.

Exchanging views with *UniPort Weekly* after the performance, Professor Omolara Ogundipe, commended the cast and crew for the production of the play and the use of space in such a way that there was no congestion on the stage during the performance.

"The acting was also very good—the expression of anger, and of course, the familiar patriarchal struggles between three men in a family. The drumming was beautiful, including the singing and the poetry that was used in punctuating the sequence of action. It would be good to have a programme note for translation of the basic ideas of the songs for non-Yoruba speakers. In Italian opera, for instance, they provide translations for the audience to know what is being said and the emotions expressed," she observed.

On his part, Acting Head of the Department of Fine Arts and Design, Professor Boniface Nwige, also expressed satisfaction with the performance. "It is amazing and gratifying to observe that the students are able to produce a play within time constraint and paucity of stage facilities. It is classic and wonderful. It shows that Nigeria really

has talented youths. This University has continued to be a leading institution in training artists with immense creativity—be it in the performing, or fine arts and design," he noted, stressing the importance of sustaining the tempo. Also speaking, Director of the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), Professor Samuel Ibadje, observed that "there was so much commitment on the part of actors and actresses in their bid to achieve excellence in the performance. If Ola Rotimi were to resurrect and watch the play, there is no doubt that he would have been happy that his labour had not been in vain. What we saw this night was the materialization of his dream and the fruit of his labour.

Director of the Institute of Arts and Culture and Executive Producer/Director of the play, Professor Julie Okoh, expressed gratitude to members of Senate, who turned up to watch the performance, promising that the Artsville will continue to thrill the University community with quality stage performances. Originally written by Omar Amara, the play, *Exodus*, which was adapted and directed by Artistic Director of the Institute, Dan Kpodoh, was previously staged at the February edition of the Harcourt-UNESCO World Book Capital 2014 Book-of-the-Month performance at the Atlantic Hall, Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt, on Sunday, February 22, 2015 to the delight of the audience.



A Scene from the play "Exodus"

SERVICOM CORNER

Corruption, inefficiency, dereliction of duty and lack of discipline must be discouraged among teaching and non-teaching staff of the University of Port Harcourt.

Our Stakeholders have a right to complain where any of such acts occur.

SERVICOM is here to make things right!!

For complaints and/or comments, please contact us via:

servicom@uniport.edu.ng;
08033400064, 07038650174,
08034211712, 08155303412

US Envoy's Voter Education Tour

American Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. James Entwistle, led officials of the Embassy on a voter sensitization visit to the University of Port Harcourt for the forthcoming general elections, on Thursday January 22, 2015. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the interactive session:



US Embassy Officials arriving at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium



V.C. Prof. Joseph Ajenka (r) welcoming the US Ambassador, Mr. James Entwistle



V.C. Prof. Ajenka exchanging views with officials of the US Embassy

Prof. Ajenka making the Commencement Speech



Mr. Entwistle addressing the audiences



Prof. Mark Anikpo (standing) and other discussants at the interactive session



Mr. Entwistle responding to questions



Student Union President, Felix Nwizua, making a contribution



Students asking questions



A cross-section of students at the interactive session



Some officials of the US Embassy