



CCE Screens Part-Time Candidates For Admission

Preparatory to the commencement of the 2011/2012 academic session, the College of Continuing Education (CCE) in collaboration with the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), has successfully conducted a Computer-Based Test (CBT) for prospective students into the Part-Time programme of the College *reports Humphrey Ogu*

More on p8

Side Bar

UNIPORT wins grants for Institute of Natural Resources, Environment & Sustainable Development. Details next week -Editor



UNIPORT Weekly

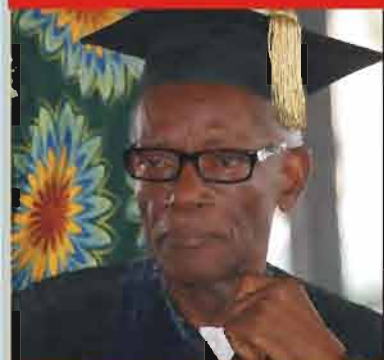
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Maiden Founders' Day Holds Thursday

Story on p3



Akpokodje Lists Proactive Security Measures

Story on p4



PTDF Chair To Aid Gas Master Plan

Story on p5

UNIPORT ASUU Resumes Work

By Obinna Nwodin

After eight weeks of industrial action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) over non-implementation of the 2009 Agreement between it and the Federal Government, the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Union has resumed normal teaching activities. This welcome development follows the suspension of the strike by the National Executive Council (NEC) of the ASUU last Wednesday. National President of the Union, Professor

Ukachukwu Awuzie, said that the strike was called off in the interest of the educational system in the country, hoping that the Federal Government will honour the Agreement, adding that NEC relied on the majority decision from its affiliate branches.

At an Emergency Meeting of the UNIPORT Branch of the Union held last Monday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, Congress expressed doubt over the implementation of the Agreement reached with the Union. Speaking to *UNIPORT Weekly* shortly after the Meeting, Branch



Chairman, Dr. Kinkanwo Anele, said that members were not comfortable with the sincerity of the Federal Government in the implementation of the Agreement with the Union, stressing that the reason why the Union embarked on the strike was as a result of the non-implementation of

Cont'd on p6



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SSANU POLLS: MATTERS ARISING

The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) was formally registered as a Trade Union in 2004. Prior to that time, the body was known as Senior Staff Association (SSA). The mission statement of SSANU is anchored on strident pursuit of the legitimate welfare of senior staff from employment to retirement.

The statutory role of defending staff interest has long been identified as the central activity of Trade Unions. SSANU, as a Union was known to have done quite a lot in drawing the attention of University Managements to welfare issues affecting its affiliate branches in a mutually-beneficial partnership that promotes institutional growth.

In the University of Port Harcourt, SSANU established an admirable reputation for maturity, focus, constructive engagement and a willingness to champion the legitimate interest of workers within statutory limits. For instance, the Union introduced a well-received car loan scheme that enabled some staff to own their own vehicles with low interest rate. The Executive also introduced very laudable retirement and death benefits for affected senior staff.

It is on record that the UNIPORT branch of SSANU was in the forefront of the unrelenting agitation for full implementation of the contentious 2009 Agreement between the Federal Government and various Unions in the University system. This is in addition to championing a laudable home ownership scheme that holds out immense prospects of assisting staff build their own houses. The Executive of SSANU is known to have made specific demands on Management on behalf of sick staff or families of deceased members. There have, however, been some deficit side to the excellent track record of the Union over the years. For instance, benefits to retiring members and payment of the paltry N50, 000.00 to the next-of-kin of deceased members are still outstanding in some instances probably on reasons of bureaucracy. Payment of the N50, 000.00 which commenced in 2002, is now overdue for review in view of double digit inflation that has made nonsense of the original amount approved by Congress. For instance, a less-endowed university such as the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, pays N250, 000.00 to next-of-kin of deceased staff, while an elaborate Christmas party is organized each year for FUTO SSANU members to create oneness and institutional solidarity.

Just next door, the Rivers State University of Science and Technology branch of SSANU holds a routine End-of-Year party which is ironically frequented by some Executive members of UNIPORT SSANU. It is unconscionable that our own branch neither owns a functional Secretariat nor an

operational vehicle to conduct its affairs. The temporary Secretariat located at Choba Park has apparently been abandoned. Our counterparts at RSUST have so far sequestered to themselves, the official bus donated to SSANU by the Rivers State Government.

Today, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), have functional Secretariats in Delta Park, leaving a major Union such as SSANU without an identifiable forwarding address where *bona fide* members can go and interact with their own elected Executive. Another minus for the leadership is the prolonged factional fighting that has all, but paralysed the operational structure of SSANU to the displeasure of ordinary members who are compelled to watch helplessly from the sidelines.

There is, however, a great expectation of a new beginning for the Union with the coming election of a new Executive that is eagerly expected to give SSANU a new headstart. Already, prospective candidates have hit the campaign trail; unfolding sweet-sounding manifestos that promise to transform the Union into an *El Dorado* after the elections scheduled for February 9, 2012. Discerning SSANU voters must look beyond the

lubricated electoral niceties being bandied about by the candidates and demand irrefutable proof of their capacity to deliver on such promises. In this age when Nigerians are demanding good governance at all levels of leadership, it is no longer enough for candidates to make vague electoral promises that are anchored on oratorical abstractions. Voters must insist on candidates who can initiate total transformation of the Union within a specified timeline. No candidate has explained how the stillborn home ownership scheme is to be realized. We have not been told why our Union leaders should not allow allottees to develop the land that was acquired in their name for which full deductions have been effected from their salaries.

Voters should ignore those bandying so-called electoral slates and go for individual candidates with proven track record of performance both in the union and the line of duty. The emergent leadership must be anchored on total accountability, open-door policy, a clear cut developmental agenda and ability to carry everybody along without raising retrogressive cliques. Wake up voters and *shine your eyes!* Great SSANU! Let us use our votes to enthrone good governance in the coming elections.

V-C Commends Eheazu On Ahiajoku Lecture

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, has commended the 2011 *Ahiajoku Festival Lecturer*, Professor Benjamin Eheazu, over the pride and honour he brought to the University as Guest Speaker.

Professor Ajenka made the commendation when Professor Eheazu presented the *Distinguished Ahiajoku Lecturer Medal*, copies of the Lecture, as well as a Video documentary of the event to the University. The Vice-Chancellor said that the nomination of Professor Eheazu from the many distinguished Professors of Igbo extraction to deliver the Annual Lecture was a thing of pride to the University, adding that the choice of Professor Eheazu was as a result of his outstanding record of achievements as an erudite scholar. He said that reports he received showed that Professor Eheazu distinguished himself by delivering a quality lecture to the satisfaction of those in attendance.

The Vice-Chancellor said that his Administration attached great importance to activities aimed at

By Obinna Nwodin

projecting the cultural heritage of the people through quality research and documentation.

Presenting the items to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eheazu said that he was appreciative of the support the authorities gave him in the build-up to the event, as well as during the Lecture, stressing that the University provided a platform for him to express himself during his over 30 years of academic career in the Institution. He said that he was dedicating the honour and Award to the University as a mark of appreciation.

Professor Eheazu observed that the *Ahiajoku Festival* is an intellectual harvest aimed at creating a challenging situation for scholars to embark upon relevant research for the advancement of knowledge, especially in Igbo culture.

Professor Eheazu who is also Director of the Nomadic Education Centre in the University, said that the *Ahiajoku Festival* is a Festival among the Igbos, which symbolized productivity in the land. It would be recalled that Professor Eheazu was conferred with Fellowship of the Nigeria Academy of Education (FNAE), last year by the Nigeria Academy of Education.



Prof Ajenka in a handshake with Prof Eheazu

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ASUU NEC Ends Strike

Cont'd from p1

the 2009 Agreement, which he said was due for review in June.

Dr. Anele said that the National Executive Council of the Union and the Federal Government had agreed on improved funding of education on an incremental basis to the tune of N400.1 billion annually, but was to release the sum of N100 billion immediately for 2012, promising to release the remaining N300 billion before the end of the year, as well as assist State-owned universities, even though not through budgetary allocations.

He also said that the meeting discussed the issue of Earned Academic Allowances, as well as retirement age and pension for its members. It was resolved that as soon as the legislative processes were completed, it should be sent to the President for assent not later than February, 2012, adding that the contentious issue was the clause that Professors who go on voluntary retirement must have served for eight years before they are entitled to their full benefits.

The Branch Chairman also said that the establishment of the Nigeria Universities Pension Management Company, as well as the need to set up research units by companies to promote research and development was also agreed upon at the meeting. He disclosed that



Minister of Education, Prof. Ruqayyatu Rufa'i

Chairman, UNIPORT ASUU, Dr. Anele

Nat President, ASUU, Prof. Awuzie

the Agreement also included the setting up of an active Budget Monitoring Committee to assist the universities in assessing capital grants made available to them.

Dr. Anele said that the Union was so far satisfied with the agreements reached but doubted the will of government to implement the Agreement, stating that they were not prepared to call off the strike until the Federal Government begins the implementation of the

Agreement.

The Chairman said that the decision of the Union to embark on strike took cognizance of the adverse effects on students, but that the action was in the interest of students and the educational system, noting that it was the position of the Union to see Nigerian universities produce quality graduates that would compete favourably anywhere in the world.

Enhancing Productivity In 2012

By Obinna Nwodin

As the New Year rolls on, the University is gearing up to face the challenges that come with every new beginning. New goals and strategies are set, targets are outlined and efforts are made towards achieving them. For us in the University of Port Harcourt, there is an existing template that should guide productivity this New Year, given the tempo so far in motion. Already, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has acknowledged the efforts put in by staff in the previous year and called for more productivity this year. It is imperative to note that the University is gearing up towards positioning itself as a foremost Entrepreneurial University not only in Nigeria, but Africa. It is in this light that the Administration has

spared no effort in ensuring that appropriate programmes and policies are geared towards meeting this objective. New Institutes and Centres have been set up to meet the policy direction of the University, marketable research efforts.

To ensure that the Institution realizes this objective, there is need to ensure that stipulated standards are met in service delivery in the various sectors of the University. The various Institutes, Faculties and Centres must brace up to this challenge as quickly as possible. It is in this light that the Workshop on Quality Assurance and Quality Control in the University, last year, becomes imperative. It is expected that this year, the benefits of the Workshop would be felt in the way we do business. Full implementation of the recommendations by the National Universities Commission (NUC) Accreditation Team, which was in the University, last December, would also go a long way in re-positioning the policy direction of the Administration this Year. Both staff and students should realize that the University is on the march to be visible in World University rankings. This was the challenge posed by former Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Peter Okebukola, during the Workshop on Quality Assurance. It is also expected that the Quality Assurance Manual will be ready this year to guide and regulate activities of staff and students in the University. To achieve these goals would not come by mere wishes. All stakeholders must join hands with the Ajienka-led administration to achieve the entrepreneurial vision of the University.

This year, the Administration expects more dedication, discipline and hard work from staff and students to duty. All categories of staff must be seen to do the right thing at the right time. We should always remember that there is nothing too little to do for the upliftment of the University. The authorities have acknowledged the importance of every staff from Professors to cleaners in the line of duty.

It is expected that this year, the University would

record tremendous breakthroughs from the various research activities that are being carried out by staff and students. It is also expected that staff and students alike would bring honour to the University, while the efforts made by the administration to partner industry, players and various stakeholders in realizing the entrepreneurial vision will begin to yield fruits.

On the other hand, we believe that the Administration would reciprocate the hard work and dedication of staff by enhancing their welfare this year to complement productivity. Already, it has shown that it can enhance staff welfare by the innovation introduced last December, when every staff was excited to take home a bag of rice. The excitement generated by that singular act shows how a little act of good can motivate staff. No doubt, staff would be more expectant, as they would be prepared for more productivity this year.

It is hoped that at the end of the year, the University would have recorded a quantum leap in quality service delivery and infrastructural development.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka



Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim

Security Lapses**Akpokodje
Lists
Proactive
Measures***By Ethel Timi-Johnson*

Against the backdrop of recent security lapses in the country, Chairman of the Health, Safety, Environment and Security (HSE&S) Committee in the University, Professor Enuvie Akpokodje, has advocated proactive measures to forestall security breaches.

Professor Akpokodje, who spoke in an interview with a *UNIPORT Weekly* Correspondent penultimate Thursday, listed controlled access by visitors into major

*Prof Akpokodje**Lt Col Reginald Isiguzo (rtd), CSO*

facilities such as the Senate Building, wearing of identity tags by staff, spotting and reporting strange faces engaged in anti-social behaviours, as some of the precautionary measures aimed at safeguarding lives and property on Campus.

Stressing that security threats are targeted at events that attract large crowds, he warned that extra-precautionary measures, including creating efficient communication and security systems to manage emergencies must be implemented before hosting major events such

as matriculation and convocation ceremonies.

Emphasizing the importance of creating ample awareness among staff and students, the Chairman noted that his Committee has produced a Health, Safety, Environment and Security (HSE&S) Policy for the University, which outlines proactive security measures that would be binding on the entire University Community.

Professor Akpokodje added that coordinators and representatives would be appointed in each Department and Unit in the University to monitor compliance, adding that periodic assessment would be

made to reward compliant faculties with prizes and awards to motivate others. "Everyone must know that HSE&S contributes to preservation of lives and enhanced productivity in work places, so individuals must be security conscious at all times", he advised.

It would be recalled that a device suspected to be a locally-made bomb was recently discovered in a street behind the Rivers State University of Science and Technology; raising fear that terrorists may be making do their promise to attack tertiary institutions in parts of the country.

SSANU Polls: Chairmanship Candidates Unfold Agenda*By Obinna Nwodin and Williams Wodi*

This is the season of union politics in the University of Port Harcourt. The big prize is the Chairmanship of the local branch of Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU). The gladiators have already taken to the campaign trail to woo voters to their side. To ensure that a level playing ground is provided to all contestants, Congress constituted a high-powered Electoral Committee (ELECO), headed by a seasoned Administrator with a proven track record of high impact performance in the person of Mr. Roland Wabali. ELECO has already issued appropriate guidelines that are consistent with the letter and spirit of extant provisions in the SSANU constitution on elections. At the close of nomination, Mr. Syder Bikume and Mr. Justine Wede, emerged as candidates, who have been cleared by the Wabali-led ELECO to battle for the coveted Chairmanship position in the Union for the 2012-2014 service year.

Already, election fever has reached fever pitch as posters of candidates for all vacant positions have flooded the Campus, with the hope of wooing prospective voters to side with them. *UNIPORT Weekly* cornered the two Chairmanship candidates with a view to advertising their campaign blueprints that would enable voters make-up their minds on which amongst them is capable of giving quality leadership to SSANU in this season when Nigerians are demanding good governance at all levels. Please read on:

Justin Wede

To Mr. Wede of Bursary Department, his quest for the Chairmanship of SSANU is anchored on provision of good governance and responsive leadership that is sensitive to the aspirations of members. He told *UNIPORT Weekly* that his administration would also work towards staff welfare, promotion and alleviation of transportation difficulties facing members in the post fuel subsidy removal era.

"I will establish an effective Elders' Forum that would ensure adequate consultations at all levels of leadership. I will also inaugurate College/Faculty Representatives' Committee to ensure top-to-bottom flow of information in the affairs of the Union", the Candidate said, adding that all entitlements due retiring members would be promptly paid on his watch. This is in addition to upping the Condolence Purse to the next-of-kin of deceased members.

Under a Wede-led administration, SSANU members would once more, enjoy their End-of-Year party, in addition to presenting Annual Performance Reports to Congress. The Candidate also promised to set up a dynamic Women's Wing to mobilize SSANU women,

pointing out that his electoral blueprint are radically different from the programme of the outgoing Executive in which he served. "I am my own man in this contest; I am not under the shadow of any hidden sponsor or godfather as is being speculated in some quarters", Wede assured voters, adding that better days await members with him as Chairman of SSANU in the University.

Syder Bikume

Mr. Syder Bikume, who is of the Housing Unit, said that his mission is anchored on constructive engagement with Management, promotion of members' welfare and dignity of labour, stated that the philosophy of his administration would be hinged on integrity, service, transparency and accountability. He stressed that his vision is to strengthen workers solidarity and return confidence of members to the affairs of the Union.

Outlining his campaign manifesto for the Union, the Chairmanship candidate disclosed that his administration would first dedicate SSANU, its members and the University to God; inaugurate a functional Advisory, Welfare, as well as other Committees that would facilitate quality service delivery in activities of the Union. Syder also promised to float a SSANU Co-operative venture for easy access to loans by members, resuscitate SSANU Car Ownership Scheme, commercialize SSANU building at Choba Park

and invest in other revenue-yielding ventures. The candidate also promised to increase terminal benefits payable to retiring senior staff and next-of-kin of deceased members, in addition to initiating a Public Lecture series, as well as procuring a bus that would facilitate union activities.

Syder also said that his administration would constructively engage Management on improved conditions of service, champion effective disbursement of rent subsidy to every deserving senior staff living off-Campus. He also promised to lobby for the return of shuttle bus services as a palliative measure to cushion the hardship occasioned by fuel subsidy removal, pointing out that his administration would also work towards an increase in Condolence Purse payable by Management to deceased members. He pledged to work towards provision of accommodation on Campus to interested senior staff and inclusion of Non-Teaching Staff on University Committees.

*Wede**Syder*

Amaechi Appoints Sam Dede DG, Tourism Agency



Gov Amaechi

Sam Dede

Seasoned actor, Sam Dede, has been appointed Director-General of Rivers State Tourism Development Agency. The appointment came on January 18 and has since taken effect.

The University of Benin Theatre Arts graduate also lectures at the University of Port Harcourt. He has often been described as the *Al Pacino of Nollywood* with his penchant for picking roles in action movies. He is equally a movie director and has over 10 movies to his credit.

The prolific actor has featured in several movies but he became a household name in 1996 when he acted in *Blood Money*. His popularity was consolidated when he took part in the blockbuster, *Issakaba*. The

two-part movie released in 2001 was a play on *Bukassi* spelt backwards. It was aimed at capturing the activities of the then notorious vigilante group in the South-East.

Dede is reputed as a trainer. He is said to have trained the likes of Charles Okafor, Hilda Dokubo, Rita Dominic and Ejike Asiegbu at the University of Port Harcourt.

Since the enthronement of democracy in 1999, several actors and actresses have been inducted into the Nigerian political terrain. While many have been courageous enough to contest elections, others have been appointed and yet, another set has played active roles in campaigns for politicians.

PTDF Chair To Aid Gas Master Plan ~Prof Iyagba

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Given Nigeria's enormous reserve in gas, the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) Professorial Chair in Gas

Engineering in the University would consolidate on efforts by the Government and Industries to ensure that maximum benefits derivable from gas would be utilized to improve the nation's economy. New Chair Occupant, Professor Elijah Iyagba, observed that from gas production to middle-stream transmission and downstream distribution, the Chair would embark on cutting-edge research and make findings available to stakeholders to aid better utilization, export value, industrial and domestic consumption of gas which has a huge revenue potential for the Country.

Iyagba, who spoke while exchanging views with a *UNIPORT Weekly*

Correspondent in his Office last Tuesday, stressed that the long-term goal of the Chair was to propose and strive towards reduced dependence on petroleum in the Country, while encouraging

efficient gas production and utilization as one of the countries with the largest deposits of natural gas in the world.



Prof Iyagba

Disclosing that the Chair is in a vantage position to produce results, given the presence of seasoned Professors such as Dulu Appah, Godwin Igwe, Mike Onyekonwu, he added that it would also act as an interface between the University, industries and government with emphasis on applied research and more collaboration between the Stakeholders.

On the proposal by government to implement a workable Gas Master Plan, Iyagba noted that the Chair would make meaningful input and contribute towards resolving pricing, legal and legislative issues, ownership rights, safety and environmental issues, while advocating best practices and zero gas flaring within a specific time-frame.

He disclosed that although the Chair currently runs formal and informal programmes in Gas Engineering for professionals in the industry, there are plans to hold monthly Lecture Series and the annual PTDF Gas Lecture that would attract experts to the University.

Academic Planning Unit To Introduce Pocket Statistics

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Director, Academic Planning Research and Control Unit, Professor Lawrence Igwe, has disclosed plans to introduce a *Pocket Statistics*-a directory, containing useful statistical data that would be of benefit to the entire University community, as well as the National Universities Commission (NUC), Federal Ministry of Education and other stakeholders in the affairs of the University.

Professor Igwe made the disclosure in an interview with *UNIPORT Weekly* in his office penultimate Friday, stating that the *Pocket Statistics* would contain basic information that would assist both internal users and visitors.

The Director explained that the "Academic Planning Research and Control Unit is an important unit of the Vice-Chancellor's office, which can be described as the heart-beat of the University. Apart from giving statistical information, the office ensures that programmes run by the University secure accreditation from the NUC and other regulatory agencies".

He added that as a criterion to securing accreditation of programmes, relevant data must be made available which is the reason why the *Pocket Statistics* is being produced for circulation to anyone seeking information about the University of Port Harcourt.

Professor Igwe, who is also Chairman, Board of Governor of University Demonstration Secondary School, disclosed that information to be contained in the statistical directory would include: total student enrollment in each Faculty, academic staff by grade, Lecturers by Faculty, Professors by Faculty, Graduate output by degree categories and the total number of non-teaching staff by category. He however, noted that beneficiaries of the *Pocket Statistics* would include staff and students, as well as visitors to the University, appealing to members of staff to assist the Unit with relevant data to enable the Office execute the project within the specified timeline.



Prof Igwe

Outpour of joy from students, parents and other stakeholders in the Nigerian project greeted the suspension of the two-month strike embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) last December. There were exchanges of information, especially among students when the national leadership of the Union announced suspension of the strike after its National Executive Council meeting in Abuja last Wednesday, calling on its members to resume duties last Thursday.

In the University of Port Harcourt, the news was also received with the same euphoria as students started putting calls through for confirmation. *UNIPORT Weekly* evaluated the development by sampling reactions of people. Respondents said the step taken by ASUU is a patriotic one.

Reacting to the development, President, Student Union, Rhino Owthorkire, expressed happiness with the decision of ASUU to end the strike, stating that by shifting ground, the Union has taken a bold measure to protect the future of the country, which according to him, is represented by the students.

"We are grateful to the leadership of ASUU for listening to the calls of well-meaning Nigerians. With the resolution, we would want academic activities to commence immediately. Students should come back with a vision of pursuing their primary goal which is to study, as well as fostering the interest of oneness in the struggle for the good of every student," the Student Union said.

Miss Catherine Makwe, a Fifth Year student of the Department of Medicine, College of Health Sciences described the suspension of strike as a welcome development, advising the Federal Government not to further delay the implementation of all the terms it has willingly agreed upon with ASUU to put an end to recurring strike actions in the university system.

A fresher in the Department of Linguistics & Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Obinna Egbogidi, also lauded ASUU for calling off the strike, describing the news as relaxingly pleasurable. "Patriotism holds that we must put the fortunes of the

Students, Biz Operators, Happy With End Of ASUU Strike

By Ofikor Samuel

nation and its citizens ahead in every endeavour. That is what ASUU has just done. It is laudable," he enthused. Meanwhile, operators of small-scale businesses in the University have been counting their losses, lamenting that the strike had affected them negatively. From the petty business centre owners, who rely on making copies of assignments and projects for students and staff to earn a living, to food vendors, as well as transport operators, the adverse effects of the strike had been topical.

Respondents, who recalled how business boomed before the strike, described its effect as very negative for them because it worsened the hardship occasioned by the partial removal of fuel subsidy in the New Year, observing that even though ASUU has called off the strike, the Federal Government should honour terms of the agreement it entered with the Unions in 2009 to forestall possible recurrence.

"The strike really affected us. Our businesses were almost grounding to a halt and we have been paying more than usual down here due to the increment by



Mr Owthorkire, President, Student Union

transporters, but there were no customers to patronize us," stated Okon Nsikak, a Photocopier operator at the Faculty of Humanities, UNIPARK.

"We were managing well before the strike, but until it was called off, we were faced with low patronage. We were regularly disposing of some of our unsold perishable products. Our major patronage comes from students and staff, most of who were forced to stay away from the Campus due to the strike," cried Affiong Jeremiah, a grocer at the School of Graduate Studies.

Maduabuchi Ohirize, one of the transporters at UNIPARK also decried the decline in economic activity, stating that most drivers had abandoned their conductors due to lack of passengers. He lamented the horrendous effects of the strike on people who depend on the University Community to sustain themselves through legitimate means, assuring however, that the hike in transport fare would be slightly adjusted in the interest of all.

Our Correspondent who went round the three Parks reported that while some of the restaurants that primarily target staff were fully operational, others that were mostly patronized by students are mobilizing to get back to business as cheering news of suspension of reached them.



Catherine Makwe



Maduabuchi Ohirize



Affiong Jeremiah



Okon Nsikak

DSA Promises Improved Hostel Services For Students

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Dean, Student Affairs Department, Dr Matthew Wegwu, has promised to make the Halls of Residence more comfortable through the provision of a decent environment that would encourage academic activities with the newly-introduced hostel arrangement targeted at reducing the number of occupants per room.

Dr Wegwu, who made the pledge while exchanging views with *UNIPORT Weekly* last Monday, stated that in developed societies, people no longer cluster in small spaces, pointing out that it was the desire of Management of the University to make students comfortable in the hostels and classrooms as a means of maximizing their productivity.

He explained that from the new session, bunks and cubicles would be outdated things, since Management wants each hostel to look like a home. "The hostels would now accommodate three students per room for the Under-graduates and two Graduate students in a room to give occupants maximum comfort and security", Dr Wegwu said.

According to the Dean, Management's action was informed by the fact that when students cluster, the facilities are over-stressed, thereby, raising complaints of insufficient toilets and other non-functional facilities that often result in agitations. "To ensure that students are carried along in arriving at the decision, we encouraged them to



Dr. Wegwu, Dean, Student Affairs

travel to ascertain how o t h e r universities operate, and they came back with fantastic ideas and Management also appreciated their effort", he said, expressing optimism that before 2015, University of Port Harcourt would emerge as one of the best in

Africa, not just in the quality of hostel services, but also in other areas of need.

Maiden Founders' Day Holds Thursday

All is now set for the celebration of the maiden edition of the Founders' Day of the University this Thursday. A programme of events rolled out from the Vice-Chancellor's Office indicates that distinguished Emeritus History Professor Ebegberi Alagoa, would deliver a Public Lecture on the chronological development of the University, under the chairmanship of famous novelist and playwright, Dr Elechi Amadi at 3:00 pm on that day. The Lecture scheduled for Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, would attract staff, students, alumni, benefactors and the general public. The Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi, himself a distinguished Alumnus, is expected to be Special Guest of Honour at the event which would serve as a forum for reunion of stakeholders. The Founders' Day programme would also feature concerts and drama sessions to be performed by the Department of Music and Arts Village.

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Dr S. Fyeface-Ogan, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective January 17, 2012 to January 20, 2014.

Dr E. Alikor, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective January 31, 2012 to January 31, 2014.

Dr C. Agi, Department of Radiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective January 31, 2011 to January 31, 2013.

Professor A. Ekere, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective January 31, 2011 to January 31, 2013.

Dr C. Eyindah, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective January 31, 2012 to January 31, 2014.

Professor I. Siminialayi, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective January 17, 2012 to January 7, 2014.

Dr M. Gogo-Abite, Department of Anatomical Pathology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective January 31, 2012 to January 31, 2014.

Dr O.G. Omitola, Department of Oral Pathology and Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, re-appointed *Co-ordinator of Department*, effective June 18, 2011 to June 18, 2012.

Dr Grace Robinson-Bassey, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective July 27, 2010 to July 27, 2012.

Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso, Department of Child Dental Health, Faculty of Dentistry, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective January 31, 2011 to January 31, 2013.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Dr Edem Efiang Williams, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted sabbatical appointment as *Senior Lecturer in the Department*. The appointment is for a period of one year.

Professor C. Njoku, Department of Medicine, College of Health Sciences, granted sabbatical appointment as *Professor in the Department*. The appointment is for a period of one year.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT

Professor Ayebaemi Spiiff, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, granted *renewal of contract appointment*, effective March 31st, 2012 to March 31st, 2013.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Professor R.S. Moro, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, assumed duty as *Professor on contract appointment*, effective January 11th, 2012 to January 10th, 2013.

TRANSFER OF SERVICE

Professor Florence Nduka, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, granted *Transfer of Service* from Abia State University to University of Port Harcourt.

83RD INAUGURAL LECTURE

The 83rd Inaugural Lecture has been scheduled for Thursday, 15th March, 2012. The Lecture titled: "*Educational Assessment: Meaning, History and Functions*", will be delivered by **Professor R. Ukwuije** of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education.

CHANGE OF NAME

Mrs Ethel Timi-Johnson, *Miss Ethel Wopara* of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit now wishes to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs Ethel Timi-Johnson**. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

SAFETY ALERT

- Security is everybody's business.
- Report all strange faces to the Security Department.
- Don't touch strange objects. Be Vigilant!

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

V-C WANTS FAIR TREATMENT FOR STUDENTS

Vice-Chancellor, Federal University Wukari, Taraba State, Professor Geoffrey Okogbaa, has urged newly-engaged employees to put in their best to deliver quality service to the University. The Vice-Chancellor also charged them to treat students fairly, stating that their welfare must be prioritized in their daily service to the University.

COVENANT, EAST CAROLINA VARSITIES, SIGN MOU

Covenant University, Nigeria and East Carolina

University, USA, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Global Academic Initiative Project, which is a world culture course taught in a shared virtual classroom with students and Faculty in Africa, Asia, North and South America and Europe.

Professor Elmer Poe of the East Carolina University disclosed that the project which began in 2004 is aimed at imparting knowledge and attitude on students. Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Aize Obayan, who described the

Initiative as classroom without borders, stated that the project would assist the students to gain cross-cultural work experience that would improve their competencies.

JONATHAN CHARGES VARSITIES TO STEP UP PRODUCTIVITY

President Goodluck Jonathan has described as unacceptable the fact that no Nigerian University was among the top tier providers of tertiary education even in Africa. The President, who hinged the transformation programme of his administration on quality education, charged older universities to change the situation.

FG/ASUU ACCORD: GOVT FAILURE WILL ERODE INTEGRITY

Head of Department, Mass Communication, University of Lagos, Professor Ralph Akinfeleye, has observed that integrity of the Federal Government will be eroded if it fails to implement its agreement with the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), urging the government to redeem itself from the wrong impression people always hold about it.

KWARA REDUCES FEES FOR INDIGENES

Kwara State Government has approved a N50,500 reduction in fees for indigenes at the state-owned Kwara State

University, Malete, with effect from next session.

The state governor, Abdulfatab Ahmed made the statement through his Special Assistant on Media and Communications, Dr Muyideen Akorede. With the reduction, affected students who were originally paying N150,000 per session would now pay N99,500.

ONYEDI DENIES CRISIS IN FUPRE

Protocol Officer, Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE), Effurun, Delta State, Mr Boniface Onyedi, has denied reports that anti-riot policemen were deployed in the institution, arguing that there was no crisis between the Management and final year students of the University. He said that the policemen reported in the media were escorts assigned to Principal Officers and members of Visitation Panel.

NIGERIAN VARSITIES TO SIGN MOU WITH CANADA'S REGINA

Three Nigerian universities: University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Anambra State and Ambrose Alli

University, Edo State are to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Regina University of Canada aimed at fostering purposeful educational exchange between institutions of the two countries.

-Compiled by Otkor Samuel

STOP PRESS

Following the dog enumeration exercise on Campus from the 19th-23rd December, 2011, Environmental Health Officers from the Health Centre would impound stray dogs from mid February 2012 to rid the Campus of their menace.

OUR ERROR

In our edition of January 30-February 6, 2012, we inadvertently addressed Mr Job Borghara as Faculty Officer, Management Sciences. We wish to state that he is a Senior Assistant Registrar in that Faculty. The mix-up is regretted.

Editor

CCE Screens Part-Time Candidates For Admission

Cont'd from p1

Speaking with *UNIPORT Weekly* during the exercise, CCE Director, Professor Steve Okodudu, who recalled that the College introduced CBT in the University, said this mode of screening was preferred because it takes less time, involves fewer invigilators and ensures prompt release of results, when compared to the traditional paper-based examination, which involves manual grading and data processing.

Okodudu, who noted that all candidates who sat for the test already know their

...Promises Transparent Process

results, stated that "the guarantee we want to give to them is that the admission process will be transparent. Candidates who score within a certain range and above will be admitted in line with the admission policy of the current Administration and the mandate we have to admit the right kind of students in CCE."

Also speaking, Director of ICTC,

Professor Anthony Ibe, said "the role of ICTC is to ensure that we have facilities on ground to conduct this new system of examination and fast-track the change from regular type of examination to Computer-Based Test. We

have expanded to the Basic Studies Building and that means we have more space now to take more candidates. On the average, with these two centres, we can comfortably take about 700 candidates in a batch. This means we can handle between 5,000 and 8,000 candidates in a day."

Professor Ibe disclosed that "the overall target is to have a central building that can take about 1000 candidates at a time. Our long term objective is to put in place a very big building where we can have about 1,000 computers so that no matter the population of candidates, we would need to have a maximum of five batches, and we are done with the examination."

In their separate contributions, Deputy Registrar (Student Affairs), and Member, Examination Committee, Mrs Agatha Ataga and the Chief Programmer/Analyst at ICTC, Mr Sarafa Lawal, assured candidates and other interested parties that appropriate steps have been put in place that left no room to examination fraudsters.



Director of CCE, Prof Okodudu

Director of ICTC, Prof Ibe

...As 5,509 Candidates Jostle For Space

By Humphrey Ogu

It was a mammoth crowd at the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), University Park last Tuesday, as over 5,000 prospective students jostled for limited spaces into the various disciplines in the Part-Time programme of the College of Continuing Education (CCE) for the 2011/2012 academic session.

Figures made available to *UNIPORT Weekly* showed that 5,521 candidates sat for the Computer-Based Test (CBT), with 2,257 applying for admission into the Faculty of Social Sciences, while 1,581 chose Management Sciences. Faculties of Humanities and Sciences attracted 908 and 763 respectively, bringing the total number of valid results to 5,509, while the results of 12 candidates were voided.

Speaking in an interview with our Correspondent at the ICTC, CCE Director, Professor Steve Okodudu, who noted that there were challenges that resulted in starting the exercise behind schedule, attributed the population explosion to the difficulties candidate had in gaining access to tertiary education through the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME)."

"The Part-Time programme was originally created to provide opportunity for candidates who either missed an opportunity to pass through Full-Time programmes or were unable to do so because they were engaged in full-time employment and therefore had no time at their disposal. But because of the increasing difficulty of access to university

education through the UTME, more and more candidates are taking advantage of the Part-Time programme," he explained, promising to ensure credibility in the admission process.

Baring their minds on the outcome of the screening exercise, a cross section of the students who spoke to this Weekly, presented different views. Vincent Nwilo, who applied for a degree programme in the Department of English Studies, commended those who facilitated the smooth conduct of the screening. "Although the screening exercise started very late, the Computer-Based Test was a success. I scored 68 out of 100. I am glad it went well and I am optimistic that I would be considered to be part of the unique academic culture of UNIPORT," he stated.

Lewa Sunday, who said the examination was nice, lamented that some of the systems made it impossible for students to select certain answers. "There were answers that we are supposed to tick, but the system failed to check them. That's why some people scored low, even as low as zero. I scored four out of ten points (40%)." Livingstone Nweke, who

applied to study Economics, said the CBT mode of screening is quite commendable. "I know quite well that this is one of the means of ensuring that students equip themselves academically to enable them go through university education successfully. Moreover, it has given me the opportunity to be acquainted with electronic system of exam in this era of technology. My score is 28 over 50 (56%) and I'm happy about it," he said.

While Victory Emonobi, who intends to study Economics expressed displeasure at her result, Prisca Sodje, another candidate for the same course was satisfied with her performance, expressing hope that she would get a place in her chosen discipline.



A Cross Section of Candidates waiting for accreditation