

## TRCN Inducts 758 UniPort Trained Teachers

In its determined bid to ensure that only those who are well-equipped with the requisite teaching skills find their way into classrooms, the Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) inducted 758 newly-trained teachers from the University of Port Harcourt into the profession on Monday, December 14, 2015, reports Humphrey Ogu.

More on p3

## Side Bar

We welcome our esteemed readers back from the Christmas and New Year holidays. We wish you a very prosperous New Year. Stay with us! ~Editor



# UniPort Weekly

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## V-Chancellor's New Year Message

# Let's Up Our Game In 2016

As a community of scholars that are united in the search for specialized knowledge, we have enough reasons to congratulate ourselves for



seeing off 2015 and for making a triumphant entry into a brand New Year that is loaded with unlimited possibilities. We may not have achieved all the lofty objectives we set out for ourselves in 2015, but I am glad to note that we were able to convert some of the seemingly daunting challenges into opportunities that we must capitalize on in the New Year.

In 2015, we successfully appointed a new Vice-Chancellor, a new Registrar and a new University Librarian, aimed at injecting new impetus into the administration of the University. Similarly, we appointed two Deputy Directors as part of our determined bid to wholly restructure the Physical Planning and Development Unit in anticipation of better results in infrastructural development. We also signed a significant Memorandum of

Understanding with the Everyday Group to establish a Business District at Choba Park with the stated aim of giving us a memorable shopping experience in this part of the city of Port Harcourt. We have already met with the stakeholders who run shops at the proposed site of the project to sensitize them about our intention to relocate them away from the proposed business site so that work can commence as soon as is practicable.

Like my colleagues in other Federal Universities across the country, I am very disappointed that we resumed work in the New Year, only to be confronted with a nation-wide strike declared by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) on the directive of its National Executive. Quite unfortunately, the contentious issue that led to the strike is beyond our capacity to handle locally. It is, however, our hope that SSANU and the Federal Government would toe the path of dialogue to resolve the matter to enable us continue to discharge our core mandate to society. Let me use this opportunity to express gratitude to the University

More on p6

N-C's 2015 Address To Congregation  
Story on p2

How UPWA Marked 2015 Week  
Story on p3

Agrie Faculty's Retreat In V-C's Honour  
Story on p4

When EEI Honoured Pioneer Directors  
Story on p5



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In effect aimed at charting a new direction that would effectively drive the growth of the University through external support from alumni and friends and other stakeholders, new Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation (UPHF), Professor Henry Alapiki has submitted a new blueprint aimed at driving the accelerated development of the University to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nduwa Late.

The documents which included the history, organogram and template for the repositioning of the Foundation to serve the University better were handed over to the Vice-Chancellor in his Committee Room, when Professor Henry Alapiki led a delegation of senior staff of the Foundation on a courtesy visit to Professor Late on Friday, December 4, 2015.

"I cannot move effectively with your new vision of developing a world-class University without a template for development; so we designed this template for your perusal, amendment and approval to enable the Foundation drive the process of attracting external support to sustain the accelerated growth of the University," Professor Alapiki said.

The Executive Director, who disclosed that two of his friends donated valuable office equipment to the Foundation to enhance its activities, suggested that: "What we have now cannot really stand for a proper Advancement Centre. We have information that certain sums of money totalling about N44 million was earmarked for the construction of a befitting Foundation office, but we are yet to access the fund to commence the project. The University must devise a means of self-sustainability in the long-run if we hope to secure our institutional future. We have discussed the history, achievements and challenges facing the Foundation and we are aggressively repositioning ourselves for greater operational efficiency," Professor Alapiki told the Vice-Chancellor, promising to run a smarter Foundation in the nearest future.

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor commended the new Executive Director for his evident enthusiasm in just a few months in office, stating that by designing a

# UPHF Submits New UniPort Development Blueprint To V-C

By Otioko Samuel

(with additional reports from crusade Interns:  
Mervellous Abel, Chinenye Adinde,  
Cyd Heribert and Rusky Orlu-Makde)

blueprint to drive the activities of the Foundation, Professor Alapiki has put all stakeholders in the affairs of the University on notice of his intention to achieve the vision for which it was established.

The Vice-Chancellor, who pledged the support of his administration to make the University an attractive brand to its alumni, friends and other stakeholders, warned against a beggarly approach to mobilizing funds to the University, disclosing his intention to transform the UPHF into a full career Foundation.

"For purposeful leadership plays a critical role in the growth of any organisation, so I am satisfied with my decision to appoint you to head the Foundation at this critical time in the development of the University. From all indications, your leadership process is manifesting with your commitment to transform the

Foundation into a beehive of activities. I am very pleased that the staff you are working with are properly trained to assist you deliver on the mandate we have given you and we will support future training programmes to develop capacity for enhanced productivity amongst staff of the Foundation. On the issue of N44 million for a new Foundation building, we need to trace the whereabouts of the money immediately to ensure that it is used for the purpose for which it was approved," the Vice-Chancellor assured the Director.

He directed the Deputy Bursar in charge of Budget, Mrs. Helen Ohwude-Wapara, who stood in for the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aizezi, to immediately deploy a Finance Officer to the Foundation to properly handle its financial transactions.



V-C, Prof. Late (right) and Executive Director, UPHF, Prof. Alapiki

## I Shall Not Fail UniPort, V-C Promises At Congregation Meeting

By Mercy Adeniji

Barely five months into his tenure as the 8<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nduwa Late, addressed Congregation on the State of the University, delivering total commitment to enhanced service delivery.

Addressing the 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Congregation (Extra-Ordinary) held at the Ehimie Bassey Auditorium on Friday, December 18, 2015, Professor Late, restated his commitment to accelerate the growth of the University by deepening the academic culture and providing quality infrastructure, as promised in his Inaugural Address.

"I have consequently opened up the administration to staff at all levels to allow them the opportunity to make valuable contributions on the way forward in line with my promise to harness all human and material resources that abound here to make Unique UniPort more unique. I have so far refrained from being prescriptive in my governance style in my belief that every staff has something novel to offer.

See in the successful running of the system in this dispensation," the Vice-Chancellor said.

"We took on the task of renovating some critical facilities on my assumption of office on Monday, July 13, 2015,

and today, the O.B. Luh-Briggs Health Center is not only wearing a new look; it is now reasonably stocked with drugs and basic equipment that can take care of the primary healthcare needs of staff and students," Professor Late revealed, noting that the Gladys Cooksey Resources Centre, which was in dire need of rehabilitation, has been comprehensively renovated by the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA).

"I am pleased to note that the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building has been completed by the administration and put to use by staff and students. The Department of Animal and Environmental Biology building, which was completed sometime under my predecessor's tenure, has been commissioned and is being occupied by staff and students. Similarly, the state-of-the-art Engineering Laboratory Building sponsored by the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) has been completed and is currently awaiting official commissioning," the Vice-Chancellor disclosed, promising that Phase II of the Faculty of Agriculture building is now being furnished and would be ready for occupation early in the New Year.

On staff accommodation, the Vice-Chancellor commended the Housing Committee for reconstructing some service quarters and constructing new buildings that have since been allocated to deserving staff. He frowned at an emergent trend in which staff illegally transfer their official accommodation to other occupants who have nothing to do with the University. He also condemned the construction of illegal structures on Campus by unauthorized persons, explaining that plans have been concluded to revoke illegally transferred accommodation without further reference to the original beneficiaries of such official accommodation, while also stating that Management had directed the Department of Physical Planning and Control to demolish all such illegal structures.

"Working with the right people makes all the difference in every organization and we will continue to strengthen the capacity of staff to make meaningful contributions to the advancement of the University," Professor Late said. He apologized to staff on the inability of the administration to fulfil its earlier promise to pay the contentious 17<sup>th</sup> Month Salary which he described as a brilliant initiative of his predecessor, blasting it as the

introduction of the Treasury Single Account (TSA) which is now in full operation in all government agencies. "I shall do nothing that would jeopardize the excellent relationship I have cultivated with the unions over the years. I will not withhold whatever is due any union from the Federal Government and I shall continue to collaborate with union leaders to seek after the welfare of their members," he promised.

Commending staff for their hard work and dedication to duty, the Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to members of staff, who worked very hard in 2015, urging them to continue to keep faith with the University. "To staff who have refused to change for the better, in the New Year, Management will take drastic action against those who may wish to continue in the old habit of treating their statutory duty schedule with levity," he warned, appealing to staff to rededicate themselves to the service of the University.

"On my part, I shall continue to lead by example in everything I do in the exalted position that God has used human instruments to place me. I shall continue to count on the Governing Council, Senate, Congregation, Staff, including students, alumnus and other stakeholders to move the University forward. I solicit prayers from all of you and I invite you to join me in the new vista of hope and faith in what we can achieve together as we strive to build a "Wholesome and Prosperous University of Port Harcourt," he stated.

Other issues discussed centred on poor Internet service, healthcare delivery, increase in electricity tariff and security matters.



Prof. Late, V-C

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# TRCN Inducts 758 Teachers

*Cont'd from p1*

Welcoming the TRCN delegation and other guests to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Induction Ceremony at the Ebimini Baniga Auditorium, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lai, congratulated all the new entrants into the noble profession for successfully completing their programme which qualified them to practise as professional teachers in Nigeria. He also praised the Dean and Academic Board of the Faculty of Education for training the inductees, expressing gratitude to TRCN for partnering the University in the drive to root out quacks from the teaching profession.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, the Vice-Chancellor charged the new teachers to be worthy ambassadors of their Alma Mater, urging them to transmit what they learnt to their students in the classroom. "I encourage you to strive towards the ideals of diligence and excellence in service to humanity by ensuring that the best operational practices are maintained at all times in the discharge of your duties. That way, you would have justified the huge resources expended on you by the University and your sponsors as you prepare to prove your skills

to the world," he advised the inductees.

On his part, the Registrar and Chief Executive of TRCN, Professor Addison Wakola, disclosed that the induction ceremony was geared towards total institutionalisation of professionalism in the education sector, adding that "the formal induction of teachers on graduation marks their admission into the profession because it promises to improve the quality and status of both the teachers and the teaching profession in Nigeria."

Speaking through the Director of Operations, Mallam Ibrahim Rast, the Registrar noted that "the induction also helps to eliminate certificate forgery plaguing the teaching profession; the Council receives the records of Graduates of Education directly from Universities and Colleges of Education and builds same into its robust data base for registered teachers in Nigeria," explaining that "the data so captured is accessible to teachers' employers and other stakeholders for ease of verification of claims made by prospective applicants and those already practising the profession."

He added that induction also conferred legal and professional status on new teachers through administration of the *Teachers Oath of Allegiance* and also reduced attrition ratio in the teaching profession.

Delivering the Induction Lecture entitled: "Teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom," immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Education in the University, Professor Ehi Bio Awotua-Efebo, cited Alvin Toffler, who identified three main waves the world has passed through in the course of its development to include when Agriculture was the main focus 10,000 years ago, the industrial revolution and the information or cybernetic age. He noted that education responded to each wave, advising teachers to continuously update their knowledge if they hoped to keep abreast of current trends in the profession.

Expatiating on the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave, which featured social interaction and constructivism, Professor Awotua-Efebo said that Students were at the centre of learning, while the role of the teacher gradually changed to that of a facilitator, stressing the importance of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

He observed that teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms entailed full integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into the classroom, Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) and the use of electronic or smart boards, blended and distance learning, including various social media in the teaching and learning processes. He submitted that "technology won't replace teachers, but teachers who use technology will probably replace teachers who do not."

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, who commended TRCN, the Management of the University and all who contributed to the success of the event, charged the inductees to be good ambassadors of the Faculty of Education, the teaching profession and the University of Port Harcourt.

The ceremony, which was preceded by a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor, featured administration of the *Oath of Allegiance* on the new teachers and goodwill messages.



Prof. Ibe (immediate past Ag. Registrar), Mrs. Nnamilo, Mrs. Afor, Mr. Vinkas Albez (3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> left), Director of Operations, Mallam Rast, Prof. Igwe (Director, Centre for Teacher Education and In-Service Training), Prof. Samuel Nwosidiechukwu and others

W ell-patronised Health and Safety Seminars were the major highpoints of the 2015 Week organised by the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) which held at various locations on Campus from December 7 to 13, 2015.

Principal Staff Officer in charge of Drug Demand Reduction Unit (PSO DDRU), of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Rivers State Command, Mrs. Stella-Maris Amede and Ensie Ekpan of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) made separate presentations on the inherent dangers of drug abuse, including driving and safety tips, respectively.

In her presentation, Mrs. Amede, disclosed that alcohol and drug abuse were directly responsible for an estimated 2.5 million deaths in Nigeria, while the country also accounts for 0.2 million deaths recorded globally as a result of the scourge. Ekpan, who is the FRSC Officer, reiterated the Corps' commitment to inculcating safe driving habits and security consciousness as a factor of free movement on Nigerian roads with minimum accident rates.

Speaking as Special Guest of Honour at the Seminar, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lai, commended UPWA Executive for putting together the Seminar to address issues bothering on drug abuse, alcohol and driving safety tips to the benefit of the women, expressing hope that the exercise would contribute positively to improved living conditions and safety awareness amongst members of UPWA. "I want to assure the women of continued support of the University Management for UPWA activities. Even as I urge them to

## How UPWA Marked 2015 Week With Health, Safety Seminar

*By Ethel Timi-Johnson*

adequately utilise what they have been taught by the experts at these Seminars," Professor Lai said.

UPWA President, Mrs. Jay Lake, lauded the University Management for the support and encouragement given the Association during the celebration of the 2015 UPWA Week. Mrs. Lake, who spoke on the *Medical Outreach* by members of the Selye Lake-Briggs Children's Park as part of the week-long celebration, disclosed that the medical talk was aimed at sensitizing members of the Association on the need to be physically fit and mentally alert. The Medical Outreach featured checks on Blood Pressure, Urinalysis, Fasting Blood Sugar, Body Mass Index (BMI), Weight and Height, amongst others. There

was also a Counselling and Health talk session.

The week-long series of activities also featured a Lecture titled: *Being a Good House Guest and Hostess*, presented by the UPWA President, Mrs. Lake and visits to some of the University's host communities. Chairpersons of the Weeks, Professor Florence Nofuka, disclosed that the visits to Alakaliba, Choba and Ahia communities were aimed at fitting indigent widows, Highbrows of the Week were the Vice-Chancellor's Christmas Children Party, including one for UPWA Members and their spouses. Both events held at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge in Delta Park. The group also marched to the Senate Building with banners aimed at creating awareness about its activities in the University.



UPWA President, Mrs. Lake (4<sup>th</sup> left), some Resource Persons and participants at an event during the UPWA Week

## Agric Faculty's 2015 Retreat In V-C's Honour

*By Ethel Timi-Johnson*

In recognition of the pioneering role he played as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndioma Lale has been honoured with a retreat organised under the auspices of the immediate past Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ekemini Wokoma. The event took place on Friday, December 18, 2015 at Phase II of the Faculty Building, University Park.

Professor Wokoma, who described the event as the first of its kind, noted that the Faculty is the youngest in the University, expressing delight that it has recorded enviable feats within the short period of its existence, including producing the eight Vice-Chancellor of the University. "We have gathered to wish him good health, more wisdom and understanding as he continues to pilot the affairs of the University. We also wish him an outstanding and successful tenure," she remarked, pledging support to his administration as he strives to take the University to higher heights.

The former Dean commended the Vice-Chancellor for laying a solid foundation for the Faculty and his role in sustaining it to maturity. Professor Wokoma, who also commended staff and students of the Faculty for the support they received during her two-year tenure as Dean, solicited the same measure of support for her successor, Professor Ebere Erondua, who assumed office on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 following a brief, but impressive handover ceremony. She wished her successor a fruitful tenure in office.

Responding, a visibly-delighted Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale recounted the growth and successes recorded by the Faculty since its inception, including the timely completion of a new Faculty

building. "I consider it a great privilege to be honoured by my Faculty as pioneer Dean. From its humble beginnings, the Faculty of Agriculture has grown from strength to strength, including in staff and student ratios. Agriculture is amongst the youngest Faculties in the University, but it has so far

competed favourably with older Faculties within and outside the University," he said, pledging Management's continued support to move the Faculty to greater heights.

Highlights of the event included presentation of

goodwill messages by staff of the Faculty, choir

ministration, exhortation and prayers for the

Faculty and the Vice-Chancellor.



V-C, Prof Lale accompanied by immediate past Dean, Faculty of Agriculture,  
Prof Wokoma having handshake with some guests

## SSANU Rewards Retiring Members, Fetes Others

*By Humphrey Ogu*

Members of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), who are either retiring from active service or transferred their services to other cadres, were on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, rewarded with financial gifts, as an appreciation for their contributions to the growth of the Union. Welcoming members to the special End-of-Year Meeting, SSANU Chairman, Bikame Syder, who briefed the Union on events unfolding at the national level, read a letter from the National Secretariat, signed by the Principal Assistant General Secretary of SSANU, G.O. Wogu, announcing an indefinite strike action that commenced on Thursday, December 24, 2015 over the Federal Government's planned disengagement from running Demonstration Primary Schools in its universities.

On Savings and Welfare Schemes of the Union, the Chairman explained that the N500 deducted from

members' monthly salaries was savings, which would be given to them on retirement or disengagement from service, adding that the Union had to reduce the amount given out as loan to N100,000 only to ensure that other members who wish to secure the facility were able to access only N100,000, instead of one member carting away N1,000,000, thereby depriving others of the facility.

"Every SSANU member that applies for loan is attended to because each member is dear to my heart. There is no favouritism in the disbursement of loans," he stated. Syder regretted that his tenure had witnessed many crises, appealing to members to crosscheck facts about the Union with him before taking sides on issues.

Clarifying issues concerning the Union's welfare scheme, the Chairman pointed out that members, who wed and informed the Union in time were entitled to N10,000 only, while those who lose their father or mother are entitled to N20,000 only. "In the case of loss of spouse, the bereaved member will be entitled to N50,000 only and we ensure that we attend members' events if invited on time," he said, adding that the Union also send condolence letters where, necessary.

Among the retirees and staff who converted to lectureship cadre, were Alabbi Stanley and Beloma Dakera of the Sports Council Unit who got N14,000 from savings and N150,000 from the Welfare Purse each, while Messrs Samuel Oshondah of the Registry and Nkesi Okrika of Vice-Chancellor's Office also got the same amounts.

Similarly, Mr. John Gogo of Council Unit got N13,500 from savings and N150,000 from the Welfare Purse, Mrs. Caroline Iro of Local Affiliation Unit and Henrietta Wariboko of Registry Department also received N14,000 and N150,000 each from the Savings and Welfare Purse, respectively. Other beneficiaries were Ebiasere Okara of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology and Patricia Onmska of the Health Centre Services Unit, both of who received N14,000 and N150,000 each from the Savings and Welfare Purse, respectively.

Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries of the SSANU largesse, Mr. Dakera recalled that since 1983 when he joined the services of the University, he had never witnessed such magnanimity from any Union. "This is one of its kinds and I urge the leadership of the Union to continue this lofty initiative. I also wish to advise staff to be obedient to their superiors and work to the best of their abilities," he said.

Dakera, who was the Chief Coach in the Sports Council Unit, noted: "To work efficiently, you need to do fitness exercises such as running and brisk walking," advising staff to resist the temptation of always driving their cars from office to office, without engaging in any physical activity.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman, who expressed appreciation to SSANU members for honouring the invitation to the meeting, announced presentation of rice and vegetable oil, wishing members a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Chairman, UniPort SSANU, Mr. Syder (arrowed) in a group photograph with the retirees, converted staff, EXCO members and some senior staff after the meeting.

**V-C Commends Senior Staff Club EXCO On Innovations** In line with best operating practice anywhere," he disclosed. Dr. Elkington disclosed that there has been an increase

*By Mercy Adewiji*

gratitude to the Management of the University for supporting us in many ways. We have been able to partner different individuals and organisations to transform the Club into an attractive brand that people can associate with. We are also enhancing the profiling system of members to ensure proper identification and orderly admission into the different sections of the Club.

in line with best operating practice anywhere," he disclosed.

Dr. Ekyangayong disclosed that there has been an increase in patronage of the Club by Senior citizens of the University community, adding that plans have been concluded to update the membership database of the Club in the first quarter of 2016. He said that all members would be required to fill a new biodata form that would be embossed with their passport photographs in enable them obtain new Club Identification Cards. Also, members would be able to pay for services through the POS system that is expected to be operational from the first quarter of this year, the President promised.



*DV-C (Admin), Prof Bhe (3' left) flanked by immediate past Ag. Registrar, Mrs. Nsimbi (left), President, Senior Staff Club, Dr. Elkpenyang (3' right) and other EXCO members*

## **When Emerald Energy Institute Honoured Ojo, Naanen, Others**

*By Humphrey Ogu*

Pioneer Director of the Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies, Professor Olatando Ojo, his predecessor, Professor Bea Nanaea, and former Acting Director, Professor Ogbonna Eze, were among those honoured with awards for their pioneering efforts as the Institute marked its End-of-Year activity on Friday, December 18, 2015.

(Administration), Professor Anthony Ibbi, and other top functionaries of the University, including the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajjenka for their continued support for the Institute. We are quite confident that the University is behind us 100%," he said.

**Professor Bedore** expressed hope that the Vice-Chancellor, who is from the Faculty of Agriculture would strive to replicate the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) model in his area of specialisation to make the University a leading institution in Agricultural research as is the case in petroleum studies.

In his remarks, Professor He congratulated the Institute for its milestone achievements since it was established, promising that the University would continue to support its activities to enable it reach out to a wider clientele. "The Director of Emerald Energy Institute has challenged the rest of the University to adopt the IPS model to make our graduates attractive to the industry. I hope to pass on the message to the Vice-Chancellor and

on my own; I will work towards establishing such a platform in Electrical Engineering, which is my area of specialisation. I agree with him that it is the way to go in this era of massive graduate unemployment. We are working very hard to develop the skills of our students to make them industry-ready on graduation," he noted.

"I also wish to express gratitude to the former Vice-

Chancellor for setting the pace in energy studies in this University and we hope to take it to enviable levels. His name is Joseph and like the Biblical Joseph, Professor Ajjenja dreamt big and pursued his dream with unconquerable passion." Professor said, calling on the students to make the best use of the unique opportunities that the Institute has afforded them to become world-class energy economists and policy-makers in the critical petroleum industry.

Also speaking, a one-time Director of the Institute, Professor Ben Naama, who expressed appreciation for the award conferred on him and others, commended the current leadership of the Institute for sustaining the vision of the benefactor of the Emerald Energy Institute, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah. He wished the students success in their studies and best of luck in their future career as energy economists.

On his part, Deputy Director of the Institute, Dr. Chijioke Nwaozuru, who expressed joy that he was happy that the Director of the Institute deemed it fit to invite past Directors and Deputy Director to the End-of-Year/Award ceremony, regretted that the fall in oil price has led to a corresponding fall in revenue resulting in the devaluation of the naira which is a sign of inflation.

Speaking on behalf of the students, a Doctoral Candidate, Amba Ntombi-Egho said: "We are better off today than when we came to the Institute. We have looked at other universities and institutes and we are convinced and proud that Emerald Energy Institute is truly a Centre of Excellence in Petroleum Economics. We, therefore, urge Management of the University to sustain this fifty programme to allow other students benefit from the quality instruction that is on offer here. We know that the Ph.D is not for sale and we are ready to work hard to it."

Highlight of the event, which attracted former Deputy Director of EEL, Professor Emie Ekerwe, former Coordinator, PGDPT, EPS, Dr Sunday Okonkwo and Acting Director, Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals, Dr. Koyreja Oduola, EEL Fellow, Dr. Joseph Eliah, amongst others, was the cutting of a Christmas Cake by the representative of the Vice-Chancellor.

Others who received awards at the ceremony included the Secretary to the pioneer Director, Mrs. Gift Nai and the Administrative Officer in the Institute, Mr. Ledor Baridus.



*L-R: Dr. Ellah, Prof Naumen, Director, EEI, Prof Bedare, Mrs. Nalmira, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, EEI Admin Secretary, Mrs. Adegbesan and former Deputy Director EEI, Prof Ekekwe*

# Let's Up Our Game

*Cont'd from p1*

of Port Harcourt Chapter of SSANU for embarking on constructive engagement with the administration over the strike and for not totally paralysing some critical services on Campus.

Our dire financial situation notwithstanding, we were able to take some actions that would impact positively on the quality of teaching and research in this University that have started to attract global attention. For instance, our spirits were lifted early in the New Year when the World Economic Forum confirmed the position of the United Kingdom-based *Times Higher Education* (THE) which declared University of Port Harcourt as the sixth best University in Africa and first in Nigeria! *Times Higher Education* is the world's most trusted ranking provider in respect of higher education. It is cheering news that the University of Port Harcourt is the only Nigerian university ranked in the top 15 on the African continent. We are determined to build on this positive development in our bid to attain 'World Class' status.

I wish to commend those academics that have been engaging in high-impact research—especially those that made their works available to the global community of scholars on the Internet for reference purposes. What this positive development means is that the era of restricted local research is gone for good as only globally exposed scholars will enjoy visibility and recognition in the new intellectual environment. Let me, therefore, appeal to scholars and students

of this University to engage in collaborative high-impact research that would solve problems if they hope to remain relevant to society. The next stage should, of course, be the capitalization of knowledge to the benefit of society and the researchers themselves.

We are entering into a new era of creativity and innovations and only those who can adapt to the changing intellectual landscape can survive in this season of change which should bring its own opportunities that we must capitalize on to take our University to greater heights. Change must centre on people and Management is willing to work with every shade of opinion and persuasion to achieve our stated institutional goals in 2016 and beyond.

On my part, I shall continue to provide credible, transparent and dependable leadership that is people-centred and responsive to the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge society. In 2016, my policies will continue to reflect the deep yearnings and aspirations of majority of staff, students and other stakeholders in the UniPort project. I seek total support from all and sundry to achieve the objectives that motivated me to seek the office in the first place.

It is my earnest prayer that the concerted efforts we are making to reposition the University would bear tangible dividends in the shortest possible timeframe to a general chorus of approval. I pray that the New Year will bring greater developmental strides to the University and usher in fresh opportunities for all of us. We need to cultivate a new spirit of adventure, new

determination and up our game on all fronts as we build the University of Port Harcourt of our dream. Let us resolve to up our game in 2016. I wish you a rather belated Happy New Year!

NDOWA E.S., LALE F.B.H., FESN,  
VICE-CHANCELLOR



## Education Faculty Honours Dike At End-Of-Year Party

*By Otikor Samuel*

little way of bidding Professor Dike a befitting farewell as he takes his well-deserved leave of the University. We want him to consider himself a part of the Faculty of Education family even in retirement," Professor Igwe said.

The Dean, who also used the opportunity to recount his achievements in office, expressed satisfaction with some of the steps he put in place on assumption of office. "When we came into office, some of the blocks had no roofs, no doors, thus exposing our property to the elements. But today, we have good doors, PVC ceilings and walkways linking the different blocks. Our Nomadic Education Centre was rated the best in Africa in a recent ranking and we have maintained an excellent percentage in research and quality publications," he disclosed, adding that 15 programmes received full accreditation status, while four got interim accreditation from relevant regulatory agencies.

Professor Igwe further commended the Heads of

Department and Centre Directors for supporting his vision, charging staff of the Faculty to treat students as important stakeholders in the University system to motivate them to give back to the Faculty on graduation.

Responding, a visibly enthused Professor Dike, recalled some of the thrilling moments he experienced on joining the services of the University in 1984, especially making it visible in the canopy of universities in Africa and beyond through the African Virtual University model.

Earlier, Chairman of the Welfare Committee, Dr. Jonah Nwoge, who regretted that the Faculty lost three teaching staff in 2015, expressed gratitude to God for the wisdom granted the leadership of the Faculty to direct the affairs of staff and students successfully end the year.

Highpoints of the ceremony included goodwill messages from some Professors and the distribution of bags of rice among teaching staff.



Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Igwe (centre) flanked by Profs Benjamin Ebeneze, Dike and his wife (right) and Profs Reginald Ukwujie, Samuel Maduagwu and Josephine Ebong (left, front row) and others

**GUIDEPOST****APPOINTMENT**

**Professor Joel Oghoumou**, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed Head of Department. The two-year appointment which took effect from December 7, 2015 terminates on December 7, 2017.

**Professor Ebere Erondu**, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed Dean of Faculty. The two-year appointment which took effect from January 12, 2016, terminates on January 11, 2018.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Professor A.W. Obienime**, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, granted Leave of Absence, effective November 10, 2015 to November 9, 2016.

**SABBATICAL LEAVE**

**Professor Adabsuhu Hart**, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year Sabbatical Leave to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpolu-Oroworkwo, Port Harcourt, effective November 23, 2015 to November 22, 2016.

**Dr Alwell Ome-Egwu**, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences granted a one-year Sabbatical Leave to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpolu-Oroworkwo, Port Harcourt, effective October 21, 2015 to October 20, 2016.

**REVIEW OF STATUS**

**Dr. Ochukwu Oskasuefor**, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted from Lecturer II to Lecturer I, effective June 4, 2015.

**RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT**

**Mrs. Mina Long-John**, Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective March 12, 2016 to March 11, 2017.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**MRS. DANIA AUGUSTINA NWEREKA OLUFEMI**, Former Miss Augustina Nwereka Akani of the Department of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. DANIA AUGUSTINA NWEREKA OLUFEMI. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

**MRS. GIFT MBA NEI**, Former Mrs. Gift MBA Kamala of the Centre for Children with Developmental and Communication Disorders (CCDCD) now wishes to be known, called and addressed as MRS. GIFT MBA NEI. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

In a bid to facilitate quality service delivery among researchers on the malaria scourge in Rivers State, the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP) in collaboration with the College of Health Sciences held the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of its monthly Seminar Series at the College Boardroom, University Park, on Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

Declaring the event open, Provost of the College, Professor Christie Matu, commended staff of the College for turning out en masse to be part of the

**Health Services Dept Ends 2015 In Style**

*By Ethel Timi-Johson*

**I**n its bid to end 2015 in grand style and strike a positive tone for 2016, the Health Services Department put together a Thanksgiving and Christmas Party on Friday, December 18, 2015 for its staff and benefactors. The event afforded the Department an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of staff of the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre as well as the donors of the Facility, the O.B Lulu-Briggs Foundation.

Speaking during a sideline interview with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent, Acting Director of the Health Centre, Dr. Chiswe Ezirim, disclosed that the Thanksgiving was an annual event designed to serve as a veritable platform to appraise the activities of the Centre each year, commending the Tertiary Institution Social Health Insurance Scheme (TISHIP) for upgrading the facilities and services of the Centre for better service delivery.

"This event was memorable as we acknowledged the role of TISHIP in the comprehensive renovation of the Health Centre and the generous mobilization of the former Director of the Centre, Professor Ken Anangwele before his redployment to head the Sports Institute, as well as his release from kidnappers just as we were preparing to celebrate the festive season last December." Dr. Ezirim also commended TISHIP for facilitating human capacity development opportunities and training programmes for staff of the Centre.

TISHIP provided trainings on Basic Life Support (BLS) for Doctors and Nurses and the Bystander Emergency Response Training (BERT) for Ambulance Drivers, Ward Medics and Community Health Extension Workers (CHEW). It also facilitated purchase of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator and its accessories," she told our Correspondent, advising staff to put in their best to justify the upgrade of the Centre in terms of facilities and service delivery in 2016.



Dr. Ezirim, Ag. Director

**CMRAP Ends Monthly Seminar On Malaria**

*By Mercy Adeniji*

important seminar aimed at developing capacity to effectively tackle the malaria scourge. "This meeting was called at very short notice and I am pleased that people found time to attend. When the Centre Director, Professor Chikije Nwaeche, told me there was someone I needed to meet with the possibility of developing partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, I jumped at the offer, because it is what I had always wanted, especially as our Guest Speaker specialises on malaria which is a major problem in our part of the world," she said.

Making a presentation on the topic: *Towards Strengthening Research Capacity in Nigerian: Challenges and Opportunities*, a Research Fellow from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr. Mary Nnaji-Abayomi, recalled that her passion for capacity building started at her place of employment, explaining her willingness to forge viable partnerships to battle the malaria burden in Nigeria. "My mission is to build a strong team of research scientists with capacity to change the game in Nigeria, with a view to linking them up with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical

Medicine and other African countries to battle malaria," she told the gathering.

The Visiting Research Fellow identified poor access to research funds, the urge to cut corners, appearing too religious, internet phobia, slow response to emails, frequent breakdown of equipment, difficulty in finding experts to fix equipment, victimization of students and subordinate staff, sexual harassment, poor reward system, plagiarism, unnecessary bureaucracy, wrong deployment of postgraduate students, poor mentorship, infrequent seminars and laboratory meetings, and unwillingness to share research data, as some of the challenges facing Nigerian researchers in the battle against malaria.

In a related development, the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine held its second meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2015. Director of the Centre, Professor Nwaeche, said that "the Centre seeks to join forces with experts to eliminate malaria in Rivers State within the shortest possible timeframe. He revealed that a malaria research team has developed a promising proposal aimed at finding solution to the disease in the country.

Professor Nwaeche further disclosed that "CMRAP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine aimed at disseminating knowledge about malaria in the country," disclosing that the Centre has also concluded plans to send a team of experts to the Lagos-based ANDI Centre of Excellence in Malaria Diagnosis, and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Provost, CRS, Prof Matu (arrowed), Guest Speaker, Dr. Nnaji-Abayomi and other participants

**C**onsequent upon her appointment by the Governing Council, former Director of Academic Affairs, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, has assumed office as the 7<sup>th</sup> Registrar of the University of Port Harcourt. Her letter of appointment dated December 9, 2015 and signed by Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Engineer Gosi Asamaewei, congratulated Mrs. Otto for scaling through the stringent interview conditions outlined for the exalted position, wishing her well as she settles down to discharge her onerous responsibilities.

Mrs. Otto's appointment took effect from January 1, 2016, following the completion of a rigorous interview process conducted on Monday, December 7, 2015 by the Selection Board set up for that purpose by the Council of the University.

Similarly, Dr. Susan Umeozor has assumed office as the 5<sup>th</sup> University Librarian. The new University Librarian who also assumed office on January 1, 2016, was Head of Readers' Service at the Donald Ekon Library, University Park before her current elevation.

The duo were said to have put up unassailable performances during separate selection interviews which earned them the enviable positions. With the new appointments, the two new appointees are now Principal Officers and Members of the Management Committee of the University.

As the new Registrar, Mrs. Otto becomes Secretary to the Governing Council of the University and will also serve in the same capacity in Senate.

In separate letters to the two appointees, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Engineer Asamaewei congratulated the two senior officers on their appointments, urging them to make valuable contributions that would help take the University to higher grounds.

"I am pleased to inform you that at its 154<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Extra-Ordinary) held on December 9, 2015, Council approved the recommendation of the Selection Board and appointed you the Registrar of



Dr. Umeozor, 5<sup>th</sup> University Librarian

# Otto, Umeozor Assume Offices As Registrar, University Librarian

By Otikor Samuel

the University of Port Harcourt. This appointment which takes effect from Friday, January 1, 2016, is for a period of five (5) years." Mrs. Otto's appointment letter read in part, while Dr. Umeozor's letter of appointment as University Librarian also specified the same term in office.

Immediate past Acting Registrar, Mrs. Bridget Nsimiro, handed over headship of the Registry Department to Mrs. Otto in a brief ceremony witnessed by the Deputy Registrar in charge of Information, Publications and Public Relations, Williams Wodi.

Speaking before the handover ceremony, Mrs. Nsimiro, who explained her role in ensuring a smooth transition in the Registry, described the position as keenly-contested by the candidates and congratulated Mrs. Otto for emerging successful from the process.

"Though overseeing the affairs of the Registry Department is a challenging task, I am optimistic that your track record of superlative performers in other Units earned you the requisite knowledge that you will rely on to efficiently run the Registry. You have demonstrated capability to discharge this big responsibility and we are sure of your ability to deliver in your new assignment," Mrs. Nsimiro told the new Registrar, expressing readiness to support her to succeed.

Responding, Otto, who showered encomiums on Mrs. Nsimiro for her competence and dignified discharge of her brief mandate in office, disclosed her intention to embark on familiarisation tour of different Units and Departments of the Registry to meet staff and explain her leadership style in due course.

In his remarks, Wodi, also congratulated the new Registrar on her successful assumption of office, promising to support her all the way as she settles down in office. Wodi, who is the second longest serving Deputy Registrar in the University, further advised Mrs. Otto to be creative and innovative in running the Registry Department. He similarly commended Mrs. Nsimiro for diligently serving the University as Acting Registrar even at very short notice, assuring her that the University would not forget her solid contributions to the success of the Registry.

"Mrs. Nsimiro carried out her brief assignment with dignity and panache and we are all proud of her diligence and commitment to duty. The same level of support that enabled the Acting Registrar and previous Registrars to succeed is what we promise to extend to Mrs. Otto," Wodi assured the new Registrar.

Mrs. Otto joined the services of the University as a Clerical Officer in the Registry Department in January, 1982, before she transferred her services to the then Rivers State Polytechnic, Arobi between March 1989 and June 1994. She again returned to the University as a Senior Assistant Registrar in July 1994, where



Mrs. Otto, 7<sup>th</sup> Registrar

she rose through the ranks to become a Deputy Registrar in 2005.

A holder of the Master of Science degree in Sociology from the University of Lagos, Mrs. Otto, who had her first degree from the Department of Sociology, University of Port Harcourt, had served as Liaison Officer in the Lagos Office of the University. She was Admissions Officer, Faculty Officer in the Faculty of Science and Academic Officer before her recent elevation.

Following the introduction of the Directorate system in the Registry Department by the 6<sup>th</sup> Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nasidin, which Council approved in 2011 for the Establishments, Council, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Departments, Mrs. Otto was appointed pioneer Director in charge of Academic Affairs.

Similarly, the new University Librarian, Dr. Umeozor, who obtained her doctorate degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Uyo, received her Master's degree in the same discipline from North Carolina Central University, USA in 1987. She had earlier earned the Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the same University in 1986. The new University Librarian succeeded Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, whose successful tenure ended on December 6, 2016.

Dr. Umeozor joined the services of the University as Librarian II in 1992, rendering selfless services for the past 23 years. Until her emergence as the 5<sup>th</sup> University Librarian, Dr. Umeozor headed the Readers' Services Section of the Library since 2010. Her predecessors included the late pioneer University Librarian, Mr. George Affia; Dr. Nathaniel Obokoh, Mr. Joseph Alua and Dr. Nwodo. It would be recalled that Professor Obisara Ayoola, also served as Acting University Librarian before the appointment of Mr. Alua.