UniPort Gets New Chancellor

...As Senate Approves President Jonathan, Others For Honours

By Obinna Nwodim

The 407th Emergency Meeting of the University of Port Harcourt commenced last Wednesday with the announcement of His Royal Highness, retired Major General Muhammadu Bashar OFR, mni (Emir of Gwandu) in Kebbi State, as the new Chancellor. By his appointment, Alhaji Bashar becomes the 3rd Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt since its inception in 1975. Making the announcement, the Vice-Chancellor, Joseph Professor Ajienka, said that the appointment was made through a letter from the Federal Ministry of Education, adding that the authorities have already established contact with the new Chancellor and had concluded plans to pay him homage. The new Chancellor takes over from His Majesty, Dr. De Wheno Aholu Menu Toyi I (Akrann of Badagry). Senate also applauded and approved the nomination of President Goodluck Jonathan as a Distinguished Fellow of the University, while four prominent individuals were nominated to be conferred with Honorary Doctorate degrees in recognition of their services to the University and humanity. They are: Former President of MacArthur Foundation of Chicago, and President of the American Academy of Arts, Dr. Jonathan Fanton; Vice-President of the Nigerian Olympic Committee and President, Athletics Federation of Nigeria, Chief Solomon Ogba; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Genesis Group, Ichie Nnaeto Orazulike, as well as the Group Managing Director of Access Bank, Mr. Herbert Wigwe. Professor Ajienka disclosed that the new Chancellor will also be statutorily conferred with Honorary Doctorate Degree of the...
A part of efforts aimed at restructing the College of Health Sciences to expand its scope of activities and make it a preferred destination for Health Sciences education in the country, the newly-approved Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences would commence admission in the next academic session.

Making the disclosure in an interview with a Correspondent of UniPort Weekly, last Thursday, new Provost of the College, Professor Christie Mato, expressed hope that full academic activities would commence in the Departments of Physiotherapy and Radiography in the emergent Faculty as a starting point, pending when other programmes would come on stream.

Outlining her vision as Provost, Professor Mato disclosed that the next four years would witness the transformation of the College to a first choice destination for students seeking admission in the Health Sciences, talented scholars seeking job satisfaction in the Health Sciences, including national and international organizations seeking functional collaborations in the medical and allied studies. “The idea is to encourage staff and students to engage in more groundbreaking researches that would position the College and the University at the top of the pack,” she remarked.

Professor Mato, who stressed that the lofty dreams of the College could only be achieved through team work and viable partnerships, stressed the need to bridge the gap between the College and the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) in terms of their joint training of students from the College. “The Teaching Hospital is the ‘laboratory’ of the College, so we must work hand-in-hand in a mutually-beneficial relationship that would enable us to achieve the lofty ideals envisaged by the founding fathers of the College,” she added.

Disclosing a new collaboration with the Universities of Manchester and Central Lancaster on the establishment of an international Biomedical and Clinical Research Centre in UniPort, Professor Mato pointed out that her tenure would also ensure that other existing partnerships in the College are strengthened to deliver the original objectives of such collaborative projects. “We hope to partner counterpart organizations to provide services as part of the entrepreneurial drive of the University under the Professor Joseph Ajienka-led administration,” she stated, calling for cooperation from staff and students to enable her administration achieve the goals of her administration.

On staff training and development, Professor Mato noted that about 20 staff of the College were currently undertaking Computer training at the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) aimed at enhancing their skills to deliver quality services to the growing clients of the College. “The College is going digital and an aggressive programme of computer literacy would be encouraged among administrative and teaching staff to meet our target of bridging the digital divide,” she stated.

Reiterating the need for regular orientation for students and staff, Professor Mato added that a workshop held for the College to facilitate timely delivery of stated goals based on attainable targets. “There is need to hold regular orientation programmes for newly-appointed Heads of Department and fresh employees of the College. Such sessions would also be mandatory for all medical students to discuss issues bothering on curriculum, flow chart and scholarship, including other issues that affect them” she stressed, promising that the College would continue to set the pace in the University at all times.

As more and more people continue to embrace agricultural and allied business in Nigeria, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology in the Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Dr. Chimezie Ougbue, has warned against building poultry farms in residential areas.

By Humphrey Ogu

Dr. Ougbue, who doubles as Co-ordinator of the Microbiology (Technology) option in the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) and Associate Dean of the School, dropped the hint while exchanging views with UniPort Weekly last Monday, pointing out that poultry must be located at properly designated places away from residential areas to save Nigerians from bird flu and other related airborne diseases.

“Siting poultry farms around residential areas can promote the dissemination of multidrug resistant pathogens from poultry facces to residential homes through vectors such as houseflies,” the Environmental Microbiologist observed, calling for caution in the establishment of poultry farms close to human habitation to guard against the diseases that could result from such farms.

“Also, the abuse of antibiotics in poultry farms to promote the growth of birds has resulted in the emergence of multi-antibiotic resistant pathogens that cause infections, which are difficult to treat with available antibiotics in the market,” he said, stressing the need for business people to avoid endangering human health in their neighbourhood as they strive to make profits.

Dr. Ougbue, who disclosed that he was involved in a research on textile waste water, said some dyes used in the production of textile not only contain toxic chemicals, but are also carcinogenic and therefore harmful to humans. He stressed the need for proper disposal of harmful industrial chemicals, calling for vigorous enforcement of relevant legislation to ensure that Nigerians are protected from indiscriminate dumping of industrial wastes.

Expert Warns Against Poultry Farms In Residential Areas
V-G, Prof Ajienka (arrowed), flanked by Deans and Provost of PG Schools in Nigerian Universities

Registry Dept Celebrates UniPort At 40

By Oitokor Samuel and Mercy Adeniji

In continuation of the ongoing University-wide
celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the University of Port Harcourt in 1975, the Registry Department mounted a week-long series of activities that commenced with a rally and a well-patronized Public Lecture, between Monday, May 4, 2015 and Sunday, May 10, 2015.

Declaring open the event which kicked-started with a rally that terminated at the Senate building, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who led other Principal Officers to receive the ecstatic revellers, commended Registry staff for their unflinching commitment towards the growth of the University in the last 40 years. He said that the whole essence of the celebration was to make a retrospective assessment of the functions of the Department with a view to planning better service delivery in the years ahead.

The Vice-Chancellor announced that former Deputy Registrar in the College of Continuing Education (CCE), Mr. Ejike Ichendu, who is a dedicated Registry staff, had been appointed Registrar of the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun in Delta State, stating that Ichendu’s appointment was an attestation of the abundant skills and commitment to duty by staff of the Department.

He urged all Registry staff to continue to render quality services towards the accelerated growth of the University in the years ahead, reminding them that efficiency and total commitment to duty would always be rewarded in the long run.

Three lectures with topics on Stress Management, Preparing for Retirement and the Registry Department in the last forty years, were major highlights of the week-long celebration that attracted people from all walks of life.

Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Ken Anugweje, who spoke through Dr. Ken Umeadi, presented a Lecture on Health/Stress Management in a Work-related Environment.

He listed four ways of reducing stress which are to avoid the stressors, alter the stressors, adapt to the stressors or accept the stressors, pointing out that stress could be managed by changing the situation that generates it or reacting it in a proper way.

Delivering the Lecture entitled: Chronicles of the events in the Registry Department since the past four Decades, Director of the Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Bridget Nnirimo, who pointed out that all over the world, modern universities are multipurpose organisations that undertake teaching, research and public services, said: “in meeting these goals of establishing universities, the teaching and non-teaching staff play various important assigned roles. Registry staff provide services that enable the University perform its duties of teaching, research and public service.”

The Director, who was the oldest serving Deputy Registrar in the University before the introduction of the Directorate System by the current administration, described Registry staff as trained administrators, whose duty schedules complement their counterparts in the teaching and research cadres, highlighting the different roles of the Department to include: interpretation of the rules, provision of guidance to teaching staff on policy matters, processing of students’ admission and their registration.

In his presentation entitled: Preparing for Retirement, Director of Council Affairs, Mr. Roland Wabali, enlightened staff on ways to invest resources on profitable ventures in anticipation of retirement from active service, regretting that most staff fritter away everything while in service only to gnash their teeth a few months after retirement.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, who was represented by the Faculty Officer, Faculty of Agriculture, Mrs. Philemona Etuefodor, commended staff of the Registry Department for their diligence in the discharge of their responsibilities and invaluable contributions towards the growth of the University in the past 40 years, charging them to always strive towards delivering quality services at all times. She also urged them to lead by example so that those coming behind them would have worthy role models to emulate in the line of duty.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Dr. Celestina Johnson, stated that “the celebration is the Secretariat’s own way of doing our best to contribute to the growth of the University. We must show good character in the Registry in all areas of university administration; in the way we treat our colleagues, fail to please and in our general conduct. The Registry is a major force to be reckoned with in the development of the University and it is our collective duty as staff to be in the forefront of assisting the administration to achieve its stated objectives.”
Maiden Presidential Schools’ Debate Opens In UniPort Wednesday

By Humphrey Ogu

Students of University Demonstration Secondary Schools in the Southern part of the country will this Wednesday converge in the University of Port Harcourt for the maiden Presidential Schools’ Debate organised by the Federal Ministry of Education. The landmark event is expected to be declared open by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Akpajje, who will be assisted by top officials of the Federal Ministry of Education, organisers of the parley. Briefing UniPort Weekly on the modalities for the debate in his office last Tuesday, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Professor Acho Akakuru, told our Correspondent that the President's University Secondary Schools’ Debate 2015 will be the first and the last, participants from University Demonstration Secondary Schools in the zone, describing the event as very unique and novel in its conception. He also thanked the National Universities Commission, the Ministry of Education, the National Assembly, and Akpajje, noting that “the idea of the contest is to create general awareness of what a typical debate truly is among the participants, and also to develop requisite debating skills and tolerance for contending viewpoints,” pointing out that “this would help the students to engage in creative and critical thinking, rather than involving themselves in cul activities and other vices that would not advance their career lines.”

He expressed joy that the Federal Government was interested in the development of young people through a well-articulated debating programme that is expected to unleash their latent potentials on the lecturers.

“UniPort is hosting this event following approaches by the Federal Ministry of Education which believes in our capacity to pull it off. We are determined to put up a memorable show. Remember that this has never been done before and participants and the Ministry will be looking up to us to do a good job and we are not going to disappoint them. We are appealing for financial and other forms of support from public-spirited individuals and groups to augment what the University administration is putting into the process,” Akpajje said.

Ekeh Tasks Bursary Staff On Fraud Control At 40th Anniversary Lecture

By Otkor Samuel

The Bursary Department ended its celebration of the University’s 40th Anniversary, with a lecture on fraud control by a former Bursar, Sir Michael Ekeh. Acknowledging the strategic functions of the Bursary Department which revolve around proper financial transactions and record keeping as very demanding tasks, Ekeh who was the 4th Bursar of the University, challenged the current Management of the Department to deploy stringent measures that are aimed at curtailing sharp practices being perpetrated by syndicates as the University matches into the next phase of its life cycle.

Sir Ekeh, who gave the charge while delivering the Anniversary Lecture of the Bursary Department entitled: Bursary Department: The Live-wire of University Administration at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Wednesday, stated that though there had been a general misconception that the Department was responsible for every financial fraud committed in the University, some unscrupulous students were discovered to have produced stamped bank tellers as evidence of payments, even when such monies were not paid into the University’s accounts through designated banks. Other fraudulent discoveries listed by the erstwhile Bursar were issuance of fake letters of employment to unsuspecting persons and monies paid to ghost names, including printing of fake official receipts of the University to students by syndicates, adding that “the syndicates are smashed, but the perpetrators resurfaced, using other strategies to continue in their illegal business. Therefore, as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the University, we should devise other means to track down these syndicates who want to drag our name into disrepute.”

The former Bursar, who enumerated the functions of the Bursary Department to include receiving of all monies accruing to the University and disbursing same to appropriate persons and bodies in accordance with extant rules and procedures, said the Bursary Department by its functions remains the livewire of the University as it helps to achieve the core mandate of the University.

“The functions of the Bursary Department permeate every aspect of life in the University; be it students, staff and the general public. A vigilant and proactive Bursary Department will ensure survival, continuity, progress and development of the University,” Ekeh who retired from the University in 2010 said, calling for harmonious working relationship between various arms of the University and the Bursary Department to attain optimum performance.

In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Akpajje, who commended the Department for its strategic roles in the administration of the University, conceded that it was not an easy task to effectively manage financial resources of a large organization such as the University of Port Harcourt.

“Not easy to manage money, especially when the money is not even there in the first place. If you want to understand the nature of man, ask for money at the wrong time and watch his reaction. So, this is a Department that is managing our resources very well and I want to specially thank the Deputy Bursar in charge of the Treasury section, Dr. Felicia Ayowo, for always conducting herself in a professional manner when faced with several urgent demands, even in the face of very scarce resources to meet competing demands,” the Vice-Chancellor noted.

Professor Ajieku further urged staff of the Department to avail themselves of the 40th Anniversary celebration to assess the developments that had taken place in the Department with a view to planning better service delivery to the University and its clients.

Earlier, in an address tagged: It Can Still Get Better, the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, who announced the sudden demise of a staff of the Department, Mr. Kingsley Akanwunvo, who passed on just a week before the celebration, praised staff of his Department for the fraternal working relationship existing among them, urging staff to continue to give their best to the accelerated growth of the University.

“...to the larger University Community, I wish to emphasize that the Bursary is a service-oriented Department that is central to success of University activities. In providing this critical service, however, we can only give what we have. At a time when the national economy is doddering, resulting in poor funding of the universities in the country, our University inclusive; it will be difficult to satisfy every one of our needs. This is, therefore, a clarion call on Vote Controllers to tighten our belts as we march into the future, hoping that it can still get better,” he added.

Giving a brief profile of the Department, Special Assistant to the Bursar (SABB), Mr. Samuel Oghugwu, disclosed that the Department had a total number of 9,260 Accounts, Student Accounts, Payroll, Stores and Advances Units.


Guest messages were presented by Chairman of the occasion and Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Emeka Okereke, and Acting Managing Director of U&C Microfinance Bank, Mr. Paul Nnaji, who recalled the numerous contributions of the Bursary Department to the bank right from its inception as a Community Bank.
Celebrating Excellence In College Of Graduate Studies

By Obinna Nwodim

Graduate programmes constitute the flagship of any University that desires to make measurable impact in the Ivory Tower. It is unarguably at the graduate level that the University becomes more creative and innovative with ideas that can change the world and add value to quality of life of humankind. The Graduate programme is the anchor for the robust research that is necessary for the development of any society. Solutions to societal problems are proffered through high quality research in the graduate programme. In this regard, discerning universities strive to maintain high quality of knowledge dissemination in their research through their graduate programmes.

The University of Port Harcourt is not an exception to this reality of life. Commencing in the 1979/1980 Academic Session, the Graduate Studies programme began in the Schools of Humanities and Biological Sciences at the Temporary Site of the University, popularly referred to as Delta Park.

With the venerable Emeritus Professor Ebegbebi Alaga as pioneer Dean, the then School of Graduate Studies had a vision to be ranked among the best Graduate level institutions. This was premised on the philosophy of quality staff, programmes and facilities and renowned for its teaching, research, innovation and knowledge transfer and a mission to pursue academic excellence, advancement of knowledge and community service through capacity building, promotion of scholarship and relevant research that addresses the challenges of contemporary society.

The objective of the School is to implement Senate policy and guidelines for the initiation, consolidation and coordination of innovative research, quality administrative support for graduate programmes, world-class research laboratories in the academic departments and availability of data.

Forty years down the line, there is no doubt that the College of Graduate Studies has surmounted all odds to attain the objectives of the founding fathers. With over 400 full-time staff, the College has metamorphosed into a College in August, 2012 with the incumbent Dean transforming into the pioneer Provost. The College currently has four Schools with a Dean heading each of them. They are: Graduate School of Natural, Applied and Medical Sciences headed by Professor Gregory Aswiri, Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences headed by Professor Martin Ifeanacho, Graduate School of Engineering and Technology headed by Professor Adewale Dosunmu, as well as the Graduate School of Management, Business and Trade headed by Professor Chinedu Ezirim.

Distinguished scholars and astute administrators have made their marks in building a virile and formidable College that everybody is proud of today. Before the current College status came into existence, successive Deans have shaped and reshaped the defunct School of Graduate Studies along the lines of global best practice and local relevance. There were the likes of Professors Francis Onofehoara, Theophilus Princewill (now King of the Kalabari Kingdom in Rivers State), late Kay Williamson, Ademola Salau, Emmanuel Anosike, late William Ogionwo, late Edwin Elechi, Winston Bell-Gam, Bene Willie Abbey and Roseline Konya, all had at one time or the other steered the leadership of the School. Konya has the distinction of metamorphosing into a Provost.

These distinguished scholars and consummate administrators lent their varied experiences in sustaining the strong foundation laid by the great pioneers of the College. Under the tenure of Professor Konya, the College has transformed into a new phase with greater emphasis on efficiency in service delivery and quality of research output. Some of the innovations introduced by the current Management of the College include a University-wide presentation of Doctoral Seminars, Scholarship scheme, drastic reduction in the residency period for graduation of students, Orientation exercise for new intake, regular College Lecture series and commencement of a new College building which has attained nearly 60 per cent completion rate.

The College recently marked its Week as part of the ongoing 40th Anniversary celebrations of the University, hence the need to highlight why it should roll out the drums to celebrate four decades of excellence in quality research, teaching and public service. Over the years, the College has produced eminent Alumni/Alumnae, who are flying the flag of the University very high indeed. Time and space may not avail us the opportunity of reeling out the longs list. However, it is pertinent to single out just a few. For instance, the current President and Commander-in- Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, had all his higher degrees from the College. Current Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, also passed through the College. Outstanding scholars in various disciplines, including the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajaokuta, Professor Adegale Dosunmu of the College of Engineering, Professor Martin Ifeanacho of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Ozo-mekur Ndimele of the Faculty of Humanities, amongst others, are some proud products of the College.

As proof of the quality of research in the College, it is on record that Dr. Peter Kpolovie of the Faculty of Education won the National Universities Commission Doctoral Thesis Awards (NUDTA) in 2002. Between 2010/2011, four Alumni of the College emerged tops at the NUC Doctoral Dissertation Awards. Prior to this time, another Alumnus, Herbert Akwesewn won the Best Young Major Award in 1988. These are amongst the numerous distinguished Alumni, who are excelling in various fields of endeavour.

Over the years, quality public lectures, which have attracted world class scholars from within and outside the country, have been organized by the College. The Public Lectures series have been used to cross-fertilize knowledge not only in the various disciplines, but amongst scholars.

The scholarship scheme which has benefited about 37 students since it was endowed is sponsored by the Alumni/Alumnae to benefit indigent graduate students. In addition, the College has a state-of-the-art furnishing for postgraduate Common Rooms. This is in a bid to provide an atmosphere that would create the needed environment for quality research expected of a graduate programme. The College has evolved the policy of ensuring that students graduate as at when due. This policy has recorded an increase in the number of students making seminar presentations at various levels preparatory to external defence. In recent times, there has been an increase in the number of graduate school results approved by Senate of the University. It is obvious that at 40, the present accommodation is no longer befitting for the College to sustain the culture of academic excellence that it has established over the years. It is regrettable that efforts geared towards accelerated completion of the College of Graduate Studies complex donated by the Bayelsa State Government have been stalled by lack of funds from the sponsor.

It is hoped that the 40th Anniversary celebration would reawaken the Bayelsa State Government to its responsibility, as well as other distinguished Alumni to take up the challenge posed by the completion of that monumental edifice in no distant time. This when achieved, stakeholders would finally agree that the essence of celebrating the University at 40 would have been finally achieved—especially in the College of Graduate Studies.
Four To Get Honorary Degrees

Cont’d from p1

Doctorate Degree of the University during the 30th Convocation Ceremony scheduled for Friday 12th and Saturday 13th June, 2015. The Vice-Chancellor emphasized the fact that an Honorary Degree does not only imply the conferment of doctorates degrees, revealing that the University could award Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees on deserving Nigerians and foreigners as was obtainable in universities around the world.

Earlier, Professor Ajenka had announced the appointment of Professor Eberu Ofonu of the Faculty of Agriculture as new Chairman of the Senate Business Committee (SBC). He takes over from Professor Anthony Ike, who had since assumed duty as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration); as well as Dr. Chidebere Onu of the Department of Computer Science as new Acting Director of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC). He stressed the need to evolve a Strategic Plan for the Centre to make it more purposeful, adding that ICTC should concern itself with gathering and processing data for use in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed happiness in the manner Colleges, Departments, Faculties and Institutes were celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the University, stating that the benefits were enormous as important literature was being documented for posterity. He advised every Department to appoint an Alumni Relations Officer to get information about Alumni/Alumnae to interface with them in concert with the University of Port Harcourt Foundation.

Professor Ajenka expressed delight over the new initiative by

Chevron Donates Power Generating Plant To UniPort

By Otokar Samuel

In line with its corporate social responsibility, multinational oil giant, Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL), donated a 1,000 KVA electricity generating plant to complement efforts aimed at stabilizing power supply to the Choba Park of the University on Thursday, May 7, 2015.

Speaking during a courtesy visit on the Vice-

Chancellor at the Committee Room, the Security Manager in charge of Eastern Operation of CNL, Mr. Otabong Umoh, who described the gesture as a tradition of care that compels the company to contribute to its host communities and the society at large, pledged to sustain the excellent institutional partnership with the University.

Receiving the facility, a visibly enthused Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who conveyed the gratitude of the Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students of the University to the oil giant for the donation, commended Chevron for the policy of care which has benefited the University.

“Even though ours is not an institution that produces oil and gas, we are an important intellectual community that produces graduates for the hydrocarbon industry and we take our role very seriously. We are contributing quality manpower to sustain the hydrocarbon sector and require encouragement and support from other stakeholders in our affairs. We have a strong Petroleum Engineering Department and Petroleum Geosciences programme that is contributing to the society; so we thank Chevron for the donation and hope that this kind gesture would mark the beginning of a new institutional relationship,” the Vice-Chancellor said, appealing for more partnerships that would be mutually-beneficial to both parties.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ike; Director, Works and Services Department, Mr. Jibrin Ineke and other Senior Officers of the University were on hand to receive officials of Chevron Nigeria Limited on the visit. The CNL officials were: Grant Iheoma, Taribo Yellow, Patricia Nsiam, Agwu Uloaku and Ebo Okine.
GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT
Professor Onyee Nwankpa, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, re-appointed Chair Occupant, Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson Chair of Music. The two-year appointment which took effect from December 11, 2014 terminates on December 12, 2016.
Dr. Kayode Oduola, College of Engineering, appointed Assistant Director, Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals in the Institute of Petroleum Studies. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect will terminate on April 21, 2017.
Dr. Ekinade Amokong, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed Acting Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship Studies. The two-year appointment took effect from May 11, 2015 to May 12, 2017.
Professor Ebere Erondu, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed Chairman, Senate Business Committee. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect lasts until further notice.

HIGHER DEGREE
Ekanem ekem of the Academic Affairs Unit in the Registry Department has successfully completed his Doctorate Degree programme in the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education and has earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology of the University of Port Harcourt.

REVIEW OF STATUS
Mr. Sylvio Waribogo, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted Review of Status from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective January 29, 2014.

REVERSAL OF TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT
Dr. Emmanuel Ohuab, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted Reversal of Temporary Appointment, Letter of Temporary Appointment, dated December 22, 2013 is hereby withdrawn.
Barrister (Mrs) Esther Joe, Faculty of Law, granted Reversal of Temporary Appointment to Contract Appointment, Letter of Temporary Appointment, dated December 22, 2013 is hereby withdrawn.

Dr. Harold Oriaku, Department of Radiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted Reversal of Temporary Appointment to Contract Appointment, Letter of Temporary Appointment, dated January 24, 2014 is hereby withdrawn.

Mr. Vincent Wole, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Reversal of Temporary Appointment to Contract Appointment, Letter of Temporary Appointment, dated January 30, 2014 is hereby withdrawn.

Dr. Kaine Okoressy-Orahie, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, granted Reversal of Temporary Appointment to Contract Appointment, Letter of Temporary Appointment, dated December 23, 2013 is withdrawn.

SABBATICAL LEAVE
Dr. Christie Oneme, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, proceeded on a one-year Sabbatical Leave to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, effective November 10, 2014 to November 9, 2015.

Wisdom, Sociology Alumnus Donates To Dept
By Mercy Adeniji
An alumnus of the University of Port Harcourt, Mr. Fafi Wisdom, has enriched his Alma Mater with a donation of Computer sets and accessories, including two Scanners and a LaserJet PRO 100 Photocopyer, to the Department of Sociology as part of his own contribution to the ongoing 40th Anniversary celebrations. Handing over the items, Mr. Wisdom described the gesture as his own way of giving back something to the Department that gave him identity, confidence and the qualification that has defined who he has become today, hoping that the donation would spur other Alumni/Alumnas of the University to follow his example and give back to the University. Receiving the items from the donor, Head of the Department of Sociology, Professor Chukwunye Okereke, thanked him for the kind gesture, stating that the donation was in response to his drive to consolidate on the rising profile of the Department in the Faculty of Social Sciences.
“I took over the headship of the Department in December, 2014 and it has been my vision to move the Department to a higher pedestal. I decided to leverage on the ongoing 40th Anniversary of the University to reconnect with distinguished Alumni of the Department, who are doing very well in diverse walks of life. I am very pleased that some of these outstanding Alumni agreed to key into my vision of equipping the Department to enable it discharge its onerous mandate to various stakeholders,” the HoD said, adding that the prompt response by Mr. Wisdom was indicative of the willingness of public-spirited individuals and groups to support the Department in its quest for academic excellence.
He called on other Alumni to emulate the example of Mr. Wisdom by returning to give back something to the Institution that gave them identity and a ladder to climb to the top of their careers.

Reminiscing on his days as a student of the University, Mr. Wisdom, who is currently the Transport Officer in the Bayelsa State Government House, Yenagoa, disclosed that: “If you find yourself in an environment that helps you to become successful, then there is need for you to give back to that environment as a mark of gratitude.
“I have been thoroughly nurtured by the University of Port Harcourt environment and it is only proper that I should give something back to my beloved Alma Mater without second thought. I am grateful to the Faculty and Department for giving me the platform to grow and proudly proclaim that I am a product of this University,” he said.
He further charged younger Undergraduate students to develop excellent Student-Lecturer relationship that would last them a lifetime, saying: “If I did not have such relationship with my Lecturers, I would not have been invited back to the Department to be part of what is going on here. I want to urge Graduates and Undergraduates of this University to always identify with their Alma Mater as a means of taking it to loftier heights.”

HoD, Sociology, Prof Okereke (left) in a handshake with the donor, Mr. Wisdom, while some staff of the Dept and others watch

UDPS Announces Sale of Form
By Ethel Timi-Johnson
The University of Port Harcourt Demonstration Primary School (UDPS) has announced the sale of admission form for the 2015/2016 academic session.
According to a statement signed by the Administrator of the School, Dr. Iborbone Kosemani and made available to UniPort Weekly, the mode of payment is online in the following banks: UniPort/Choba Microfinance Bank (U&C MFB), Choba Park; United Bank for Africa; First Bank Plc; Fidelity Bank and FCMB Bank.
The sum of one thousand naira only (N1,00) should be paid into UDPS Contingency Account: 001528010315 at U&C Bank, Choba, Port Harcourt, the memo stated.
“Interview dates into the following classes as follows; Kindergarten Class, Monday, August 3 and Primary Classes, Tuesday August 4, 2015. Qualified candidates must be between the ages of 3 years and 6 months for KG I and 4 years and 6 months for KG II," the statement read in part, adding that interview time is 9.00 am each day at the School premises located in Delta Park.

SERVICOM CORNER
T here is need to remind ourselves the following:
1. We should create a FRIENDLY environment for our stakeholders.
2. Our MAJOR stakeholders are our students.
3. Our current students (undergraduates, PGs, etc) are our potential alumni/alumnas.
In the process of cultivating our alumnus/alumnas starts with creating a friendly and healthy learning environment for our students. Servicom is here to make things right.

contact us via: servicom@uniport.edu.ng: 0803340063, 07038650174, 08063358445, 08034211712 and 08155303412