UniPort Signs Pact On Medical Outreach With Degema Community

By Obinna Nwodim

 Barely five weeks after authorities of the University inspected a facility donated by the Obuama Community in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State, for rural posting of students in the Department of Nursing Science, the University has formally taken over the facility, with a pledge to put it to proper use for the benefit of the community.

The impressive handover of the facility took place following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University and the Council of Tradition Rulers of the Community at the Palace of the Paramount Ruler, Alabo Omubo Tom Big-Harry, last Thursday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who expressed gratitude to the Community over the gesture, described the development as “proof of the community's high level regard for projects geared towards rural development and total wellbeing of the people. It takes an enlightened leadership that understands the pressing needs of the people to accept this partnership with the University.”

He showered praises on the Obuama Council of Traditional Rulers for showing understanding of the intrinsic value of the collaboration with the University. Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, assured
NSMB President Meets UniPort Members, Students

It was like using one stone to kill two birds as Professor Obioma Njoku, who was joined by Professor Lawrence Ezeanya, availed themselves of the opportunity of examining Final Year students of the University on their Viva Voce to interact with staff and students on the template of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Correspondent, OTHIKOR SAMUEL, covered the event for UniPort Weekly.

Two renowned academics from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, were in the University of Port Harcourt as External Examiners in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences. After assessing the students, they held an interactive session on April 9, 2015, with students and staff of the Department at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium and Emerald Energy Institute, respectively, to appraise their performances and brief them on the activities of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

President of the Society, Professor Njoku, praised the students for undertaking quality research at the undergraduate level, soliciting full participation by Biochemists and students on the activities of the Society.

“I want to commend the quality of research by students of this University; from our interaction with some of the students, I have no doubt that research works carried out here are comparable to what is obtainable in other universities in and outside Nigeria,” the President said.

“I wish to use this opportunity to appreciate scholars like Emeritus Professor Emmanuel Anosike and Professor Obinna Aloya for galvanizing our members from UniPort to swing the votes in my favour as President of the Society and to also acquaint some of you with programmes of the Society. My administration has in the past four years committed itself to strengthening our membership, giving the Society international visibility through conferences, seminars and partnering research institutes and the industry to expand our Society. We are, however, still facing some challenges that militate against the attainment of full status as a scientific organization,” the President said, urging old and intending members to fulfill the basic requirements specified for full membership of the body.

Njoku, while stating the end of his tenure, disclosed that the Society would host an international conference in Minna, Niger State, in June this year. Also speaking, Professor Ezeanya, who was former Head of Biochemistry at UNN, said the interactive session offered a rare privilege for the students to learn more from interactions with their teachers. He praised the Department for treating them well and providing a conducive atmosphere to assist the students on a professional platform.

Provoz of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Nuemma Frank-Peterside, who stated that Biochemistry was one of the most sought after Departments in the College, revealed that the College had planned to test the number of students with admission into the Department to conform to its carrying capacity.

In a PowerPoint presentation, Head of Department, Professor Matthew Wegwu, who briefed the visitors on the institutional profile of the Department, disclosed that it currently had 38 teaching staff, including seven Professors, 18 Senior Lecturers and 20 non-teaching staff. The University also recognized the endowment of the Emmanuel Anosike Chair of Biotechnology, Emmanuel Pauke Chair of Sickle-Cell Research and Bene Willie Abbey Chair of Nutrition and Environmental Biochemistry, including the Gabriel Ekeke Centre for Sickle-Cell Research, as some of the remarkable achievements recorded by the Department in recent times.

Others who spoke at the session included; Professors Aloya, Ben Ndukwu, Comfort Monago and President of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry Students, Michael Eawuzor.

Matriculation Beyond Merrymaking

By Humphrey Ogu

After the razzmatazz that accompanied the 36th Matriculation Ceremony on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, the big question now is: What next for the joyous Matriculants? This is one question that should agitate the minds of those candidates who were fortunate enough to secure a place in the Undergraduate programmes of the University of Port Harcourt. This is no mean feat! Not every candidate that wished to be admitted into the University actualised their dreams. There is really a tide in the affairs of men (women), as William Shakespeare would say.

Little wonder then that those 6, 930 lucky candidates, who were privileged not to take the Matriculation Ceremony by surprise, celebrated their success with pomp and pageantry in the wee hours of the following day. Such a huge success story deserves to be celebrated in grand style. It was, indeed, their finest hour and nobody had the right to stop them from climbing to the rooftops to proclaim their arrival in the University as bona fide students. It was a golden moment to cherish by the Fresh Students, their parents, friends and well-wishers. Even their enemies could not help, but envy their spectacular achievement on that day. In a country where over one million candidates write the alumni Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) every year and nervously await the result, you would not blame the successful ones for gloating over their arrival at the hallowed corridors of the academia.

A Matriculation Ceremony is akin to an initiation rite into the academia. It confers on the newly-admitted candidates, a new status as bona fide students of the University. Now, however, the Matriculation Ceremony is over. The cannons are now silent and the new students have commenced the race—the academic race that brought them into the University. This is a very long distance race that requires all the energy and determination of the runners at every point. Sadly, not all the students that celebrated their matriculation in grand style last Tuesday seem to have a clear idea why they are in the University. This is so despite a well-organised Orientation programme that was meant to enlighten the new intakes on how to make the best out of their stay here. Having succeeded in securing a place in the University, they feel they have arrived. In other words, their admission is an end in itself. That is where they will be making a gross error of judgment. As they would soon find out, there is a huge gap in-between a mere Matriculant and a full-fledged Graduate. Sadly, there is no middle ground in-between the two extremities of their expectations.

The only way these new students can get the best out of their days as students in the University, is to make academics a priority—their new “idol.” To this end, I wish to say: congratulations! I congratulate you all with all honesty. However, do not lose sight of the fact that you are now in the cockpit as pilot of the plane that will take you to your new destination. That means you can fly it high and land safely or you may decide to overshoot the runway without obeying air traffic control rules—just like that! So, know your destination; set a goal; stay focussed and work hard to achieve such goals—by arriving at your destination safely without announcing mayday. You could take the first class, second class, third class to your preferred destination or even choose to fall with distinction! Yes, that is also allowed here. But the choice is entirely yours to make. And the time to take the decision is now. Right now, it is take-off time. So, fasten your seatbelt and get set on this defining journey to a destination of your choice. Meanwhile, I wish you exactly what you wish yourself—that is based on your preparation, your motivation and purpose! Let flight take off. Good luck folks!

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Magna Carta And Nigeria's Democracy

Mandela cited Magna Carta in his eloquent statement from the dock in the Rivonia trial in 1964. Courts around the world have referenced Magna Carta thousands of times. Magna Carta has transcended its original time and place and has become an enduring worldwide symbol of liberty and the rule of law.

Watson-Jack, who stressed the need for every individual to seek an understanding of law in line with the dictum that the practice of law is for lawyers, while knowledge of the law is for everybody, congratulated the University for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of its establishment, stating that: “even though I did not have the privilege of being formally educated in this Institution, I have enjoyed life-impacting relationships with distinguished members of this academic community. I have learnt a lot from associating with its students, faculty and graduates...the number of Inaugural Lectures I have attended in this Institution could qualify me for a Bachelor’s degree in mixed disciplines.”

In his address entitled: Brief History of the Faculty of Law, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Kanyi Ebeke, who traced the approval for the establishment of a Faculty of Law to the 337th Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate which held on Wednesday, 6 February 2008, regretted the delay in the commencement of academic activities until last session, when his team kicked-started the process with the pioneer set of Diploma students.

The Dean assured prospective students and parents that the Bachelor of Law (LLB) programme would commence in the next session with some of the Diploma students, who meet the stipulated standards at the end of their two-year programme.

Professor Ebeke praised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Aljanka, for his unflinching commitment to the successful take-off of the Faculty. He also commended the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education for funding various ongoing projects for the Faculty in the University.

Earlier, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, welcomed guests to the Lecture; stating that even though the Faculty was the newest in the University, it had started on a sound footing to the admiration of many observers.

Other activities that formed the historic celebration were a Music Concert, held in VWN, which sold a student for impersonation: Law Clinic which offered free legal advice to members of the University Community, and Law Debate on whether it was proper to forbid same sex marriage in Nigeria. The celebration was wrapped up with a Thanksgiving Service at Our Saviour’s Chapel (Interdenominational).

The celebration kicked-off last Monday with a procession from the temporary site of the Faculty at the Emerald Energy Institute to the Senate Building, where the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Celebration, Professor Tony Arize and Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnolim, received the procession on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Aljanka.

UniPort Marks 2015 World Voice Day With Music, Poetry

By Humphrey Ogu

The central role of the human voice in entertainment and promotion of peace in society took centre stage at the Annual Brute Lecture Hall University Park on Thursday, April 16, 2015 as the University marked the 3rd World Voice Day Nigeria (WVDN).

Declaring the event open, Chairman of the occasion and Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemugwem, who described music as a recipe for life, expressed gratitude to guests for abandoning their other pressing engagements to grace the event. “Today, the Faculty of Humanities is celebrating UniPort at 40 with music, which is something everybody enjoys. The voice, which we are celebrating today, is very important in the Faculty,” he said, citing Linguistics and Communication Studies, Music, Theatre and Film Studies, English Studies, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History and Diplomatic Studies, Religious and Cultural Studies, amongst others, as disciplines that thrive on use of the human voice.

Welcoming guests to the World Voice Day, Head of the Department of Music and Convener, Professor Oneyekwu Nwankpa, described the voice as the oldest and the most versatile musical instrument that is known to man, which could have a deeply soothing, healing and stimulating effect on humans.

Nwankpa, who noted that the event doubled as the Grand Finale of the Faculty of Humanities’ celebration of UniPort at 40, said: “In this Information and Communications Technology era, it is important to note that the voice is the oldest of the social media. This social-communicative role of the voice forms the basis of the global theme of this year’s WVD celebration entitled: Voice, the Original Social Media. For this year’s event, we have chosen the theme: One Voice, One People for our celebration in Nigeria,” the HoD told the excited audience.

“The voice is one of the most essential elements of daily human life. It is the most commonly used medium of human communication and a very powerful tool that cuts across diverse areas of human endeavours, including music, broadcasting, teaching, medicine, acting, poetry, law, administration, and commerce,” he pointed out.

Highlights of the event, which featured musical performances by the UniPort Concert Chorus, Chapel of the Annunciation Choir, De Nobile Choral Voices, and a joint rendition by all choirs, was a presentation on One Voice, One People by a representative of Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIN), Chief Lawal who is Network Coordinator of the body in the Niger Delta.

The event also featured a poetry reading session by Dr. Jones Ajuyi of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, and song rendition in French by Dr. Peter Nyah of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

UniPort Concert Chorus performing with Precious Onwuku conducting
Race For 8th UniPort V-C
ASUU Referendum Unveils Aspirants

By Williams Wodi

S

wiss psychiatrist, Carl Jung, once said that a man
who has not passed through the inferno of his
passions has never overcome them. Unlike passion,
ambition is difficult to overcome—especially when it is
legitimate. Man is born with that strong propulsion to
excel in career and personal fulfillment. In a select
community of scholars, those who put themselves
forward for leadership positions must expect closer
scrutiny than their counterparts on the national political
canvass. Not everybody would be in agreement on the
appropriate modalities to achieve a common goal, and it
showed last Wednesday, when the University of Port
Harcourt branch of the Academic Staff Union of
Universities (ASUU) held a referendum to determine the
most acceptable candidate to sit on the exalted executive
each as the 8th Vice-Chancellor. English political
philosopher, John Locke, may have envisaged what
transpired at the referendum venue when he argued that
“New opinions are always suspected, and usually
opposed, without any other reason but because they are
not already common.”

It was obvious that a few feathers were ruffled by the
referendum. Those who disagreed had a point: how
could a referendum commence when the Governing
Council was yet to shortlist suitably qualified candidates
for the contest? But the beauty of democracy is entirely
predicated on the freedom to express one’s views, and
weigh the popularity in the court of public opinion.
It was an unscheduled event that would have made
Hollywood and Nigerian voisins.

As a consultant to the referendum, ASUU offered
aspirants for the soon-to-vacant Vice-Chancellorship
position a veritable platform to advertise their ambition
and support their popularity in the court of public opinion.
As an unscheduled event that would have made
Nollywood and Hollywood voisins.

The referendum which took place at the expansive
Edith Ini Abisogun Auditorium, attracted a large crowd of
curious Union members, some of who approached the
exercise an admixture of circumspection and
surging enthusiasm. ASUU members, who were
promised a memorable experience; got much more than
they bargained for on that crisp morning of great
expectations. The aspirants were understandably not at
ease at all, despite their best efforts to conceal their
anxiety. You could cut the tension with a blunt kitchen
knife?

Setting the stage for what turned out to be a refined
political sitcom, Chairman of the branch, Professor
Anitha Ofor, regrettably noted the inability of ASUU to
organize the referendum before the last contest for the
position of Vice-Chancellor, describing the reason for the
development as “not-satisfactory.” According to her,
“The eventual winner of the referendum does not
necessarily have to be appointed Vice-Chancellor by the
Governing Council, but it is very important that we as a
Trade Union should have a strong voice in who emerges
as the Number One Citizen of this University. Our aim is
to choose a suitable candidate, who would hopefully
do well at the interviews.”

The stressing petrel to marshal her points so bluntly.

Having dispelled lingering apprehensions by some of the
aspirants concerning the legitimacy of the exercise,
Professor Okorengwo proceeded to announce the
following names as applicants for the exalted office that
would be vacant in mid-July, 2015: Okechukwu
Didia, Blessing Didia, Francis Sikoki, Bia Louis
Nnanayo, Israel Owute, Chris Akani, Ebi Bio Awaota-
Efebo, Tannamriye Aibohebe and Nnodua Nla. The
tenth applicant from the Rivers State University of
Science and Technology was not on hand to join the
gladiators in the shadow-boxing exercise that raised
blood pressures in some quarters. Also on record is the
fact that Professors Akani, Sikoki, Aibohebe, Awaota-
Efebo and Nnanayo had compelling reasons to be away,

While Didia offered to address Congress without
participating in the referendum.

Procedural matters out of the way, it was the turn of one
of the Udimies, Professor Emmanuel Emmaiah, to roll
out the ground rules for the presentation by the
aspirants. Each speaker was allowed just fifteen minutes
to lay out his vision and qualification for the job. Doctors
Austen Sado and Tina Harry completed the election
administration quartet. On closer scrutiny, the speakers
appeared to have centred their manifestos around
electricity, more classroom space, discipline,
productivity, staff welfare, inclusiveness, entrepreneurship, research, information technology,
improved academic performance, strengthening
internally-generated revenue, partnerships and
aggressive resource mobilization in the face of dwindling
statutory allocations.

Then came the actual referendum; each prospective
voter had to be properly accredited and issued with a
customized ballot paper. Close to one thousand and
academic staff lined up to exercise their franchise in an
atmosphere totally devoid of intimidation or power
cleavages. The basic paraphernalia of election was fully deployed. Only Abohoh’s ubiquitous card reader and mysterious
result sheets were absent from the balloting process. It
was a smooth sail.

At the end of a keenly contested exercise, Professor
Ndowa Lafe of the Department of Crop and Soil Science in the Faculty of Agriculture, emerged runaway winner
of the referendum with a total vote tally of 245, as against
his closest rival, Professor Blessing Didia of the
Department of Human Anatomy. Nigerian politicians
needed to be at the venue of the exercise to learn how to
conduct rancor-free elections. A few hurried
handshakes; and it was over. It was a gentleman’s contest
that left a refined taste on the palate of all participants.
With the successful conduct of the referendum, it was
self-evident that the process has evolved to a more
respectable level of acceptance by a disproportionate
number of ASUU members. The search for the 8th
Vice-Chancellor of this University has reached an irreversible
deadlock. The final decision will be taken on who wears the cap. Only one
candidate will work out of the Chambers with the
appointment letter. We wait to say congratulations to
this candidate. That is what makes Unique UniPort
more unique indeed.
Celebrating Excellence In Faculty Of Pharmaceutical Sciences

By Obinna Nwodim

approved the establishment of degree programmes in Nursing, Pharmacy, and Dentistry in the College of Health Sciences. The approval stipulated that Pharmacy should be taught and coordinated in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences which should not be an integral part of the College of Health Sciences. There is no doubt that the decision turned out to be a positive development. The new Faculty did not take off until January 30, 2005, when the pioneer Dean, and one-time Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Professor Olayinka Udala, accepted an appointment to assume duty in the University. On arrival, this fine academic and consummate administrator was saddled with the responsibility of building a Faculty that would transform into an enviable status and also meet global standards. The vision outlined for the emergent Faculty was the development of manpower in every aspect of Pharmacy profession; to be a centre of excellence in the processing and production of direct compression excipients for pharmaceutical production; establish a quality control laboratory for careers in any aspect of pharmaceutical practice: academic (teaching and research); distribution/supply; hospital and community pharmacy; industrial (production and research); national and international drug administration and quality control/assurance; packaging and drug information.

Within the short period of its existence, the Faculty has made modest contributions in line with the uniqueness for which the University of Port Harcourt is widely acclaimed. The Faculty is making stringent efforts to solve its pressing accommodation problem, as work is progressing steadily on the laboratories and office accommodation. The medicinal garden, which is part of the requirements for accreditation by relevant professional bodies, is also an added boost to the resources of the Faculty. At present, the Faculty has five Departments namely: Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacy Management; Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry; Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Technology; Pharmaceutical Microbiology, as well as Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy. Its modest achievement in the training of skilled Pharmacists has attracted distinguished scholars and academics that have added value and enhanced the standard of teaching and research in the Faculty. Professors Vincent Idemiyor of the University of Illinois, Chicago; Kio Abo and Ebere Orisakwe, have brought in their rich pool of experiences and diverse backgrounds to lay a solid foundation for the Faculty, which currently boasts of over 150 academic staff in the various Departments.

As the Faculty joins its counterparts to mark UniPort at 40, the Dean believes that the Faculty is an essential part of the future of the University, considering the lofty heights it has attained in so short a time. For him, the Faculty has one of the most robust University/Industry partnerships with a Governing Board made up of household names in the Pharmaceutical Industry and the private sector. Professor Udala believes that if adequately cultivated, the Faculty is bound to excel in teaching and quality research, as its mission statement has given it a road map to a bright future.

Bearing this in mind, there is need to see a Faculty that would be fully engaged in not only training world-class Pharmacists, but also engage in the manufacturing of quality drugs through cutting-edge research and partnerships.

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Stop Press

CHS Kicks-Off 40th Anniversary Today

The College of Health Sciences (CHS), will commence its weeklong series of activities marking the 40th Anniversary of the University with a Keynote Lecture and Panel Discussion today at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium at 10:00am and 2:00pm respectively. A statement jointly issued by the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato and Chairman of the Planning Committee, Professor Adebayo Omoniyi, disclosed that the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Kelsey Harrison, will deliver the Keynote Address entitled, Healthcare and Manpower Development: Contemporary Issues, while a panel discussion will focus on prostate, cervical, breast, colon, blood, childhood and oral cancers.

On Tuesday, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs will deliver a Lecture, while the panelists will discuss diabetes mellitus, hypertension, stress and mental disorders, obesity and aging. The statement further revealed that College Rally/Community Outreach will hold at 10:00am and T.F. Francis Memorial Lecture on The Making of Doctors in Nigeria, will take centre stage at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Wednesday at 1:00pm. The celebration will be rounded off with a Dinner Night on Friday, May 1, at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.
UniPort Signs Pact With Degema Community

Cont'd from p1

the community of the continued cooperation of the University and judicious use of the facility. In her speech, new Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, who was visibly elated at the development, hailed the gesture as a rare display of enlightened leadership in the community, commending the Council for recognizing the importance of bringing quality healthcare closer to the doorstep of rural folks.

“We do not have many examples such as this one, and we promise to fully maximize the mutual benefits that would accrue from this important partnership. The College is so impressed at this kind gesture by Obuama community and we promise not to disappoint the people,” she added, stressing that the College would be willing to partner them in other areas of need.

Welcoming the delegation to the community, Paramount Ruler of Obuama, His Highness, Alabo Omubo Tom Big-Harry (Oobibo V), who was represented by Chief Kalada Samuel, said that it was heart-warming that the agreement has finally been formalized by both parties; disclosing that the partnership agreement was the contribution of the community towards the training of skilled paramedical staff that would cater to the increasing health needs of the people.

Also speaking a member of the Traditional Cabinet, Chief Opakiriwho Harry, said that the Community was not only happy, but proud of the gesture, expressing hope that the partnership with the University would usher in accelerated development in Obuama and other neighbouring communities. He said that the people were happy that the University chose their community for the important project, hoping that the move would be a positive step towards quality healthcare delivery in the area.

Speaking to UniPort Weekly after the handover ceremony, President of the UniPort Chapter of the Nigerian Universities Nursing Students Association, Mr. Eze Obinna, expressed gratitude to both the authorities of the University and Obuama community for their role in pointing out that UniPort was on a long way in enhancing the mandatory rural posting of Nursing students. He appealed to authorities of the University to give a facelift to the faculty to make it more befitting for them to inhabit.

Present at the event were Chief Opakiriwho Harry and Chief Tonye Harry, amongst others.

Also on the University’s delegation were: Associate Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor Patrick Eghwurudjakpor; Acting Head of the Department of Nursing, Dr. Abhagab Horsfaya, immediate past Acting Head of the Faculty, Dr. Margaret Robinson-Bassey, Acting Director of the Physical Planning and Development Unit, Mr. Isaac Ewa, Head of the Legal Unit, Mr. Eric Agbonomi and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogun, amongst others.

The Faculty of Agriculture joined its counterparts in other Faculties and Colleges last Tuesday, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the University of Port Harcourt. The impressive one-day event kicked-off with a symposium, an exhibition and inauguration of the Young Agri-Entrepreneurs of Nigeria (YAGEN).

Declaring open the event, which held at the International Students’ Centre, University Park, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Aliem, who was represented by the Chairman, Research and Development, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, commended the Faculty for keying into the celebration of the University’s 40th Anniversary.

“In the past five years, the University has been trying to transform into an Entrepreneurial University and today, we are seeing the result of that effort. The Faculty of Agriculture is only 10 years old, but has achieved quite a lot. Today, everybody agrees that the Faculty has done very well in research and community service. We also have to commend the Institute of Agricultural Research (IARD), which laid a solid foundation that resulted in the emergence of the Faculty,” she said.

According to Professor Willie Abbey, Agriculture is the in-thing in the face of growing graduate unemployment and food scarcity. “Everything started with agriculture; food came before clothing, without food, none of us can survive. Agriculture is the only discipline where it is easy to secure research grants. I challenge those students who have processed wildlife products that they should not just stop there; they should go out there to seek viable partnerships with companies that can add value to their practice. I challenge you to think more about research, processing, preservation and taking the produce to the market.”

Delivering the 40th Anniversary Lecture which also marked the 10th Anniversary of the Faculty of Agriculture entitled: Agricultural Entrepreneurship: Key to Economic Growth and Sustainable Livelihood, Guest Lecturer, Professor Chukwuneke Okoye of the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, commended the Faculty for celebrating 10 years of its landmark achievements.

“I am happy that the Faculty is now talking about Agricultural entrepreneurship. I want to say that nobody has any doubt that agriculture is very important in this country. Within a population of about 170 million people and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about 80.2 trillion naira, I think that whatever we do, agriculture should take the centre stage because much of the country’s GDP is contributed by agriculture,” he said.

Professor Okoye, who described agricultural entrepreneurship as the ability to create and build something new from practically nothing, said that Nigeria was endowed with arable land, skilled work force and good weather, pointing out that agriculture employed more than 70 per cent of the active labour force.

Earlier in her welcome address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ekanem Wokoma, commended Management of the University and the pioneer Dean, Professor Nwosu, late Ambassador Godknows Igali, invited guests and students for honouring the Faculty, stating that “the celebration afforded the Faculty a rare opportunity to reminisce on our past experiences and reposition ourselves to become pace-setters in Agriculture. The cassava variety known as TMS 419 is that widely distributed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Badan, is a product of the Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD) of the University of Port Harcourt. The variety was released by Dr. Zachary Russom. In 2013, the Faculty released three varieties of high yield rice through the groundbreaking research effort of Dr. Andrew Eiben of the Department of Crop and Soil Science.”

Giving a brief history of the Faculty, Pioneer Dean, Professor Imedi, recalled that the Faculty of Agriculture was one of the three new Faculties established in 2005, with the mandate to conduct research that would result in cutting-edge technology to facilitate productivity in the sector.

In his contribution, Special Guest of Honour, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Power and Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Natural Resource, Environment and Sustainability, Ambassador Igbak, who spoke through a Director in the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Femi Oduomo, said, “I have endowed a Professorial Chair in the Faculty of Agriculture on Wetland Management in Agriculture. The Niger Delta with its seven thousand parameter land area is entirely Wetland and can be considered as Nigeria’s Garden of Eden.”

Also speaking, Acting Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Dr. Ngozi Odo, stressed the need for proper implementation of the Strategic Plan as it concerns the Faculty of Agriculture, promising that her Unit would be willing to support such effort. Other highlights of the well-attended event were the conferment of awards and recognition of distinguished Alumni and Staff for their contribution to the growth of the Faculty.
GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT
Professor Chiijoke Nwauche, Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, College of Health Sciences, appointed Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine. The two-year appointment will terminate on April 14, 2017.
Dr. Ijeoma Kalu, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed Acting Head of Department. The two-year appointment will terminate on April 14, 2017.
Dr. Hamilton Opuruam, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, appointed Assistant Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine. The two-year appointment will terminate on April 14, 2017.
Dr. J.J. Nwoha, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed Coordinator, Geology and Mining Technology of the School of Science Laboratory Technology. The two-year appointment will terminate on April 14, 2017.
Dr. Catherine Stanley, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed Associate Dean of the Faculty. The two-year appointment will terminate on March 31, 2017.

INDUCTION
Professor Chinyerem Madumere-Ohike, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, has been inducted as a Member of the Nigerian Academy of Education (NAE).

REVIEW OF STATUS
Dr. Chioma George-Anokwu, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted Review of Status from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective November 26, 2014.
Dr. Amadi Abahmadu, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted Review of Status (Contract Appointment) to Lecturer III, effective October 10, 2014.
Mrs. Bukola Akinyiwo, Department of Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, granted Review of Status from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective November 26, 2014.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT
Professor C.E. Hekem, Department of Preventive and Social Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Science, granted Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Lecturer I, effective April 1, 2015.
Professor Donatus Igboke, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Physical and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Renewal of Appointment and upgrade from Adjunct Reader to Adjunct Professor, effective April 1, 2015.

SABBATICAL LEAVE
Dr. Kalu Wusu, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, granted Sabbatical Leave, effective 15th April, 2015 to 14th April, 2016.
Professor Victor Umoren, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Sabbatical Leave, effective April 10, 2015 to April 9, 2016.

CHANGE OF NAME
MRS. JULIET CHIKA ICHECHUKWU. Miss. Obindah Juliet Chika of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as MRS. JULIET CHIKA ICHECHUKWU. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

Registry, CGS Celebrate UniPort
At 40 Today
By Obinna Nwodim and Otigor Samuel

It is now set for the Registry Week celebration as part of activities marking UniPort at 40 Celebration beginning today. A statement from the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Dr. Celestina Johnson, indicated that the highpoint of the celebration would be a Lecture on University of Port Harcourt At 40: Chronicling the Activities of the Registry Department in the Last Four Decades to be delivered by the Director, Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Bridget Nziimo, at the Ebirim Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, May 7, at 10:00am. The Lecture will be preceded by a Health Seminar and Medical Check-Up for all staff on Tuesday, May 5 at the same venue at 9:00 am, while a novelty football match between male and female staff of the Registry and their counterparts in the Bursary Department will also take place on Wednesday, May 6, at the Sports Complex at 4:00pm.

The statement added that the event which would open on Monday May 4 with an Awareness Rally would end with a Registry Forum that would afford all categories of staff the opportunity to clarify issues bothering on Establishment matters. It further enjoined all staff of the Registry Department, both senior and junior to actively participate in all the activities lined up for the celebration.

Similarly, the College of Graduate Studies would also commence its weeklong series of activities with a rally this morning, while the handover of Postgraduate Common Rooms to the Colleges of Ilecha Science, Natural and Applied Sciences and the College of Management Sciences and Humanities is billed for 2:00pm the same day.

A statement jointly signed by Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konya and Chairman of the Organising Committee and Dean, Graduate School of Natural and Medical Sciences, Professor Gregory Awuhi, disclosed that a Roundtable Discussion will hold tomorrow at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall at 12:00 noon. The opening ceremony which will feature hosting of Alumni and recognitions is scheduled for Thursday at the Ebirim Banigo Auditorium at 10:00am. The celebration is expected to be rounded off with a Thanksgiving Service at Our Saviour’s Chapel (Interdenominational) on Sunday, May 3. Time is 10:00am. The organizers advised Graduate Students and the general public to grace the events.

Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Registrar
Prof Konya, Provost, CHS

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY
FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 26 – SATURDAY MAY 02, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TEMPERATURE H/L (°C)</th>
<th>HUMIDITY (%)</th>
<th>WIND DIRECTION</th>
<th>RAIN (mm)</th>
<th>SUNRISE AND SUNSET (H/M/M)</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY 26 APRIL, 2015</td>
<td>35.0 25.0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6:22 18:38</td>
<td>Afternoon clouds expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 27 APRIL, 2015</td>
<td>33.0 25.0</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6:22 18:38</td>
<td>Partly sunny day expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 28 APRIL, 2015</td>
<td>33.0 25.0</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>6:21 18:38</td>
<td>Widely scattered thunder storms expected. More clouds than usual expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL, 2015</td>
<td>35.0 25.0</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6:21 18:38</td>
<td>Partly sunny day expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 30 APRIL, 2015</td>
<td>35.0 25.0</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>6:21 18:38</td>
<td>Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day forecasted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 01 MAY, 2015</td>
<td>34.0 25.0</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>6:20 18:38</td>
<td>Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY 02 MAY, 2015</td>
<td>35.0 25.0</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>6:20 18:38</td>
<td>Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day forecasted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD
Dr Prince Mmom
Ag, Director, (CDRMDS)

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First Diete-Koki Memorial Lecture

Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences held a Memorial Lecture in honour of the late Professor Kenneth Diete-Koki at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, February 12, 2015. Our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU, captured highlights of the event as shown below:

V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka, making the opening remarks

Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Prof Iyopin Simintialayi welcoming guests

Chairman of the occasion, Mrs. Seinye Lulu-Briggs, speaking through her rep, Mrs Julia Jacks

Guest Speaker, Dr. Kodjo Saroh, delivering his paper

Provost, College of Graduate Studies, Prof Roseline Konya, decorating the Dr. Saroh with UniPort Muffer

Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof Christie Mamo, presenting a plaque to distinguished alumnas, Dr. Saroh

Immediate past Provost, CHS, Prof Chis Akani, presenting a plaque to Special Adviser to the President on MDGs and CHS alumni, Dr. Precious Ghevoel

Prof Akani presenting a plaque to the R&S Commissioner of Health and UniPort Alumni, Dr. Samson Parker

Prof John Oguntunai and Ambayen Alcoholene, paying tributes to the late Prof Diete-Koki

Sons of Diete-Koki (arrowed) holding up a painting of their late father

Bayelsa State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Ayibatonye Owei paying tribute to late Prof Diete-Koki

Former Provost, CHS, Prof Blessing Didia, paying tribute to the late Prof Diete-Koki

V-C, Prof Ajenka and former associates of the late Diete-Koki