Ibe Assumes Duty As DV-C Admin

Following the expiration of his tenure as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka handed over the instruments of office to his successor, Professor Anthony Ibe of the Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering in a modest ceremony last Monday, reports Ethel Timi-Johnson.

More on p3

Emeriti Professors, Odia Spice Up CHS Celebrations With Lectures

The College of Health Sciences took its turn to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the University last week with a series of activities that ended with three high profile lectures. Two former Vice-Chancellors, Emeriti Professors Kelsey Harrison and Nimi Briggs, joined their younger colleagues, staff, students and stakeholders in the affairs of the College to temporarily hang up their stethoscopes as they focused attention on the expansive Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium—venue of the lectures, panel discussions on diverse health matters and a medical outreach. Emeriti Professors Harrison and Briggs, who coincidentally are specialists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, served the University as 3rd and 5th Vice-Chancellors, respectively. Harrison was Keynote Speaker last Monday, Briggs was Guest Speaker on Tuesday, while

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By Otokor Samuel

UniPort Student Emerges NURSS National President

Akani Bows Out As CHS Provost

Education Faculty Marks UniPort @ 40

EEI Ends NCDMB Workshop
UN-SSEA Partners NESDRA On Earth Day Celebration

By Ethel Timi-Johnson and Obahellebara Wokoma

Students of the University under the auspices of the United Nations Students for Sustainable Energy for All (UN-SSEA) in partnership with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), held an elaborate celebration on April 22, 2015, to mark the International Mother Earth Day.

As part of activities that marked the Day, which had Green Walk For Mother Earth as its theme, the student activists held processions at the three Parks of the University, picking up waste as a way of encouraging the University Community to imbibe proper environmental stewardship.

Speaking after the exercise, Associate Dean (Female) of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Adegamola Onyeaso, who commended the effort of the students aimed at returning the earth to its pristine clean and green status, charged them to mobilize more students towards the drive to preserve the environment.

“This is a good initiative and shows a high sense of responsibility amongst students of this University which deserves to be encouraged by all those who care about a healthy environment. I urge you to continue with this laudable campaign aimed at encouraging the University community to dispose and recycle waste, while you keep thinking of creative ways to generate useful things from wastes with available technology,” she advised the students.

Declaring his Agency’s willingness to partner diverse sectors in a bid to actualize its mandate of ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment, NESREA Administrative Officer I, Mr. Delaitli Delaitli, disclosed that the day’s event centred on tree planting as a way of checking climate change and beautifying the environment, urging staff and students of the University to join the exercise. “By planting trees and cleaning up our environment, we will gradually restore the earth to its original green and clean nature as against the emerging brown earth that has resulted in a polluted and degraded environment,” he remarked.

In his contribution, President of UniPort UN-SSEA, Boris Nwachukwu, who noted that the event was put together to commemorate the global Earth Day which holds on April 22 every year as directed by the United Nations, noted that sustaining the environment aids better health and provides many benefits to mankind.

Other NESREA officers at the event included Information Officers: David Mark and Mrs Reimen Setimben-Ehoh, Administrative Officers: Josiah Imibi and Mrs. Omoraya Adejo.

Dr. Onyeaso (arrowed) flanked by NESDRA officials and the students after the exercise.

UniPort Student Emerges NURSS National President

By Mercy Adeniji

Following a successful election held on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at the Rivers State College of Arts and Science, Vincent Dan-Jumbo of the Faculty of Dentistry, has emerged as the new President of the National Union of Rivers State Students (NURSS). In line with the Constitution of the Union, the new President will be at the helm of affairs of NURSS for the next one year.

Exchanging views with UniPort Weekly on his vision for the Union, after the inauguration held on Friday, April 24, 2015, Mr. Dan-Jumbo disclosed that his primary mandate would be to protect the interest of Rivers State students and make sure that their welfare is not neglected.

According to the new NURSS National President, Student Union fosters harmonious relationship amongst students, gives a greater voice in matters pertaining to their welfare and also enhances the welfare of students academically and socially. “Speaking on the modalities for the election, he explained that the Presidency usually rotates between the Riverine and Upland areas of Rivers State. Assuring Rivers State students of his willingness to serve, Mr. Dan-Jumbo said: “I will need the collective efforts of all Rivers State students to succeed in office,” adding that “It is our passion and desire to lift NURSS to an enviable height against all odds and with God on our side, we know that we will succeed. It is only the Union that makes us stronger and guarantees that our collective voice is heard. Mr. Dan-Jumbo, who was a one-time Public Relations Officer of the National Union of Bonny Students and former Provost of the Port Harcourt University Medical Students Association (PUMSA), expressed gratitude to the immediate past National President, Mr. Chukwudike Masi and his entire Executive members for taking the Union to an enviable height despite the very challenges that they encountered.

Corroborating the view of the President, newly-elected Vice-President of the Union, who was also the immediate past Vice-President of the Student Union, the Executive of UniPort, Miss Ochelebubara Wokoma, stressed the need for oneness among Rivers State students, charging them to support the Union and also disregard instigation from other sources that would mar the team spirit that is the hallmark of student organizations.

Other members of the newly-elected NURSS Executive are: Everest Dike (Vice-President, West), Brenda Ijoma (Vice President, East), Festus Ukalihe (Secretary General), Kingsley Bokome (Assistant Secretary General, West), Gift Ellenwo (Treasurer), Tamunonmiye Ngo-Tamuna (Financial Secretary), Timi Mbaru (Public Relations Officer), and Solomon Granville (Provost).

Stop Press Abolition Of 50% Surcharge

Following the decision of Senate of the University at its 48th (Extraordinary) Meeting on Wednesday, 8th April, 2015 abolishing 50% surcharge on Undergraduate fees, effective from the 2014/2015 academic session, students who are yet to register online and print their Course Registration Forms at the beginning of the session are advised to do so immediately and submit three copies of the Forms to their respective Departmental Administrators stated April 23, 2015 and signed on behalf of the Registrar by the Director of Academic Affairs, Mrs. Dorens Otto, said only students who comply with the directive would be offered admission for the academic session.

“Students who fail to register at the beginning of each session shall roll over to the next session and such students will be required to apply for “Temporary Withdrawal from Study,” the statement warned, explaining that application for “Temporary Withdrawal from Study” is for one year in the first instance and renewable for another year, subject to compliance with the maximum length of time allowed for the programme of study as stipulated in the Statement of Academic Policies of the University. Mrs. Otto advised Departments to ensure the forward copies of such forms to the Faculty Officers and Office of the Director, Academic Affairs, warning that appropriate sanctions would be levied against staff found guilty of any form of complicity in breach of the procedure by students.

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Ibe Assumes Duty As DV-C Admin

Deputy Vice-Chancellor told of the Correspondent, promising to continue to be a good advocate for the programme and in whatever capacity that he may find himself in the future.

In his response, a visibly elated Professor Ibe expressed joy at the smooth change of baton, showering encomiums on Professor Nduka for working so hard to discharge his mandate, noting that his predecessor had set a high standard that must be upheld. “My election as DV-C is a clear manifestation of the trust of the Senate of the University in my capacity to work with the rest of the Management team to move the University to the next level. I will not let the Senate or the rest of the University community down in the discharge of my duty schedule. I promise to serve the University with all my strength and heart to uplift the quality of administration,” he said.

...As New DV-C Charges Staff On Integrity

By Humphrey Ogu

ew Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, has charged staff of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) to make Integrity their watchword.

Speaking at a staff meeting organised in his honour by staff of ICTC, at the Centre on Friday, April 24, 2015, Ibe, who is the immediate past Director of the ICTC, recounted his experience at various stages in his career before his new appointment, stressing the importance of hard work, self-discipline and honest in discharging official duties.

“I will pledge with all integrity your watchword so that when you talk people would say he is not taking because of what will go into his pocket, but in the interest of the people,” he urged the ICTC staff.

Ibe, who lauded the staff for their co-operation, charged them to extend their co-operation to the incoming director, noting that “A crop of young people who are forward-looking that is what you find in ICTC and any director who has that privilege of working with you will succeed.

In her opening remarks, ICTC Officer, Dr Kate Onyige, said we are here to honour our Director, who has been elevated to the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration in the University. We are here to send him forth, following his victory at the Senate, which was due to hard work and integrity that made his colleagues to vote overwhelmingly for him.”

Others, who paid glowing tributes to Professor Ibe included Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Information, Williams Wodi; Training Officer, ICTC, Mrs Elizabeth Okey-Wuli; Chief Programmer Analyst and Head of Hardware Services and Maintenance, Bola Iyalu. The Send-Off Party, which could best be described as a harvest of encomiums for Professor Ibe, featured a presentation of gift to the former Director by Mrs Vivian Emesiozi.

Akani Bows Out As CHS Provost

By Ethel Tini-Johnson

the immediate past Provost described the Chair instituted for safe motherhood, donation of two brand new buses by Access Bank Plc., a proposed four-year research study on safe birth access project, College Auditorium and sponsorship scheme for indigent students in the College, as good gestures from distinguished Alumni on his watch that should be sustained by his successor, Professor Christie Udo.

“The Institute of Maternal and Child Health, Centre for Health and Development, Centre for Malaria Research, Centre for Medical Research and Training, have shown strong evidences of quality research activities and collaborations with both national and international organizations,” Professor Akani told his Correspondent, hoping that the heads of these Centres would intensify efforts aimed at making them more responsive to the health needs of the nation.

Akani, who noted that the College also received a parcel of land and a building from Ohuama Community in Degema Local Government Area for the training of students of the Department of Nursing Science, added that the College has operational collaborations with the University of Bloemfontein in South Africa, University of Leicester in the United Kingdom and All Saints’ University in the Dominican Republic on Nuclear Medicine, University of Toronto, Canada on Health Development, Liverpool Institute School of Medicine and Tropical Studies, Maternal Health Studies Research and Exchange and Linkages programmes, respectively.

I Immediate past Director, ICTC and new DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (arrowed) flanked by ICTC Officer, Mrs Kate Onyige (2nd right), Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi (left) and staff of the Centre

As Professor Akani bows out of office in a blaze of glory on account of his numerous achievements as Provost, it is hoped that he would continue to remember him as a great innovator, mentor and manager of human and material resources.

Prof Akani, immediate past Provost, CHS
Okoh, Koko Appraise Education Faculty At UniPort 40th Anniversary

By Otokor Samuel

hrelevantist, Professor Joseph Okoh, has advocated the restructuring of the present Faculty of Education into a College with the Faculties of Teacher Education, Tertiary Education/Institutional Development, Entrepreneurial Education and General Studies, in addition to the Institute of Education.

Professor Okoh, who made the recommendation while speaking on the topic: Faculty of Education: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, to mark the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the University, recalled the institutional development of the Faculty from the School System between 1975 and 1981 to the current Faculty System that commenced in 1982.

The Guest Lecturer disclosed that the School of Educational Studies was established alongside other Schools such as those of Humanities, Social Sciences, Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, and Physical Sciences, revealing that Professors Ben Eheau, John Enagomoh, Andrew Joe, and Martin Kosowani were then Graduate Assistants formed part of the founding staff of the School which initially headed by Emeritus Professor Ebioghe Igboajio as Acting Dean.

"Following the Governing Council’s approval at the Senate Ad-Hoc Committee Report on 25/8/92, the School System was abolished on July 29, 1982. From the new academic session that commenced on October, 1982, the Faculty of Education as it is known today was born along with several other Faculties, including the Institute of Health Sciences and the then School of Graduate Studies, which is now a fully-fledged College," Okoh said, adding that the Faculty was structured to include four Departments: Educational Foundations; Educational Management; Curriculum Development/Institutional Technology; Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling; Physical and Health Education which later renamed Human Kinetics and Health Education; Division of Adult and Non-Formal Education, which is now a Department; the Post-ACE Programme Unit (now moribund); Post-NCE Degree and M.Ed. Sandwich Programme Units and the Institute of Education.

"The Faculty of Education imparted knowledge across all ethnic and religious boundaries to teachers, inculcated requisite knowledge through well-articulated curricular which captured the spirit of development. The Faculty has churned out generations of quintessential professional teachers and individuals for all walks of life. From the statistics available at the Registry, the Faculty has admitted the second largest number of students every year (second only to the College of Natural and Applied Sciences), at the first degree level, the second largest number of graduates at every Convocation, graduates the highest number of M.Ed. and Ph.D. every year since 1984, and the highest number of Postgraduate Diploma. With academic staff strengths of 75 in 1982; the Faculty now has a staff strength of 209; of this number, 36 are professors," he disclosed.

Professor Okoh, who further expressed happiness that the Faculty has produced two Vice-Chancellors, six Pro-Deans of the University, nine Deans of the Faculty, one Vice-Dean of the Faculty, regretted however, that the Faculty is still housed in old buildings at Choba Park after 40 years of establishment of the University.

He called on Management to expedite action on the Faculty Building under construction to give the Faculty a deserving facelift and enabling environment where staff would conveniently discharge their core mandate in the line of duty.

In her Lecture entitled: Harvesting Opportunities in Entrepreneurial Education, Director of Academic Planning and Statistics Unit at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Professor Amareen Koko, advocated entrepreneurial education as a sure option towards reducing unemployment and poverty, while increasing the number of self-reliant graduates capable of creating rather than seeking non-existent white collar jobs.

"Entrepreneurial opportunities do not exhibit themselves on the streets of the city. There must be conscious efforts by interested persons to identify the potentials of a given opportunity and make attempt to tap them. Exemplarily well in diverse fields of human endeavour. The Vice-Chancellor assured staff and students of the Faculty that they would soon be relocated from Choba to a more permanent facility at Ogbunike after completion of construction work.

Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Committee, Professor Tony Arinze, commended the large crowd of staff and students who converged at the expansive Ebimbi Banjo Auditorium for the celebration, describing it as the largest crowd so far to turn out at one venue since the celebration commenced in January.

Earlier, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lawrence Igwe, had enumerated some of the landmark achievements of the Faculty to include capacity building, resource mobilization for the University, training and retraining of teachers. Highights of the celebration included dance drama by a troupe from the Department of Theatre and Cinema, cutting of the Anniversary Cake and presentation of awards, while goodwill messages were presented by some former Deans of the Faculty, such as Professors Chi Bio Anyiwa-Efekpo, Benjamin Eheau and Regina Nwajihe; including a visibly eulogized President of the UniPort Chapter of the Nigerian Universities Education Students Association, Mr. Emmanuel Enechukwu.

CGS Hands Over PG Common Rooms To CHS, Faculties

A n activity lined up for the celebration of University of Port Harcourt at 40, the College of Graduate Studies handed over Postgraduate Common Rooms to the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Faculties of Humanities, Management Sciences and Social Sciences to be used for seminars, lectures, reading and relaxation by students.

Commissioning the refurbished Postgraduate Common Rooms last Monday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenjo, who was represented by the Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee, Professor Tony Arinze, commended the College of Graduate Studies for the gesture, which he said would go a long way to provide an enabling environment for graduate studies research.

"We are grateful for all the lofty initiatives and innovations the College team has so far introduced as part of efforts aimed at streamlining academic and administrative activities in the College and we urge you to keep it up," Professor Arinze revealed that for some time now, the Management of the University has been keeping record of positive developments in the College. "We are very pleased with what you have been doing to ensure that our University meets global best practices in what we do. It is gratifying to note that the College of Graduate Studies has been championing the drive for excellence under its present structure and dynamic Provost," Professor Arinze disclosed.

Handing over the facilities to the end users, Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konya, disclosed that in view of the fact that the College is paying a lot to create Common Rooms where our students can come and read, do their assignments and hold seminars without paying fees, today’s hand over is to enable you put them to immediate use. We believe the Common Rooms would be put to proper use and with expectation for regular electricity supply, we believe that these facilities would contribute to quality Postgraduate education in this University. It is our hope that students would take care of these facilities that are designed to facilitate their activities. We have provided chairs, in-focus and screen, venetian blinds; we have also installed air-conditioners to make the Rooms conducive for Postgraduate students."

Responding, Provost of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Nneoma Frank-Peterside, Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, represented by the Acting Head, Department of Human Anatomy, Dr. Joy Obutu Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enememwu; Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Emeka Okereke and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Apliki, who was represented by Acting Head of the Department of Economics, Dr. Ijeoma Kahu, expressed gratitude to Management of the College of Graduate Studies for refurbishing and handing over Common Rooms, promising to put them to good use.

"It is a thing of joy for us and to our graduate students especially this year, we have started to put these Common Rooms in good hands and we promise to take care of this place as our own," Professor Frank-Peterside pledged on behalf of the other beneficiaries of the facilities.
Senate Approves New Programmes, Outstanding Results

By Obinna Nwodim

Senate of the University has approved the establishment of four new programmes. The decision was taken at the 406th Meeting held at the Senate Chambers, last Wednesday. The programmes were approved after Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Academic Programmes and Policies (SCAPP) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igboho Joe, made a presentation on the new programmes, which he said had been thoroughly scrutinized by the Committee and met the criteria set by Senate for the purpose.

The programmes are: Bachelor of Science in Medical Radiography; BSc. Degree in Physiotherapy; Community Development and Social Welfare, as well as Early Childhood and Primary Education. Senate, however, stood down a proposal to commence the Doctorate degree in Nuclear Engineering, requesting that a detailed proposal on the issue be made at the next Senate Meeting.

A proposal to establish the Bachelor in Education programme in Environmental Adult Education Science in the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education was also deferred by Senate. It deliberated on the nomenclature attached to the new programme, stating that there was need to be cautious in giving names to new programmes in line with the regulations stipulated by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

Senate also took a presentation on the Benefit of Anti-Plagiarism Exercise by Dr. Tolobin Briggs of the Intellectual Property Technology Transfer Office (IPPTO), which called on members to be part of the anti-plagiarism crusade amongst staff and students.

Senate also considered the Report on Investigation of Leakage of THA 313.2 (Ariting, Speech, Costume and Make-up) Question Paper from the Professional Ethics Committee, as presented by its Chairman, Professor Abdulrazak Klikani. It recommended that the Lecturer and Student concerned should be arraigned before the Disciplinary Committee

Earlier in his address, Chairman of Senate, Professor Joseph Aiken, expressed gratitude to the entire University Community over the way the 40th Anniversary of the University was being celebrated. “Every Faculty or College is celebrating the event in its own unique way; the celebrations are affirming the University a rare opportunity to assess the development of our Colleges and Faculties, as well as setting the agenda for the future. He also congratulated the College of Graduate Studies for handing over refurbished Common Rooms to the various Faculties, pointing out that such facilities would go a long way in providing an enabling atmosphere for learning.

Professor Aiken also disclosed that the Report of the 2014 Accreditation Exercises of academic programmes in the University have been received, stating that all the programmes presented for accreditation secured either the “Full” or “Interim” status. He commended the Academic Planning Unit and the University-wide Local Accreditation Committee for working relentlessly to ensure the success of the exercise. The Vice-Chancellor, however, advised the Colleges and Faculties to emulate the development so that affected students would know their academic standing in the University. Senate also observed a minute’s silence in honour of students killed in Gwarin University College, Kenya by the Al Shabab terrorist group early last month, while raising serious concern about security on university campuses in Africa.

Senate also approved the 2013/2014 First and Second Semester, and outstanding Degree Results in the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Management Sciences, Agriculture, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Colleges of Natural and Applied Sciences, Engineering, Health Sciences, as well as Graduate Studies.

NCDMB Pledges Sustainable Partnership With EEL

By Humphrey Ogu

NCDMB will remember us for the long run. The Vice-Chancellor, who spoke through the Chairman, Research and Development, Professor Bernie Willie Aboyei, said: “I wish to thank the NCDMB for the confidence reposed in us. It is not easy to stay back in the country when you have an opportunity to travel out for such training session, especially when we all know that Nigerians love travelling to foreign lands. The question is: if we all travel out, who will be here to fix things in Nigeria?”

In his speech, EEL Director, Professor Wumi Ilodere, congratulated the trainees on successful completion of the training, expressed delight at the impact the Institute had made within its short period of existence, canvassing for more support from stakeholders to enable the Institute deliver more world-class trainings.

“We have all it takes and the personnel to develop requisite manpower here. For us, it is not about prosperity, it is all about posterity. We are happy that we have been able to equip you with relevant skills to enhance productivity in your workplace. We hope to extend our excellent training facilities to more governmental agencies and private organizations,” he stated.

On his part, the Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, Professor Adekunle Durosimi, who described the trainees as ambassadors of the EEL and the University, said: “We are in a transition period and some of our actions are geared towards the implement government policies in the face of dwindling oil revenue,” charging them to continue to be part of the EEL family.

The event featured presentation of Certificates of Participation to the trainees and awards to the Best Overall Participant, Obinna Osuji, Best Project, Kingdom Unwene, Class Governor, Sonia Winiem, The trainees also sang to celebrate their successful completion of the training, while a representative of the trainees, Obin Udaku, thanked the University for the training.
Emeriti Professors, Odia Spice Up CHS Celebrations

Cont’d from p1

former Provost of the College, Professor Osaretin Odia, delivered the 4th Professor Theodore Iddigbe Francis Memorial Lecture on Wednesday.

Delivering the Keynote Address entitled: The Zaria Maternity Survey 1973-1985: What is in it for Us 30 Years Later? at the opening ceremony, Emeritus Professor Harrison, who revisited a research of 22,774 women on pregnancy-related complications which he led on assumption of office as Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, in Kaduna State, disclosed that the survey which spanned over three years, contributed 14 papers to the famous British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (BJOG), a feat he admitted to have far exceeded his modest expectations.

The Venerable Gynaecologist pointed out that: “Childbearing is affected by many factors, notably cultural practices, the state of nutrition and health of the community, the availability of healthcare facilities, their efficiency and utilization, and lastly the biological background of the mother.” explaining that the research concentrated on how these factors influenced the weight of babies, including the mortality and morbidity rates.

“The major medical and obstetric complications with the number of women affected in brackets were disproportion with or without prolonged labour (2,899), anaemia (1,780), haemorrhage (1,429), infections (1,095), eclampsia (525), ruptured uterus (200) and VVF (79). Of the total of 22,774 women in the survey population; 20,718 were delivered of their babies in hospitals. Most operations, operative vaginal deliveries included, had to be performed when complications had reached an advanced stage in patients admitted for the first time at the second stage of labour. Under these circumstances, the high requirement for blood transfusion was not surprising,” he said, stating that: “In the survey population, the youngest mother was aged 9 years, and the eldest was 50 years. Previous births ranged from none to 24. Emeritus Professor Harrison, who further compared the Zaria Maternity Survey with what obtained at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), noted some differences in social attitudes, values and commitment in the line of duty, stressing the need for proper antenatal care to prevent ill-health during pregnancy, detection and treatment of ailments at an early stage.

“Another aim of antenatal care is to anticipate difficulties in labour, and having done so, plan a definite line of action to be taken so that at the end of labour, a healthy baby is born without injury to both mother and child,” he said, advising caregivers to always ensure the provision of quality services to pregnant women.

The Keynote Speaker dedicated the Lecture to the memory of one of his mentees, Dr. Mason Thomas Dokubo Braide, whose career in the healthcare sector spanned the length and breadth of Nigeria. In his Lecture entitled: 40 and On—Determined to Do Better, 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Briggs, who chronicled milestones achievements of the College in the past 37 years such as staffing, medical education, research, professional services and contributions to national development, disclosed that: “From a College that essentially consisted of a single Faculty, that of Medicine, at the beginning, the College now has three—those of Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences and Dentistry and possibly, a fourth one, that of Pharmaceutical Sciences, which though not situated in the College of Health Sciences, emanated from the concept of the production of groups of professionals, not just medical doctors, for the health team. And so, instead of the original 14 Departments, there are now 22, including a Department of Medical Biochemistry. This is without reference to Departments in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.”

The Guest Speaker further revealed that from an initial intake of 33 pioneer students and 24 teaching staff in 1979, the College now had about 300 admitted each session and a teaching staff strength of 265. “As compared to the 4 Professors that were in the College at its inception, there are now 43,” he added. He listed other achievements of the College to include national awards, medical education and production of three Vice-Chancellors.

Presenting the 4th Theodore Iddigbe Francis Memorial Lecture entitled: Professor Theodore Iddigbe Francis and The Making of Doctors in Nigeria, on day three of the 6th Provost of the College, Professor Odia, who traced the origin of medical education in the country to the establishment of Yaba Medical School in 1930, listed Professor Ishaya Audu, Drs. Michael Okpara and Christopher Okogie—all of blessed memory—as some of the notable graduates of the School.

“The Yaba Higher College becamedefunct in 1948 and gave way to the University College Ibadan (UCI), which was established as a College of the University of London. The early medical students in the University College Ibadan did their preclinical training (basic medical sciences) in Ibadan, but they had to be sent out to hospitals in the United Kingdom for their clinical postings,” he recounted, disclosing that the country now had 31 medical schools domiciled in Federal, State and Private universities with 27 of them fully accredited, while four were partially accredited by NMC.

“Professor Francis along with other patriotic senior clinicians of his time contributed to the establishment of the National Postgraduate Medical College, which became about the first of its type in Africa,” the Memorial Lecturer said, recalling that apart from being pioneer Provost of the College, Professor Francis was also the Foundation Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Ondo State in 1982.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, applauded the College for packaging a very rich series of activities for the 40th Anniversary, describing the content of its outing, presentation and organization as a blueprint on how to celebrate an anniversary. Professor Ajienka praised the two former Vice-Chancellors for making it to the celebration, urging the younger generation of academics to learn from the depth of their scholarship and exemplary leadership qualities.

“Medical educators should go back to the era of apprenticeship when Interns learnt from the great masters of the profession. Experienced doctors have a responsibility to mentor young entrants into the profession. We need people with skills and core competencies, who can be trained effectively and efficiently, because Medicine is a very delicate profession that deals with human life. I am happy that the emergent Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences can absorb those who cannot cope with the rigours of medical education,” the Vice-Chancellor told the College.

Earlier in her address, Provost of the College, Professor Christie Mato, stated that: “The College of Health Sciences of this University commenced the training of medical doctors and other health professionals in 1979 with Professor Theodore Iddigbe Francis as pioneer Provost.

“From then until now, we have had eight Provosts before me, trained 2,619 medical doctors, about 3,000 B.Sc.s in Anatomy and Physiology, nine PhDs in Physiology, nine in Anatomy and four in Pharmacology. We have produced seven MDs, 50 M.Sc.s in Pharmacology, 30 in Anatomy and 31 in Physiology,” the first female Provost further revealed, adding that most of the products of the College were doing exceptionally well, both at home and abroad.

Other activities that marked the celebration included a community health outreach, presentation of awards and a well-appointed dinner at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt, last Saturday.
I was Committed To My Duty ~Dr Ikieniksimama

By Mercy Adeniji

I immediate past Acting Head of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, Dr. Sunday Ikieniksimama, has attributed his success on the job to total commitment to duty and co-operation from his colleagues, including students.

Dr. Ikieniksimama, who reviewed the performance of his four-year tenure in his handover report said: “I served for two tenures from September, 2010 to September, 2012 and again from September, 2012 to April, 2014, as Acting Head of the erstwhile Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, and later as Acting Head of the demerged Department of Petroleum Engineering from April, 2014 to October, 2014.”

Dr. Ikieniksimama explained that the Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering had operated under one umbrella before the Department of Gas Engineering was carved out of Petroleum Engineering in 2014. “It was only in April, 2014 that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajaero, finally appointed Mr. Richard Kadana as Acting Head of the Department of Gas Engineering,” the erstwhile Acting HoD told our Correspondent, adding that he thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve the University in that capacity, despite the daunting challenges he faced in office.

Dr. Ikieniksimama recalled that when he assumed office, “there was so much backlog of students’ results which I had to clear; it was a very exhausting job that had to be done to meet stipulated deadlines. I tried my very best to ensure that I did not keep any document on my table till the next day. I think God helped me to successfully end my tenure, because I hardly woke up any day without reports on diverse issues on academic and personal concerns from students. In all, I succeeded through the grace of God and when I look back now; I wonder I survived through without falling ill throughout those hectic periods of my headship of the Department.”

Dr. Ikieniksimama, who is an Associate Professor, said the Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Petroleum Engineering at the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, Ghana as a mentor department for exchange of staff and the training of their students, pointing out that the partnership enhanced the image of the University and also disproved the perception that Nigerian universities were inferior to those in other countries.

“Since the Department was demerged into Petroleum and Gas, we have received donations from alumni, ranging from a semi-silent generator, two in-focus, and photocopiers from the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), to book donations. We have also graduated students, fabricated and designed a Gas Metering Pipeline System; a Piston-Cylinder Water Boiler was also designed, while Professors from the Department were also appointed to positions of responsibility in the University, among others,” he disclosed.

Dr. Ikieniksimama disclosed that the “Department is top-heavy because we have more Professors than other rank of Lecturers. We have the likes of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajaero; Professors Mike Onyeokwu, Adegbe Dusunnu, Dulu Apsilon, George Atewa, Sunny Igbu, Elijah Iyagba, Godwin Chukwu, Joel Ogbeh and Wumi Iledare.

“The experience of serving as Acting HoD in such a Department actually was quite challenging and humbling for me, because you had to lead your senior colleagues; take decisions on their behalf and monitor activities that would bring about the growth of the Department. Managing senior colleagues in such a situation was very daunting exercise that required a lot of balancing, especially when the Professors knew that you were merely holding brief for them; another challenge I faced in office was the enormous pressure on me in terms of admission requests and grading of results in the manner stipulated by Senate of the University. I had to get it right at every turn to avoid sanction,” he added.

Dr. Ikieniksimama appealed to staff and students to continue to exhibit passion and team spirit as ways of taking the Department to greater heights under his successor Dr. Boniface Ojiji. “Younger academics must seek to have cordial relationship with the Professors and non-teaching staff of the Department, as well as build bridges of understanding. You can only consider yourself successful, only when your successor has succeeded. I will be available to cooperate and help my successor to succeed in the overall interest of the Department,” he promised.
CELTRAS ORIENTATION

The Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), held an Orientation exercise for students admitted for the 2014/2015 academic session at the International Students’ Centre on Friday, February 20, 2015. Our Cameraman HEADMAN ALU captured highlights of the event as shown below:

[Description of images and captions]

WISEcrack

If the faith of a priest did not protect him from the evils of Satan, what hope was there for the rest of us?

DAN BROWN