Council Appoints Lale 8th UniPort V-C

By Williams Wodi

The Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt has appointed Professor Ndowa Ekoate Sunday Lale as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of the institution. Chairman of Council, Engineer Gesi Asamaowei, who signed the appointment letter dated May 26, 2015, said Professor Lale emerged as the new Vice-Chancellor following favourable consideration of a report by the Joint Council and Senate Selection Board that deliberated on the matter.

The emergence of Professor Lale followed an intensive interview process of candidates by the Senate Selection Panel set up by the Governing Council for that purpose. The letter further stated that Council made the appointment at its 151st Extra-ordinary Meeting held at the Governing Council Chambers, University Park, last Tuesday.

The new Vice-Chancellor, who shall hold office for a single tenure of five years, is expected to assume the high office on Monday, July 13, 2015, when the tenure of the incumbent Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, would come to an end.

Born 59 years ago in Ebubu in present-day Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State, Professor Lale studied Crop Science in his First degree at the University of Maiduguri between 1978 and 1981, obtaining the First Class (Honours), and was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree of the University of New Castle-Upon-Tyne in Agricultural Entomology in the United Kingdom in 1987.

It would be recalled that Professor Lale served for over 6 years as Pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, where he introduced several innovative ideas that placed the young Faculty on a firm academic and administrative footing.

Aside from the numerous positions he has held in the University's administrative hierarchy and at the national level, Professor Lale is a seasoned administrator with a track record for getting things done. He is a widely-published scholar with several peer-reviewed journals in Nigeria and overseas to his credit.

Professor Lale joined the services of the University of Port Harcourt in 1982 and rose to the professorate on October 1, 2000. He is married with children.
Grand Finale Of 40th Anniversary For June 8

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of the 30th Convocation Ceremony of the University, the 40th Anniversary Committee has disclosed elaborate plans to hold a Carnival to mark the grand finale of the 40th Anniversary of UniPort at 40.

A statement made available to UniPort Weekly by Chairman of the Anniversary Central Committee, Professor Tony Arinze, said the 40th celebration Carnival will hold on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 12:00 noon. The event will mark the climax of the celebrations which have been done at the different Colleges, Faculties and Institutes.

“We kindly request that you kindly re-enact what you presented during your road show and sensitization when you celebrated the event in your different Colleges, Faculties and Units,” the statement read, adding that “Visitors have been invited to witness this climax of our celebrations. Celebration by different Units will be recognised and prizes given to the best celebration.”

The Chairman disclosed that the Carnival is expected to be colourful, interesting and an exciting grand finale of our celebrations. The Road Show will take off from the Pro-Chancellor’s Lodge, Delta Park at 9:00am and move with music and dancing to the University Sports Centre inside the main football stadium.

Meanwhile, the 17th Meeting of the 40th Anniversary Committee holds at 11am today in the Vice Chancellor’s Committee Room.

Onwusonye Subjects Antimalarial Herbs Under The Microscope

Onwusonye, who obtained his first and second degrees in the Faculty of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, evaluated the phytochemistry and antimalarial effects of Alstonia Boonie de Wild and Annona Squamosa Linn plants, as well as their herbal mixtures in mice.

He studied the Effects of Some Oral Hypoglycemic Drugs on Selected Biochemical Parameters in Albino Rats as the topic for his Master degree programme. His Doctoral work was titled Phytochemistry, Biochemical, Haematological and Antimalarial Studies of Methanolic Extracts of Alstonia Boonie de Wild Root Bark and Annona Squamosa Linn Leaves in Albino Mice.

The researcher, who specialized in medical biochemistry, tested the efficacies of two plants commonly used in the local setting to cure malaria-related illnesses, stating that both the samples showed high anti-malarial efficacies and are pharmacologically safe for use.

“Biochemical effects of the plants were investigated by monitoring the levels of serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and total protein, while haematological effects were investigated by monitoring Haemoglobin (HB), packed cell volume (PCV), total white blood cell count (WBC), platelet and differential leucocyte counts in mice administered with each herbal preparation at dose levels of 400, 600 and 800mg/kg/day,” the researcher disclosed, adding that the antimalarial potencies were evaluated in albino mice infected with plasmodium berghei (NK 65) using chemosuppressive, curative and repository tests.

He stated that phytochemical analysis by gas chromatography revealed the presence of twenty alkaloids in Alstonia de Boonie root bark, prominent among which were suguolin and augustamine, nine glycosides among which were amygdalin and digitans, eighteen saponins with sapogenin and saponins.

“It was thus concluded that the two herbs are good sources of pharmaceuticals; safe, and possess good individual but high synergistic antimalarial efficacies. The antimalarial potencies of the herbal preparations were thus concluded to occur in the manner SL<BN<BN+SL,” Onwusonye, whose Dissertation was supervised by Professor Austine Uwakwe and Dr. K.C. Patrick-Iwuanyanwu remarked.
Cont’d from p1

Those honoured were: Professors Emuncema Akama of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Reginald Moro of the Department of Economics, Samuel Irobej of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Mark Animko of the Department of Sociology, Levi Amajor of the Department of Geology, as well as Hyacinth Dike of the Department of Educational Technology and Curriculum Development. Speaking at the well-attended event, a visibly-touched Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who expressed gratitude to the academic generals for their immeasurable services to the University without blemish, described them as inspirational figures, who have duly paid their rents for the academic spaces they occupied for so long in the University of Port Harcourt, adding that “the University is proud to have had these quality scholars of hers in its midst.”

In separate tributes to the retirees, Professor Ajienka extolled their rare academic and administrative qualities which enabled them to make significant contributions to the development the University and the larger society. He encouraged them to be active in the other areas of the academic to keep themselves busy and relevant in society even in retirement. He said: “A true teacher does not really retire. He is a teacher for life. As long as the intellect is active, we must find ways of engaging in meaningful activities to keep the intellect warm.” He encouraged them to join and lead research teams to mentor and give direction to young academics to attract national and international grants, as well as focus on their major goals in life. The rector also organized Short Courses, Applied Technology Workshops for the Industry, writing of books, and engaging more in community service to enrich society as accomplished academics in their own rights.

The 5th Vice Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, Professors Michael Otui of the Department of Geology and Wellington Wetogbe-Wenca of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, praised the contributions of the retirees, particularly as they formed the foundation academic staff of the University. They described the retiring Professors as unassailable academic giants, who made enormous personal sacrifices to stabilize the University in those early days, regretting that they would be sorely missed in their various Departments, Faculties and College.

Responding on behalf of the honorees, Professor Amajor, who expressed gratitude to authorities of the University, members of Senate and their colleagues for the honour done them, advised younger colleagues to work harder to place the University on higher pedestal in the generation of specialized knowledge and service to humanity.

EBSU Staff School Wins Maiden President’s Schools Debate

By Humphrey Ogu

Students of Ebonyi State University Staff Secondary School, Abakaliki, beat off stiff competition from their colleagues from 13 other Demonstration Secondary Schools to emerge winners of the maiden edition of the President’s Inter-University Secondary Schools Debates Championship in Southern Nigeria held in UniPort between Wednesday, May 20 and Saturday, May 24, 2015.

The grand finale of the Debate, which held at the temporary University Arts Theatre—the CRA 1, had the winning school, Ebonyi State University Staff Secondary School, proposing the motion that Nigeria is Ripe for Female Presidency, while their counterparts from University of Nigeria, Demonstration Secondary, Nsukka, opposed the motion which won them second place in the contest.

International Secondary School, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, lost the 3rd place to Nnamdi Azikwe University High School, Anoka, with the former opposing the motion that said: Nigerian Legislators should be Full Time Business.

Announcing the winners after very keen debates between the final and semi-finalists, Chief Adjudicator of the Debate, Mrs. Francesca Edegbe, listed context, style and strategy, as three important points that determined the winners of the Debate.


Declaring the Debate Championship open at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, May 21, 2015, a one-time Minister of State for Education and Chairman, National Advisory Board, President’s School Debate Nigeria (PSDN), Professor Jerry Agada, recalled that he was president of the debating society in his secondary school days, charging the students participating in the maiden edition of the President’s Inter-University Secondary Schools Debate Championship to work harder to actualize their careers as some of them may become governors, ministers or hold other political positions of authority later in life.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony, Chief Host and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who expressed delight that UniPort was selected to host the event, recalled that he represented his school in debate championships in his days as a secondary school student, describing debating as the art of public speaking, aimed at winning others to one’s side. “The art of public speaking is very important. When you observe the United Kingdom and Nigerian Parliaments, you will begin to appreciate the fact that it is necessary to develop a debate culture that would reduce some of the violent incidents in our polity,” he observed. The Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Education for organizing the Debate, hoping that the exercise would further enrich the children as they develop their power of argument.

Earlier in his welcome speech, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Professor Iheanacho Akakuru, who also served as the Vice-Chairman to host the programme at short notice, appealed to both the participating schools and officials of the Ministry to overlook observed deficiencies at the Debate. Akakuru, who is also the head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, commended members of the Local Organising Committee for working under tremendous constraints to realize the event. On his part, National Coordinator of PSDN, Mr. Dare Oritu, said: “We wish to appreciate the Vice-Chancellor and Management of the University for supporting this debate championship, meant to sharpen the skills of participants to appreciate and respect the viewpoints of others,” disclosing that winners from the Southern zone stand the chance of representing the country in a debate in 2017. The event featured presentations of prizes and certificates to participating schools.
CNAS Concludes Orientation On Ethics For New Teaching Staff

By Otigor Samuel

In the past, newly-employed staff were thrown to work without any formal orientation programme that would enable them to properly transit into the system. The result was that such neophytes followed their own rules of engagement with disastrous consequences to the system, having not been exposed to the operational rules that govern their contractual obligations to the University as either teaching or non-teaching staff.

Not so in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, where every new entrant is properly schooled in the approved ways of teaching and relating to other staff and students in the line of duty. In line with the policy of the Ajinka-led administration to train staff to give of their very best to the system, the College, last Monday, conducted an Orientation exercise for newly-recruited teaching staff of the College employed between December, 2013 and January, 2015. It was a memorable exercise that attracted the cream of the University that was on hand to educate the new staff on the rudiments of profession and the need to be on top of their game at all times.

Speaking to UniPort Weekly after the exercise, Provost of the College, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, said it was the second time her administration was organizing an Orientation for new staff to acquaint them with the dos and don’ts of the College as they settle down to discharge their statutory functions to the University.

“It came to our notice in 2013 that a lot of newly-recruited staff had little or no knowledge about the ethical conduct prescribed for them in the College and the University at large. So we brainstormed on the matter and decided to hold an ‘Ethics of Our Profession’ Orientation exercise for this category of staff, where we briefed them on extant administrative and academic issues and introduced them to the University Library. We also used the opportunity to introduce the new staff to the Statement of Academic Policy of the University and the operational structure of the Central Administration,” the Provost explained, expressing delight that the mandatory exercise was well received by the young academics who showed enough enthusiasm for the exercise.

Appraising the initiative as a right step in the right direction, which she said impacted positively on the participants; Professor Frank-Peterside announced that the exercise would henceforth hold annually for all new staff as a means of checkingmate some unwholesome practices that were usually blamed on ignorance of what was required of newly-employed staff of the College. “After this Orientation exercise, I do not expect any of the younger academics to claim that he or she breached the rules on account of not knowing what to do in the line of duty. We took time to clearly explain what the rules say to them and we believe they are now better informed to do only what is right so that they don’t infringe upon the ethical values that govern their conduct as staff of the University,” she said.

Briefing our Correspondent on the outcome of the exercise, College Secretary, Mrs. Faosat Sanni, disclosed that the Deputy Provost, Professor Charity Okajaran welcomed the participants on behalf of the Provost, Professor Frank-Peterside, while Director of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Focal Officer of the SERVICOM Unit, Professor Tony Arinze, spoke on Ethics of Our Profession/Service Delivery, admonishing them on the need to serve the public without grudges or seeking pecuniary interest from such selfless services.

RSG Names Hospital After Former UniPort V-C

By Otigor Samuel

In recognition of his solid contributions to the growth of the medical profession and commitment to the development of the State, the Rivers State Government has named a specialist hospital after the 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs. The hospital which is to be known as Prof. Nimi Briggs’ Super Specialist Hospital would serve as a teaching laboratory for the emergent College of Medicine in the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpochi-Oroworuko, Port Harcourt.

Former Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Sir Gabriel Toby, who represented Governor Chinwike Amaechi at the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the College of Medicine building, last Tuesday, commended Vice-Chancellor of RSUST, Professor Barinime Fakae and Management of the University for their efforts in transforming the University to compete favourably with its counterparts within and outside the country, stating that the approval and ground-breaking ceremony for the emergent College of Medicine would crow the unflinching commitment to the growth of the state-owned Institution.

The new Prof. Nimi Briggs’ Super Specialist Hospital, located opposite the Information Technology Centre in the University, was officially opened by the President-elect, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, who was expected to arrive from the United Kingdom. Speaking before commissioning the Hospital on behalf of the President-Elect, Sir Toby thanked Governor Amaechi for boosting the health sector of the State with the provision of the Hospital, amongst other Primary Healthcare facilities.

He said that the Hospital was appropriately named after Emeritus Professor Briggs due to his outstanding contributions to the medical profession, urging the State Government to ensure that the University Community and its environs benefitted maximally from the Hospital to justify its establishment.

The Governor, who congratulated the Provost of the emergent College, Professor Raphael Orumabor for his meritorious appointment, described him as a sound mind in the medical profession. He expressed confidence that Professor would deliver a world-class College of Medicine to the University and the people of Rivers State and beyond. Orumabor who retired as a foremost Paediatrician from the University of Port Harcourt also pioneered the College of Medicine of Niger Delta University before his current appointment.

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Justice Adolphus Karibi-Whyte in his remarks, said that the College was a fulfilment of the various efforts by the Governing Council and the University Management. He explained that the University was established to serve the community and help in bringing development to the State. He thanked all those who contributed in making the occasion a success.

Rivers State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Samson Parker, who explained that the hospital was a product of a Public-Private Partnership to be run by International Trauma and Critical Care Limited, said that the project was conceived to stem the tide of capital flight for medical care outside the country. Dr. Parker promised that the hospital would not be affected by industrial actions in government-owned hospitals.

The benefactor, Emeritus Professor Briggs, thanked the Rivers State Government under the leadership of former Governor Amaechi for naming the hospital after him, urging operators of the hospital to deliver excellent services to benefit their clients.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe represented Vice-Chancellor of UniPort, Professor Joseph Ajienka at the commissioning of the hospital.

Former Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Sir Toby flanked by V-C, RSUST, Prof Fakae (left), Emeritus Prof Briggs (right) and others, cutting the tape to commission the Hospital
A part of activities marking the ongoing 40th Anniversary of the University, the Library Department rewarded past Librarians and staff for their immense contributions to the development of the Department in the past 40 years. Speaking at a send-forth ceremony held in honour of the former staff at the American Corner of the Library on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, the University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, who thanked them for their immense contributions to the growth of the Department, said that the Management of the Library thought it wise to honour its own for their meritorious services to the University.

Going down memory lane on the history and growth of the Library, Dr. Nwodo disclosed that “the late Mr. George Affia was the founding father of the University Library in 1977 when the then College of the University of Lagos became an autonomous University. He initially joined the Library profession as an Assistant Librarian in the University of Lagos in 1965 and rose through hard work to the position of Director of Library Services in the emergent University of Port Harcourt in September, 1975.”

Presenting a Posthumous Award to the pioneer Librarian, Dr. Nwodo revealed that late Affia served as University Librarian for two decades, expressing delight that the solid structures and policies put in place at the onset of the Library eventually metamorphosed into a world-class facility that the Donald Ekong Library has become today.

Dr. Nwodo, who further presented awards to Dr. Nathaniel Obokoh, Professor Obinim Ayologu and Mr. Joseph Aina, stated that these past University Librarians contributed their quota to the growth of the University at various times. “Dr. Obokoh was opportune to have worked very closely with late George Affia. He is a real academic, who despite his busy official schedule, still found time to write and publish quality books. It was during his tenure that the University World Bank Library became a Library of last resort for academic researchers East

By Mercy Adeniji

of the Niger Delta,” the University Librarian said. Dr. Nwodo also commended Professor Ayologu for “rising to the occasion following the perceived crisis of confidence that erupted in the Library at the exit of the 2nd University Librarian,” stating that his immense contributions to staff development resulted in quality Library service delivery during his tenure. She further described Mr. Joseph Aina, who was the third University Librarian as a very amiable and accommodating gentleman. He had the rare privilege of presiding over the movement of the Library from its various temporary locations to a befitting Permanent Site at the University Park.

In a sideline interview, Mr. Aina, who is now the University Librarian of Caleb University in Lagos State, described his tenure in University of Port Harcourt as an exciting one, recalling that he worked in an atmosphere characterized by love and cooperation from his subordinate officers. “The way my colleagues admired and invited me for this honour, shows that they still have love for me for the modest contributions I made toward the development of the University Library while I was here.”

The former University Librarian expressed gratitude to Management of the University for the opportunity to serve, especially the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, for taking the University and the Library to an enviable height that should be emulated by others.

In his own contribution, a former staff of the Library, Mr. Roger Ihuwon, expressed gratitude to Management of the Library for honouring him with the award of the Longest Serving Staff, recalling that he was employed as a Book Binder, from where he was promoted to the position of Foreman Binder.

Dr. Nwodo further described Mr. Ihuwon as a very pleasant person, who worked amicably with his erstwhile colleagues without friction.

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Valedictory Lecture

Anikpo Tasks Sociologists On Subject Relevance

By Obinim Nwodim

After over four decades of a very distinguished and rewarding career in the academy, cradle of knowledge, the Nigerian Sociologist and University Administrator, Professor Mark Anikpo, has stressed the need for sociologists to rethink the discipline, its methodologies and theoretical models to conform with the realities of contemporary Nigerian society and the challenges they pose to the relevance of the discipline.

Professor Anikpo made the assertion while delivering the 5th Valedictory Lecture of the University at the Ebiti Benigo Auditorium, University Park, last Tuesday, to mark his formal retirement from the University.

Anikpo, whose lecture was titled, Sociology in Contemporary Nigeria: The Challenges of Relevance, stressed the need for more macro research initiatives in the discipline, adding that “the history and scope of the contemporary social challenges must be brought together to reveal their characteristics and patterns and only in so doing can a relevant research agenda emerge and an appropriate prescription solution be offered.”

The one-time Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of the University, who was conferred with the Fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences of Nigeria at a formal academic career, suggested that “more efforts should be directed to practical areas such as Conflict Resolution, Labour-Management Relations, Social Welfare, Security and Crime Prevention.” He said that “they need to reflect implementable policy suggestions and praxis, but only as parts of a dialectical programme.”

He regretted that the tradition of robust conferences was on the decline in many Nigerian universities, stressing that the need to revive the process so that ideas would circulate and contend with one another.

Professor Anikpo, who said that Sociologists have stopped defining the society to reveal its contemporary dynamics and demands, resulting in the decline of its relevance as a tool for understanding and solving contemporary social problems, stated that macro research endeavours have, at best, merely scratched at the emerging challenges without really professing adequate solutions to them. He stated the need for more macro studies based on the historical dialectical transformation of society.

The Lecturer noted that theoretical models have shifted to conservative fundamentalist models which, he said, were unable to critically expose the ills of society, adding that more analysis from critical political economy models were now imperative to enhance the capacity of Sociology to understand and proffer solutions to emerging social problems in contemporary society.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, described Professor Anikpo as a seasoned academic and mentor of many scholars, who has impacted the academia in many positive ways in many years of continuous engagement. Professor Ajienka, who described Anikpo as a very talented teacher, who served the University in many capacities, pointed out that he was clearly cut out for the academia. He expressed hope that younger academics would continue to propagate the enduring legacy which Professor Anikpo was leaving behind as he bid his colleagues farewell.

The event, which was attended by family members, friends and associates of Professor Anikpo, also featured presentations of two thought-provoking books: Conflict and Development in the Niger Delta - Sociological Perspectives edited by Professor Anikpo himself and another book titled: Academic Legacies of Anikpo’s formal disengagement from the University. The Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTES) also held a Farewell Party in honour of its Founding Director, Professor Anikpo last Thursday at the Centre in the Basic Studies complex, University Park.

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Experts Reappraise Malaria Control Strategies

By Humphrey Ogu

A s malaria continues to kill scores of Nigerians on a daily basis, despite several control measures aimed at reducing the health hazards it poses to the public, healthcare experts met last Monday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium to fine tune strategies for tackling the scourge, including sensitising the public on effective preventive measures.

Welcoming guests to the 2015 edition of World Malaria Day, new Director of the Centre for Malaria Research and Phyomedicine (CMRAP), Professor Chijioke Nwauche, noted that “the World Health Organisation (WHO) has set aside the 25th day of April annually for the celebration of the World Malaria Day (WMD). However, the Vice-Chancellor, Staff and Research Faculty of the Centre decided to commemorate the 2015 WMD on May 26.

“This year’s WMD is unique in several respects and marks the end and the review period of the campaign strategy tagged: ‘Invest in the Future: Defeat Malaria’, which was to run from 2011 to 2015. There is overwhelming evidence to show that there has been a significant reduction in the global malaria burden; for example, many national malaria programmes are now migrating from control measures to actual elimination of the disease,” he said, adding that “this fact is attributable to the significant impact of the core intervention strategies initiated by the WHO-T, (Test, Treat and Track), Roll Back Malaria and Vector Control strategies.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who spoke through the Chairman of Research and Development in the University, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, observed that “the Centre for Malaria Research and Phyomedicine has done a lot in malaria research. Malaria is a problem that requires very urgent solution. We are not just interested in the chemical aspect of the fight against malaria; we are interested on a holistic approach to the total eradication of the scourge from our country.”

Earlier in his opening remarks, Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Nelson Uwaga, who is a Visiting Scholar in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, said that as a Pharmacists, he has observed that the Artemisinin-based combination Therapy (ACT) had started falling in the management of the disease. “Most efforts made at eradicating mosquitoes come from outside the country. It behoves us as Nigerians to do more in the fight against malaria in our own small corners of the country, rather than relying solely on foreign interventions to contain the scourge,” he advised, warning members of the public to desist from consuming a certain Chinese product sold as anti-malaria tea in Nigeria. According to him, the so-called wonder tea only helps to worsen patient resistance to existing malaria drugs.

Delivering the Keynote Address titled: “Priorities in Social and Economic Aspects of Malaria Research and Control”, Professor Obinna Onwujekwe of the Health Policy Research Group, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, lamented that over 300,000 malaria-related deaths are recorded in Nigeria each year.

“Most treatments sought and provided are inappropriate. Effective malaria control will increase economic productivity. Malaria control should be seen as a fundamental human right; payment for malaria treatment should be made only if patients are able to pay,” he recommended, advising that every research finding should be available to policy-makers.

In his lecture titled: “Prospects of Malaria Vaccine: Challenges for Africans”, Visiting Scholar to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Vincent Idenyor, stressed the importance of collaborative research in developing an effective vaccine to sustain the fight against malaria, pointing out that vaccines are different from drugs. “There is no vaccine in human use against a parasite and the malaria parasite has 6,000 genes. One obstacle is that limited market exists in developed countries for anti-malaria vaccines, while malaria endemic countries are poor. Vaccine development is a high-risk, high-cost venture, while an effective, but unaffordable vaccine approximate to no vaccine,” Idenyor told the audience.

On her part, Acting Head of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Dr. Iyewuwa Chijioke-Nwauche, whose lecture was titled: “Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy Resistance: Are We Under Threat in Nigeria?”, noted that “For many years, Chloroquine had been the standard drug for the treatment of malaria until it lost its relevance because of the resistance of the malaria parasite to it. Today, the greatest arsenal we have for treating malaria is Artemisinin,” regretting that Nigeria is a country where people engaged in self-medication. She emphasised the need for patients to adhere strictly to prescriptions, rather than mixing and taking drugs that may worsen their condition and even pose a threat to their lives.

Also speaking, Chief Medical Director of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Professor Aaron Ojule, who congratulated CMMRAP for its research activities, said that malaria research was of great importance to black people, pledging collaborations and support for the Centre to enable it achieve a breakthrough in efforts aimed at stamping out malaria from Nigeria.

Dignitaries at the programme included the 3rd Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Sylvanus Coolkey and Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christine Mato, amongst Doctors and Nurses from UPTH, including staff and students of the University. The event featured free malaria tests, exhibitions and a playlet by students from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies.

UniPort Student Gets President's NYSC Award

By Edith Timi-Johnson

A student of the University, Miss Toun Obodiwe, who was among the 146 distinguished Corp Members that received the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) President's Honours Award has finally presented her Award to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka in a brief ceremony. The Award covers three service years, 2012 to 2014, Miss Obodiwe of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, was one of five students of the University who received Presidential awards for initiating community development projects in their areas of primary assignment, including the building of a Counselling Development Centre at the Government Day Secondary School, Lankaviri in Taraba State as part of activities that marked her mandatory national service in the 2011 Batch ‘A’ service.

Her other projects included construction of a volleyball court, donation of nets and balls and production and hoisting of national and school flags. Miss Obodiwe also organized guidance and counselling sessions, including distribution of study materials to students of the school. She organized extra-mural classes for the senior classes and career development for final year students of the school.

An Award Certificate personally signed by former President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan dated March 2, 2015, indicated that Miss Obodiwe was recognised for her outstanding performance and sterling qualities. The unique Alumna also carried away the Taraba State Honours Award for her outstanding contributions to the Government and people of the State.

It would be recalled that the NYSC President's Honours Award was instituted in 1974 as a means of identifying, projecting, and rewarding Corp Members who go the extra mile in rendering exemplary services to the nation.
UDPS Celebrates UniPort At 40

By Mercy Adeniji

The University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS), took its turn last Friday, May 22, 2015, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the University of Port Harcourt. The impressive one-day event kicked-off with a foundation-laying ceremony of a new classroom block and a rally by staff and pupils of the School.

Receiving the visibly excited pupils and their teachers at the Senate building during the rally, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajaekwu, who was represented at the occasion by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igho Joe, commended Management of the School and pupils for joining the University in celebrating 40 years of landmark achievements, reminding the pupils that their School was 28 years old this year, a feat that was worth celebrating in a special way too.

Declaring open the event which held at the Etinime Nwagbo Auditorium, University Park, Chairman of the occasion and Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, congratulated the UDPS for keying into the 40th Anniversary celebration of the University, hoping that some of the pupils would eventually choose the University for their higher education after their secondary school education. “I wish UDPS great breakthroughs in future. This School is so dear to the Faculty of Education and we care so much about its accelerated academic and infrastructural development. It is our hope that UDPS will grow to a higher pedestal as a meeting ground for pupils with the ambition to advance their educational career lines,” the Dean said.

Professor Igwe, who was represented by a former Chairman of the UDPS Board, Dr. Ofonime Nkoko, commended Management of the University for celebrating 40 years of great achievements by the University. “Having grown to this stage, we are sure that greater things are coming for this University, which has produced Presidents, Governors, Ministers, Captains of Industry, among other great personalities at 40. We believe that the University would continue to soar higher in all its future endeavours,” he noted.

In her contribution, the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nwosu, who was represented by a Principal Assistant Registrar, Mr. Edelese Akah, also commended Management of the School for joining the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the University, urging it to keep the flag of the University and the School flying high at all times.

Also speaking, Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Committee, Professor Tony Arinze, praised the School for turning out so many quality pupils, who are doing exceptionally well in diverse fields of human endeavour. He urged the pupils to be good ambassadors of the School and UniPort. In her welcome speech, Chairman of the Board of UDPS, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, commended the Management, staff and pupil of the School for celebrating University of Port Harcourt at 40 and the UDPS at 38. She prayed God to continue to keep the University and UDPS as they grow together in the years ahead.

In her remarks, UDPS Administrator, Dr. Ibirunke Kosamemi congratulated UniPort at 40 and the School at 38, promising that UDPS would continue to nurture the leaders of tomorrow. Giving a brief history of the School, Dr. Kosamemi recalled that it was born out of the need to serve the staff of the newly established University and its neighboring communities at the time. “The University Demonstration Primary School was established on September 25, 1977 with the stated objective of catering for the basic educational needs of children of staff and maintain a good relationship with the outside community by admitting children from the Greater Port Harcourt area,” she noted.

“Many of the products of UDPS have graduated in various disciplines from higher institutions around the world.” Other highpoint of the celebration were presentations, music choreography, exhibition and cultural dances.

A cross-section of UDPS Pupils and a teacher during the celebration

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MET

WEATHER OBSERVATORY FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 31 – SATURDAY JUNE 06, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TEMPERATURE (°C)</th>
<th>HUMIDITY (%)</th>
<th>WIND DIRECTION</th>
<th>RAIN (mm)</th>
<th>SUNRISE AND SUNSET (00:00)</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY 31 MAY 2015</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:18 - 10:41</td>
<td>More cloudy than was expected. Anticipated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>33.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>6:18 - 10:41</td>
<td>Thunder storms expected late in the day. Results of one expected late in the day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 03 JUNE 2015</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>6:18 - 10:41</td>
<td>Thunder storms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 04 JUNE 2015</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>6:19 - 10:43</td>
<td>Thunder storms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 05 JUNE 2015</td>
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<td>24.0</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>6:19 - 10:43</td>
<td>Thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mnom
AG. Director, (CDRMD)

SERVICOM CORNER

The philosophy of the University of Port Harcourt is: commitment to academic freedom, tolerance, probity, equal opportunity and respect for cultural diversity. Members of staff should promote the philosophy of the University in order to ensure efficient service delivery.

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SSLT Induction

A total of 770 new technologists trained by the University of Port Harcourt were inducted into the profession by the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT) on Tuesday, 24th March, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Pictures below show highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU: