UniPort Gets First Continental Athletic Training Centre

By Williams Wodi
(With agency report)

Following a long wait, the hard work and networking by authorities of the University of Port Harcourt has finally paid off as the Athletic Federation of Nigeria has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) to establish a High Performance Training Centre at the main campus of the University. The Training Centre, which is the first of its kind in Africa, is in fulfillment of a partnership entered on behalf of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). The MoU to set up the Centre is one of the gains of the just-concluded 2014 African Athletics Championships held in the North African city of Marrakech, Morocco.

A statement released on behalf of the collaborating partners by Spokesman of AFN, Olukayode Thomas, indicated that the President of CAA, Hamad Kaikaba, revealed that CAA and the IAAF teamed up to establish the High Performance Training Centre at the University of Port Harcourt to afford athletes a rare opportunity to combine their training with academic pursuit.

Dr Lamine Diack, IAAF President

Prof Ajienka, V-C

Kaikaba, who spoke during the signing ceremony of the important MoU, described the epoch-making event as a dream come true, stating that some strong African countries in athletics, such as Nigeria and...
V-C, Experts, Advise Staff, Students On Ebola

By Obinna Nwodie

Against the backdrop of palpable fears generated by the outbreak of the dreaded Ebola virus disease (EVD), authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have taken proactive measures to sensitize staff and students on the scourge that is ravaging some West Africa countries, including Nigeria. The latest in the series of the sensitization programmes on the disease took place penultimate Friday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park under the auspices of the College of Health Sciences.

Addressing the capacity-filled Auditorium, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Aijenka, who described the times as very challenging, said that as a University Community, there was need to bring in experts in the field to enlighten staff and students on what the virus was all about, as well as the necessary steps to prevent the scourge from spreading from person to person.

He said that rapid response measures were initiated by the authorities because of the absence of a cure for the virus, insisting that the best way to prevent contracting it was through prevention measures that necessitated the sensitization programme. The Vice-Chancellor thanked all those who have shown concern for the health and welfare of staff and students, disclosing that “Management has set up a Committee of experts in various disciplines to see what we can do to continue to enlighten staff and students about the dangers posed to our health by the virus.”

In his remarks, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akani, said that the College deemed the enlightenment programme necessary due to the dangerous dimension Ebola was taking and the number of persons so far infected and affected by the scourge. He said that “we need to know about the Ebola virus, its fears and the scares, as well as some of the necessary lifestyle changes that must be made by individuals in order to prevent the disease from spreading further in parts of the country.”

Four presentations were made at the event. Dr Sunny Chimenye of the Department of Internal Medicine spoke on Ebola: The Fears and Scare; Dr Temitayo Aowejuo of the Department of Medical Microbiology spoke on Medical Diagnosis of Ebola Virus; Dr Omosivie Maduka of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine (PSM) addressed participants on Prevention and Control Measures, while Dr Ovikomoba Obunge of the Department of Medical Microbiology, concluded the exercise with a presentation titled, Ebola Outbreak: Basic Take-Points.

Participants were advised to maintain individual and environmental hygiene through regular washing of hands with clean running water and soap, as well as avoiding eating fruit bats and other primates, bush meat, which are said to harbour the virus, amongst other measures. The lively event featured a question and answer session.

Already, the Committee on the containment of the Ebola virus has swung into action with the enlightenment of members of the University Community. The Committee has designed mega banners with information on ways to prevent the deadly disease placed at strategic points in the University.

It would be recalled that following the outbreak of the Ebola virus, serious concerns have been raised about the health of individuals in public institutions where human interactions and contacts are deemed inevitable.

It was few minutes away from 9:00 a.m. last Wednesday when Focal Officer of SERVICOM Unit, Professor Tony Arinze and Chartered Desk Officer, Mrs. Peace Stowe, stormed the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit for reasons that could not be immediately fathomed by curious staff of the Unit.

Staff of the Unit were settling down to continue with the processes of producing this week's edition of the UniPort Weekly, when the unexpected 'visitors' came calling, moving straight to the office of the Deputy Registrar in charge of the Unit, Williams Wodi, clutching something that was not clearly visible.

No staff would see Professor Arinze at that time of the day without suspecting that he was there to monitor the almighty “Attendance Register” in the discharge of his quality assurance mandate. The Focal Officer, however, doused the lingering suspicion, when he disclosed that his mission to the Unit was to show appreciation of the SERVICOM Unit in respect of the contributions of the Deputy Registrar and his team in what he described as diligent discharge of services to the University by IPPR, especially the effective dissemination of information to the University Community and the outside world through the prompt publication of UniPort Weekly, in processes of UniPort Weekly and other publications by the Unit.

Speaking before decorating Wodi, who is also the Public Relations Officer of the University, Professor Arinze pointed out that: “The services rendered by the IPPR Unit are crucial to the institutional growth of the University. We have watched closely the performance of this Unit and, therefore, wish to appreciate your commitment in informing the University Community about the transformational efforts of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Aijenka. We have also observed that your Unit is very proactive in defending the image of the University at all times. “On behalf of the National Coordinator, I hereby decorate you with this SERVICOM Medal as a token of our appreciation of your services and equally urge you to continue the good work of promoting the activities of the present administration which has done so much to deliver on the core mandate of the University of Port Harcourt.”

Responding, the Deputy Registrar, who expressed surprise about the honour, stated that: “We came to work early as usual; unaware of this decoration and so you caught us by surprise. We thank you for this medal and for identifying us for recognition. Initially, it was a difficult task combining all what we do here and meeting weekly deadlines, but we have adjusted to the routine, so this recognition will spur us to continue to work harder by continuing to deliver on our mandate.”

Senior Assistant Registrar and Associate Editor, Obinna Nwodie and few other staff witnessed the brief decoration ceremony.
I Will Stop Encroachment On UniPort Lands, Rivers CP

Cont’d from p1

This was the outcome of a visit by the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Tunde Ogunsakin, when he led a large contingent of his top line officers to pay a familiarization visit to the University, last Wednesday. Mr. Ogunsakin, who assured that the Command would ensure that it puts a stop to further encroachment into the boundaries of the University, said that the Rivers State Police Command was putting in place programmes and strategies to reduce crime in the State, appealing to authorities of the University to make available experts from the University as resource persons at workshops and seminars mounted by the Command. He said that the situation he met on ground showed that there was peace in the University environment, adding that his Command would do whatever within its powers to reduce crime in the State, promising to safeguard lives and property in and around the University at all times.

Welcoming the Commissioner, the Pro-Chancellor, Engineer Gesi Asamaowei, who commended Mr. Ogunsakin and his personnel over their effective policing of the State since his deployment here, said that encroachment into lands belonging to the University was a serious problem militating against the accelerated development of the Institution. The Chairman of Council made a passionate appeal to the Police Commissioner to urgently come to the aid of the University to enable it dislodge the land speculators, who he said were apparently operating in connivance with some unscrupulous persons within the University’s host communities.

He regretted reports of the unwholesome activities of land speculators in the University, which has resulted in the loss of about 52% of the original land area surveyed and allocated to the University in 1975. The Pro-Chancellor said that the University was a serious academic environment, which necessitated adequate maintenance of law and order. He appealed to the Commissioner to continue to respond to the needs of the University, particularly in times of distress to enable staff and students carry out their core mandate in an unfettered learning environment.

Turning to complaints made by authorities of the University over incessant encroachment on University lands, CP Ogunsakin warned all such persons to stay off the University, promising that his Command will identify those involved and handle their cases in line with enabling laws. “We are not going to fold our hands and watch land speculators take over lands that have been statutorily allocated to the University by the Federal Government; we will take immediate remedial measures to ensure that all those, who illegally encroached on such lands are dealt with according to law. I have gone round and seen the alarming extent of encroachment and I can assure the University that all those involved will be fished out and dealt with in line with powers available to the Police. Police are now taking the uncompromising view that University lands must be respected and enforced at all times and the land speculators will hear from us very soon,” he assured authorities of the University. The Vice-Chancellor and his entourage round the proposed site for the new Police Station and residential area for the personnel along Aluu Road, pleaded with the Commissioner to save the University from being encroached on. The University’s President, comprising of University lands must be respected and enforced at all times and the land speculators will hear from us very soon.”

Nigerian Musicians Name V-C Patron At Convab

By Humphrey Ogu

L-R: Dean, Humanities, Prof Enemkwegwu, H.o.D, Music, Prof Nwanpka, V-C, Prof Ajienka, President ANIM, Dr Adeleji, Dr Isaac Ibude and DF-VC (Admin), Prof Ndukuba

Festschrift For Mosanmola Ayinke Omibaba-Obabake, edited by Charles Alude et al, noted that the best way to preserve knowledge was to put it in a book, pleading to purchase some copies of the book for use in the University.

Earlier in his speech, Chairman of the occasion, and Director of South-South Operations, DAAR Communications Plc, Barri Pernomoung, who observed that the Rhythms of African Music are very deep, said that the Department of Music in the University had contributed to the growth of music in Rivers State and its environs. Delivering the Keynote Address titled, “Contemplating African Rhythm: Creativity and the Politics of Identity Construction,” Dr Bode Omoljula of Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, USA, noted that “In generating theories about African music, the critical question should always be whether or not such theories are reflective of the ways local practitioners and bearers of the music, feel, conceive and create their music.”

Representative of the Conference Planning Committee, Dr Adeolawo Okunade of the University of Port Harcourt, Omokhia recommended that “Concepts and theories of African music need to be ethnographically contextualized.”

The Conference, which drew participants from various academic institutions around the country, received goodwill messages from the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor E. E. Emenoge; Head of Department of Music, Professor Onye Nwanpka and Chief Operating Officer, Orpheus Company Limited, Mr Chijioke Nwaman, who expressed his firm’s willingness to collaborate with the Department and ANIM in the growth of the music industry.

Other highlights of the event included performances by the Ochipsa Dance of Choba, as well as traditional and classical musical performances by students of the Department of Music.

UniPort

Weekly

Vol. 20, Edition 195
Again, V-C Appeals To Contractors On Debts

By Otitor Samuel

With availability of funds, the present administration of the University would certainly defray all outstanding debts to Contractors to free the next leadership of the burden of grappling with such responsibility on assumption of office. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, gave the assurance while addressing a delegation of UniPort Contractors’ Welfare Association in his Committee Room, penultimate Friday.

Professor Ajienka, who reiterated his earlier promise to pay the Contractors in installments until the debts are finally disposed of before the completion of his tenure, regretted the situation, which he partly blamed on the repeated disruption of academic activities, assuring the delegation that his administration would continue with the payment arrangements at the end of the month as agreed with the Contractors.

“We have agreed to pay part of the money on a quarterly basis; just exercise a little more patience as payment of debts was provided for in our budget for this year. I hope to defray most of the debts before I complete my tenure and not to transfer debt to the next administration even though, I know that government is a continuous process. The major challenge before us is paucity of funds; the amount involved is way beyond my salary. These are not personal debts; they were placed on my table as I assumed office in 2016, but I had to take responsibility because they were incurred in the name of the University.

“We receive only N10.7 million monthly grants from the Federal Government, but we spend about N100 million to run the University per month. We are saddled with the responsibility of sourcing the huge difference to keep the system afloat. We have cut down cost tremendously to enable us manage the situation,” Professor Ajienka said.

The Vice-Chancellor, however, frowned at what he described as the resort to unwarranted expression of grievances through the electronic and print media to blackmail the University. “It is a betrayal of trust for you to write to the Governing Council of the University, accusing us of awarding contracts against the Procurement Act, when we knew that we had no money to pay Contractors and going to the mass media to blackmail us. Don’t make it look as if it is a personal thing; we regret the situation we now find ourselves and we promised to be paying on quarterly basis which we have started doing. We will collate what we have at the end of this month and pay the ones we can meet up now and then hopefully pay up subsequently before I leave office,” he emphasized.

Earlier, Chairman of the Association, Mr. Collins Amadi, who briefed the Vice-Chancellor on the plight of the Contractors, pleaded for prompt resolution of the impasse, regretting that most of the Contractors had incurred personal losses while the debts lingered. He urged the University to pay up for jobs that were successfully delivered to enable the Contractors meet their personal obligations to their creditors and families.

The meeting, which ended in a lighter mood, also had the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka; Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Allezi and Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi and his counterpart in charge of the Vice-Chancellor’s Office, Mr. Kelsey Makele, in attendance.

UniPort Debaters Shine At Int’l Event

By Mercy Adeniji and Humphrey Ogu

Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, who participated in the Public Speaking segment of the Ghana Tertiary Debate Championship made it to the semi-finals.

Corroborating the view of the team leader, Onyekachi Onyeaso, a student of Medicine and Surgery, said the Club is open to students, who love debate, explaining that during their training sessions, they learn how to answer questions properly and initiate counter arguments in a proper debating manner. “We learn all these skills before we go for various competitions,” he said, calling on students of the University to feel free to join the Club to enable them understand how to handle issues in the proper way, especially through dialogue, rather than taking laws into their own hands.

The students further expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka; Chairman, Debate Committee, Professor Iheanacho Akakuru and other members of the Committee for supporting and properly guiding the Club.

Some UniPort Debate Club members, Akus, Ike-Obioha and Onyeaso (right)
I Had A Successful Tenure ~ Prof Ekekwe

By Mercy Ademiji

The immediate past Head, Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Eme Ekekwe, has expressed satisfaction over his successful tenure as HoD for two years, stating that he was able to achieve some of his stated objectives with the assistance of his wonderful colleagues, administrative staff and students.

Professor Ekekwe, who recalled his experience while in office, said the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Dean appoints very senior academics as Heads of Department. “I have completed my two-year tenure and my successor has also been appointed in the person of Dr Chinyeme Mac-Ogbor. Looking back, I think I had a very successful tenure. From my personal point of view, I think I also succeeded in what I set out to accomplish in the Department within the time available,” the former HoD said with a visible measure of satisfaction.

According to Professor Ekekwe, the Head of any institution or organization takes full responsibility for any success or failure during his or her tenure, but it is also recognized that the Head works with colleagues and other members of the public to attain organizational goals. “In my own case, I enjoyed very strong support from the Vice-Chancellor, who gave me the responsibility, and also from my Dean, Professor Henry Alapik and other colleagues,” he said.

Professor Ekekwe, who is the Occupant, Claude Ake Professorial Chair of Political Economy, revealed that he and his colleagues were able to continue the process of re-shaping the Department and through the efforts of the Dean, they were able to make recommendations on the Course Content and Structure of a new Department to be carved out of the present one, noting that once this is approved by Senate of the University, “we would have a Department of Public Administration and the Department of Political Science to enable us focus more on the core subject areas in the two options.”

Professor Ekekwe, who doubles as Director, Claude Ake School of Government, noted that another thing he was able to accomplish during his tenure was the restructuring of the Graduate programme of the Department in keeping with the National Universities Commission (NUC) guideline, explaining that recently-admitted students were currently running the new NUC approved programme. “This means is that we have totally reworked the entire programmes to conform to prevailing trends around the world,” he told our Correspondent.

Speaking on the challenges he faced in the line of duty, the out-going Head of Department identified the problem of managing students as a major headache faced by his administration. “We need to keep working the administrative processes to make them student-friendly. We need to create mechanisms in the Departments to harness input from our students and give them a certain kind of voice and sense of community. The Head of any Department is first and foremost the leader in certain academic directions and for me that includes making it possible for students to take pride in that discipline,” he noted.

“Everyone sees Political Sciences as so vital and lucrative as a subject. So the greatest challenge I faced in office was to begin to make students understand the capacity of the discipline to help in shaping society. This means we must engage ourselves and the public in debate about important issues to enable us build consensus,” he added.

Professor Ekekwe further revealed that while in office, he tried to encourage students to know their rights and obligations in the Department so that they are not easily intimidated by the authorities, especially when such authorities have not clearly communicated their objectives to them. He was also of the view that students must understand their obligations toward the growth of the University. “I also insisted that in doing that, students must follow the laid- down rules in order not to infringe on the terms of their admission. As I see it, our primary role is to begin to teach ourselves and our students to be positive. We should practise what we preach, so for any leader, this would always be a major challenge,” he submitted.

The immediate past HoD expressed gratitude to those who worked with him to ensure that he succeeded, stating that as he steps aside, he had more work to do as Chair Occupant and Director. He explained that to occupy a Chair, it means that a lot has to be done in terms of research, seminars and workshops. “I must acknowledge the strong effort from my colleagues and I certainly hope that my successor succeeds better than I did. He would always have my support and anything I or anyone else can do to support him, we should assist him to succeed, because the only way to go is up. We all have a joint objective in ensuring that the Department is taken to a new height,” the former HoD said.

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SPDC Happy With UniPort Over Shell-Aret Adams Chair

By Humphrey Ogu

OPTIWELL software, with its cutting-edge technology, boasts the ability to optimize and sustain production for SPDC.

"We work closely with universities, especially UniPort. For instance, we run a Summer School, Internship for Postgraduate Students and offer placements for Lecturers on Sabbatical Leave from universities. We also provide opportunities for Final Year Students to compete with their peers around the globe by designing fuel-efficient engines through a programme known as Shell Eco-marathon," he explained.

Also speaking, Chair Occupant, Professor Dosunmu, said the meeting afforded both parties—the University and SPDC—an opportunity to evaluate what has been achieved so far, assess the challenges and proffer the way forward to enhance the contribution of UniPort to the crude oil production processes of Shell through the development of the OPTIWELL software, expressing satisfaction that the Company was very pleased with the achievement of the Chair within the period of its endowment.

Other members of the Shell delegation included: Senior Research Advisor, University Liaison, Professor Emmanuel Ukpebor; Research and Development (R&D) Advisor, SPDC, Stanley Harcourt, and Sustainability Assurance and Evaluation, SDCR of the Company in Nigeria, Mrs Stella Emeka-Okoli.

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L-R: Prof Uskpebor, Chokor, V-C, Prof Ajenka, Mrs Stella Emeka-Okoli, Prof Dosunmu and Stanley Harcourt
UniPort Gets Continental Athletic Centre

Cont’d from p1

South Africa, must come to the assistance of other smaller nations on the Continent to help them excel in sporting activities.

“This has been our dream for so long, but I thank God that the dream is now a reality,” Kaikaba said, hoping that the Universities and athletes in the West African sub-Region would benefit maximally from the UniPort Centre.

The Nigerian Government was represented at the MoU signing ceremony by an Embassy official in Morocco, Lawal Bappah. Also present at the historic occasion were President of the Athletic Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Solomon Ogba, the Director of Sports in UniPort, Dr. Ken Anugweje, the AFN Technical Director, Navy Comodore Onatseye Nesiama and the Special Assistant to the Director-General of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Mary Oneyali, as well as Hawa Kuku-Akinwumi, who is a Director at the NSC. Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Akinwumi expressed gratitude to the IAAF and CAA for establishing the Centre in Nigeria, promising that everything possible would be done to make it functional within the shortest possible time.

Akinwumi, who signed on behalf of Nigeria, said she was one hundred per cent sure that the Centre will be a success because in its infancy, it had already produced potential world beaters such as Ese Brume, who won gold at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and at the Marrakech 2014 Africa Athletics Championships and Divine Oduduru, winner of silver medal in the 200 metre at the IAAF World Junior Championships in Oregon, USA, last month.

Akinwumi also appealed to the IAAF and CAA to send qualified personnel to the emergent Centre to help train athletes and officials. The Centre, which is the first of its kind in Africa, is nearing completion at the University Park.

It would be recalled that the University of Port Harcourt had dominated the Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) and the West African Universities Games (WAUG) competitions, resulting in some admirers renaming the University as UniSports!

NSBS, Others, Donate To Biochemistry, As New HoD Outlines Vision

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The 2012/2013 Executive of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry Students (NSBS), an Alumnus and Final Year students, have donated several items as part of their contributions towards the growth of the Department. Items donated included: a 2.2KW power generating set and computer set and three sets of electrophoresis machines to aid research.

Making the donation penultimate Thursday in the Office of the Head of Department, Wisdom Gibson and Olumuyiwa Onunwaba on behalf of the students,

stated that the items were donated to boost academic and research activities in the Department. Meanwhile, the new Head of Department, Professor Matthew Wegwu, who expressed satisfaction at the high level of commitment exhibited by staff and students of the Department, has disclosed his vision for the Department following his appointment.

He noted that while the Department was working towards ensuring that all programmes complied with the National Universities Commission (NUC) Basic Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS), two additional courses, Introductory Biochemistry and Forensic Biochemistry, have been introduced for the benefit of students. “The Department has acquired a brand new Amino Acid Analyzer and two UV Spectrophotometers as part of efforts aimed at equipping the Laboratory and discouraging the use of private laboratories for research by students,” he added.

Professor Wegwu, who disclosed that the overall goal was to build a viable Biochemistry Department that would compete favourably with those outside the country, announced plans by the Department to institute a Sickle Cell Research Foundation in honour of late Professor Gabriel Ekeke, who produced the famous sickle cell drug known as Clindam; which was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO), adding that a Board of Trustees would be constituted on the inaugural day to celebrate the achievements of the renowned scientist.

“The idea is to resurrect Professor Ekeke in the Department of Biochemistry. We cannot watch his works die”, he pointed out, stressing the need to harness the Department’s four areas of strength: Medical, Nutritional, Environmental and Industrial Biochemistry into different research teams and cells for the benefit of society.

STOP PRESS

NUC ADVISES VARSITIES ON EBOLA

As a result of the spread of the dreaded Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the country and the high rate of students and staff mobility around campuses of higher learning in the country, the National Universities Commission (NUC), has advised universities to take proactive measures against the scourge by curtailing all non-essential travels.

Executive Secretary of the Commission, Professor Julius Okojie, in a Memo to Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, dated 7th August, 2014 and made available to this Weekly, also urged universities to restrict movement of students from other parts of West Africa studying in Nigeria.

“Nigerian students, especially language and exchange students, due to commence studies in other African countries should be advised to postpone their resumption until further notice; visitors identified to have come into the Campus from affected areas must be duly screened for the virus before being admitted into the Campus; pay close attention to sanitation and the cleanliness of their immediate environment on Campus,” Professor Okojie advised, adding that individual universities may wish to take other precautionary measures to ensure safety on their Campuses.
GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT
Professor Elizabeth Okeke, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, re-appointed Director, Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJCGNDS), effective 28th July, 2014 to 26th July, 2016.

Professor Enurbia Akpokodje, Department of Geology, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, re-appointed Director, Institute for Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), effective 24th March, 2014 to 25th March, 2016.

Professor C.A. Nwauche, Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Basic Medical Sciences, appointed Assistant Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP). The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 12th August, 2016.

Professor Femi Shaka, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed Head of Department. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 15th August, 2016.

Dr Andrew Efemini, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, appointed, Acting Dean, Student Affairs Department. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 19th August, 2016.

Dr I. J. Otiara, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Processing & Energy Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed Acting Director, School of Basic Studies. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 15th August, 2016.

Dr Ejikeme Upwona, Centre for Occupational Health, Safety & Environment (COHSE), Institute of Petroleum Studies, appointed Coordinator. The one-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 12th August, 2015.

Dr Bismack Kombo, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, re-appointed Head of Department, effective 9th May, 2014 to 10th May, 2016.

Dr C.U. Mac-Ohonor, Department of Political & Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed Acting Head of Department. The two-year appointment, which takes immediate effect, terminates on 12th August, 2016.

Dr Abigail Horsfall, Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed Acting Head of Department. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 12th August, 2016.

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BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARIETIES---

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS VERDICT ON UNILORIN STUDENTS'RESULT

The Supreme Court has awarded an additional cost of N200,000 in favour of an ex-student of the University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Stephen Akinola. The Appeal Court had earlier allowed the claim of N12 million as damages occasioned by the withholding of his result by the University following his participation in a student union protest. Delivering the lead judgment, Justice Mary Peter-Odili frowned at what she described as insubordination of the University to the interventio n by the Federal Government that pleaded for mercy on behalf of the student.

ACCOUNTING STUDENT EMERGES LANDMARK VARIETY BGS

A 21-year-old graduate of Accounting, Roselyn Hermans-Efenudu, emerged the Best Graduating Student (BGS) of Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.90 on a five-point scale. The Best Graduating Student, who recalled that she laid a solid foundation right from her first year in a competitive 5.0/5.0 with four other students in her Department, said the least grade she had was 4.84.

US TOPS SHANGHAI VARIETY RANKINGS, CHINA ON RISE

American universities have again outranked more than 1,250 other higher education institutions around the world in the annual Shanghai Jiao Tong listing of the global top 500 universities. And for the 12th year running, Harvard was placed number one.

UNIVERSITIES ADJUST PLANS IN FACE OF EBOLA CRISIS

American universities are suspending programmes in West Africa in the light of the Ebola outbreak, and taking measures to ensure that no one comes back to campus with the disease, writes Karen Weintraub for USA Today. On 31 July, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention warned Americans against non-essential travel to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone because of Ebola. The disease has sickened more than 1,700 in those countries and claimed more than 960 lives. Since then, several universities have announced that they would not send their students to the region. New York University issued a statement saying that it would not send students to its programme in Ghana for the autumn. Ghana has not had any cases of Ebola, but it sits between the West African nations at the centre of the outbreak – Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia – and Nigeria, which has seen at least 10 cases since a sick American travelled there and died late last month.

Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau
Minister of Education

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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 24-SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2014

DATE | TEMPERATURE (°C) | HUMIDITY (%) | WIND DIRECTION | RAIN (mm) | SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am/pm) | SUMMARY
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
SUNDAY, 24 AUG, 2014 | 33.0 | 21.0 | 57 | E | 3.4 | 6:27:18:41 | Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
MONDAY, 25 AUG, 2014 | 32.0 | 24.0 | 72 | E | 18.0 | 6:27:18:41 | Heavy rain expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 26 AUG, 2014 | 30.0 | 23.0 | 77 | NE | 8.4 | 6:28:18:41 | Thunderstorm expected early in the day. More cloud than sun anticipated.
WEDNESDAY, 27 AUG, 2014 | 30.0 | 23.0 | 75 | NE | 8.4 | 6:28:18:40 | Thunderstorm expected early in the day. More cloud than sun anticipated. Warm day expected.
THURSDAY, 28 AUG, 2014 | 29.0 | 23.0 | 69 | E | 8.4 | 6:28:18:40 | Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.
FRIDAY, 29 AUG, 2014 | 30.0 | 23.0 | 77 | NE | 22.8 | 6:26:18:39 | A few rain showers anticipated. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY, 30 AUG, 2014 | 30.0 | 22.0 | 80 | NE | 7.9 | 6:26:18:38 | A few thunderstorms expected with partly cloudy and warm day predicted.

DR GLADYS EMEKINE
ACTING HOD

SERVICOM CORNER

SERVICOM of the University of Port Harcourt stands as an enabler of the social accountability framework work of public service delivery. SERVICOM’s new strategic Direction

OUR NEW VISION
To be recognized as ‘The foremost change agent for Service Excellence’

OUR NEW MISSION
‘To support the promotion of Service Excellence in Public Services (UNIPORT) in order to improve citizen’s satisfaction’

You can reach us via: servicom@uniport.edu.ng; 08033400064, 07038650174, and 08063584445.

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Weekly Vol. 20, Edition 195

UniPort
INDS Public Lecture

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies organised a Public Lecture delivered by Dr Temitope Oriola, a Lecturer in Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada on Wednesday, 6th August, 2014 at the International Students’ Centre, University Park. Pictures show highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU.