PCN Inducts 27 UniPort-Trained Pharmacists

As V-C Unveils UniPort-Made Sanitizer

By Otikor Samuel

A total of 27 new Pharmacists trained by the University of Warcourt have been inducted into the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) at the 3rd Oath Taking/Induction Ceremony of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, penultimate Friday. Presenting the graduands to the Council, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenika, congratulated them for meeting the stringent requirements specified by Senate of the University for award of the Bachelor of Pharmacy degree which qualified them to obtain the provisional license of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria for the next 12 months.

“Let me hasten to add that a substantial investment in both human and material resources has been made in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and more is still required. The effort made in the acquisitions of teaching and research facilities has placed the Faculty on a very sound foundation,” the Vice-Chancellor said, charging the new inductees to be worthy ambassadors of the University by striving towards the ideals of diligence and excellence in service delivery to humanity, as well as ensure that the best industry practices are maintained at all times.

In his Keynote Address titled: "Pharmaceutical Care: A Paradigm Shift," Professor Azuka Opara of the University of Benin, who pointed out...
PUMSA President Pledges Improved Outreach Services

By Otukor Samuel

 Barely three months into his tenure, President of Port Harcourt University Medical Students’ Association (PUMSA), Ikenna Okorie, has promised to remain committed to the tradition of the association in providing free medical services to both the University and host communities through outreach programmes.

Okorie, who made the disclosure in an interview with this Correspondent in a recent interview, stated that the outreach programme of PUMSA had continued to attract goodwill to the association, citing it as a reason why his administration would improve on it to reach out to more. He also promised to extend the medical outreach programmes to Secondary Schools on resumption from the First Semester holidays.

“As part of my electioneering campaign, I promised to reinvigorate unionism among medical students, improve their welfare and continue to raise the bar in academic and sporting activities,” the new President said.

He disclosed that the association participated in the Nigerian Medical Students Games competition hosted by Imo State University between 26th and 30th August, 2014, promising to increase awareness and organize more sporting and social events to keep the students physically fit for rigorous academic activities in the College of Health Sciences.

“On resumption for the Second Semester, PUMSA will embark on interdepartmental medical education to create awareness of the medical needs of students of the University,” he further disclosed, seeking more support from Management of the University and the College of Health Sciences to enable his team actualize its vision.

Okorie, however, commended the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akani, Professors John Ikwala, Nelson Brahmsba, Princewill Stanley and Hakeen Fawo-Adejuyigbe for their valuable assistance to PUMSA, “I am equally grateful to staff advisers and PUMSA members who are making sacrifices to ensure that the Association achieves its collective goal,” he told our Correspondent.

3rd Registry Day For October 29

By Obinna Nwodim

The 3rd Registry Day Celebration of the University has been scheduled for Wednesday, 29th October 2014, with a one-time Acting Registrar of the University and current Registrar of Federal University, Otuoke, Mr. David Osowari, as Guest Speaker.

This was the outcome of the inaugural meeting of the Planning Committee of the annual event chaired by the Director of Academic Affairs, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, which held last Tuesday. Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Emmanuel Amanor, is expected to chair the occasion, which would take place at Ethibiti Banjo Auditorium, University Park.

Other members of the Committee which has already commenced preparations towards organizing a befitting celebration of the 2014 edition of the event are; Mrs. Mite Nego, Faculty of Engineering; Mr.

Group Rewards Computer Science BGS

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the Computer Warehouse Group (CWG) has rewarded the Best Graduating Student (BGS) in the Department of Computer Science, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Miss Ogechi Abraham with a new-high-end Dell Laptop. It is part of the company’s University Excellence Reward Scheme aimed at selecting and rewarding universities in Nigeria and other African countries.

Making the presentation penultimate Thursday at the College Auditorium, the company’s Regional Manager in-charge of the East, Gbenga Adebawale, who noted that the provision of quality education to the teeming population of young Africans would curb vices on the continent, stressing his organization’s willingness to partner educational institutions, public-spirited groups and individuals with a common vision aimed at achieving quality education on the continent.

“CWG also has an Academy which was started in 2010 to assist fresh graduates become corporate titans through professional training and hands-on exercises. We have produced over 300 graduates who are making credible impact in reputable organizations,” Adebawale said, adding that the scheme would encourage academic excellence among the students. Responding, Acting Head, Department of Computer Science, Dr. Chidibere Ugwu lauded CWG for the initiative which he said would spur students to attain greater academic feats. Declaring his Department’s readiness to work with the group, especially in the area of professional training and industrial attachment for students and staff, Dr. Ugwu said the proposal was in line with the current revolution in Information Technology (IT) around the world. “Because the new knowledge society is IT-driven, there is a need for partnership in this regard so that our Department would also contribute effectively to the development of software,” he added, describing the reward to the BGS as the first of its kind in the Department. The Acting HoD appealed to other public-spirited individuals and groups to come to the aid of the Computer Science Department to enable it train graduates with globally bench-marked skills.

In her own contribution, the beneficiary, Miss Ogechi Abraham, thanked the company for rewarding hard work and academic excellence, attributing her success to the good training she received from the Department and University. “You have clearly demonstrated that hard work pays and I promise not to disappoint you,” she assured the donors.

Provost, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Naenna Frank-Peterside, one-time Head of Department of Computer Science, Professor Enoch Nyachukwu and Immediate past Acting Head of Department, Dr. Prince Asagba, congratulated the Best Graduating Student for working hard to attract the reward from the company, which they described as a mark of honour to the Department. The trio who pleaded with the company to sustain the initiative which they said would serve as motivation to other students, pleaded for more partnerships from other public-spirited individuals and organizations.

Editorial Board

Call: 08033093371

Regional Manager, CWG, Mr Adebowale presenting Dell Laptop to BGS, Miss Abraham
Pro-Chancellor Commends Research Team on Oil Theft

Pro-Chancellor, Engr Asamaoewei (2nd right) flanked by Prof Naanen (1st left)
Mr Tolani and former Registrar, Mr Messiah Onyige (2nd and 1st right)

We Need Periodic Service Delivery Assessment, Ajienka Tells SERVICOM

By Otikor Samuel

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has praised a combined team of SERVICOM officials from the Presidency, National Universities Commission (NUC) and a Civil Society Organization, Zero Corruption Coalition, Abuja for sharing their observations and recommendations with Management following a four-day assessment of the University.

Professor Ajienka, who made the commendation during an End of Visit meeting with the group led by its Leader, Mrs. Ladli Aku at the Committee Room, penultimate Thursday, praised the visitors for not only making observations, but also for recommending measures to tackle some of the identified challenges.

“From time to time, this type of assessment is important as a reminder or wake-up call to keep the administration on its toes; so I wish to thank you very much for sharing with us some of your findings, most of which we had set the necessary machinery in place to address,” the Vice-Chancellor assured the SERVICOM team.

Responding to the knotty issue of non-payment of compensation raised by land owners when the team visited some of the University’s host communities, Professor Ajienka disclosed that his administration had written severally to the Federal and Rivers State Governments, complaining about the unhospitable attitude of land speculators and the need to compensate the University’s host communities for land which was acquired and gazetted by the Rivers State government and handed over to the Federal Government for establishment of the University in 1975. He recounted some of the steps his administration had initiated and strengthened to sustain beneficial relationships between the University and its host communities, which included provision of employment and admission opportunities and skills acquisition programmes, regretting that problems associated with land acquisition in Nigerian universities were worst in UniPort, where encroachment is right inside the Institution, rather than at the border.

The Vice-Chancellor, who disclosed plans to tackle the problem of poor power supply in the University through purchase of electricity from independent power providers, acknowledged the need to improve on street lighting around the Campus, promising more training on service delivery for staff.

Earlier, Leader of the Team, Mrs. Aku, who had restated that the team was in the University to carry out a Service Audit aimed at assessing the impact of service delivery to the various clientele of the University, including the host communities, commended the Vice-Chancellor and his team on what she described as their appreciable zeal to deliver quality services to the University’s numerous stakeholders, stating that with such zeal, service impact would be felt by those who interact with UniPort.

“There is huge reduction in cult activities on Campus giving way for academic activities to thrive. Staff are morealert, the University has various seminars and conferences, and the University is clean. Orientation exercises go on regularly here even though not all students attend. The Registry is doing quite well in its window services, while the Library complex and available facilities there are amazing, quite encompassing and we saw a number of students using the facilities in the Library. We quite appreciate the SERVICOM CORNER in UniPort Weekly, but the Corner would require more space to get the SERVICOM MESSAGE out to the target audience,” she remarked.

The SERVICOM team, who advocated for more directional signs to assist new timers locate places on Campus, suggested the use of dedicated lines to ensure regular electricity supply on Campus, adding that more conveniences and maintenance officers should be stationed around academic areas to assist mostly female students who reside off-campus.

“We noticed that UniPort periodically reviews its benchmarks with a view of bringing same in line with modern trends in other parts of the world,” she added, restating that the draft report of the University’s evaluation would be sent to NUC and the Presidency.

In his remarks, Focal Officer of SERVICOM in UniPort, Professor Tony Arinze, thanked the team for the visit which, according to him, also reinforced the call for effective service delivery to clients as propagated by his Unit, adding that the Unit would continue to monitor service compact through its officers in the Faculties and other service windows in the University.
UniPort Opens Tenders For More TETFund Projects

By Otigor Samuel

Tender bidding was again opened for more projects funded by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in the University of Port Harcourt. The projects which included proposed construction of Academic Staff offices building for the Faculty of Law, Academic Staff offices building for Dame Patience Jonathan Gender Studies Centre and Human Anatomy building, were opened at the Council Chambers, inside the Senate Building, University Park, penultimate Friday.

Other projects were the procurement of Law Journals and State Laws, Electronic Legal Resources, Lexis Nexis (Academic Law Library), West Law (Academic Law Library), New Plan Library Shelves and Desktop Computer Inteldu Core Processor.

Declaring open the Tender bidding exercise, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajaekwa, reiterated the commitment of Management of the University to ensure that the process was always transparent and followed due process as stipulated in the Procurement Act and other relevant laws that govern such exercises.

He assured bidders that the University would continue to treat them fairly, commending the representative of the National Universities Commission, Mr. Ayode Bankole, Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, Professor Anthony Okereke; Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, Mr. Ikpan Udok; National Association of Academic Technologists, Mr. Ambrose Ogbebe and the Treasurer of Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities, Mr. George Nwohuzoe for their attendance.

Also present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe; Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim; Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Azie; University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwado; Dean, Faculty of Law, Professor Kaniye Ejekwu; Procurement Officer, Mr. Philip Amadi and Director, Department of Physical Planning and Development, Mr. Collins Ameotud, amongst other senior officers of the University.

I Achieved My Vision As SGS Director ~Prof Amakoromo

By Mercy Adeniji

The immediate past Director of the School of General Studies, Professor Ebi Amakoromo, has expressed satisfaction over what she described as a successful tenure which came to an end last July.

Professor Amakoromo, who recalled her experience while in office, said she was able to achieve all that she set out to do in office. “When I assumed office in August, 2010, I started with the mindset that the job would be very challenging, but at the end of the day, I was able to think through the challenges and solve them to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. I actually enjoyed my tenure as Director of SGS,” she told our Correspondent in an interview.

Speaking on the development of the School so far, the past Director revealed that the GES programme had been in existence since the inception of the University, stressing that its main focus was to drill students in communication skills and other broad-based foundational studies that would sharpen their thinking. “For instance, all First Year students are expected to take courses from the Unit, irrespective of their fields of study. The purpose is to ensure that students would have broad knowledge of other courses, and not be limited to only their own areas of study. When these students graduate and go out to the larger society, they would be in a position to discuss intelligibly with their peers from other institutions.”

She explained that the School currently offers six GES courses, while the seventh GES course (Entrepreneurial Studies), is scheduled to run in the different Departments in the University. Professor Amakoromo, who has just concluded her four-year tenure as Director of the Unit, described the job as a very tough one. “The School of General Studies is a pretty tough place to lead; this is because as a former Acting Head of the Department of Microbiology, I knew what was expected of me at any given time. But heading a Unit that handles courses that cut across all the Departments in the University is a much tougher challenge that requires proper planning, presence of mind, team spirit and easy-going leadership style. You can just imagine how that works out on daily basis for anyone in-charge of the School,” she said.

Speaking on her achievements in office, Professor Amakoromo said that she set several targets which were achieved. “One was in terms of teaching of GES courses; I wanted the process to be more interesting since the classes were usually large. I wanted a situation in which the courses would be delivered more effectively by Lecturers; and to achieve that target, we were able to provide public address systems for each of the GES classes. Students were able to hear what the Lecturer was saying; this approach made the lectures more engaging for the students. I also wanted to receive results on time and to record fewer cases of missing results that had been a recurring issue in the School before I assumed office,” she noted, explaining that she was able to actualize all targets she set for herself. It was during her tenure that the School was able to take over the printing of all GES Handbooks and also changed from the use of optical makers to Computer-Based Test (CBT), hoping that her successor would maintain the momentum.

STOP PRESS

CGS ORIENTATION NOW FOR OCT 9

The College of Graduate Studies (CGS) has rescheduled her Orientation exercise for Fresh and Returning Graduate Students to Thursday, 9th October, 2014 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Time is 10:00am.

Contact: Dr. Agatha Ataga, College Secretary

UPWA WELCOME PARTY

The President, Executive and members of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) invite all new and intending members to a dinner/welcome party holding on Thursday, 9th October, 2014 at the Senior Staff Club, Delta Park. Time is 3:00pm.

Contact: Dr. Celestina Harry, UPWA PRO
Parents, Inductees, Speak On 3rd Oath-Taking Ceremony

The healthcare sector received a major boost penultimate Friday with the induction of 27 UniPort-trained Pharmacists into the profession by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN). In this interview, UniPort Weekly sought the views of some Inductees and their parents on the historic Oath-taking ceremony, reports MERCY ADENIYI.

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences presented 27 new Pharmacists to the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria for induction into the profession on Friday, 26th September, 2014 at the Abiniyi Auditorium, University Park. The atmosphere was gay as some parents and grandads expressed delight for being part of the historic event. A parent of one of the Inductees, Mr. Sunday Bassey congratulated the students and expressed joy over the induction of his daughter, who he said has brought more smiles to his family. “My daughter is the last of four children who have successfully graduated, including two medical doctors. I am very happy and grateful to God for all he has done for me and I wish the University more strength as it continues to impart knowledge to students of this great citadel of learning.”

Mother of the Best Graduating Pharmacist, Mrs. Rose Nwoke, who could not hide her delight, expressed satisfaction with the spectacular feat recorded by the success of her son, thanking Management of the University for giving students the opportunity to actualize their dreams. She was, of course, referring to her son, Emmanuel Nwoke, who emerged the First Class Sub-Director at the Induction ceremony.

Also speaking, the Best Graduating Pharmacist (BGP), Nwoke said he felt very happy that his dream of emerging the BGP has finally come to pass. He expressed gratitude to his parents for affording him the privilege of being educated, expressing gratitude to Management for providing the students with a conducive environment to learn.

Another Inductee, Princewill Lekia, said: “I feel so excited and it is, indeed, a great relief for my colleagues and I that we have finally concluded our studies in this great University, because studying Pharmacy has been very difficult, but I’m grateful to God that this phase of our lives is finally over,” disclosing that he intended to specialize in Clinical Pharmacy. “My reason for choosing this profession was based on my concern for patients and the passion to be of assistance to them,” he said. He appealed to Management to assist in funding the Faculty in terms of providing more equipment and reagents to enable staff and students embark upon their practical works more effectively. He expressed gratitude to his Dean, Professor Okeke Udeola and Lecturers for mentoring them with so much interest and parental zeal.

Also speaking, Fahabak Bassey commended her Lecturers for mentoring the graduates and ensuring that their dream of becoming Pharmacists was achieved. She disclosed that the programme was really tough as there were many moments, especially while awaiting results. “It was a rough road and a tough journey, but it was also very rewarding,” she recalled, adding that she owed her success to God for His mercies and all those who supported her ambition to become a qualified Pharmacist.

In his contribution, Franklin Achara recalled his experience on the programme, explaining that although his journey through the Faculty of Pharmacy was tough, it was made possible by God. He expressed gratitude to Management of the University and his parents for giving him all the support and encouragement he needed to succeed in his chosen career line.

Lovers of literature from Port Harcourt and its environs converged at the exhibition area of the University Park Hotel Presidential, penultimate Sunday to celebrate Chimamanda Adichie’s Purple Hibiscus as Book-of-the-Month for September as part of the Port Harcourt World Book Capital monthly reading sessions.

Highpoint of the well-attended event was an impressive stage performance of the novel, Purple Hibiscus, adapted by notable playwright and Director, Institute of Arts and Culture, Professor Julie Okah and directed by the Artistic Director of the Institute, Dan Kpodoh to the admiration of the ecstatic audience.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Akpuna, said: “It was a very tragic play that focuses on domestic violence. I am sure this happens in real life and I hope that people would learn something from the play. The stage adaptation of Chimamanda’s novel was very good. I am very happy that the Arts Village could perform at such high level to the admiration of the audience. My hope is that the Arts Village and Rainbow Book Club would rekindle theatre life in the city of Port Harcourt and its environs.”

Dr. Priye Iyalla-Amadi and Uzo Nwamara of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) commended the crew for an impressive performance by the cast, describing it as a “masterful interpretation that can hardly be bettered.”

At the performance of the stage adaptation of the same award winning novel at the University Arts Theatre—The CRAB earlier in the week, the audience also hailed the excellence of the cast and crew. Head, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Professor Femi Shaka, said: “It was a wonderful and commendable effort by a dedicated cast and crew. More power to their elbow.”

Commenting on the intrepid interpretation of the play, distinguished literary critic, Professor Chidi Maduka described it as “a very important play adapted from the famous novel, Purple Hibiscus. The novel, itself creates the importance of paths as a sub of tragedy and lays emphasis on psychological realism rooted in the

Artsville Stages Purple Hibiscus At PHWBC Event

By Humphrey Ogu

importance of life worse than it is, in order to alert members of the public against the dangers of domestic violence to discourage people—especially men from engaging in such an ungentlemanly behaviour.

Maduka, who observed that there are three ways of doing works of arts—listed “life as it is; life worse than it is and life as it should be,” as ways of doing a tragic work that was followed in the adaptation, which he described as wonderful. “It is not easy to rewrite a novel and cast it in the mode of a play. What we saw on stage was a fantastic job done by wonderful actors and actresses. The scriptwriter, Julie Okah, the cast and crew did a wonderful job,” he added.

Speaking at the end of the show, Project Director, PHWBC, Mrs. Koko Kalango, who launched the Artsville for adeptly interpreting the Book-of-the-month and entertaining theatre goers every month, thanked the audience for identifying with the World Book Capital Projects, promising that more of such plays would hold in Port Harcourt as part of the effort to revive arts and culture in the city.

She announced that the 7th edition of Port Harcourt Book Festival (PHBF) will hold from Monday, 20th to Saturday, 25th October, 2014 with the theme, Books: Windows to our World of Possibilities. The forthcoming edition of the Festival would be special because it is holding in the Port Harcourt World Book Capital year.

According to the Festival Director, the focus of this year’s Festival is the AFRICA 39 project—an initiative of United Kingdom-based Hay Festival, which holds in concert with the World Book Capital (WBC). Represented by Joy Aminu Okwagom of Rainbow Book Club, Kalango invited students, parents, academics and other book lovers to fully participate in all events.

Other events include symposium, writers’ workshop and interactive sessions with authors, book signing and special events for children.
PCN Inducts 27 UniPort-Trained Pharmacists

out that drug-related problems posed serious challenge all over the world, disclosed that the problems were, however, preventable with the right attitude from practitioners through quality pharmacy education, competency-based training and proper care-giving services to patients. Speaking before formally inducting the graduates as members of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria, new Registrar of the Council, Mr. Elijah Mohammed, who also congratulated them for completing the first phase of their pharmacy training, added that: “The training of Pharmacists statutorily required that upon graduation, after their formal entry point education, they should undergo a mandatory one calendar year Internship training programme under the supervision of a recognized and registered Pharmacist (a Preceptor) in an accredited Internship training facility. This is the second phase of pharmacy training.”

The Registrar advised the new Pharmacists to get themselves properly acquainted with the code of ethics which prescribed professional and moral responsibilities to the patients and other care-givers in the health sector, stating that “strict compliance to the code of ethics is indispensable for practice of the pharmacy profession.” He used the opportunity to disclose his four-point agenda of repositioning the National Secretariat for effective service delivery, institutionalizing good pharmacy practice, transforming career professionals into intellectual practitioners and introducing new partnerships through patient right initiative, IT-driven pharmacy regulation, use of pharmacy emblem, research and development and periodic interactive sessions.

Earlier in his welcome address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Oleka Udeala, stated that the induction was a confirmation that the students had satisfied the stringent provisions stipulated by PCN for the training of skilled Pharmacists, advising the new Inductees to continue to subject themselves to the regulations of PCN during and after their mandatory Internship training in approved outlets. The Dean praised the Ajienka-led administration for its unflinching support aimed at placing the Faculty on a solid footing, commending Lecturers in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences for working assiduously towards the training of more Pharmacists aimed at enriching the health sector. Professor Udeala, who used the opportunity of the ceremony to present UniPort-made Sanitizer to the Vice-Chancellor, disclosed that he worked in conjunction with Dr. Sinyeofor Brown to produce the product.

The motivation to produce the product, according to him came from a challenge from the Vice-Chancellor, following outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the country. The Sanitizer was the contribution of the Faculty to the University Community aimed at preventing outbreak of the dreaded virus in the University. Professor Udeala disclosed, promising that the Faculty would take on new challenges as proof of its readiness to contribute to the health needs of the University and Nigerians. Highpoints of the ceremony were presentation of operational licenses to the new Pharmacists and Best Graduating Student, Emmanuel Nwoke, who also presented the Valedictory Speech on behalf of his Class, also known as the Great Invictus.

The Valedictorian paid glowing tributes to their parents and University for the quality training he and his colleagues received in the UniPort. He also recalled the unfortunate passage of Miss Angela Ajabor, a colleague who passed to eternity in their fourth year in the programme.

The new Registrar, who had earlier led a delegation of visiting officials of PCN and Keynote Speaker on a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Officers at the Vice-Chancellor’s Committee Room, reminded the University of the need to secure full accreditation for the Faculty in place of its current Interim Accreditation status.

Arinze, Akani, Head C'ttees On 40th Varsity Anniversary, Public Health School

By Otkor Samuel and Ethel Timi-Johnson

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has appointed Focal Officer of SERVICOM and Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Tony Arinze, Chairman of the Committee for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the University, which was established in 1975.

A letter conveying the appointment dated 29th September, 2014 and signed by the Vice-Chancellor, named Professors John Enemugwem, Henry Njoku, Julie Okoh, Drs Ngozi Odu, Edwinah Amah, Williams Wodi, L.t. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (rtd), Mr. Emmanuel Amadi, Miss Obele Wokoma and representatives of the Registrar, Bursar and Director of Health Services Department, as members of the Anniversary Committee. The Committee is vested with responsibility for organizing the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the University in February next year.

Similarly, the Vice-Chancellor, in a separate appointment letter dated 9th September, 2014, has appointed Professor Chris Akani as Chairman, Committee on Establishment of University of Port Harcourt School of Public Health.

Other members of the Committee are: Professors Oleka Udeala, Hyacinth Dike, Clifford Ofurum, Ify Nwaoguzie, Okechukwu Onuchukwu, Drs Abigail Horsfall and Best Odinioha.
**GUIDEPOST**

**APPOINTMENT**
Professor E. J. Okeke, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed Dean of the Faculty, effective 23rd October, 2014 to 24th October, 2016.

Dr. A. O. Oyezone, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, appointed Second Associate Dean, Student Affairs Department. The appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 16th September, 2016.

Dr. J. E. Iwegbue, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Infrastructure Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed Acting Head of Department. The appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 19th September, 2016.

Mrs. Nkechi Barina-Mina, Faculty of Law, appointed Secretary, Committee for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the University of Port Harcourt in 2015.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
Professor Elijah Iyagba, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, proceeds on Leave of Absence to take up appointment as pioneer Rector of the Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Bonny, Rivers State.

**RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT**
Mr. Tamunoonye Onubor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 22nd February, 2015 to 21st February, 2016.

**SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT**
Professor Sunny Iyuke, School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, offered a one-year Sabbatical Appointment to the Centre for Petroleum Research and Training, effective on assumption of duty.

**STUDY LEAVE**
Miss Karotumunoye Jack, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a two-year Study Leave with Pay to enable her pursue a Master’s Degree programme in Soil Survey and Land Use Planning at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State.

Dr. Christopher Obiorah, Department of Anatomical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a six-month Study Leave with Pay to enable him undertake a Fellowship programme on Renal Pathology at the Brigham Women Hospital, Boston, United States of America.

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**BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARIETIES**

**NUC TO APPROVE MORE PRIVATE VARIETIES**

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has announced the recommendation of nine more private universities for affiliation in the country. The approval will increase the number of universities in the country from the present 129 to 138. The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Prof. Julius Ukuje, who announced the development in Abuja, disclosed that the NUC had forwarded the names of the prospective universities to the Ministry of Education for consideration. He noted that the government was pleased with contributions of the private sector to the development of the nation's tertiary education system. Meanwhile, the Commission has expressed worry over the spate of award of professorship in some Nigerian universities. Prof. Ukuje, who spoke in the press release, was creating rooms for quacks, disclosed that a fake Professor was recently apprehended by the Commission.

**MALLAM IBRAHIM SHEKHARAN**

**EDUCATION MINISTER**

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**NIA TO PARTNER UNIUYO**

The Akwa Ibom Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), has expressed its willingness to partner the University of Uyo in research and academic programmes on built environment and orderly physical development projects. The Institute also promised to help the University attain full accreditation for the M.Sc. programme in Urban Architecture by the Architects' Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCHCON).

The State Branch Chairman of the Institute urged the University Management to key into the new trend in architectural education, where ARCHCON in conjunction with the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) is converting Departments of Architecture into a full-fledged Faculty or Schools of Architecture to offer opportunities for architects to specialise in Landscape Architecture, Interior and Urban Design.

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**FUTA STUDENTS OFF TO UNITED STATES**

The second batch of beneficiaries of the collaboration between the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) and the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Tallahassee, United States has departed for the States to complete their undergraduate programmes.

The eight students would complete their programme at FAMU to earn FUTA certificate and would also be eligible for their Master's degree programme that would lead to the award of FAMU postgraduate certificates. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebiyi Daramola, advised the departing FAMU Class of 2014 to be upright and focus on their studies to achieve excellence in academic pursuit.

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**SERVICOM CORNER**

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3. Respond with understanding—energise your voice and be positive.
4. Commit to action and explain your plan.

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serivcom@uniport.edu.ng; 08033408064; 08033859178, 08003358445, 08032211712, 08155383412

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**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY**

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 05—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014

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DR GLADYS EMEKENI
ACTING MGMT

DR PRINCE MMOM
AG. DIRECTOR
Workshop On Higher Education

Educationists under the auspices of Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES) converged at the University of Port Harcourt on Thursday, 28th and Friday, 29th August, 2014, to brainstorm on ways of improving the quality of higher education. Our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU, captured highlights of the events as shown below:

- Dr. Dakorol Charles-Granville (front right) and some staff at the conference.
- V-C, Prof. Joseph Aikoko represented by DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ethelbert Nduka welcoming guests to the event.
- Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof. Lawrence Igwe, addressing participants.
- Immediate past Asig. Director, CHES, Dr. Chineze Uche.
- Members of the High Table rise for National and UniPort Anthems.
- DV-C (Admin), Prof. Nduka in a chat with Dr. Olu Ayewoh, who represented Minister of State for Education, Hon. Nyesom Wike.
- Prof. Josephine Eluochi reading the citation on the Keynote Speaker, Prof. Joel Babalola.
- Keynote Speaker, Prof Babalola giving his Lecture.
- Dr. Ayewoh in a tete-a-tete with Dean, Faculty of Education.
- L-R: Dr. Ayewoh, Prof. Igwe, Dr. May Nwoye and Dr. Ogahenga Mokuolu.
- Cross-section of participants.
- Another cross-section of participants.
- Prof. Sam Nwokedu giving vote of thanks.