

UNIPORT Alumni Plan Homecoming Dinner, Fund-Raising Event

The Rivers State Branch of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association has expressed its willingness to collaborate with the Institution to promote projects and programmes that would enhance the overall development of their *Alma Mater*. This was made known when the current Executive Council of the Association paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, reports *Humphrey Ogu*
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Side Bar

UNIPORT Weekly returns to your desks this week. Welcome back and Happy New Year
-Editor

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V-C Commends Staff, Students, Calls For More Productivity In 2012

...Says New Projects About To Commence

By Williams Wodi

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienska, has expressed gratitude to all categories of staff who contributed to what the

University experienced last year, adding that he also expects even more commitment to duty in 2012. Said he, "I was seriously touched by the outpouring of joy from each staff, who took delivery of a bag of rice each last December as part of Management's effort to

aimed at securing staff welfare in the University. That successful experiment showed that we can improve on staff welfare if we work hard and make some savings before the end of each year. I have come to realise that true gratitude or thanksgiving can only come from people who are happy with the work they do".

Professor Ajienska called on all staff and students to always rededicate themselves to the growth of the system, stressing that the task to improve the University required total commitment from everybody. "As difficult as the beginning of the year looks, we still have immense prospects for personal and institutional growth. We cannot just fold our arms and resign to whatever happens on the way", the Vice-Chancellor said, disclosing that Alumni of the University are working tirelessly to support their beloved *Alma Mater* in various areas, including a planned Homecoming event that would coincide with the next Convocation Ceremony.

On project implementation, he disclosed that opening of Tenders for projects sponsored by the

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Prof Ajienska



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Staff Weigh In On Fuel Subsidy Controversy

By Mercy Don-Baridam

The Nigerian Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress suspended their nationwide strike, following the announcement by President Goodluck Jonathan over the removal of fuel subsidy, after a week-long protest.

The strike was called after price of fuel doubled when the Federal Government announced the removal of subsidy on New Year Day. President Goodluck Jonathan further acknowledged the hardship faced by Nigerians and called on Labour and Civil Society groups to join hands to ensure that peace and harmony returned to the nation.

In suspending the strike, the two labour groups cited successes gained by demonstrators, including an announcement to slash down fuel price by the President to N97 from the pump price of N141 which triggered the protest.

Uneasy calm returned in Nigeria last Tuesday, after the two labour groups suspended their strike as Government finally listened to the public's complaints on alleged widespread corruption in the oil sector, by tasking the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission to investigate fraud over fuel import and sales.

As the controversy surrounding the issues of oil subsidy removal continues unabated, some staff of the University also added their voices on the fuel subsidy controversy.

For John Ichenwo, a Lecturer in the Department of

Petroleum Engineering, "there is nothing wrong with the removal of fuel subsidy, but the time it was announced was not good. Nigerians



Ichenwo



Deebom



Okwu



Ugiomoh

generally were not prepared as it was announced when most people were returning to work from the Christmas break."

Barinaada Deebom, a staff of the Academic Office, argued that "the removal of fuel subsidy is a good idea by the Government. The money realised from it would be used for infrastructural development and also to better the nation's economy. I am supporting this removal because over the years, government has failed to curb the degree of corruption in the country and also the security operatives have disappointed us thereby giving room to neighbouring countries to smuggle our petroleum products and so with this removal, government can closely look into the sector and know how to handle the nation's funds."

Ernest Okwu, of the Senior Professional and Administrative and Technical Staff office (SPATS), stated that, "I am satisfied with the removal of subsidy on fuel. I am in full support of the removal since over the years, monies have been directed through the wrong channels. In order to alleviate the sufferings of the people, government should assist the citizens by building railways, bridges and other infrastructure to better the lots of the people. I call on the two labour groups to be considerate and give President Jonathan a chance to serve Nigerians better."

However, expressing a dissenting view, Professor Frank Ugiomoh of the Department of Fine Arts and Design, stressed that with the revelation from the House of Representatives' investigation, there has been no accurate data on how the Federal Government arrived at the trillion naira they are claiming to remove on fuel.

"I am dissatisfied with the removal. The President has not done enough research to know the quantity of fuel consumed in the country and quality of fuel imported into the country. These are the things that determine the price on a commodity like fuel. I call on government to set up a Department of statistics for Statisticians to give Nigerians quality data on the expenses of the country. For the country to move forward, the people should hold Government accountable so they can deliver on their promises."

Beyond Mere Wishes Of A Prosperous New Year

By Humphrey Ogu

A few weeks ago, mobile phones, email, Facebook, Netlog and suchlike social network inboxes (and walls in the case of Facebook), were awash with messages of love and good wishes for friends and loved ones. While those who still hold the age-long habit of greeting cards conveyed theirs via exchange of cards.

Despite a plethora of these good-old messages an individual receives at the end and beginning of each year, actualising the dream of having a Happy New Year goes far beyond mere wishes expressed through electronic media or cards. It has more to do with the mindset and the lifestyle of the individual.

For instance, a person whose mind is full of bile is not likely to enjoy happiness. Conversely, those who express love and joy towards others are not likely to repel same goodwill. It is a widely recognized fact that people who lament over the success of others and rejoice at their failures are not likely to attract happiness. In other words, love is reciprocal; so is happiness. A two-way traffic, that is.

Again, people who indulge in sorrow-inflicting lifestyles such as drunkenness, unethical conducts and dishonesty, truancy, absenteeism from their duty post, lateness, and negligence are sure to draw the ire of relevant authorities, thereby impeding the inflow of personal happiness and institutional growth.

There are certain types of diet or lifestyle that predisposes an individual to diabetes, hypertension, cancer, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), amongst other killer diseases. Once a person is exposed to these conditions, s/he is sure to be at risk of certain chronic disease conditions. And when that happens, mere good wishes may not guarantee good health; medical attention will. Similarly, receiving New Year wishes without any extra effort made at translating them into reality remains a pipe dream.

Laying one's bed for the New Year requires more than mouthing all those lubricated moral niceties such as: "I will stop smoking, I will stop drinking, I will stop coming late to work, I will stop doing this, I will start doing that". It requires serious effort. Making resolutions to do away with bad habits and embracing a new lifestyle alone is bound to yield little or no result.

It behoves everyone who expressed such New Year wishes to turn a new leaf, attract love, happiness, prosperity, or every good thing expressed in those nice goodwill text messages, emails, posts on Facebook, greeting cards, amongst others. Every other thing would remain a fantasy. Truth is that to attract happiness, one needs to do the right thing at all times. Until one

does the right thing, a Happy New Year remains a mere wish and that is not what anybody needs—especially in this year of subsidy removal.

Believe it or not, you can achieve what you want to achieve in 2012 if you focus attention on your goals. All you need is have a dream, focus on it and initiate steps to actualise them. Be honest with yourself and those around you. Show love and kindness towards others and you will attract same. Stop every bad habit. The business of living is about sowing and reaping; whatever you sow, that you will reap.

All said, I wish you a prosperous New Year. But that's if you have made concrete efforts towards achieving it. Welcome to 2012!

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Following administration of the Physician's Oath on 79 newly-qualified Medical Doctors last December, the University has again given a major boost to manpower development in the Healthcare sector.

Speaking at the 30th Induction ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who congratulated the parents and inductees for efforts made in ensuring successful completion of the programme, noted that "the quality of doctors we train in the University of Port Harcourt is very high.



A cross section of the New Doctors taking the Physicians' Oath

79 Doctors Take Physicians' Oath

By Humphrey Ogu & Otikor Samuel

"Some of you may have heard that our Medical School is not admitting students for the 2011/2012 academic year. The problem is simply the fact that in the past, we over-admitted students, it is not completely our fault. It is because of so much pressure on the University to admit as many candidates as possible. We need Doctors in society, but in the process, we exceeded the quota given to us by the Medical and Dental Council of

Nigeria (MDCN), and this resulted in sanction us" he explained.

According to him, the University has been able to reach an agreement with MDCN on the number of students to be graduated in the next one or two years as a way of regaining the right to admit new candidates, observing that "in the Medical School, we have students that can compete with their counterparts anywhere in the world."

Administering the Oath, Provost, College of Health Science, Professor Chris Akani, charged the newly-registered to Doctors to abide by the ethics of the profession, stating that the profession is a calling in which practitioners need to place the sanctity of human lives above pecuniary gains.

Present at the Ceremony which featured launch of the latest edition of the *Port Harcourt Medical Journal*, were the Rivers State Commissioner of Health, Dr Samson Parker, Executive Secretary, Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), Professor Addison Wokocho, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Bernard Efiuvwevwere, Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Victor Dapper, Dean Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Ambrose Obiechina, *NUC LEADS* Scholar, Visiting Professor Vincent Idemyor, amongst others.

FMB Tasks Staff On National Housing Fund

By Obinna Nwodim

Staff of the University of Port Harcourt have been encouraged to take on the National Housing Fund policy as they could derive immense benefits in the long term from the scheme. Zonal Co-ordinator of the Federal Mortgage Bank (FMB), Mr Dominic Agabi, gave the advice when he led a Team from the Bank on a Courtesy Visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, in his office recently.

Mr Agabi, who said that they were in the University to explain how staff could benefit from the Fund, stated that its primary objective was for the Fund to be of utmost benefit to Civil Servants at all levels to acquire their own houses. He regretted that mortgage finance was not as developed as it should be in Nigeria, pointing out that it was important that staff contributed to the National Housing Fund to derive maximum benefit from it.

In his remark, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, said that the authorities attached serious importance to the National Housing Fund and re-stated their resolve to support the scheme. He advised the Bank to work hard to ensure that staff

benefited from the scheme. "If we succeed in UNIPORT, it becomes a reference point that would go a long way to allay fears of failure associated with past initiatives.

In his contribution, former Chairman of ASUU, UNIPORT Branch, Dr. Andrew Efemini, said that the visit was a step forward in the realization of the Home

Ownership Scheme initiated by ASUU, stating that it would be necessary for all the parties involved to sit down and work out a plan of action for the realization of the Scheme.

State Co-ordinator and Manager, Mr Philomonice Ariri and Mrs Igonibi Birise, accompanied the Zonal Co-ordinator on the visit.



from L-R, Mr. Ariri, Mrs. Birise, Prof. Nduka, Mrs. Nnodim, Mr. Agabi and Prof. Arinze shortly after the meeting

V-C Names Amadi, Okara, Aniebo, As *Writers-In-Residence*

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, has announced the University's preparedness to engage the services of renowned writers, Elechi Amadi, Gabriel Okara and Ifeanyi Aniebo as *Writers-in-Residence*.

Professor Ajenka, who made the disclosure at a Poetry Reading Evening organized by the Rivers State Branch of Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), held in his honour at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge last December, stated that writers are a blessing to society, expressing delight that eminent personalities in the literary world constitute the State Branch of the Association.

"Any society that has serious writers in its midst is blessed and I am particularly happy that in this University we have multi-talented people, who are gifted in creativity and innovation," the Vice-Chancellor said, commending famous poet, Gabriel Okara, distinguished novelists, Elechi Amadi and INC Aniebo, amongst others, for their immense contributions to the arts and society.

The Vice-Chancellor, who enumerated some of the University's potential benefits of having the distinguished trio as *Writers-in-Residence* in the Institution, said that their presence would add colour to the *Arts Village* during exhibitions, launch-time recitals, amongst other literary

By Otikor Samuel & Humphrey Ogu

activities, charging prolific writers to mentor the younger ones to ensure proper transfer of knowledge and incubation of their talents.



Amadi

Okara

Aniebo

In his welcome remark, Chairman of the Association, Mr Obinna Nwodim, praised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, for showing interest in its numerous programmes, as well as hosting the Poetry Reading session, commending

their inspirational poems on societal malaise, governance and other issues, as well as reading of stories. Highpoint of the Poetry Reading was the presentation of a Plaque and conferment of Patron of ANA on Professor Ajenka.

Agberia Takes Niger Delta Arts To London

Following his research activities that have taken him to the United Kingdom over the years, Professor John Agberia of the Department of Fine Arts and Design has eventually sealed a deal to take the Agbarha-Otor Annual Harmattan Workshop from 1998 - 2014 to London. The event is expected to host over 50 Nigerian artists, with a sizeable number from the Niger Delta region, including staff of the Department of Fine Arts and Design.

Speaking to *UNIPORT Weekly* on the development, Professor Agberia said that the event which would be hosted by the Brunei Gallery in the School of Oriental and African

By Obinna Nwodim

Studies, University of London, would showcase 200 art works at the Annual Showpiece. He disclosed that foremost Nigerian print maker and illustrator, Dr. Bruce Onobrakpeya, as well as himself would be Curators at the event, in collaboration with Dr. Charles Gore and John Hollingsworth of the University of London.

Professor Agberia also disclosed that the University of Port Harcourt Dance Troup is expected to perform at the event, which President Goodluck Jonathan is expected to declare open, adding that the Bruce Onobrakpeya Foundation which is the initiator and promoter of the event would regularly hold consultations and fund-raising to support the project.

Artsville Director Promises More Performances In 2012

By Otikor Samuel

Director, *Arts Village*, Professor Julie Okoh, has promised the University Community more thrilling performances this year in an effort aimed at developing the arts through creativity, assuring the general public that her Troupe would break more grounds in advancing both theoretical and practical teaching and learning in the arts this year.

Professor Okoh, who gave the assurance in a chat with *UNIPORT Weekly*, expressed gratitude to all who had contributed generously to the development of the arts in the University, particularly, towards production of the Community Outreach Christmas Drama, titled: *Mary, the Blessed Mother*.

The Director commended staff and students, who stayed behind to stage and watch the performance, even when others had vacated for the Christmas break, stating that they contributed in keeping the vision alive.



Prof Agberia



Prof Okoh

UNIPORT Opens Paint Factory ...Lab To Boost Research, Generate Revenue

In realizing part of the entrepreneurial vision of the present Administration, a Pilot-Plant Laboratory that primarily targets paint production has been set up under the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Development.

The Laboratory, which has already produced 140 buckets of 120 litre paints in a test production penultimate Tuesday, would be managed by the University Investment Limited (UIL).

In an interview with UNIPORT Weekly, DV-C (R&D), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, said that the innovation was a key aspect of the developme

n t component which is part of her c o r e mandate, disclosing that the p a i n t s which are produced in emulsion, textcote and

gloss, are registered under the trademark of Academy Colours.

Professor Willie-Abbey, who further revealed that raw materials for the paint production are sourced locally, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, for translating the entrepreneurial vision of his administration into concrete action, pointing out that the difference between Academy Colours and other paints in the market is the unparalleled quality, which was a product of painstaking research undertaken by experts.

Lawson Donates, Commissions Geo-sciences Work Station

By Obinna Nwodin

A Work Station for the Institute of Petroleum Geosciences has commenced full operation following its formal commissioning by the donor, Dr Stanley Lawson.

Speaking to UNIPORT Weekly shortly after its commissioning, Dr. Lawson, who is an *Alumnus* of the University, said that as a Graduate of Geology, he felt that the gesture would be of immense benefit in the training of industry-ready graduates for the Petroleum and Gas Industry.

"We need to have students who would blend with the industry immediately they graduate", he said, adding that time has come when the University should give quality training so that graduates will get into the labour market without requiring further training to be employable.

Receiving the donation,

By Mercy Don-Baridam & Otikor Samuel

Also speaking, Director, Centre for Research Management (CREM), Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, stated that the Laboratory would serve students in gaining hands-on training in addition to theoretical knowledge, as well as provide opportunity for researchers to make judicious use of the excellent facilities.

Professor Akaranta, who disclosed that the groundwork of the project started last June, commended authorities of the University for ensuring the realization of efforts put into



L-R, MD, Mr. Franklin, Bursar Mark Roman, DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey, Director CREM, Prof Akaranta at the factory

setting up the Laboratory, stating that the production of the first batch of paints was a good start.

Conducting UNIPORT Weekly Correspondents round the facility, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Academy Colours, Mr Ogwurumba Franklin, said that his team was committed to high quality. "The Vice-Chancellor wants the best and so we are not compromising on quality. That will give us an edge over other manufacturers in the market," he assured potential customers.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, expressed gratitude to Dr. Lawson for the gesture, stating that the donation would strengthen the quality of service delivery in the Institution. He called on other *alumni* to emulate the kind gesture of Dr Lawson in order to improve academic standards in the University.

A total of 21 Workstations and a 7KVA power generating set were commissioned for use.



Dr. Lawson commissioning the Work Station while Chairman, NDDC, Dr. Tarilah Tebepah, others look on. Inset: some equipment at the Work Station.

QAQC Prepares For Staff, Students Merit Award

By Otikor Samuel

In an effort aimed at encouraging and rewarding hard work and enhance performance of staff, the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor has commenced gathering data aimed at nominating persons who have distinguished themselves in the service of the University.

A Memo signed by Director of the Unit, Professor Anthony Arinze and made available to UNIPORT Weekly, urged the University Community, Provost, Deans of Faculty, Heads of Department and Unit to nominate suitable persons for the proposed award.

According to the Director, areas for the award in Category A include Best Lecturer of the Year which is to be determined through evaluation by students, HODs and Deans or Provost, while Best Researcher of the Year is to be assessed through originality of work, relevance of research to the society, as well as quality of Papers and ability to attract grants.

In Category B which targets Non-teaching staff, awards would include Best Cleaner/Messenger/Caretaker, Best Clerical Officer, Best Secretarial Staff, Best Security, Best Driver, Best Administrator, Best Technician and Best Technologist of the Year to be evaluated by their punctuality, regularity, appearance and dedication.

For Category C, appraisal is to reward Best Registry Staff, Best Bursary Staff, Best HOD and Best Dean, while Best Sports Man, Best Outstanding Student in terms of leadership/behaviour, Most Outstanding Students Organization, Most Hostel in Terms of Cleanliness, Best Teacher and Mentor of the Year constitute award for Category D.

V-C Calls For More Productivity In 2012

Cont'd from p1

Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETF) would open in the first week of February, adding that pre-qualified companies have been invited to participate in the process, preparatory to actual contract award for the approved projects to commence. "We have to observe due process by opening the bidding process up to

Energy Studies has received approval for the construction of a new Thermo-fluid Laboratory that is aimed at enhancing its operations in harnessing the potentials of nuclear research.

"We are collaborating with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in programmes aimed at creating more job opportunities for



Innovation: Ajienska's welfare package for 2011 Xmas, (inset, distribution in progress)

everybody, including advertisement and objections". The Vice-Chancellor also said that work would commence on the high-impact project sponsored by the Central Bank of Nigeria before the end of April, 2012, adding that Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company has also concluded plans to commence the building of an Information Communication Technology facility in the University that would boost Internet access.

He also said that work was about to commence on the new School of Graduate Studies building sponsored by the Bayelsa State Government, pointing out that the project would immensely enhance the capacity of the School to engage in quality research and administrative services to clients administration when it takes delivery of the new complex. The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the Centre for Nuclear

unemployed youths in the Niger Delta region. The Chairman of NDDC, Tarilah Tehepah, was in the University last December, during which he pledged that the Commission would complete its abandoned hostel project which we want to convert into an office block for staff", Professor Ajienska, disclosed, stressing that when completed, all the listed projects would enhance the capacity of the University to deliver quality service to its various stakeholders.

On the College of Health Sciences, the Vice Chancellor said that the University Management had given a commitment to the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) to strictly adhere to the approved carrying capacity as a precondition for reaccreditation of the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme, disclosing that the University would apply for higher carrying capacity



Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, coordinated the rice purchase and distribution

once all outstanding matters were sorted out with MDCN. He assured that Management of the University was on top of the situation aimed at restoring the Department of Medicine to its pride of place, adding that the quality of the programme was never an issue as the University ran one of the best medical programmes in the country.

The Vice-Chancellor warned that the Administration would not take kindly to unproductive staff who constitute an impediment to the attainment of organizational goals this year. "Every successful system grows from the quality input of its dedicated staff, who show total commitment to the long-term goals of the organization. In 2012, we are not going to tolerate a situation where some staff are doing all the work, while others just come to work on pay day. This year, we will pay very serious attention to production, punctuality and efficiency in the line of duty", he said, warning that hard times awaited staff who play truancy without contributing anything to institutional growth.

Professor Ajienska advised students to show more commitment to their studies as they now operate in a competitive environment with their peers in other institutions. While commending them for showing some measure of leadership in their activities, the Vice-Chancellor urged them to exhibit better understanding of prevailing realities that demands the very best from everybody, promising that the authorities would be willing to direct their creative energies to productive ends.

Professor Ajienska advised staff and students to be security conscious by protecting themselves, the University and the environment, appealing to all stakeholders to join hands with Management to move the University to greater heights. He also expressed gratitude to benefactors of the University, the Alumni Association and host communities, including other stakeholders for all the support they extended to the institution last year, hoping that "more feats would be achieved if we advocate for the University wherever we may find ourselves". The Vice-Chancellor said that part of his strategy to reposition the University was to "critically assess the operational modalities of the best institutions around the world with a view to ascertaining what they do that we are not currently doing; why they attain high ranking from rating agencies, their infrastructural base, curricular and how to get to where they are within our resource limitations and peculiar circumstances in line with our vision and mission statements. Knowledgeable people would be commissioned to study such systems and make presentations that we can learn from to run a better tertiary educational system here".

The Vice-Chancellor wished all staff and students, including members of the host communities a happy new year!

ICTC Opens Help Desk

By Otiakor Samuel

A sub-unit has been created in the Information, Communication and Technology Centre (ICTC) to undertake minor repairs, general maintenance of faulty official computers, creation of electronic mails for staff and students, as well as fix network-related problems, update website contents and student registration.

New Director of the Centre, Professor Anthony Ibe, who made the disclosure in a Memo made available to *UNIPOINT Weekly* last December, stated that "all computer-related problems will have to be sent to the Information, Communication and Technology Centre (ICTC) for maintenance and repairs," adding that official letter from Unit Heads that own such faulty computers would be a prerequisite to effecting repairs.

Consequently, the Centre has made public its Help Desk phone numbers. For maintenance and repairs, the University Community should contact 08095646966 or 08157374445, while 08151155071 and 08138740076 are open for network connectivity calls. Staff and students are also advised to contact +2348102450544 and +2348152665020 for website updates and registration.

Professor Ibe, who said that the innovation was



Director ICTC, Prof Ibe

part of Management's decision to repair faulty official computers and put them back to full use, advised Units, Departments and Centres to avail themselves of the opportunity.

GUIDEPOST

RENEWAL/CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Bosa Okoli, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 1, 2012 and tenable for one year.
Dr S.G. Kaegon, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 1, 2012 and tenable for one year
Mrs Mina Long-John, Department of Nursing, College of Health Sciences, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 1, 2012 and tenable for one year.
Dr Henry Asante, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of Appointment*, effective January 8, 2011 to January 7, 2013.

APPOINTMENT

Dr Nwadiuto Akani, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Director*, Institute of Maternal and Child Health, effective January 9, 2012 and terminates January 10, 2014.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor Iniobong Uko, granted *Sabbatical Appointment* in the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, tenable for one year.

REDESIGNATION OF APPOINTMENT

Professor S.A. Uzoigwe, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, College of Health Sciences, now full-fledged Head of Department following his promotion to the rank of Professor, effective October 15, 2010.
Professor Augusta Eneh, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, College of Health Sciences, now full-fledged Head of Department following her promotion to the rank of Professor, effective May 4, 2010.

EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT

Professor Ambrose Obiechina, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, granted Extension of Deanship Appointment till December 17, 2012.

STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

Orakwe Ifeoma, Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a three-year Study Leave with pay, effective December, 2011 to November, 2013.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS CHINYERE EPUL. *Former Miss Christiana Chinyere Nworu*, College of Continuing Education now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Chinyere Epul. All former documents remain valid.

TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

Mr Lucky Gonee, Academic Planning and Control Unit, Vice-Chancellor's Office has been relieved of his appointment following an allegation of official misconduct based on the recommendation of the Interview Panel for staff on temporary appointment.
Mr Nwala Azubuike, Faculty of Humanities has been relieved of his appointment following an allegation based on the recommendation of the Interview Panel for staff on temporary appointment.

REQUEST TO TRAVEL

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the request of *Professor Orish Orisakwe*, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences to travel to USA in March, 2012 to receive an award from the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Global Senior Scholar Exchange Program (GSSEP), USA, as the 2012 Winner from the African Region. Watch out for details.

SAFETY ALERT

- Ensure that all electrical appliances are switched off
- Ensure that all windows and doors are locked
- Ensure that all taps are turned off

Briefs From Other Varsities

N'ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL ON RETIREMENT AGE

Finally, the House of Representatives and the Senate have passed a bill elongating the retirement age of Professors from 65 to 70 years. With the development, moves to end ASUU national strike are imminent. Also, Non-teaching staff will now retire at the age of 65. The enabling versions of the bill would be harmonized between the two chambers of the National Assembly before going to the President for assent to have the force of law.

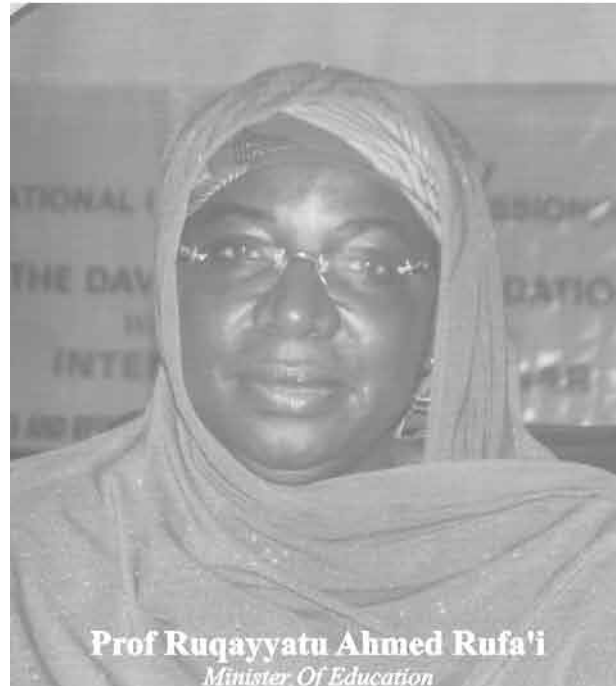
UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS CHAOS LOOMS IN GERMANY

Students in Germany applying for admission in restricted subjects will face chaotic enrolment conditions until at least mid-2013 due to technical problems dogging the introduction of new online national higher education admissions procedures. The Dialogue-oriented Service Procedure (DoSV) was to be introduced at 300 higher education institutions for subjects with admission restrictions for the winter semester 2012-13, according to the schedule announced by *Hochschulstart*, a foundation supported by the Rectors' conference *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz* (HRK) and the governments of Germany's 16 federal states. Now, the foundation says, only 40 institutions will be able to take part in what has been scaled down to a pilot project by late summer. One of the chief difficulties appears to be obsolete administrative software used by universities. A lack of coordination among institutions has led to confusion that has been causing problems at the beginning of semesters for years. Study places used to be allocated centrally via the Dortmund-based admissions placement centre the *Zentralstelle für die Vergabe von Studienplätzen*. But from 2003-04 on, both the HRK and the state governments urged that the centre be phased out. The ensuing chaos has resulted in multiple applications and multiple admissions, regularly leaving around 20,000 study places in admission-restricted subjects vacant.

LECTURERS RESUME WORK AMIDST TENSIONS IN MALAWI

Lecturers in Malawi have resolved to return to work to end nearly a year of academic freedom protests during a long-running impasse with the government. But with tensions and mistrust persisting, Lecturers have been firm about setting out the conditions under which they will resume classes. *University World News* followed the story of the academic freedom strike in Malawi, which started in February last year, in a development that saw the better part of 2011 being punctuated by court battles, suspensions, sackings and threats as the government unsuccessfully sought to subdue the dons. As previously reported, it all started with the summoning of political science Lecturer, Dr

Blessings Chinsinga by the Police, following a report made by a student informant over comments the Lecturer had made during a public policy lecture. The government interpreted Chinsinga's comment drawing parallels between problems in Malawi and in North Africa, as well as the Arab world as having been intended at inciting Egypt-style protests, during a period when Malawi was grappling with fuel and foreign currency shortages.



Prof Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i
Minister of Education

When President Bingu wa Mutharika voiced support for the police actions, chaos broke out, as the state was accused of placing spies in lecture rooms in a bid to stifle academic freedom.

BOARD ISSUES HONORARY DEGREE WARNING IN GHANA

Ghana's National Accreditation Board has warned that it

will not recognise honorary and professorial degrees awarded by institutions that do not have the mandate to do so, reports the *Daily Graphic*.

The Executive Secretary of the Board, Kwame Dattey, warned that people awarded such degrees by colleges and universities that had not been given presidential charters to confer their own qualifications would not be addressed as Doctors or Professors. So far, only three private institutions, namely Trinity Theological Seminary, the Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture and the Valley View University have been given presidential charter to award their own qualifications or degrees.

"University colleges do not have the right and authority to award honorary degrees to anybody. They can confer with their mentoring universities to do so on their behalf," Dattey told the *Daily Graphic*. He noted that the board was becoming increasingly worried about the rampant manner in which such honorary titles were being awarded.

A charge of widespread scientific fraud, involving 26 articles published in 11 *Journals*, was levelled by the University of Connecticut against Dipak K Das, one of its researchers whose work reported health benefits of red wine, writes Nicholas Wade for *The New York Times*.

Many of the articles reported positive effects from resveratrol, an ingredient of red wine thought to promote longevity in laboratory animals. The charges, if verified, seem unlikely to affect the field of resveratrol research itself, because Das's work was peripheral to its central principles, several of which are in contention.

"Today I had to look up who he is. His papers are mostly in specialty journals," said David Sinclair, a leading resveratrol expert at the Harvard Medical School. The significance of the case seems more to reflect on the general system of apportioning research money

-Compiled by Otorok Samuel

UNI^{PORT} Alumni Plan Homecoming Dinner, Fund-Raising Event

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Professor Joseph Ajenka, last December. Speaking at the event, leader of the delegation, Mr Sampson Ngerebara, who recalled that the Association had contributed to development of the University in the past, cited about N150m donated towards the completion of the Senate Building, noting that an *Alumnus*, Dr Alex Oti donated ₦62m at the last Convocation Ceremony.

Ngerebara, who is the current President of the branch, disclosed that plans are afoot to organize a Homecoming dinner, during which funds would be raised, soliciting the cooperation of the University authorities towards successful hosting of the programme. "I have spoken with *alumni* members both within and outside the Country. We are planning a Homecoming event that would include seminars, dinners and also fund-raising," he said.

"We thought of opening a website but decided to seek permission to have a portal on the University's website. We want to help to project the image of the University," he stated, adding that universities outside Nigeria are self-sustaining, a situation, he said, makes it possible for Professors to stand their grounds and call government to order when the need arises.

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, who expressed joy at the visit, noted that "those who have been associated with University have derived some kind of joy from the activities of the Association. Some of the things I have done are to use certain names in the Association to project the name of the University," advising them to "endow chairs for outstanding teachers such as Chi Ikoku in Petroleum Engineering

"The focus for us is to work with industry, the



V-C, Prof Ajenka flanked by some Principal Officers of the University and Rivers EXCO of Alumni Association

Alumni and government to make the University an entrepreneurial institution. We have taken note of Homecoming event meant to coincide with our convocation," he said, adding that many people making waves in *Nollywood* are *alumni* of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor encouraged them to take up laboratories, classroom refurbishing and have them named after themselves, adding that the University Advancement Centre (UAC) is created to handle such issues. "We do hope you will fix a reunion with the national body to enable us hold *Alumni* Lecture annually, as well as publications," he said.

Also speaking, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, herself an *Alumna* expressed

gratitude to the Association for running a strong home branch, urging members to show more interest in the development of their *Alma Mater*.

The Chairman, was accompanied on the Visit by the First Vice President, Mrs Gloria Gabriel-Akanibo, Second Vice President, Mr Osaro Obari, Secretary, Deacon Ule Williams, Financial Secretary, Mr Iyekor Ikporo, Treasurer, Mrs Daima Warizeribe-Okungba, Provost, Mr Ezikwa Uwama and the Public Relations Officer, Mr Sunny Akubom. While the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Bernard Efiuvwevwere, Bursar, Mr Mark Roman and Mr Okezie Ochuba, Principal Assistant Registrar, joined the Vice-Chancellor to welcome the *Alumni* members.

NDDC To Partner UNI^{PORT} On Manpower Development

... To Complete Project On Campus

By Obinna Nwodim

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), has expressed willingness to engage the University in the development of manpower for the Petroleum downstream sector.

This assurance was given by Chairman of the NDDC Board, Dr. Tarilah Tebepah, when he paid a Courtesy Visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor

Joseph Ajenka, in his office.

Dr. Tebepah said that the Commission was making arrangements to train about 10 engineering graduates in Petroleum Refining Engineering, stating that the Institution would be of immense help in the training, given the giant strides it has recorded in the field of Petroleum Engineering over the years. He said that this would boost capacity in the downstream sector of the petroleum industry. He also added that the Commission would invest in the training of manpower in power generation, noting that these were areas of critical need that needed urgent attention, requesting authorities of the Institution to submit a proposal so that it can be involved in the programme.

The Chairman said that the focus of the Commission would be geared

towards job creation through viable and sustainable programmes to meet the economic needs of the country, adding that the target was to create jobs for one million people in the Region in the next two years.

Responding, Professor Ajenka, said that the University was willing to partner the Commission in the area of training in Petroleum Refining and Power Generation, adding that it had the capacity to boost manpower in the country. He disclosed that his administration attached great importance to technological development, which prompted it to establish a Technology Park to boost the application of science and innovations for development of society. The Vice-Chancellor said that the Director of the Technology Park, Professor Henry Njoku would work closely with the Commission to ensure that mutual objectives were achieved within a stipulated timeline.

The Vice-Chancellor took his guest to the NDDC hostel complex which was initiated but abandoned a few years ago. The Chairman assured him that the Commission would re-visit the project with a view to completing it without further delay.



R-L, Profs Henry Njoku, Onyewuchi Akarania, Dr. Tebepah, V-C, Prof Ajenka, Dr. Stanley Lawson, Prof Minapupe Odigi and an official of NDDC