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For Information and Enlightenment

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CHS Retreat

V-C, Briggs, Ohiosimuan, Task HoDs On Leadership Qualities



In a bid to acquaint Heads of Department with modern administrative techniques that would enhance productivity, the Management of the College of Health Sciences organised the maiden Annual Retreat for them on Thursday, July 14, 2016, at the NIM Lounge, inside the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, reports *Mercy Adeniji*;

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Side Bar 133rd INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor Okeshuku Onuchuku of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, delivers the 133rd Inaugural Lecture entitled: "War of Supremacy between Unemployment and Inflation in Nigeria: Who is the Actual Loser?" this Thursday

Details Next Week
~Editor



Chinese Firm Promises To Build Staff Houses In UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

Concerted efforts by the authorities of the University to address the yawning accommodation needs of staff received a major boost last Tuesday as the top hierarchy of Chinese construction giant and trading company, Lifemate Nigeria Limited, expressed interest to construct staff houses in the University.

Receiving the delegation on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, expressed delight over the expression of interest by Lifemate to take on the important project at no cost to the University. "What you have come to offer us is something we have been eagerly looking forward to for a long time. Many firms have come here with similar tantalising proposals, only to regrettably

chicken out at the point of mobilizing to site. The reality on ground today is that it would be very difficult for the Federal Government to undertake the building of staff accommodation in any university under the harsh economic climate in which we currently find ourselves in this country.

"The facility you have come to offer us is what we have badly needed and as a matter of fact, we wanted these houses yesterday. We are extremely gratified to note that a reputable company such as

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Revisiting NPSA Confab In UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

The University of Port Harcourt hosted the 30th Annual Conference of the Nigeria Political Science Association (NPSA) from Monday, 27th and Tuesday, 28th June, 2016 at the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium.

The two-day Conference with the theme: *Electoral Challenges and African Development*, was attended by over 350 participants that included eminent scholars, political scientists and experts in other related disciplines from across the country and beyond. There were also representatives of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Nigeria Institute of Legislative Studies (NILS), Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP) and Nigeria Institute of International Affairs (NIIA).

Also in attendance were heads of territory institutions, the media, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, students and the general public. The Conference considered several issues of

urgent national importance such as: *State, Democracy and Development in Africa; Ethnicity, Indigeneity and Conflicts; INEC and the Electoral Process; Electoral Violence and Insecurity; Leadership, Governance and Insecurity in Africa; Gender and Conflict; Regionalism and Security Architecture; Globalisation, Democracy*

gaps in the role of the police and other government agencies; the need for improved role by the family in curbing election violence; drug addiction and criminal violence in elections, as well as the need for more responsible roles by political parties and politicians through the strengthening of internal



DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (6th left), some Principal and Senior Officers and other participants after the opening ceremony of the Conference

and Development; Corruption, Religion and Insecurity; International Cooperation, Trafficking and Terrorism, including Civil Society and Election Violence in Nigeria, amongst other topics.

A major highlight of the Conference was a special Roundtable on Nigeria's stability and reconciliation with the theme: *The Role of Civil Society in Mitigating Election Violence in Nigeria*. Key issues discussed at the lively Roundtable included: The divisive and violent nature of elections in Nigeria; the need for improvement in the management of elections by the Independent National Electoral Commission; the need for a more robust intervention by civil society;

democracy, amongst others.

After exhaustive deliberations, the Conference proffered far-reaching solutions to the myriad of problems confronting the nation. Participants advocated increased voter education and sensitisation of the electoral processes; collective effort at ensuring violence-free elections in future; the need to engage communities on peaceful involvement of civil society groups, critical stakeholders, traditional and religious leaders in election-related matters and ways of mitigating the winner-take-all syndrome.

The Conference also addressed the role of professional associations, the need for organised labour to be involved in pre and post-election building processes, while a bill to prosecute perpetrators of hate speeches and other inflammatory practices was advocated to sanitise the electoral process. Other recommendations were that party financing should be transparent and duly monitored, while appropriate sanctions should be imposed on defaulters; the promotion of internal party democracy, including appropriate safeguards against abuse of party constitutions. The Conference also recommended appointment of electoral officials based on professional and demonstrated competence, rather than party patronage.

There is no doubt that NPSA is finally waking up to the occasion by making significant contributions to nation-building through recommendations that can aid politicians in the decision-making process. The theme of the Conference was apt, considering the nature of elections in Nigeria, with particular reference to inconclusive elections in various states in Nigeria and the credibility of the outcome of such elections—especially those held in recent times. It is hoped that the Association will sustain the momentum with more robust contributions to debate on burning national issues. NPSA must continue to speak out on issues that threaten to dismember Nigeria as we are beginning to witness. There is no other body that is best suited to warn the country when it falters than NPSA and such a role should not be taken lightly, especially now that Nigeria is dancing on the precipice.

Elechi Amadi Icon of Enchanting Realism In African Literature

By Chidi Maduka

It is sad to hear that Elechi Amadi has now joined our ancestors, leaving us with the echoes of his prodigious achievements as a memorable lyrical prose writer vibrating in his novels, plays and essays. His diction resonates with poise, clarity and simplicity. Of significance is his felicitous domestication of the 19th-century European quasi-scientific, crisp mode of the rendition of the novel, known as *Realism*. He innovatively Africanised the genre by giving it an enchanting touch that is characteristic of the mythic undercurrent of the interrelated art

forms of drama, poetry, narrative, dance, music and painting embedded in African oral literary performance. The real plays are predicated on the surreal through the narrator's dispassionate manipulation of the tone, thereby making the text to produce the effect of enchanting realism on the reader.

His proud mastery of the Ikwere minstrelsy enabled him to develop his cherished creative strategy (rooted in African sensibility) for combating European linguistic imperialism and defending the integrity of the contemporary African cultural experience—an experimentation that reminds us of such writers as Soyinka (Yoruba), Achebe (Igbo), Okara (Ijaw), Awoonor (Ewe), Ngugi wa Thiong'o (Gikuyu), Peter Abrahams (Zulu), John Pepper Clark (Ijaw/Urhobo) and Tanure Ojaide (Urhobo).

Elechi Amadi's enduring legacy in African Literature lies in his rugged cultural nationalism which made him to drop the name Emmanuel and often pushed him to reprimand African/Nigerian critics for not rooting their critical practice in theories deriving their force from the authentic African literary experience.

Writers and critics will ever remember the lasting significance of his presence in African Literature. Elechi Amadi is a great loss to humanity. May we all work hard with self-pride to celebrate the importance of our cultural heritage in the global village.

Adieu my friend!

Maduka, F.N.A.L, is retired Professor of Comparative Literature, UniPort



Late Dr. Amadi

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DT-C (Acad), Prof. Fawehinmi (farrowed), flanked on the right by Dr. Oshiniman, Emeritus Prof. Briggs, Prof. Oshiniman, Registrar, Mrs. Olu and on the left by Provost CHS, Prof. Mato, Dean, Fac. of Dentistry, Prof. Chukwudi Onyango and other participants

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Declaring the well-patronised event open on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Iale, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Hakem Fawehinmi congratulated the Provost, Professor Christie Mato and Management of the College of Health Sciences for the innovation, which he recommended to other Faculties and Departments.

"We congratulate the Provost for this enterprise and thank Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs for accepting to chair this important occasion. We believe that this Retreat would bring out the best in the Heads of Department, because it would be an opportunity for them to think outside the box and make critical decisions that would move the College forward. This Retreat is particularly unique because it would afford participants an opportunity to pause from their very demanding job routine to reflect on new ways of approaching the job," Professor Fawehinmi said, urging the participants to take the event very seriously.

Delivering a paper entitled, *Human Cell versus the University Department: A Comparison*, Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus Professor Briggs, praised the College Management for mounting the Retreat, advising the HoDs to maximise the benefits accruable from the exercise. "There was a time when this University tried to run the School System as the ultimate unit of academic administration. It, thereafter, experimented with the Collegiate System that ran alongside the Faculties and Departmental Systems, which most universities around the world run," the Chairman recalled.

Comparing the cell structure and its functions to what a

Department is to the University, Emeritus Professor Briggs stated: "The cell is the most important part and the smallest living unit in the human body and the Department is the most important unit in this University. A university is established to teach and learn, carry out research and also impact the community in which it is located. This teaching and learning is basically done at the Department, which in turn reflects the quality of the university."

"As Heads of Department, you determine the pace of the University, because what you do impacts the University one way or the other. The good we do reflects on the entire system and so you must handle your assignments in a proper manner and work together to ensure that there is effective coordination in everything you do. It is our duty to also ensure that the support staff carry out their duties in an effective manner. As HoDs, you must ask yourselves this important question: 'Are we living up to our responsibilities?' You must be transparent with your Departmental funds, learn to engage your colleagues on a one-on-one basis to gain their trust and respect and always remember that everything must not be official. Hold regular Departmental Meetings at which that decision-making process is democratised to involve every shade of opinion," Emeritus Professor Briggs charged the HoDs. Delivering the keynote address, an Anaesthesiologist at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Dr. Moses Oshiniman, described leadership as a process of social influence that maximises the efforts of others towards the achievement of organisational goal or ability of an individual to lead or guide other individuals, teams or entire organisations. "A team is like a cell membrane and leadership positions have nothing to do with seniority or

positions of hierarchy in an organisation; leadership does not automatically happen when you reach a certain grade."

"Leadership also has nothing to do with titles, or personal attributes and leadership is not management; managers manage things, plan, measure, monitor, coordinate, solve, hire and fire, while leaders lead people. You are HoDs, you have a team and therefore, you should be able to guide the staff to achieve the goals of the Department, which means there would be goal-setting and you should have a vision and decide what you want to achieve," he told the participants, expressing gratitude to organisers of the Retreat for pulling the HoDs out of their daily routines.

Earlier in her welcome address, Provost of the College, Professor Christie Mato, commended the HoDs for attending the Retreat, disclosing that the idea was part of her vision for enhanced productivity in the College. "I met staff who felt they did not belong to the College and just didn't know what the College was about. I felt that one way to establish ourselves firmly as 'the College' and give us all a sense of belonging was to have Heads of Department who knew what was expected of them and were willing to make the necessary sacrifices through hard work to move the College forward," she revealed, promising that the Retreat would be part of the annual academic calendar of the College.

Other speakers at the event Retreat included Acting Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control, Dr. Kechukwu Agbagwa, Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dabara Charles Grayville, Junior Staff Officer, Mrs. Elizabeth Ndokoko, SPATIS Officer, Mr. Job Borgebara and Personnel Officer (Academic), Mr. Promise Simeon.



Prof. Ngochindo, immediate past HoD

Ngochindo Attributes Successful Tenure To Teamwork In Chemistry Dept

By Humphrey Ogu

Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent, Professor Ngochindo described Pure and Industrial Chemistry as a very volatile Department just like the chemicals that they handle, with people from different specialisations, who reason differently and have their peculiar ways of doing things, saying that bringing people with such divergent views together was a difficult task that he surmounted through an open-door policy and transparent leadership style.

"During my tenure, I was able to bring my colleagues on the same template to share my vision, which enabled us to work together to achieve the success story that I bequeathed to my successor. Although I am next to the oldest Professor in the Department, Chukwunonye Ojinnaka, I did not look down on anybody in the performance of my duty. It was, thus, easy for me to achieve

my colleagues as friends that I could rely on to achieve our collective vision of placing the Department at the top of the pecking order in the Faculty of Science," he said, commending his colleagues for their cooperation while he was in charge.

"Because we serve departments in the Faculties of Agriculture, Education, Engineering and Science, getting results out in time was once a major challenge,

but with the cooperation of my colleagues, we were able to get out results in time," he said, adding that under his watch, the Department also had a robust welfare scheme that encouraged staff to identify with their colleagues in moments of joy or sorrow such as weddings, child delivery, as well as burial ceremonies.

Professor Ngochindo, who noted that the lecturer-student ratio in the Department was encouraging, pointed out that the problem was with the staff-mis in terms of Professors, Senior Lecturers and other ranks. "We made sure that we ran practical sessions and organised internal defence of project works to ensure that students were not turned down during their external defence." The former HoD added that he also enjoyed the cooperation of the students during his tenure, citing the donation of a set of stools by a student group for use in the laboratory as evidence of such symbiotic relationship with students.

"We were unable to procure some of the equipment necessary to secure full accreditation for our Industrial Chemistry strand of the course. Paucity of funds grossly hampered my vision of equipping the Department the way I had wished. Although we got Interim Accreditation status for Industrial Chemistry, we had Full Accreditation for Pure Chemistry," he disclosed, expressing hope that under the leadership of his successor, Professor Gloria Obuzor, the Department would be able to attain Full Accreditation for the Industrial Chemistry component and also finalise registration with the International Standards Organisation (ISO) which was started during his tenure.

The Department of Physical Planning and Development has been repeatedly described as the 'sick child' of the University of Port Harcourt and successive administrations merely scratched their heads about what to do to bring the Department back from the precipice. The lethargy was so much that some unscrupulous Contractors took advantage of the sordid situation to most unconsciously fleece the University of huge sums of money. They neither bothered to strictly adhere to stipulated timelines nor quality control measures that are the products of close-captioned monitoring by the DPPD.

Where previous administrations merely played Russian roulette with the leadership of the troubled Department, the administration of Professor Ndowa LaLe decided to frontally address the matter without bowing to prevailing sentiment. This untenable situation was remedied when the administration split the behemoth into three: namely, the Physical Planning Unit, TETFund Desk and Estate Unit. Architect Michael Ubom, who now heads the Physical Planning Unit brings to the table, his wealth of experience from the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, where he rose through the ranks to become Chief Architect, before joining the services of the University of Port Harcourt in January, 2016.

Ubom's professional checklist: after graduation, the new Deputy Director consulted for several firms and government agencies, before joining the services of University of Uyo in 2012. He had worked for architectural firms in Lagos, Kano, Calabar, Uyo, Yobe, Yenagoa, Oshogbo, Abeja, Gombe, Sokoto, Minna, Kaduna, amongst others.

At the University of Uyo, Ubom headed the design

Meet Ubom, New Deputy Director, DPPD

By Williams Wodi

team of the Physical Planning Directorate on such areas as tenders, award and claims, site meetings, building designs and presentations, including tender evaluation, procurement planning and management, amongst other professional services. He is passionate about strict adherence to guidelines and standards, management and project supervision. At Uyo, Ubom was responsible for liaising with Consultants and Contractors to resolve grey areas on such issues as variation and fluctuation claims. He also liaised with other arms of the University on developmental issues. With the arrival of Mr. Ubom on the scene and with the restructuring of the DPPD, there is eager anticipation that the University of Port Harcourt would soon experience quality service delivery to justify his appointment. Already, there are cogent and verifiable signs that projects are now better supervised and monitored in compliance with global best practice by the Unit under Mr. Ubom's watch. It is heartening to note that the Unit has been able to bring Contractors that previously abandoned their projects back to site, and if the trend continues, as we hope it would, there is hope that the University would finally access all outstanding funds that had hitherto accumulated at the TETFund.

Born in 1964 at Asong in Mkpai Enin Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Michael Ubom obtained the Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from the then University of Ife in 1987 and the Master of Science degree from the Obafemi

Awolowo University, Ife in 1989. He holds Membership of the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria and the Nigeria Institute of Architects. Ubom is married with children.



Mr. Ubom

Again, UniPort Visits Murdered Sports Institute Driver's Family

By Otiokor Samuel

Preparatory to arrangements leading to the burial of former Head Driver of the Sports Institute, Mr. Ugwechi Woruksa, who was brutally murdered by unknown assailants in their bid to kidnap the Director of the Institute, Professor Ken Anguewe, along the Aluu-Airport Road axis on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, Principal Officers and some Senior Staff of the University paid another visit to the family last Monday.

The UniPort delegation which inspected the level of work at an on-going building project which Management is completing in time for the obsequies for the deceased Driver, later held a brief session with the parents, wife, siblings and relatives of the deceased at the main family house at Iside in Enuabara Local Government Area.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa LaLe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, who led the

delegation, apologised to the family for the seeming delay in completing the building project, which the University

offered to complete at the point where the deceased left off before his untimely death.

Professor Ibe, who stated that the project inherited was at the window level, expressed delight that the project had advanced to the roofing stage. He regretted that the project was temporarily halted due to the unfortunate students' protest of Monday, April 11, 2016, and other extenuating circumstances, promising that the University would accelerate the process of completing the building to enable the family commence burial rites for the slain driver without further delay.

"What is now left to be done on the building are the fixing of ceilings, flooring and plastering of the walls, including electrical and plumbing work before it would be finally ready for occupation. I am pleased to note that the tank stand had already been constructed, while the tank would soon be mounted to supply water to the four bedroom apartment. We are confident that in the next two months, we will finish

the project to enable the family commence preparations for the burial of the deceased," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor told them.

He further congratulated the wife of the deceased, Mrs. Blessing Woruksa, who was about three months pregnant at the time of the unfortunate death of her husband on her safe delivery last May, reiterating that the University would keep to its promise of assisting the children of the former Driver, who was brutally murdered while on active service.

Responding on behalf of the family members, Engineer Kingsley Woruksa, expressed gratitude to the University for identifying with them in their moment of grief, commending Management for the numerous intervention packages aimed at alleviating the sufferings occasioned by the demise of Mr. Woruksa, particularly on his wife, children and aged parents.

"We appreciate this high-powered delegation comprising two Deputy Vice-Chancellors, with Senior Officers of the University in attendance. We deeply appreciate this kind gesture that has reassured us of your willingness to give our son a befitting burial. Your solidarity and palliative measures have helped to partially assuage the pain we feel about this loss to the whole family. Our worry now is on the delay in the burial of the late man. In line with Iwerre culture, a young person cannot be kept in the mortuary for too long; so we would request the University to assist us to facilitate the burial process without further delay to enable us get on with our lives. Apart from that, we are very satisfied with the University and this second visit shows that you are really committed to the welfare of Mr. Woruksa's family. The mother of the deceased also asked me to thank the University for the assistance it rendered to her and I would also request you to kindly convey our deep appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor," the family spokesman said.

Others on the delegation included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umecor, Director of Council Affairs, Mr. Roland Nwabali, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi, Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Woguwa and a Sister In-law to the deceased, Mrs. Rita Obisike of the Bursary Department.



UniPort delegation inspecting the building. Inset: DV-Cs (Acad and Admin), Prof. Fawehinmi and Ibe and a relation of the deceased



Dean of Humanities, Prof Shaka (arrowed) flanked on the left by first son of Elechi Amadi, Carl his sister, Chinyere, Dr Ejiofor and Deputy Registrar (Info), Wodi and on the right by HoD Music, Prof Nwanpa and others

In recognition of his immense contributions to the development of arts and culture in Nigeria and Africa in general, the Faculty of Humanities stormed the Mbodo country home of the literary icon, Dr. Elechi Amadi with performances that electrified the hastily convened audience on Friday, July 15, 2016. Dance, music, readings and an excerpt from Elechi Amadi's popular play, *Isiburu*, jostled for space in his expansive premises, as the sizable audience watched in rapt attention.

To prove the point that the Faculty of Humanities was not in Aluu for a picnic, a near life-size banner of the ace writer was unfurled right on the road to public admiration. His half bust in the picture revealed Elechi Amadi as enjoying a laconic laugh at poor death in its invidious triumphalism. The banner proclaimed: "Faculty of Humanities Mourns a Literary Icon, Captain Elechi Amadi (12th May, 1934 - 29th June, 2016)." It ended with the memorable statement: "Your PEN has dropped, but the INK still flows in our HEARTS, RIP!"

The performance which commenced right at the Aluu Boundary Market with a town-crier summoning the entire buyers and sellers to assemble at Elechi Amadi's compound to bear witness to the show, took a different turn when Dr. Ovonnda Ihunwo raised war chants and moving *Iweere* funeral dirges as the contingent marched in a solemn procession into the compound. Everything that happened along the way was masterfully choreographed into the main performance in the delight of the audience that responded to each episode. It was a spectacle which could only have been staged by the Faculty of Humanities; and it was something to behold indeed! It was as if *THE CRAB* moved to Aluu that evening and even the weather was in agreement with the performance as the *dibia* from *Egunyim* was mysteriously on hand to teach the rain a lesson if it had

Humanities Faculty Lights Up Late Elechi Amadi's Residence With *Isiburu*, Other Acts

By Humphrey Ogu and Williams Wodi

any plan of disrupting the proceedings!

In a moving prologue, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Femil Shaka, said: "We are here as younger colleagues of the late literary icon and our great mentor, Dr. Elechi Amadi. He was one of us and we all share a piece of him. He was a Writer-in-Residence in the Institute of Arts and Culture of our Faculty. We are here to proclaim to Mbodo Community, Aluu Clan and the entire world that we have a great responsibility to tell the story of Elechi Amadi the way he would have wanted it to be told by the artistic community. He was the master craftsman who will be in permanent remembrance on account of his great literary exploits during his lifetime."

"Elechi Amadi was part of us and we shall be part of all activities scheduled to accord him a very befitting burial. In death, he deserves much more than every honour that we can give to keep his great legacy alive. The sad news of the passage of our very senior colleague, literary icon, culture icon and philosopher hit us like lightning from the blues. We have come here to enact a brief performance in honour of a great man of letters and culture. This is just a condoleance visit. I wish to proclaim it to all and sundry to hear: We shall be back! Yes, we shall be back at the appropriate time! Let the performance commence in earnest," he declared.

The performance did start. Popular *Nollywood* star and Director General of the Rivers State Tourism Agency, Dr.

Sam Dede, his colleague in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Dr. Ovonnda Ihunwo, including the Deputy Registrar in charge of Information in the University, Williams Wodi, who wrote a moving tribute in honour of the late novelist, took turns to read from the tribute entitled: *Elechi Amadi: Nature's Marble Of Great Sculpture*, excerpts of which were dramatized by a troupe from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies as intropically directed by Dr. Ihunwo himself.

A major highlight of the visit was the performance of scenes from Elechi Amadi's famous play: *Isiburu*, by a troupe from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies and surreal musical renditions by the Department of Music directed by Tari Orubu. As the story of the performance spread throughout Aluu Clan, more spectators hurriedly made their way into Elechi Amadi's compound, only to meet the Faculty troupe on its way out of the scene. The curtain had been drawn on the performance until another day.

Other members of the Faculty that made the trip included Head of the Department of Music, Professor Onyee Nwanpa, his counterpart in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Dr. John Yesu, Drs. Ben Ejiofor, Friday Nwafor, AdeOluwa Okunbo, and the immediate past Chairman of the Rivers State Branch of the Association of Nigerian Authors, Mr. Obinna Nwodin. Elechi Amadi's household, members of Aluu Clan and a host of others.

SGS Ends Productivity Workshop For Staff

By Otiok Samuel

Efforts aimed at enhancing productivity and raising staff morale received a major boost as the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) engaged its senior personnel on ways of effectively discharging the core mandate of the School. The workshop mainly focused on effective techniques for documenting admission and graduation processes for Graduate Students in line with extant policies of the University.

Dean of the School, Professor Regina Ogali, who spoke on the theme of the workshop: *Promoting an Effective Process of Graduate Admission and*

Graduation of Students, stated: "The emphasis on admission and graduation of our students is a way of indicating that these two roles are very important aspects of running graduate programmes; they depict the input and output components of all graduate programmes in line with global best practice."

The Dean listed the job schedules of each of the Units which included documentation, admission and registration offices, cautioning staff of the School against unethical practices that could tarnish his hard earned reputation.

"It has been observed that some staff in a bid to

'assist' students, have compromised their work ethics in the process. All staff are, therefore, enjoined to concentrate on their approved job schedules and stop meddling in the unacceptable practice of rendering unsolicited help to graduate students, who are supposed to pay their school fees and other charges at designated banks," the Dean said.

"If everyone of us complies with the Total Quality Management principle of 'doing the right thing right at the very first time and at the right time,' there would be remarkable reduction in loss of man-hour which hitherto has been expended on correction of avoidable errors, duplication of tasks, unnecessary document vetting by staff, other than those who have initiated or certified completed jobs, including delays in completing tasks, amongst others," the Dean emphasised, charging staff to show better commitment to duty.

In their separate presentations, immediate past Graduate Studies Officer and now Director of Academic Affairs, Dr. Agatha Ataga, gave a brief overview of Graduate programmes, while Junior Staff Officer, Mrs. Elizabeth Ndiohko, presented a paper on *Work Ethics and Workers' Attitude to Work*.

The workshop also featured an interactive session on the challenges, expectations, and way forward. A major highlight of the workshop was presentation of certificates of participation to staff of the School.



Dean SGS, Prof Ogali (arrowed) flanked by the Resource Persons and other participants

Chinese Firm To Build Staff Houses

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Lifemate is expressing interest in bailing us out of our severe accommodation problem in this University. We welcome you wholeheartedly and you can be rest assured that this is a good offer that we intend to accept with both hands. Let me also assure you that the Management will do everything possible to guarantee your investment in this University and ensure that Lifemate does not regret its decision to commit resources to the realisation of this critical project in this University," Professor Ibe assured the delegation.

In his remarks, Chairman of the Company, Mr. James Chi, disclosed that Lifemate has been doing business in Nigeria for the past 15 years, promising that it was very desirous of investing in the real estate sector in Nigeria through construction of decent and affordable houses. "Everybody in Nigeria knows our other company, Bedmate Furniture Company, but Lifemate is a bigger concept because it covers many other business concerns, including construction, which is the reason we are in the University of Port Harcourt. We already have partnerships with other companies and institutions in this regard," he told the Management of the University.

Also speaking, Managing Director of the company in Nigeria, Mr. Weir Wu, assured Management that Lifemate has the capacity to carry out the project after all the necessary agreements and documentations would have been completed by the partners. We are pleased to be in the University of Port Harcourt and we are very eager to bring a new concept to the real estate business in Nigeria. The Chinese Government has set aside a \$1 billion

investment fund for the real estate business in Africa and it would be nice for the University of Port Harcourt to benefit from such a huge facility. Lifemate is here to help you achieve that objective and we have the expertise on ground to accomplish the task," Mr. Wu said.

Earlier in his remarks, facilitator of the visit and Acting Director of the Intellectual Property Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), Dr. Tobin

Briggs, stated that the interest of Lifemate in the University was as a result of the Chinese Government's interest in the investment of \$1 billion dollars in Africa's real estate sector, expressing hope that the partnership would yield maximum benefit to both parties.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Housing Committee, Professor Anthony Ekin, expressed gratitude to the Directors of Lifemate for expressing interest in such a critical area of staff housing in the University, assuring them of total cooperation and support that would lead to the speedy realization of the eagerly awaited partnership.



DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe handing over copies of UniPort Weekly to Mr Chi

As the world marked the 2016 International World Youth Skills Day last Friday, the Centre for Sandwich and Skills Acquisition observed the day with a lecture on the theme: *Skills Rule the World* at the Faculty of Education Seminar Room located in Choba Park.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed delight that the maiden edition of the World Youth Skills Day was celebrated in the University. "We are happy that the celebration is coming at a period of heightened youth unemployment and rising vices in our country."

Represented by Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, the Vice-Chancellor said: "The establishment of research-driven Centres and Institutes by the University of Port Harcourt was meant to attract partnerships from relevant industry players, donor agencies and public-spirited individuals and groups. The Centres and Institutes are expected to develop capacity building programmes for youths in the Niger Delta, who are coming under increasing social pressures in the process of actualising themselves."

"The Senate of the University established the Centre for Sandwich and Skills Acquisition (CSSA) programmes in 2012 with the mandate of driving designated educational and training activities. It is, therefore, my hope that this Centre will develop to become one of the most enviable and lucrative programmes in this University."

Centre For Skills Acquisition Marks Maiden World Youth Skills Day

By Obinna Nwodin

"The challenges of unemployment, underemployment and poverty facing the youths, especially in the Niger Delta region can be tackled through the creation of skills acquisition programmes that would encourage entrepreneurship and self-reliance. I am happy to note that the Centre for Sandwich and Skills Acquisition will be providing this service by collaborating with relevant public and private partners to engage vulnerable youths of this region in skills acquisition programmes that can make them self-reliant and discourage them from engaging in criminal activities," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Also speaking, Rivers State Commissioner of Youth Development, Mr. Princewill Ogbogbala, represented by the Director of Youth Enterprise and Promotion Department, Mr. Bogha Christian, said: "It is in furtherance of our goal of youth empowerment that the State Government places so much emphasis on entrepreneurship skills development for our youths as

the panacea to unemployment in the State. "Entrepreneurship is a multi-facet approach that would take the State to greater heights through self-employment, poverty and crime reduction," the Commissioner said, calling on curriculum planners to make skills acquisition compulsory in secondary and tertiary institutions so that no student can graduate without acquiring specific skills.

Chairman of the occasion and Director of the Institute of Education, Professor Samuel Nwidede, described the celebration as an important event in the annals of the University, stating that it was important to sensitize the youths on the need to acquire relevant skills that would enhance their socio-economic status. "An estimated 75 million youths are unemployed today and this is not a positive development for a developing country like Nigeria. Most of the criminal activities in society today are attributable to idle youths. He disclosed, expressing delight that the Centre has taken a bold step in achieving the mandate for which it was established.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lawrence Igwe, commended the Centre for organising the celebration, stressing the need for every individual to acquire requisite skills that may become handy in moments of economic downturn. He appealed to the Rivers State Government to make budgetary provision for the establishment of a skills acquisition and entrepreneurship village.

Earlier in his welcome address, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Glory Amadi, said: "The World Youth Skills Day initiative was borne out of the desire of the United Nations to reduce the challenges of unemployment and poverty among youths across the globe. The main target is to achieve improved socio-economic status for youths that would enable them become self-reliant. Our objective is to grow the Centre to address the problem of unemployment and criminal activities in the Niger Delta."

Highlights of the event were a lecture on the theme of the celebration by an Entrepreneur and Public Speaker, Mr. Ikechi Nwogu, as well as exhibition of some items that were jointly produced by the Centre and its partners.



L-R: Mr. Nwogu, Prof Nwidede, Dr. Amadi, Prof Igwe, Shaka and Mr. Bogha after the event.
Inset: A cross-section of participants

GUIDEPOST

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Leklu Nwinka, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 23, 2008 to retirement age.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr. Uriah Ekwu, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017.

Professor B.A. Ayinde, Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective May 27, 2016 to May 26, 2017.

Dr. O.F. Uzah, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective April 30, 2016 to April 29, 2017.

Dr. E.E. Williams, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective February 29, 2016 to February 28, 2017.

NOTIFICATION OF HIGHER DEGREE

Dr. Vision Ugwuja, Department of Agric Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, completed her Doctoral degree in Agricultural Economics (Agric. Finance and Project Analysis) at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, effective February, 2016.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Uchechukwu Onyekwue, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Science, elevated from *Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II*, effective February 27, 2016.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. Golda Ekenedo, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, proceeded on a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* at the Department of Public Health, Madonna University, Elele, Rivers State, effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Dr. Katherine Onyige, Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), granted a one year *Sabbatical Leave*, tenable at the Administrative Department of HSO, Atlanta, U.S.A. effective November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS. PEARL MESSIAH ONYIGE, Former Miss Pearl Chimburuma Okor of the Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Pearl Messiah Onyige. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

V-C Inaugurates Committee On Non-NUC Programmes

By Otiok Samuel

Following sustained agitations by Unions in the University over their demand for payment of remunerations of benefits accruable from Non-NUC programmes, Management of the University has set up a Committee headed by Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies to address the contentious issues.

The Committee is charged with the responsibility of devising appropriate modalities and making recommendations on how to restructure the programmes to meet their mandate and also spread the accruable benefits amongst relevant staff of the University.

Inaugurating the Committee in the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room on Friday, July 8, 2016, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Ilakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, charged the Committee to take a holistic approach in reviewing the non-NUC programmes being run by the University and make appropriate recommendations for pacific benefits that would accrue to staff.

"It is rather unfortunate that the new National Universities Commission's regulations on the carrying-capacity of each programme have adversely affected the volume of revenue accruing to the University from non-NUC programmes. So, we want this Committee to take the assignment seriously by making objective and reasonable recommendations on how to run the programmes in such a manner that they can be sustainable and also benefit staff to end the heightened agitations," Professor Fawehinmi charged the Committee members.

He expressed optimism that the Committee which is made up of experienced staff from the various Unions, would come up with realistic recommendations that would finally address the lingering debate on remunerations due staff.

In his acceptance speech, Chairman of the Committee, Professor Kilani, expressed gratitude to Management for responding to the demand of the Unions by promptly constituting the Committee, pledging to carry out the assignment dutifully and with a sense of responsibility to the satisfaction of all stakeholders.

"I want to thank Management of the University for finding us worthy to carry out this important assignment. We will do our best to justify the purpose for which the Committee was set up. While I assure you of our total commitment to this assignment, I also wish to appeal to Management to implement our recommendations to enhance the quality of teaching in Non-NUC programmes and also benefit staff that contribute to their success," the Chairman said.

Members of the Committee are: Acting Directors of the School of Basic Studies, Dr. Ipegham Oturaku, College of Continuing Education, Dr. Kikpoye Aaron, Sandwich and Skills Acquisition Centre, Dr. Gospel Kpee, including representatives of Academic Staff Union of Universities, Drs Eze Wosun and Ngodi Iheanacho. Others are representatives of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, Mr. Bikueme Syder, National Association of Academic Technologists, Mr. Ambrose Ogboghe and Non-Academic Staff Union, Mrs. Beauty Igwe, while Mrs. Ezinne Worga and Mr. Sunny Dada will serve as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively.



L-R: Burar, Mr. Alieti, Registrar, Mrs. Oti, DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Prof Kilani, University Librarian, Dr. Umazor, Dr. Kpee and other members of the Committee

STOP PRESS

SECOND SEMESTER LECTURE TIMETABLE/COURSE ALLOCATION

The revised calendar for the 2015/2016 academic session for Full-Time Students has been approved by Senate. The First Semester Examinations ended on Saturday, July 16, 2016, while the Second Semester shall resume on Sunday, July 24, 2016 with full commencement of 1 Lectures on Monday, July 25, 2016.

Provost and Deans are requested to ensure that all Faculty and Departmental Time-Tables and Course Allocation for the Second Semester are submitted to the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit on or before Thursday, July 21, 2016. Each Department should submit a Departmental Time-Table and Allocation of Courses specific to that Department. The Time-Table should clearly indicate courses borrowed from other Departments and Faculties if any, while Courses that have different streams should similarly be clearly indicated. Heads of Department are also requested to also specify the names of Lecturers for Departments captured for each stream in line with the approved template for Course Allocation.

VERIFICATION/ENROLMENT OF STAFF DUE RETIREMENT

The National Pension Commission has scheduled a verification and enrolment exercise for retired staff, who were not enrolled and those retiring between January and December, 2017 at the Ebitemi Banigo Auditorium on July 28-29, 2016 and August 1-2, 2016, respectively.

Affected staff are requested to report to the above venue with original and photocopy of letter of first appointment, original and photocopy of birth certificate or age declaration, original and photocopy of promotion or pay slip, indicating grade level and step as at June 30, 2004, letter from the Registry Department (Pension and Welfare Unit) signifying retirement and first appointment dates, grade level and step as at June 30, 2004 as well as the current grade level and step, authenticated past records of service, current pay slip indicating current grade level and step, pay slip indicating grade level and step as at July 2007, evidence of registration with a pension fund administrator indicating Personal Identification Number (PIN) and a letter of indemnity in case of voluntary retirement, stating the amount paid as Pension and Gratuity, if any.

Affected staff should contact the Pension and Welfare Unit for clarification.

Contact: Mrs. Ine Ithanga

First Obstetrics And Gynaecology Lecture

Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs delivered the First Obstetrics and Gynaecology Lecture at the UPTH Auditorium on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the event:



Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs (Standing) delivering the Lecture



Rep of the V-C and DVC (Acad) Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi speaking



Chief Medical Director, UPTH, Prof Aaron Ojile speaking after the Lecture



Former Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof Osaretin Odia paying tribute to the Lecturer



Prof Anthony Okpani speaking



Former Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Prof John Ikimalo



Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Charles Tobin-West



Director of Admin, UPTH, Mrs Boma Jumbo



Dr Sotonye Ogun speaking on his relationship with Prof Briggs



Dr. Ngozi Orazulike, Prof Briggs (2nd left), Prof Fawehinmi (centre), Mrs Jumbo, HoD, Prof Henry Ugboha and others



L-R: Briggs, Fawehinmi and Ojile



A cross-section of participants



Another cross-section of participants