

UniPort Weekly

Vol. 31, Edition 304 November 21 - November 28, 2016

For information and enlightenment

ISSN: 1522-2225

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria



DAN Marks World Diabetes Day In UniPort With Medical Outreach

As part of activities that marked the 2016 edition of World Diabetes Day, which had *Eyes on Diabetes* as its theme, staff, students, other stakeholders from within and outside the University community have benefitted from screening for diabetes mellitus and other complications associated with the deadly disease, reports *Humphrey Ogu*. [More on p3](#)

Side Bar NUC ACCREDITATION

Accreditation teams from the National Universities Commission will commence accreditation exercises in the College of Health Sciences, various Faculties and Departments this morning. [Details Next Week](#)

~Editor

Mgt Sensitizes Provost, Deans, HoDs On Accreditation Exercise



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Onyekonwu, Others Advise Engineering Students



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NCA Elects Obafemi President



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O'TI Ends Orientation For Students



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Unless there is a last minute executive intervention from higher authorities outside the University, there are strong indications that the usual 'Christmas Package' that has become a part of the Yuletide season may not, after all, be feasible this year.

Reason: In the absence of a Governing Council and the recent introduction of the almighty Treasury Single Account by the Federal Government, the huge capital outlay required to service this year's 'Christmas Package' would be far beyond the statutory approval limit of the Vice-Chancellor or any of his Principal Officers.

V-C Appeals To Unions On 2016 Xmas Package

By Obinna Nwodin and Williams Wodi

Making the situation known in an emergency meeting he held with the four Unions at the NIM Lounge on Friday, November 11, 2016, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, passionately appealed to the Unions for understanding of the precarious position of Management of the University on the issue, assuring

them that he had fully prepared to deliver the package as his administration did last year.

"As a Management, we had fully prepared to make our staff happy this Christmas season as we did last year. As you can imagine, our resolve to do the right thing in this direction has never been in doubt. The big obstacle we face now is that the defunct Governing Council conveyed approval before we implemented the

[More on p6](#)



Prof. Lale,
V-C

Dr. Sado,
ASUU

Syder,
SSANU

Ijeme,
NAAT

Igwe,
NASU

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When DAN Brought Diabetes Message To UniPort

By Ogechi The

A large crowd milled about the expansive Ebbitimi Banjo Auditorium on Monday, November 14, 2016, all anxious to be part of the yearly ritual designated by the International Diabetes Federation to mark the 2016 World Diabetes Day. Hosted by the Rivers State Chapter of the Diabetes Association of Nigeria (DAN) in conjunction with the Senator Lee Macba Foundation and University of Port Harcourt, the event promised free screening for attendees and a subsequent seminar that offered participants invaluable information regarding how to live with the deadly disease that has taken so many lives, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

The participants, who responded to DAN's invitation from all over the Niger Delta region and beyond, took full advantage of the offer of free medical outreach to listen to the grim statistics and also ascertain their health status. At the foyer of the auditorium, curious guests could be seen, circulating from table to table as required by the organizers. Some of those that casually presented themselves for screening soon realized that they were already at various terminal stages of the disease that combine with its cousin, hypertension to debilitate its victims. Such persons were promptly referred to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital just a stone throw away for detailed clinical attention.

The group was then ushered into the auditorium where the main event, titled "World Diabetes Day: Eyes on Diabetes," was co-moderated by none other than our very own Humphrey Ogu and chaired by the Executive Vice-President of the Senator Lee Macba Foundation, Folasade Allu. Specific attention was paid to Diabetic Retinopathy and other visual complications, but the seminar also thoroughly covered a range of topics associated with the lifelong ailment, including identifying gaps responsible for poor access to diabetic care and affordability of the drugs needed to manage the condition, especially in a resource-poor environment. The exercise featured dietary requirements that are necessary for maintaining good health and keeping complications at

bay and also deliberated on the effects of diabetes during pregnancy, clinically known as gestational diabetes.

Seasoned health care professionals took turns to explain how to control the ailment that is responsible for such high mortality in Nigeria. They also told those afflicted by the disease where to go for help to remedy the situation. Ominously termed as "a silent killer" on account of its capacity to drastically weaken and eventually incapacitate the human body over time, this malady claims a life every six seconds, mostly occurring in low to middle income countries.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when the body cannot make insulin, or make good use of the insulin it produces. Not being able to produce insulin or use it effectively leads to raised sugar levels in the blood and over long-term, high sugar levels become associated with damage to the body and failure of various organs and tissues to function properly. It comes in two types: Type 1, which is characterized by deficient insulin production

and requires daily administration of insulin and Type 2 which accounts for 90% of all cases of diabetes and results from the body's ineffective use of insulin.

According to the International Diabetes Federation, a whopping 415 million people worldwide are living with either of these complications; of this number, 14.2 million are in Africa, while of the 14.2 million, more than 1.56 million cases were found in Nigeria in 2015. Available statistics also show that there are 470,000 cases in Rivers State alone, much of it undiagnosed and largely preventable if detected early with proper lifestyle adjustments, including dieting and exercise. The medical outreach was a first step in the long line of planned events aimed at curbing the spread and the effects of the illness.

The words of Mrs. Echeolu Ogarie of the UniPort Teaching Hospital "I pray that after today, we will all carry the message and do much better," will continue to reverberate in the ears of the participants long after the event.



Dr. C (Admin), Prof Ibe (arrows) and others at the Walk-the-Talk activity

Student World Nwachukwu Tackles Municipal Solid Waste Generation

With specialization in energy and thermo-fluid, the passion to study conversion of municipal waste into energy has driven Oscar Nwachukwu, a graduate student of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, to seek solution to what constitutes a blight to urban living. He shared his research findings with Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON.

Nigeria's city centres are blighted by refuse mountains that assail the first-time visitor to any of our urban areas. The stench that emits from such dumpsites is better experienced than described. Scavengers forage in these dustbins, while what could not be taken away is usually burnt with thick black smoke spiralling into the atmosphere.

Worst still, human beings inhale the stench and smoke

with catastrophic consequences to their health and total wellbeing. The irony is that such refuse mountains could be properly managed and utilised to provide electricity for domestic and industrial use through a complex gasification technology that is clean and cost-effective, as Oscar Nwachukwu discovered through a dedicated research process.

The aim of the research entitled: *Assessment of Municipal Solid Waste Generation and Thermo Economic Analysis of a Waste-to-Energy Conversion Power Plant: A Case Study* is to harness energy from a non-conventional renewable energy source. Having discovered that energy could be harnessed from waste with numerous benefits, including provision of electricity, greener and cleaner environment and reduced pollution, Nwachukwu disclosed that the process is based on the use of gasification technology to convert waste to synthetic gas known as syngas.

"Unlike the incineration technology or mass burn and anaerobic digestion of municipal waste, the level of nitro oxide and sulphur oxide emissions from the gasification technology is lower and at almost zero level which makes it an attractive model to adopt in a resource-poor environment. The anaerobic process is slow, but slow and requires a lot of technical expertise that may not be readily available in a developing country such as Nigeria at the moment," Nwachukwu, who was supervised by Professor Chika Oka explained.

"On the other hand, gasification technology employs the use of a gas turbine, a steam turbine plant (both single and dual Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG), an organic Rankine Cycle, Absorption Refrigerator Cycle,

To achieve the desired result, a total of 8 different configurations were studied for the purpose of utilizing the new syngas technology to produce energy," Nwachukwu told our Correspondent, adding that the 8th configuration produced the best result.

"The 8th configuration which involves combustor the syngas in the combustion chambers of a gas turbine is connected to dual pressure HRGS, an organic Rankine Cycle and also an absorption refrigerator system for innate air cooling, which produced a substantial amount of power output. The exergoe efficiency was good, because waste heat was minimal and above all cost-effective," Nwachukwu said, noting that thermodynamics and economic implication of the plants were also evaluated.

Now that it has been established that there is an alternative source to the conventional power source currently in use in the country, Nwachukwu is advocating the use of municipal waste to generate electricity that would reduce the country's over-dependence on fossil fuel that pollutes the environment and endangers our health.

"My findings indicate that gasification technology guarantees a cleaner environment, has a huge potential to provide jobs and is in line with the global campaign to reduce depletion of the ozone layer which has resulted in climate change," the researcher submitted, urging the government and relevant stakeholders to judiciously utilize the huge waste generated on daily basis to light up the country through proper waste management.



Nwachukwu

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The exercise, which was organised by the Rivers State Chapter of the Diabetes Association of Nigeria (DAN) in concert with the Senator Lee Maeba Foundation, took place at the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium. Other highlights included testimonies by people living with diabetes types 1 and 2, walk-the-talk activity, a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor and presentations that emphasised the importance of regular monitoring of blood sugar, including physical activity, early detection and management.

Speaking during the courtesy visit, Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of DAN, Emeritus Professor Ebhegher Alagoo, noted that the University of Port Harcourt and the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) have been playing crucial roles in the existence and activities of DAN in Port Harcourt. Professor Alagoo recalled how he developed symptoms of diabetes way back in 1978, adding that the disease was like a death sentence with very few medical facilities and experts available in Rivers State to tackle it.

"There was no one to take care of me in Port Harcourt then. I had to go to Ibadan. When we started the Diabetes Association of Nigeria here, they chose me as Chairman. Professor Sunny Chinyere, the current Chief Medical Director of UPTH, Professor Aaron Ojale and the Vice-Chairman of the Association, Dr. Hamilton Oporum, have been very supportive. Professor Chinyere later became National President of the Association. Senator Lee Maeba Foundation came up with the idea of sponsorship," he recalled, disclosing that this year's celebration was brought to the University to create more awareness about the ailment amongst staff and students.

In his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, commended DAN and Senator Lee Maeba Foundation for their advocacy programmes and efforts targeted at tackling the disease. "Without a body such as the Diabetes Association of Nigeria, most people will be living with diabetes mellitus without knowing or doing anything to contain it."

"A lot of people are unaware that they are diabetic. I am happy to have married a pharmacist, who insists that I check my blood sugar on a regular basis. Mine has not gotten to the level of requiring insulin yet, but it requires concerted effort to keep it at a tolerable level, and I believe that this gathering will create better awareness about the disease that respects no age, status or belief system" he said at the occasion.

In her opening remarks, Chairman of the occasion and Executive Vice-President of Senator Lee Maeba Foundation, Felasaku Aiyi, recounted the activities of the foundation, including its partnership with the World Health

DAN Marks World Diabetes Day In UniPort With Medical Outreach



DVC (Admin), Prof Ibe (3rd left) flanked by Rivers State Chairman of DAN, Emeritus Prof Alagoo (right), other Principal Officers and members of the Association

Organisation. "People don't come out willingly to declare their status because of fear of stigmatisation. Look at HIV, people come out willingly and that is why there is always a place for patients to go for treatment and counselling. There is no family in Rivers State that does not have people suffering from diabetes today," Aiyi told the gathering, calling on stakeholders to join hands with Senator Lee Maeba Foundation and the University of Port Harcourt in fighting diabetes.

Rivers State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Theophilus Odagame, was represented by the Desk Officer of Non-Communicable Diseases, Public Health Department, Dr. Victor Abikoro, who stressed the need for regular check-ups, reminding the audience that diabetes was not a death sentence. "Don't wait for the symptoms to manifest before going for check-ups and always adhere to prescriptions by your doctor. Treatment for diabetes is not like taking antibiotic for a few days, it is for life. Operators of pharmaceutical stores are in business to make money by selling drugs. They are not necessarily ready to help patients solve their health challenges," he added.

In his presentation entitled: *Promoting Research in Rivers State*, Dr. Oporum, stressed the importance of carrying out research in the University with a view to finding out the correct statistics of people living with diabetes and also identifying a cure for the disease. His words: "Everything that is known

about curing for diabetes is an outcome of research. Research is expensive and the unfortunate aspect is that people living with diabetes in Nigeria care for themselves. The government has no clear support system for them, so it is very difficult to estimate the cost of caring for diabetes in Rivers State. If we want to win the war against diabetes, such attitude and approach would have to change."

Other presentations at the occasion included: *Managing Type 1 DM in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects*, delivered by Dr. Tumanogreya Jaja, *Managing Type 2 DM in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects*, delivered by Dr. Geslye Bazino, *Managing Gestational DM in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects* by Dr. Rosemary Ogu, *Diabetes and the Eye*, delivered by Dr. Bessy Fehai, *Role of DAN in the Effective Management of DM* by Dr. Ibikuro Karubio, who is the National Vice-President of DAN.

In her testimony, Diabetes Youth Ambassador of Nigeria, 23-year-old Opuh Kosunow, disclosed that she was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 10, explaining that she had been in and out of crisis. She drew attention to the existence of a Diabetes Youth Camp, which brings together, children living with the disease.

On his part, Secretary of DAN, Bernard Enyia, stressed the importance of networking among diabetes to share experience and help one another manage the disease.

Mgt Sensitizes Provost, Deans, HoDs On Accreditation Exercise

By Obinna Nwodin

A head of the accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission (NUC) which kicks off this morning, the authorities of the University have briefed the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department on the right strategies that would facilitate a successful outing.

Addressing the Line Officers at an emergency meeting convened for that purpose last Monday at the Senate Chambers, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said that the essence of the exercise was to acquaint them of what was expected of each programme to be presented for accreditation.

Giving further insight into the impending accreditation exercise, Chairman of the University-wide Accreditation Committee, Professor Julian Dosuji and Acting Director in charge of Academic Planning, Research and Control Unit, Dr. Peter Kpolovie, outlined the major procedures that would be required of each Department and what each HoD, Dean or Provost of the College should do to scale the stringent accreditation hurdle.

They stated that physical facilities, staff mix, as well as library stock would be critical requirements to ensure that programmes presented for accreditation would scale the NUC criteria. Other requirements identified as important ingredients during the exercise would include a detailed list of students at each level, their admission files at each level, and examination questions for each course dating back to the last three years. Others are students' scripts/scores for the past three years at all levels, marking schemes of past question papers and

examination results for all courses, respectively.

The Provost, Deans and Heads of Department took turns to brief Management on their levels of preparedness for the exercise, focusing on their areas of deficiencies. Management, thereafter, directed the affected Departments to liaise with the University-wide Accreditation Committee to rectify the identified deficiencies to ensure that programmes presented for accreditation met the stringent requirements specified by the NUC teams.

In his remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Lawal, assured the Departments concerned that the required resources would be fully deployed to give them the needed lift, expressing delight that a mock accreditation exercise was successfully conducted before the arrival of the NUC team in the University to commence the actual exercise.



Prof Lale, V-C

Stop Press NSPR National Confab

The Nigerian Society for Psycho-Social Research (NSPR) holds its 7th Annual Conference in the University of Port Harcourt between Monday, 21 and Thursday, 24 November, 2016 at the Conference Hall of the International Students' Centre, University Park. The Chairman and Secretary of the Local Organising Committee, Drs. Agbakwuru Chikwe and Anyanwu Jerome in a joint statement, disclosed that the Conference which has *Nigeria and Her Psychosocial Problems: The Way Forward*, as its theme, will be opened at 10.00am tomorrow.

CITE Confab 2016

The Centre for Information and Telecommunication Engineering (CITE) announced its International Conference and Exhibition on ICT and Telecommunications (ICEIT) 2016 with the theme: *The Role of ICT and Telecommunication in Global Economic Revitalization*. The Conference scheduled to hold between Wednesday, 23 and Friday, 25 November, 2016 at the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, would feature Executive Vice-Chairman/CEO of the Nigerian Communications Commission, Professor Umar Danbatta and presentation of technical papers.

Onyekonwu, Others Advise Engineering Students On Career Success

By Humphrey Ogu

Ways of achieving career progression formed the main thrust of a well-received motivational talk given by former Director of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), Professor Mike Onyekonwu, at the award-giving ceremony of the Nigerian Universities Engineering Students Association (NUESA). The event took place at the Ebbiti Auditorium on Friday, November 11, 2016.

"Some of you have just obtained your degrees and I congratulate you for the feat. You may have made a success in academics, but something remains—making

success of life and that is more important. There may be no correlation between success in academics and success in life. To succeed in life, you have to be purpose-driven," Onyekonwu, told the graduating students. He cited Rick Warren's book, *Purpose-Driven Life*, which included five purposes that drive a successful life such as having a mission and serving God, amongst others.

"If what you studied is not in alignment with your passion, consider what you learn to be for educational purposes or what some people call scholastic education. Passion is what drives you to success even in the midst of economic recession. Note that guaranteed opportunities have relatively decreased, while created opportunities

have tremendously increased. Your passion leads you to create and adapt. The population increase has given rise to more people that need services. You have to exploit available opportunities as entrepreneurs, technopreneurs, etc.," he advised the students, urging them to strive to become independent and employers of labour and also trust God to guide them aright in all their endeavours.

Declaring the event open, chairman of the occasion and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Etche, described the event as first of its kind in the Faculty, commending the student body for putting the programme together. She praised the students for inviting an erudite scholar in the person of Professor Onyekonwu to deliver the lecture, stressing the need for them to sustain the programme in subsequent years.

On his part, Special Guest of Honour and Chairman of the Rivers State Branch of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Mr. Emmanuel Idoniboye, said: "I appreciate NUESA for inviting the State Branch of NSE to be part of this event. I am particularly happy to be here at my alma mater, Professor Onyekonwu, who delivered the lecture also taught me in this University. The NSE in Port Harcourt is proud to be associated with NUESA as a body of potential engineers," he told the students, urging them to be more focused and determined to succeed in their chosen profession.

Speaking through a representative, the Paramount Ruler of Choba, Eze Raymond Okocha, charged the students to be good ambassadors of the University and Choba community. "Remember that, like you, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, started as a student in UniPort and ended up as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. You too can attain great heights in the engineering profession and in the larger society. That way, you will bring glory to UniPort and Choba Community," the royal father admonished the students. The event, which attracted other lecturers in the Faculty and friends of NUESA, also featured presentation of awards to deserving individuals that had supported the activities of the body.



R-L: Prof Onyekonwu, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Etche and representative of Nye Nwe Ali Choba. Inset: UniPort NUESA President

Experts Proffer Solutions To Nigeria's Economic Recession

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As the nation continues to groan under the effects of the ongoing economic recession that has adversely affected the standard of living and increased tension, experts in the University have proffered solutions that could change the country's economic fortunes for the better in the short, medium and long terms.

Weighing in on the issue, a rural development specialist in the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Stephen Tamuno, told our Correspondent that "the inflationary trend currently being experienced in the country was a manifestation of structural distortions in the economy which will require political will and the best brains to tackle. There also has to be a national rebirth to move the nation forward; our values are so distorted that we are no longer able to differentiate what is good from evil practice. No country can continue to carry on the way we are doing and survive," he said, describing the biggest challenge facing the country today as endemic corruption that must be tackled in an honest manner if the country hopes to come out of economic recession.

Advocating an increase in the nation's production base, Professor Chinedu Ezirim of the Department of Finance and Banking in the Faculty of Management Sciences, noted that when production of goods are increased and in good supply relative to demand, prices would automatically drop. "Encouraging production in every sector of the economy will check inflation and bring down prices of goods and services," he said. Professor Ezirim explained that increased production would enable Nigeria to reach out to the rest of the world, pointing out that an increase in export of goods and services would enable the country generate more foreign exchange earnings that would in turn bring

down inflation and improve the standard of living of the citizens. "More foreign exchange would translate into value appreciation for the naira which will rub off positively on other aspects of the economy that are connected with the exchange rate," he said.

"Our exports need not be limited to oil alone. There is a need to diversify the export base of the country which will result in the diversification of goods and services," Professor Ezirim submitted, calling for a multi-product economy, instead of the country's current mono-product economy that is dependent on global oil pricing benchmarks that Nigeria does not control.

In his contribution, Dr. Godly Otto also of the Department of Economics, noted that the Nigerian economy went into recession because it had hit more than two negative growth rates in just one quarter, stating that as part of the remedial measures to negotiate

it out of the woods, the economy needed to create an attitude of real income earning.

"Many Nigerians resort to free money like the popular *MMM* that is the rave of the moment. Executive begging, corruption and resort to kidnapping for ransom are some of the easy money-generating short-cuts that hurt the country's economy. Such negative practices will not add value to the economy and any economy in which people do not work to earn a decent income will not be productive," he noted.

Canvassing an equal opportunity economic structure, Dr. Otto recommended that people should return to hard work as a source of earning income, rather than the current habit of depending on easy money which usually did not guaranteed a decent living. Stressing that the economy will grow if the sector was productive, he identified heightened insecurity as a major challenge to direct foreign investment in the nation's economy. On the move by the Federal Government to secure a new loan facility, Dr. Otto submitted that the challenges associated with utilization of such a loan facility far outweighed the advertised benefits. He said that stringent economic management procedures and debt servicing could pose major challenges to managers of the economy in the long run.



Prof Tamuno

Dr. Otto

Prof Ezirim

A Reader in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Andrew Obafemi, has been elected National President of the Nigerian Cartographic Association (NCA) at the 37th Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association which held between October 10 and 15, 2016, at the Federal University, Lokoja in Kogi State.

In a letter conveying the outcome of the election to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and dated November 11, 2016, Dr. Obafemi disclosed that the election of new officers of the Association was a major highlight of the Conference and AGM which had Mapping Population Census and Environmental Changes as its theme.

"The Nigerian Cartographic Association (NCA) is the premier professional body for the use and integration of mapping and geospatial information technology in Nigeria. NCA is also the sole and official representative of the country at the International Cartographic Association (ICA). As Cartographers and the flagship of mapping profession in Nigeria and

NCA Elects Obafemi President

By Otokor Samuel

globally, the primary mission of the body include: to encourage Cartography and GIS research, promote education in Cartography, GIS and Mapping, etc."

Dr. Obafemi stated in the letter, The new President further disclosed that membership of the Association cuts across Cartographers and GIS specialists in Government ministries and parastatals involved in mapping, oil and gas, and allied professionals such as Geologists, Surveyors and Planners. He added that other members are drawn from the academia, military and paramilitary institutions, as well as individuals and corporate organisations.

Dr. Obafemi had earlier served the Association as LOC Co-Chairman for its 36th AGM, Guest Editor of the 2015 edition of *The Journal of Cartography and GIS* and a member of the LOC for the 37th Annual Conference at which he emerged National President.



Dr. Obafemi

Outgoing Final Year Students Relive Experience On Campus

As Final Year students of the University dropped their pen after writing their last Papers last week, it became difficult for them to peel away from their colleagues, lecturers and the alluring environment. Our Correspondents, OTIKOR SAMUEL, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON, HUMPHREY OGU and OGECHI IBE (Intern) interviewed some of them and filed in this report:

CONFIDENCE NNAMDI, Hospitality and Tourism Mgt

My experience in the University of Port Harcourt in the last four years has been marked by ups and downs. My first two years in the University was quite rosy. With less stress from class attendance; I had time to indulge in most social activities, but as the years passed by, and my level increased, my stress level also increased with more workload from the Department.



My course being multi-disciplinary, I had less time for play, and had to put more effort into my studies if I was to acquire good results. My Department being five years old, is yet in the developing stage, with courses that were not originally included in the brochure. There were numerous cases where we had to take courses we least expected, but believed were needed to make us worthy of the degree. My appeal to the Department is to properly organize courses in order not to overload students at the later hours. Other than this, the Department is one to belong to. I will miss the life of being a student in a way, the life in which you can live for nothing other than school, but I am grateful that I am finally done. My advice to our younger colleagues is for them to be level-headed. There are a lot of activities outside there that would take their time, but in all, they should set their priorities right and aim for the best and trust God to lead them through.

PROMISE TAMBARI, LCS

Being a student of UniPort is the best thing that has ever happened to me. The University is among the best in Africa and a growing one in the world at large. I enjoyed and cherished every moment I spent as a student of this Unique

University. I felt loved by my colleagues and even the lecturers. I have no regrets whatsoever for spending the past five years, which included a one-year Certificate-to-Degree programme in this University. I encourage the younger ones in my Department and the University at large to put in their very best in their study so that they can also receive the best from the University. I also want to use this avenue to congratulate my Head of Department, Dr. Baridisi Isaac for the wonderful projects he initiated that have given the Department a new lease of life. I am also grateful to the support and encouragement I received from my lecturers. I will certainly miss their mentorship and the companionship of my erstwhile colleagues.

VICTOR ADESINA, Microbiology

I had a nice time in the University in the course of my study and I am grateful that the journey is gradually coming to an end. Any moment from now it is going to be winding up processes. I wish to appeal to my Department and the University to look into the welfare of my younger colleagues regarding inadequate classrooms, provision of more social amenities and cases of 'missing scripts'. I also want closer relationship between students and lecturers in the Department. I am happy that the Department always listens to the students. I am also aware that the problem of insufficient classrooms would soon be a thing of the past with new buildings springing up everywhere on Campus.



VIVIANNAEMERKA, LCS

Basically, my experience has been worthwhile and euphoric. I have learnt a lot educationally, morally and entrepreneurially during my stay here. I am going to miss my colleagues, lecturers and the University environment. UniPort was a nice place to



be. It was truly an exciting academic environment. However, one of the challenges I faced while in the University was lack of classroom space. My expectations for the future include being an entrepreneur and a role model that would inspire the younger generation. This will be in addition to excelling in my field of study. I love my course and will want to be a well-known media personality. I have a philosophy which is: never let anything keep you from playing the game.

JENEFALUKPONG, Hospitality and Tourism Mgt

My experience as a student in the last four years has been intriguing with lots of fascinating activities that cut across academic, social and extra-curricular activities. When I gained admission into the University, coping with my workload was quite challenging, but as time went on, I was able to manage time effectively and handle stress.

The University of Port Harcourt is a world inhabited by the good, the bad and the ugly. I chose the good because I knew what I wanted for my life. I paired up with friends that added tremendously to my life and inspired me towards attaining greater height. I will certainly miss my wonderful lecturers who were always there to impart knowledge at all times. I will miss my friends and such social engagements as cultural day, old school day, etc.

I would also miss the rush of attending to school each day. My Department, Hospitality Management and Tourism is very unique as it prepares students well enough to face the large society. Being multi-faceted, it cuts across several other disciplines that have exposed us to our own benefit.

One issue that I would like to give fair hearing to students so that their opinion counts. My advice to the younger ones is to hold tight to their dreams, in spite of challenging circumstances they might face in the University, they should know their priorities and work towards it as the sky would be their starting point.



Cont'd from Page 1

'Christmas Package' last year, and in the absence of Council this year, it has become very difficult for me as Vice-Chancellor to unilaterally approve the huge capital outlay that would be needed to pay for the package as is being eagerly anticipated by the Unions.

"We share the genuine anxiety of each Union and are aware of the importance of the package to our staff at this time of the year, especially in these austere times. Let me assure all staff of this University that the money is there, but I lack the power to approve it on my own without risking unpleasant consequences from the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission, or even the Federal Government in this era of anti-corruption. If there is any of you with a better idea of how we can implement the package without incurring the wrath of our supervisory agencies, then I shall be very receptive to such a brilliant idea without hesitation. Remember that I too will get the same package like any other staff if and when it is eventually made available.

"I do not wish to do anything that would give me away to those implacable foes waiting on the sidelines to jump at another opportunity to vilify me and make the Campus ungovernable. Ironically, those who wanted me out of office at all cost, did not remotely imagine that their ill-advised action would result in the dissolution of the erstwhile

V-C Appeals To Unions On Xmas Package

Governing Council," Professor Lale said.

He appealed to the Union leaders to convey the present predicament of Management on the 'Christmas Package' to their members in an honest manner to avoid misunderstanding. "We want you to return to your members and let them know about the unenviable situation we are facing at the moment on the issue," the Vice-Chancellor told the Union leaders, expressing confidence that their members would believe them as responsible leaders.

Following the Vice-Chancellor's passionate appeal, the leadership of three Unions, namely: Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) and Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), took a common position on the issue under the auspices of the Joint Action Committee (JAC).

Mr. Renard Chukwu represented SSANU Chairmen, Mr. Ekunye Syder, while Mrs. Patricia Ijente and Mrs. Beauty Igwe, spoke on behalf of NAAT and NASU on the issue. They further urged the Vice-Chancellor to personally table the matter before the Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu for urgent attention to forestall agitation by their members.

The Union leaders sought to know how the authorities had

defrayed the cost of municipal services and other running costs in the absence of a Governing Council. The JAC platform also expressed fears that their various Congresses could turn round to accuse their Executives of compromising their positions on the contentious issue of 'Christmas Package'.

On his part, Secretary of the local branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Dr. Tichukwu Okonkwo, who stood in for the Chairman, Dr. Austen Sado, was of the view that the package could be embedded into the statutory entitlements of staff to make it less controversial in future.

Leaders of the various Unions, who had earlier expressed mixed feelings over the development, appealed to Management to do everything within its powers to implement the welfare package that had been in place before the dissolution of the Governing Council, expressing concern that their various Congresses may accuse them of compromising the confidence reposed in them. The meeting rose with an understanding that the contentious package could still be implemented once a new Council was appointed in the New Year, as was being generally anticipated in the University community.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by NAAT Chairperson, Mrs. Ijente, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alije, Univ Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, SSANU Vice-Chairman, Mr. Chukwu (left), Registrar, Mrs. Otto, DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, NASU Chairperson, Mrs. Igwe (right) and others

OTI Ends Orientation For Batch Four Students

By Otiok Samuel

Ahead of the commencement of formal academic activities for the 2016/17 academic session, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has charged newly-admitted students into the Master's degree programme of the Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) to conduct themselves in an orderly manner that would enable them carry out advanced research that would produce more knowledgeable personnel in offshore technology. Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor gave the charge at a one-day orientation exercise for the 24 newly-admitted students at the Seminar Room of the ETF Gas Engineering Building, University Park, last Tuesday. "A lot of Engineering activities had gone offshore and so there are abundant opportunities in this critical sub-sector, especially with the abolition of offshore/onshore dichotomy. So, you are not only in the right field of specialisation, but you are also in the right place. The University of Port Harcourt is the only university in sub-Saharan Africa that runs a

programme in this highly complex area of study," representative of the Vice-Chancellor told the students.

In his address, Director of the Institute, Professor John Okoli, stated that the orientation exercise was the fourth in the series of the annual ceremony organised for students on the Master of Science degree programme of the Institute, further disclosing that 60 students had passed through the Institute with 22 as first, 18 and 20 in the second and third batches, respectively.

"The Offshore Technology Institute is the outcome of the vision that resulted in the birth of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS). The success story of IPS challenged both the industry and academia on the viability, and benefits of similar institutes and centres. These centres/institutes have become the source of feeding the industry with highly knowledgeable and skilled manpower. The academia develops a relationship with industry that fosters research and development, thereby providing a basis for growth through high impact publications in learned journals.

"This background was the basis of discussions between the Managing Director of Global Maritime

West Africa, Mr. Ross Agazuma and then Director of IPS, Professor Joseph Ajlenka, on the possibility of forging a partnership on a centre that would meet the demand for skilled personnel in offshore and deep water oil and gas exploration and exploitation industry," the Director explained.

"Since its inception, the Institute has been totally funded from fees paid by students and the goodwill of some industry partners who assisted us with services at subsidized rates or taught for us at no cost. In this regard, it is worthy to mention the assistance received from Saipem Contracting Company Nigeria, Avon Offshore Engineering Company, Charkin Maritime and Offshore Safety Centre, FMC Technologies Ltd Nigeria and Petrocarbon Engineers Nigeria Ltd.

"The Institute has received assistance from several companies that accepted to place our students on the mandatory twelve-week internship programme which is a core aspect of the programme. Our Batch II students were privileged to have received part sponsorship for their tuition fees from PTDF. Eight of the Batch III students and four of the incoming Batch IV students are recipients of the PTDF scholarship award," he disclosed.

In their separate goodwill messages, 7th Vice-Chancellor, Professor

Chancellor, Professor Ajlenka, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Etebu, Director of IPS, Professor Dula Appah and top industry players such as Taiwo Akinkunle of FMC Technologies, Awa Osunwa of Avon Offshore, Sylvester Iroghama (Iroghama Engineering) and Peter Ezihi of Boerata Energy and Technological Services Ltd, all charged the students to take their studies seriously and also show high level of creativity and innovation to excel in an ever evolving technology world.



DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi (arrowed) flanked by 7th V-C, Prof Ajlenka, Institute Director, Prof Okoli (right), Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Etebu, Director, IPS, Prof Appah, At Director IPTTI, Dr. Robinson Briggs (left), some staff, industry players and the new M.Sc students

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Godwin Udom, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Director*, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences. The two-year appointment which takes effect from November 24, 2016 terminates on November 23, 2018.

Professor Lucky Worika, Faculty of Law, appointed *Dean of Faculty*. The two-year appointment which took retroactive effect from January 8, 2016 terminates on January 7, 2018.

Professor Daye Seleye-Fubara, Department of Anatomical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Deputy Provost, College of Health Sciences*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate at the end of tenure of the current Provost of the College.

Dr. Ugochukwu Kamala, Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Director*, Institute of Engineering Technology and Innovation Management (METI). The two-year appointment which took effect from November 7, 2016 terminates on November 6, 2018.

Dr. Lols Abraham, Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Director*, Centre for Higher Education. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on October 30, 2018.

Dr. Maxwell Nwinye, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Coordinator of Short Term Courses* in the University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS). The one-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on November 1, 2017.

Dr. Gift Worlu, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director*, University of Port Harcourt Business School. The two-year appointment which took effect on November 15, 2016 terminates on November 14, 2018.

Dr. Ikhechukwu Nnamdi, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment which took retroactive effect on October 25, 2016 terminates on October 24, 2018.

Dr. Uwaoma Ironkwe, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took effect on November 19, 2016 terminates on November 18, 2018.

Dr. Haliru Bala, offered *Temporary Appointment* as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

STUDYLEAVE

Mr. Ubong Ikaigboisong, Department of Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Master's degree programme in Subsea Engineering at the University of Strathclyde Glasgow, United Kingdom, effective September 26, 2014 to September 26, 2015.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Uwaoma Ironkwe, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Review of Status* from *Assistant Lecturer* to *Lecturer II*, effective January 27, 2016.

Dr. Ikhechukwu Ojinaka, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, granted *Review of Status* from *Assistant Lecturer* to *Lecturer II*, effective November 24, 2014.

Mgt Outlines Registration Procedures For Next Academic Session

By Otiokor Samuel

Owing to the successful completion of the 2015/2016 academic session on November 12, 2016, Management of the University has outlined procedures for payment of charges and registration of courses by Fresh and Returning students for the 2016/2017 session.

A statement dated November 10, 2016, signed on behalf of the Registrar by Deputy Registrar (Academic), Dr. Agatha Ataga and addressed to Cinforos Limited which is the service provider, stated that the University has commenced pre-resumption registration for fresh students.

The Deputy Registrar consequently directed the affected students to activate the procedure for registration, including the modalities for payment of Acceptance Fee and other Charges. The students are to upload the Fee Schedule and set up the platform for payment of charges; set up the online booking for medical examination and Health Centre registration, and clearance at the Admissions Office, in that order.

Fresh students should access information about availability of hostel accommodation online on first come first served basis. The statement however, noted that payment for hostel accommodation should not be made compulsory with the payment for Acceptance Fee.

For Returning Students, "the 2015/2016 academic session ended on November 12, 2016. The 2016/2017 session would commence thereafter. In the light of the above, kindly update the records online to reflect 2016/2017 session for all students. The portal

for the payment of the N5,000.00 surcharge should be opened to enable all duly registered students who have not paid the surcharge to do so. Those who have not paid the N5,000.00 surcharge, as well as those who have not completed the Undertaking of Good Conduct Form, should not be granted access to their results online nor allowed to proceed with registration for the next session," the statement further added.



Mrs. Otto, Registrar

Stop Press
IPS Induction

The 13th Induction Ceremony of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) holds on Thursday, December 1, 2016. A statement jointly issued by Mr. Abiodun Afolabi of TEPNG and Administrative Secretary of IPS, Mr. Eleazer Ogbonda and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, further disclosed that the induction ceremony would be preceded by a Football Match on Tuesday, November 29, at the High Performance Centre, University Park at 3:00pm, while a Career Fair and Welcome Cocktail would hold at the IPS Park on Wednesday, November 30 at 10:00am and 4:00pm, respectively. The Induction of Graduates and Fellows of the Institute would feature on Thursday, December 1 with the Induction Lecture expected to be delivered by Mr. Cletus Egbuzie at the Ebilimi Banigo Auditorium from 10:00 am to 2:00pm. Induction and Award Dinner will take place at the TOTAL Village at 6:00pm.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS
FOR NOVEMBER 20 – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (AM) (PM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 20 NOV., 2016	34.0 24.0	62	SW	10.6	6:21 6:14	Thunderstorm expected accompanied with a mostly cloudy disposition.
MONDAY, 21 NOV., 2016	34.0 25.0	64	SW	2.3	6:21 6:15	Thunderstorm expected late in the day with the day having more cloud than sun.
TUESDAY, 22 NOV., 2016	35.0 25.0	66	SW	3.3	6:22 6:15	Thunderstorm expected late in the day with the day having more cloud than sun.
WEDNESDAY 23 NOV., 2016	34.0 25.0	58	SW	-	6:22 6:15	A partly cloudy day anticipated.
THURSDAY, 24 NOV., 2016	34.0 25.0	58	SW	-	6:22 6:15	More sun than cloud expected.
FRIDAY, 25 NOV., 2016	34.0 25.0	64	SW	2.0	6:23 6:15	Thunderstorm expected late accompanied with more cloud than sun.
SATURDAY, 26 NOV., 2016	34.0 24.0	54	SSW	3.0	6:23 6:16	Thunderstorm expected late accompanied with more cloud than sun.

DR. V.F. WELI
AG. HOOD
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. MIMOM
AG. INSTRUCTOR
(COORDINATOR)

Red Cross Inauguration In UniPort

Following its formation in 2003, the University of Port Harcourt Detachment of the Nigerian Red Cross Society was inaugurated amidst fanfare and colourful parade at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Friday, September 2, 2016. The inauguration followed a week-long activities. Pictorial highlights of the event are shown below:



Commandant of UniPort Detachment, Achonye Tochukwu speaking at one of the training sessions



Training on life-saving technique on water



UniPort Detachment mounting a parade



DV-C (Academic), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi (arrowed) inspecting the Guard of Honour



Mr. Tochukwu taking the salute



Immediate past Chaplain of OSC, Ven. Saturday Nbeta admonishing the Unique Detachment during the thanksgiving service



The Detachment and Wife of V-C, Mrs. Joy Lale (S' right)



R/S Commissioner of Education, Prof Kwame Ekeke, his Wife Charity and the UniPort Detachment after the Thanksgiving Service



Prof Fawehinmi (centre) flanked by some Senior Officers of the University and R/S Command of the Red Cross Society



UniPort Detachment in a group photograph



Patron, Dr. Charles Tobin-West (right) and Commandant, UniPort Detachment, Mr. Tochukwu



Another Patron, Dr. Adedaramola Onyawa (2' right), past leaders of the UniPort Detachment and current Commandant, Mr. Tochukwu



A group photograph of participants after the training