

# UniPort Weekly

Vol. 31, Edition 308 December 19 - December 26, 2016

For information and enlightenment

ISSN: 1522-2225

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

## V-C Tasks Staff On Proper Record Keeping At 2016 Registry Day



The importance of proper report writing, minutes taking and record keeping in the University system formed the major thrust of the 5<sup>th</sup> Registry Day Celebration held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Tuesday, with *The Registry and Records in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* University as this year's theme, reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

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## Side Bar MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish our esteemed readers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. See you in 2017. Happy Holidays!!!

~Editor

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US-Based Peace Project Inaugurates UniPort Chapter

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## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

# Let Us Rededicate Ourselves To Better Service Delivery In 2017

Dear Compatriots,

One challenging year is about to end and another one is beckoning to all of us with renewed promise of what we can accomplish together as a select community of scholars, administrators, technocrats and students. As your Vice-Chancellor, I want to make a passionate appeal to all stakeholders in the affairs of the University to give maximum cooperation to the administration that would enable it attain enhanced service delivery in 2017.

The beginning of my tenure served as a learning curve and a period of finetuning the system I inherited for greater performance. Despite the orchestrated disruption of the system by a few dubiously motivated forces in and outside the University last April, this administration has done very well in many areas to justify my

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# Christmas In A Hedonistic Era

By Williams Wodi

Most church leaders—especially the 'road side churches'—today fail to understand or appreciate that Jesus whose immaculate conception and birth is being celebrated this season was actually a symbol of sincerity, faith, meditation and philanthropy in the finest tradition. In the time of Jesus, most Palestinians were essentially farmers, artisans, fisher-folks, shepherds, petty traders and rigid preachers in the synagogue.

Great disagreements arose from the monotheistic religion bequeathed to the Jews by Moses and Solomon. Orthodox Jews, Sadducees and Qumran Essenes jostled for grazing and farming space in rough mountainous terrains which often resulted in border skirmishes. The Roman conquerors used Palestine (Philistines, the bitter enemies of the Jews) as a pejorative name to refer to the inhabitants of the birth place of the future King of kings.

Galilee was part of the area where the future Messiah would preach his famous sermons, including the memorable *Beatitudes* that taught the rustic villagers love, fellow feeling and communal living—all wrapped up in an official creed that was enforced from Jerusalem.

Proud Jews who read the command of their Yahweh (probably upside down), under King David did not understand how this immaculate conception would be configured here on earth. Internal rivalries amongst the twelve contentious tribes dating back to the days of Herod had already weakened them under Roman rule. Powerful Jewish merchants practised their religious

rituals and ancient customs and were wary of a Messiah that claimed equality with God. No concessions were allowed under the iron clad laws of their Patriarch, Moses, which were based on far-reaching belief systems that dated back to their origin. Holy men were unrelenting medieval dictators that stuck to tradition and ritual under the Sanhedrin collective.

Messiah, an Aramaic word for 'the anointed one' with its Greek translation meaning 'Christos' from which Jesus

genius that was fulfilled in the appearance of Mary and Joseph. Psalm also prophetically said: "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." Half of the world granted Jesus the rock star status which the Jews refused to accord him. Despite its status as a minor city, Palestine was the land of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam! The *Koran* is tied to the land because it would not have been written without the Bible.

Mary, the daughter of Joachim and Anna was only fifteen years old and without combustible romantic experience. She wasn't particularly beautiful, but commanded a strange aura that set her aside as a candidate for future greatness. How she became Joseph's 'wife' is capable of setting off an inter-family boxing match in Rumuigbo my village. A man had better take his wife properly, rather than conceiving a *Telenovela* story about some divine arrangement that excludes bride price. Forget Angel Gabriel's lightning proclamation and Mary's respectful submission to the benumbing prophecy, including the expression of admiration that played out on her innocent face.

Joseph could pass for a docile,

tolerable man who was willing to share his 'wife' with an invisible force. Not even Mary's announcement of an immaculate conception could get this naïve Joseph sufficiently angry to give his 'awayward wife' a dirty slap for sleeping around! The logic of this legendary story defies conventional understanding which attests to the mystery of the Messiah. The blinding light and movement of the stars confirmed the arrival of the expected Messiah in a Manger. Even the three Babylonian astrologers bore witness to this seismic event. Not even Herod's furious rage was enough to dilute this historic birth that changed half of the world on matters of faith. Matthew records that an angel tipped off Joseph to flee with his family to Egypt to fulfil another prophecy, where the curtain was drawn on the first chapter of Jesus' life in that little town.

Billions of people are making huge merchandise of Christmas, while ignoring the spiritual and philanthropic significance of the season. Even the Muslim faithful in Dubai, other European capitals are reaping mind-boggling profits from Christmas and do not give a damn if the Messiah is born every day in their supermarkets. The season is about the centrality of Christ, but prayer contractors are calling for 'tithes' and 'sowing of seeds' by the faithful who are already reeling under *Buharainomics*. Where Jesus wanted his identity to be kept quiet, today's rambunctious preachers who forge his signature for a living package his name for sale at the stock exchange.

Jesus took two and half years to ask his disciples the question: who are mine? Only Peter got the right answer. To Mark, Christ was the Son of Man, To Matthew, he was King of the Jews. To Luke, he was Saviour of the world, while John saw him as Son of God. So, what do we say he is as we revel in Christmas in this cloud-cuckoo land? Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in advance folks!



Christ in the Manger

derived his name, but King David, Patriarchs, Prophets and High Priests also took the Messiah title. The Jews had been eagerly awaiting his arrival to redeem them (read mankind). The problem was that impostors delayed or trivialised the arrival of the real Messiah. Adherents believe that Jesus met all the criteria for the status of a Messiah in line with the prophecy of Isaiah: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his root." A piece of poetic

## UPWA Ends Abridged Week With Community Visits, Christmas Party

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) has ended her week-long activities marking the 2016 UPWA Week which held from Saturday, December 3 to Sunday, December 18, 2016 at various locations in and outside the Campus.

The week kicked-off with the Vice-Chancellor's Christmas Children's Party at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge on Saturday, December 3, 2016, with UPWA President and Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Joy Lale and Chairperson of the Planning Committee, Professor Florence Nduka directing events at every stage.

Professor Nduka noted that the highpoints of the

week included a Community Outreach programme in the host communities of the University; namely, Rumuosi, Rumuckin, Ozooba and Rumuolagu and the Vice-Chancellor's Adult Party which held on Sunday, December 18, 2016 at the Lodge.

Disclosing that the Community visits were the Association's way of feting and encouraging local women in the University's host communities through donation of gifts, the UPWA President, Mrs. Lale noted that other scheduled activities that were cancelled included the proposed excursion to the Nigerian Ports Authority and Nigerian Bottling Company and Health Outreach. She stated that they were cancelled as a mark of honour for some staff of the University who died in active service in 2016.



Wife of the Vice-Chancellor and UPWA President, Mrs. Lale (arrowed) with Rumuolagu women during one of the community visits

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## V-C Tasks Staff On Proper Record Keeping

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Declaring the event open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, congratulated the initiators and facilitators of the celebration for their commitment to a culture of administrative excellence over the years, saying that the theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> Registry Day Celebration was quite suitable in an era when a few bad eggs have shown less commitment to enhanced productivity and proper record keeping. "This year's theme is also relevant due to the emergence of digitalisation of documents which is increasingly becoming the bedrock of proper record keeping in corporate institutions around the world," he observed.

In her address, the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, noted that: "the level of knowledge had grown phenomenally, especially with the use of modern computers, sundry technologies and gadgets. This is challenging on one hand and an opportunity on the other hand. People had become so conscious of their rights, and litigations are on the upswing, especially where decisions of Management do not align with extant rules or harmonise with expectations."

"The Registry is the repository of the records in the University system. It is the Registry that has the duty to keep the records and guide Management at different levels with relevant information on administrative rules, procedures, policies, previous decisions and other relevant data that are critical at different levels of administration," Mrs Otto said.

She cited Department and Faculty Boards, University Senate, and other organs as places where Registry staff function effectively in the University system, charging them to rededicate themselves to their duties to move the University forward in line with global best practice.

Earlier in his address, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Joseph Okoh, had congratulated the Registry Department for initiating the celebration, expressing gratitude to the 5<sup>th</sup> Registry Day Planning Committee for inviting him to chair the occasion. Professor Okoh, who was a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) recalled that he had been associated with the Registry since the days of Chief Emmanuel Acheru, when the office of the Deputy Registrar (Academic Affairs) was established, emphasising the need for specialisation among Registry staff to enhance productivity and efficiency in the Department.

Delivering the Registry Day lecture entitled: *Report and*



A Cross-section of the audience during the celebration

*Minutes Writing Techniques for Administrative Officers in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tertiary Institutions: Towards Global Best Practices in the University of Port Harcourt*, the Director of Council Affairs, Mr. Roland Wabali, noted that "to work effectively in any organisation, it is essential that accurate notes are taken at all meetings. They form a vital part of your communication and ensure that all stakeholders are aware of their own and others' responsibilities and time scales."

"As administrators, we must strive to master the techniques of report and minutes writing, particularly in the University system. We should have it at the back of our minds that our minutes are read by many people, including teachers of the English language. As the quality of our reports and minutes is one of the criteria people use in assessing our efficiency as administrators, our reports and minutes should therefore be without blemish," he advised Registry staff.

In her goodwill message, the Registrar of Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), Mrs. Daba Odinaba, conveyed the good wishes of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Blessing Didiu, Management and staff of RSUST to the UniPort Registry Department.

"I wish to seize this opportunity to thank the Registrar for inviting me to this important occasion and the Registry Day

Lecturer, Mr. Roland Wabali, for agreeing to be part of the panel that interviewed candidates for the position of Deputy Registrar in my University," She said.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Registry Day Planning Committee, Mr. Promise Simeon, expressed gratitude to the Management for appointing the celebration, showcasing praises on the Registrar for appointing him and other members to serve on the Committee. He also commended Registry staff for turning out in their numbers to participate in the celebration. Mr. Simeon also thanked the Resource Person for the clarity and insight of his presentation, despite the short notice.

Major highlights of the celebration were honouring of some retired staff who had served the Registry Department in diverse capacities. Those honoured were Mrs. Caroline Iro, Chief Samuel Ovwoudan and Mr. Okezie Ochuba, all of who received plaques, while the original Chairman of the Registry Day Planning Committee, the late Mr. Kelsey Mlakele, was honoured with a minute silence. The event also featured cutting of the anniversary cake. There were also dance drama and playlet by a troupe from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies.

## Again, V-C Commends Science Faculty On Seminar Series

By Otiok Samuel

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has praised the Faculty of Science for successfully hosting its 5<sup>th</sup> Seminar Series which held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at the MBA I Hall, Offima Building, University Park. The scientific playlet attracted top academics, students and industry players that included officials of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control (NAFDAC) in attendance, amongst others.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the occasion, expressed satisfaction with the large turn-out of senior academics and other participants at the event, posting that the topic of the Seminar: *The Use of HNMN Spectroscopy in the Quantification of Ethanol in Alcoholic Beverages*, was coming at a most auspicious time, especially in a festive season when some consumers abuse alcoholic drinks with disastrous consequences in most instances.

"The topic is relevant to society, considering the level of alcoholic toxicity and abuse by some consumers. So, it is good

to devise practical ways to advocate moderation in the use of ethanol in line with best global practices," the representative of the Vice-Chancellor said. He commended the Guest Lecturer, Professor Ovi Abayeh for bringing his wealth of experience to bear on his presentation which Professor Fawehinmi described as lucid and intelligible.

In the presentation, Professor Abayeh disclosed that the 5<sup>th</sup> research forum under determining the amount of ethanol in several alcoholic beverages, using one of the standard methods in line with global best practice. The Guest Speaker further revealed that ethanol was widely in use for diverse purposes around the world.

"Ethanol is considered the most widely used recreational drug worldwide, and its production, consumption, and sale are therefore strictly regulated by laws. Ethanol content of alcoholic beverages (wine, beers and spirits) is about 3-50% v/v. The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) has therefore, set up several methods to quantify the alcoholic content in wine to ensure quality of highest standard, which are based on chemical (dichromate oxidation), physical (pycnometry, densitometry, refractometry and hydrometry), chromatographic, etc," the Guest Speaker told the audience. He expressed satisfaction with the outcome of using HNMN spectroscopy in the quantification of ethanol in alcoholic beverages as was demonstrated in his study.

Earlier in his address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Gordian Obute, stated that the seminar series offered a platform for academics to ventilate ideas and promote the outcomes of research. He pointed out that the presence of industry players in the seminar was critical in strengthening the critical over and down relationship and avail the industry of the gains of research undertakings in the Faculty.

The Dean, who expressed gratitude to the participants for attending the seminar in large numbers, commended the Regional Director of NAFDAC, Dr. Maduka Ubiara for coming along with his colleagues, Mrs. Esther Uka and Chidera Ekeh to the seminar. He hoped that the use of HNMN Spectroscopy adopted by the Guest Speaker in the quantification of ethanol in alcoholic beverages would be a useful approach for researchers in the specialisation.

In his goodwill message, the Regional Director of NAFDAC, Dr. Ubiara, who is an alumnus of the University, paid glowing tribute to Professor Abayeh for his numerous intellectual contributions to the activities and programmes of NAFDAC in the region, expressing optimism that staff and students would gain from the seminar.

In his remarks, Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Kingsley Patrick-Iwayawusi, disclosed that the Seminar Series Planning Committee was inaugurated by the new Dean on assumption of office to organise quarterly seminars in the Faculty aimed at bringing academics up speed with current trends in the ever-changing scientific sector. He thanked the NAFDAC team for attending the event, regretting however that a team from PARO B Breweries was attacked while on its way to the event, an incident that highlighted the parlous security situation in Rivers State. The Acting HoD also disclosed that visiting LEADS Scholar, Professor Vincent Idemkor would be the next Speaker on a date to be disclosed by the Seminar Series Planning Committee.



A group photograph of participants and the Presenter, Prof. Abayeh (arrowed)

# DRVC Ends Workshop On Degree Results Computation

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Degree Results Verification Committee (DRVC) has ended a one-day Workshop for Heads of Department and officers in charge of computation of results in the University, with a charge to schedule officers to strive harder to understand the operational structure of the system for enhanced service delivery to students.

Addressing participants at the well-attended workshop which held last Wednesday at the Senate Chambers, University Park, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, thanked the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Ganiyu Adekola, for being proactive in respect of the forthcoming combined 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation Ceremonies of the University scheduled March 2017.

"The training is apt and timely for officers in this strategic line of duty as there is need for timely computation of degree results before graduation of students to avoid some of the confusion that usually trails the process in affected departments. It will also make you more efficient and effective in the discharge of your duties and service to the University," Professor Fawehinmi told the participants, describing the Resource Person for the workshop, Professor Anthony Ibe, as a doyen with wide knowledge in the computation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) and presentation of degree results, having served as Director of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) and Chairman of the Senate Degree Results Verification Committee.

Welcoming participants to the event, Chairman of the DRVC, Dr. Ganiyu Adekola, disclosed that degree results were previously delayed due to minor errors at the preparatory stages and poor knowledge of computation in some instances. He attributed some of the difficulties encountered by schedule officers to the introduction of new rules and regulations by Senate of the University, pointing out that the one-

day workshop was organized to enhance knowledge and skills of staff saddled with such an onerous responsibility of verifying and computing degree results to specification.

In his very insightful presentation entitled: *Computation of CGPA and Presentation of Degree Results*, the Resource Person and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Ibe, stressed the need for Departments to create spreadsheets for students in their first year of study, even before commencement of examinations to avoid some of confusion that set in at later stages of result computation and determination of CGPA. "Giving the size of student population we are grappling with today, there is no better time to create spreadsheets than the first year of study as any delay will definitely compound the problem," he charged the participants,

stressing that spreadsheets must reflect all the courses in the programme.

The workshop also covered such critical areas as Spreadsheets for Transfer Students, Updating of Spreadsheets, Recording/Computation of Failed/Repeated Course, Tracking of Results, Recording of Missing Results/ Results of Courses Taken as First Attempt, CGPA Computation and Master Mark Sheet. Other included the Format of Presentation of Candidates, Failure/ Success Rate/Supplementary Degree Result and Common Errors in Computing Degree Results, amongst others.

The event also featured an interactive session during which participants sought answers to grey areas that usually marred the process of effective results computation and arriving at what truly constitutes the CGPA of each student.



Dr-Cs (Admin and Acad) Profs Ibe and Fawehinmi (middle) with other participants after the Workshop

## Faculty Officers' Forum Ends Year With Health Talk

By Humphrey Ogu

It was a medley of medical rendition, jokes and health talk as members of the Faculty Officers' Forum comprising Faculty Officers, Administrative and College Secretaries converged at the Governing Council Chambers on Thursday, December 15, 2016 to mark the end of 2016 in a joyous atmosphere.

In his remarks as Special Guest, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Management at the occasion, praised Registrar for sustaining the gathering which was initiated by her predecessors.

"I admire the Registrar, Mrs. Durcas Otto, for her administrative acumen and meticulous approach in everything she does. Faculty Officers are representatives of the Registrar in their respective Faculties. Most students in the Faculties only get to meet the Registrar by proxy through the Faculty Officers. You can see how important your duty schedules are in the scheme of things and we are happy that you have been able to sustain the tempo," he said.

Regretting that most Heads of Department failed to take certain Senate decisions back to their respective departments for proper implementation, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted that "Some of the 1 lecturers appear not to be in the know of current trends in the University. I would, therefore, encourage you to use the Forum to take

Management's decisions to the Faculties."

On her part, Mrs. Otto, who expressed gratitude to God for His grace, guidance and protection in 2016, said: "I congratulate every one of us for what we have been able to achieve in our various offices. This is the first time we shall be having the Vice-Chancellor and the University Bursar in our End-of-Year Get-together," adding that co-operation between the central Registry and the Faculty Officers would bring mutual benefits to the University system and other stakeholders. She also stressed the importance of team work in every office.

Delivering a health talk entitled: "Stress Management in a Work-related Environment", a Senior Medical Officer at the Department of Health Services, Dr. Ken Umecadi, defined stress as "a state of physical, mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances." He said that the predisposing factors could either be external or internal, listing headaches and body pains, poor sleep habit, tiredness, palpitations, over-eating or under-eating, decreased libido, anxiety, depression, anger, high blood pressure and poor control of diabetes, as symptoms of stress.

As ways of reducing stress, Dr. Umecadi identified the "Four As" in the managing of the condition, which included: Avoiding the stressors, Altering the stressors to change the situation or changing one's reaction by Adapting to and Accepting the stressors. He listed procrastination, taking drugs, taking it out on others,

rebellion/malice, isolation from everyone, over-eating/under-eating, excessive smoking, drinking or sex addiction, as negative ways of reducing stress.

Dr. Umecadi also recommended taking control of one's environment and better time management as some remedial measures that could help in the management of stress, especially in an economy in recession.

Also speaking, the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliuzi, who was represented by his Special Assistant, Mr. Samuel Oghughu, praised the Registry for bringing her Faculty Officers on a common platform to reflect on their achievements and the way forward. "At the Faculty level, there is co-operation between the Bursar and the Registrar's representatives for easy administration of the overlapping functions. We should continue to sustain the cordial relationship in the New Year in the overall interest of the University.

In her remarks, Chairman of the Faculty Officers' Forum Welfare Committee and Faculty Officer in charge of Social Sciences, Mrs. Carol Nwakanna, recounted the history of the Forum, disclosing that it was designed to bring Faculty Officers together to share ideas and experiences with a view to enhancing productivity among them. She added that the Forum deemed it necessary to assemble its members on a common platform for purposes of winding down at the end of the year to prepare them to grapple with the challenges of 2017.

In her contribution, Secretary of the Forum's 2016 End-of-Year Planning Committee, Mrs. Nkechi Barium, commended all guests who honoured the invitation to the event, including those who contributed to its success.

The event, which recorded musical rendition by Mrs. Irene Madugba, Exams and Records Officer, Mr. Igwe Jonathan and jokes by Margaret Egbaguri of Faculty of Social Science, also featured presentation of gifts to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Registrar amongst other deserving staff.



Dr-C (Admin) Prof Ibe (arrowed) in a group photograph with the Registrar, Mrs. Otto (6' left), other guests and members of the Forum

# Respondents Stake Great Expectations For 2017

As Christendom prepares to celebrate an Immaculate Birth and the New Year, Correspondents OTIKOR SAMUEL, HUMPHREY OGU, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON and Editor, WILLIAMS WODI, sought the views of a diverse segment of the University community on the significance of the momentous event and expectations for 2017. Please read on:

## DR. OTU EKPENYONG, Ag. Dean, Student Affairs

Despite the many challenges, I had to face, 2016 has been an eventful and good year for me. There were many happenings that brought about momentous changes, both in my personal life and the University system. We have been able to put the necessary institutional mechanisms in place for better service delivery in 2017 and beyond. To me, Christmas is like any other good weekend. If you have nothing to spend; just relax and live with the reality of your situation. I don't want to be taken over by the euphoria of this festive season. I am thankful and grateful to God for taking us through this turbulent year and I will reflect on what has happened and chart the way forward in the New Year. I will continue to remind students that the most important reason they are here is to learn, shun frivolities and vices that may compromise their future as responsible citizens.

## LEBARI NWIDAG, Staff, Faculty of Agric

Compared to 2015, the outgoing year is better. Once again, I am happy to be alive to see the last month of the year. There were remarkable achievements and positive changes around me. I hope to mark the end of the year with thanksgiving and renewed confidence as we await the arrival of 2017. We intend to flow with the trend giving the recession



in the country, by celebrating the Christmas wisely, while looking forward to the coming year to have something to start with knowing that the 2017 budget does not have room for promotion.

## CHISA JOHNBULL, M.A. Student

I intend to attend the famous Carnival in Calabar to spend part of my Christmas and New Year Holidays. It is worth celebrating to stay alive from January to December 2015, despite the hard times. I also wish to engage in Church activities as a way of showing my gratitude and returning all glory to God for sustaining me throughout this challenging year. When I return from Calabar, I will combine my studies with the festivities knowing that on resumption, I must face my Second Semester Examinations to complete the Course Work and Dissertation from January and the coming of 2017. I want to specially wish my husband, siblings, lecturers and colleagues a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## PAMELA CHINWO, M.A. Student, LCS

As a Christian, the Christmas period is my favourite season. I hope to spend it with my family to prepare my best dishes and, of course, do a lot of outings with my family and partying with my husband. I expect more profit from my business in the coming year. Above all, I wish to complete my Master's degree programme and face new challenges. I also expect to



work hard in my business. I will advise my colleagues to tread with caution in whatever they do within this period. They should not forget that we will face the Second Semester Examinations immediately after resumption in January, 2017. My goodwill message goes to my family, lecturers and fellow students. I wish them Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year full of profit and success.



## MICHAEL BARINE, Applied Physics, Year Three

I will like my Christmas to be a promising one, meaning that all my expectations as a student should come to pass in the coming year. I want the calendar to flow as scheduled so that we can resume in January without obstruction. Personally, I plan to travel outside the State to gain knowledge of what is going on outside the University environment. I hope to return to my studies in the New Year with confidence to open a new chapter in my academic career and personal life. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



# Social Sciences Faculty Fetes Bereaved Families

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In line with its established tradition of supporting the families of bereaved colleagues, the Faculty of Social Sciences has presented a token donation to three affected staff members; namely Mrs. Olanrewaju Lawal, Emeka Nkoro and Mr. Vremudua Welpe. Making the one hundred and fifty thousand naira cheque donation to each of the affected staff in his office on Friday, December 9, 2016, the Dean, Professor Okey Onuchuku, described the gesture as a collective decision of members of staff to institute a Faculty Welfare Committee to assist colleagues in times of need.

"This is a programme that every one of us agreed to institute to help one other in times of loss. Monies are deducted from source for this purpose. It is just a token to support bereaved family members cope with their loss. We encourage you to move on with your work and life and continue to discharge your duties effectively to the University," he said.

Presenting the recipients to the Dean, Faculty Welfare Officer, Dr. Heema Worlu, who thanked staff of the

Faculty for contributing to a worthy cause, explained that the token was the result of an agreement reached by members of staff to fete the families of their late colleagues. She commiserated with them on their losses and prayed God to give them the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Dr. Lawal commended the Faculty for the support, love and care for bereaved family members, stressing that the gesture has given them more sense of belonging in the Faculty of Social Sciences family.



Dean, Prof Onuchuku (arrowed) flanked on his left by Faculty Welfare Officer, Dr. Worlu the recipients and other staff

Cont'd from  
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optimism of improved service delivery in the coming year.

On assumption of office, we focused attention on security for obvious reasons. As everybody knew at the time, the University and its environs came under siege from kidnappers and sundry criminal elements that made life hellish for all of us. We had spent much money on renting and reconstructing a Police Post that was never populated until the current Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Francis Odesanya did it for us. We even got far better than we bargained for as a crack team of no-nonsense and fearless police personnel was deployed to the staging base in the Federal Capital Territory with different rules of engagement.

Today, there is relative calm in the University and its neighbourhood as the special team under the able command of Mr. Ben Igwe, has already made landmark discoveries and put the criminals on the back pedal. For instance, they have promptly rounded up the killers of Barrister Ken Asoke, while those that murdered our own Lecturer, Dr. Ehaba Lehuri of the Faculty of Management Sciences are currently cooling down in Police net and awaiting their day in court.

As I address you, incidents of cultism have reduced significantly on our Campus and Senate of this University is going even tougher against the evil practice that had truncated the ambition of so many young people. As you would recall, once I assumed office on July 13, 2015, I embarked on a Campus-wide facility tour that revealed the magnitude

of rot that we had to clear. I was humbled by what I saw—especially at students' hostels that had not been renovated for over forty years. From what I can see, people are very happy that we are finally recreating the hostel to make them habitable for our dear students once more.

The public toilets I promised on assumption of office will be commissioned this week, meaning that residents and other visitors to the University can now answer the call of nature in dignity and privacy. Slowly, but steadily, we are making verifiable progress, some of which may not be immediately tangible. For instance, we continue to deepen the academic culture and streamline the bureaucracy that usually undermines efficiency in the Public Service."

About a fortnight ago, we facilitated the promotion of forty-four academics to the professoriate in one fell swoop, a feat that may not have been recorded in the entire Nigerian university system before now. The affected academics were overjoyed that their labour can pay off in such a bountiful manner. Let nobody be fooled, however, to think that the greasy ladder to the professoriate has been lowered to accommodate mediocrity in the hallowed corridors of the academy by the sheer number of those promoted. We were simply rewarding scholarship and excellence in the finest academic tradition.

The Appointments and Promotions Committee is not *Santa Claus* that generously dispenses favours from fairyland. On the contrary, we have established very stringent criteria for purposes of promoting deserving academics. Accordingly, we are determined to maintain scholarship and a culture of excellence for which academics in this University are well known. All the external assessors that came here to evaluate our candidates for the professoriate praised them for the depth of their scholarship and public service records.

# Let Us Rededicate Ourselves To Better Service Delivery

Interview procedures have been streamlined on my watch in such a way that Deans are now excluded from nominating external assessors. To ensure transparency and credibility of the process, we now go online to source external assessors that cannot come under undue influence and there is more confidentiality in the process. Some of the assessors have promised to introduce the same stringent evaluation criteria back in their own institutions.

The National Universities Commission recently sent thirty-five teams that evaluated programmes in the various departments and from the federals we are receiving, the University did well in the daunting exercise. We spent so much money, time and energy to host the various accreditation teams and we thank the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu for conveying executive approval in the absence of a Governing Council. We hope that the improvements made in time for the accreditation exercise will not only secure us accreditation in the programmes evaluated,

mark that they desire in a system that lays emphasis on excellence and creativity. I am particularly happy and wish to congratulate those students who are proceeding on the mandatory one year National Youth Service Corps scheme to serve their fatherland after successfully completing their studies here. I hope they would identify with the Alumni Association wherever they may be. I also wish to felicitate with our staff for their solid contributions to the growth of this University and hope that they would make more sacrifices in the New Year to help take the University to where we all want it to be.

The "Arab Spring" that nearly consumed our University on April 11, 2016, was totally unnecessary and highly condemnable. Those who instigated a few students to go on rampage with a view to getting rid of the Vice-Chancellor through concerted lies and clandestine meetings, only succeeded in hurting the system. The self-congratulatory posturing was unnecessary as we now know. Unfortunately, the university system is currently suffering from poor

funding which has resulted in declining motivation for research by scholars, some of who do not seem to understand how a conventional university works. Most scholars and administrators think that only the position of Vice-Chancellor exists in the university

system today. The result is that some of those who lose out in the contest for the position regroup to mount relentless opposition to the successful candidate, who is compelled to combine his statutory functions with devising lawful ways of containing such sinister forces and their godfathers. What they seem to forget is that the Vice-Chancellor is here for only five years and is gone for good.

It would be preferable for the loser to join the winner to build a great university that would be bequeathed to posterity. My advice to implacable foes is that they should not destroy the system because they or their preferred candidate are not on the saddle, because the system will certainly outlive the very best of us as an inerasable law of nature. As Vice-Chancellor, I have no intention of segregating the system into competing interest blocs. For instance, I did not sack most of the personnel I inherited from my predecessor's administration. Those I replaced had statutorily come to the end of their tenures.

The University of Port Harcourt is a truly metropolitan institution that has become an attractive brand for people from all over the country and beyond and no one Vice-Chancellor can after this impressive mosaic of talents that enrich our institutional profile and the learning process. In the final analysis, this University must remain peaceful and prosperous to advance our collective interest as a community of scholars.

As we celebrate, we must be security conscious and avoid keeping late nights. Also, we should not over-indulge ourselves in activities that may compromise our health and total wellbeing. I pray that we all return to our desks and classrooms to continue the onerous task of institution building bequeathed to us by our visionary founding fathers in 1975.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year in advance! See you in 2017.



but would ultimately translate into better research and teaching.

On linkages, more institutions and corporate bodies are partnering the University in cutting-edge research and training of scholars to give of their very best to the system. We are forging collaborative ventures with universities in the United Kingdom, including Oxford and other high profile industry players around the world. For instance, the partnership between the IFP School in Paris and our own Institute of Petroleum Studies is providing exemplary training for our students in the oil and gas industry. We recently signed a new partnership agreement with the Management of IFP School which has brought enormous visibility and goodwill to the University.

Many people who knew the *Glady's Cookery Children's Resource Centre* would readily agree that the Centre has undergone remarkable transformation in recent times. The leadership of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), has truly added value to Montessori education in the neighbourhood through its commitment to the development of the UPWA School. Staff and students there now teach and learn in a very enabling environment.

It is our hope that most of the vices that plagued our system in 2016 would be reduced to the barest minimum in 2017. In the next academic session, Senate of the University is ready to deal decisively with errant students, while the right policies are now in place to identify, diligently prosecute and, where necessary, dismiss staff that fail to operate in line with the terms of their employment as part of our effort to clean up the system.

My message to the University community is that we have very good reasons to celebrate and congratulate ourselves for what has been achieved as we look forward to Christmas and prepare to roll into the New Year with renewed hope of what we can bring to the table together.

## GUIDE POST

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Professor C.I. Okereke**, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Sabbatical Leave* to Jewish Board of Family and Children Services, Department of Mental Health Population and Reproductive Health in the United States of America, effective December 27, 2016 to December 26, 2017.

## SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Tini Tarawou**, Department of Chemical Engineering, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, granted *Sabbatical Appointment* as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, effective on assumption of duty.

**Dr. Ihesinachi Kalagbo**, Department of Science Laboratory Technology, Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic, Bori, Rivers State, granted *Sabbatical Appointment* as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, effective on assumption of duty.

## STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

**Mr. Rotimi Ogunsakin**, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted three years *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Business and Management, University of Manchester University, United Kingdom.

## EXTENSION OF STUDY LEAVE

**Ms. Ameze Odia**, Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted *Extension of Study Leave*, to enable her conclude her studies at the University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom, effective June 1, 2016, to August 8, 2016.

## REVIEW OF STATUS

**Dr. Christiana Nwankwo**, Department of Microbiology Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, granted *Review of Status*, from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective May 25, 2016.

## RESUMPTION FROM STUDY LEAVE

**Mrs. Comfort Owate**, Donald Ekong Library, resumed duty after *Study Leave with Pay*, effective August 1, 2016.

## FELLOWSHIP WITH PAY

**Dr. Chioma Onyige**, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a ten-month *Commonwealth Fellowship with Pay*, to enable her utilize an offer by the Commonwealth Academic Fellowship at the Oxford University, United Kingdom, effective January 8, 2017 to November 7, 2017.

## TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Sunday Bamigboye**, offered *Temporary Appointment as Lecturer I* in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

**Mr. Barik-Irua Sunday**, offered *Temporary Appointment as Lecturer II* in the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

**Mrs. Doris Nnannaya**, offered *Temporary Appointment as Lecturer II* in the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

## US-Based Peace Project Inaugurates UniPort Chapter

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A university-based peace advocacy initiative, Purdue Peace Project (PPP) domiciled in Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, United States of America, has inaugurated a chapter in the University of Port Harcourt. The new chapter would initiate peace advocacy programmes in tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Formally known as the Community Peace Development Initiative (COPEDI), the new chapter at its formal inauguration as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), which held at the Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies Hall, University Park, on

opening ceremony.

Professor Agbagwa pledged the support of the University Management to activities aimed at promoting peace and ensuring security of lives and property to enable academics to pursue their core mandate in an unencumbered environment.

In her contribution, Contact Person for the University, Professor Julie Umukoro, on behalf of the President of CEGPASI, Gogo Oriekeme, expressed gratitude to the University, Health Matters Incorporated, the Purdue Peace Project and host communities for the partnership aimed at fostering peace and development in the target areas.



Representative of the V-C, Prof Agbagwa (5<sup>th</sup> right), flanked by Prof Umukoro and others after the inauguration ceremony

Thursday, December 8, 2016, will now be known and addressed as Community Empowerment for Greater Peace and Stability Initiative (CEGPASI).

In their separate addresses, Director of PPP and Associate Head of Brian Lamb School of Communication, Dr. Stacey Cunnaghton and Executive Director of Health Matters Incorporated (HMI), Peter Ujoma, who jointly performed the inauguration, disclosed that CEGPASI was instituted to build peace in Rivers State-based tertiary institutions and their host communities through diverse empowerment programmes that would further enrich intended beneficiaries.

"The NGO is also committed to running a youth-centred programme through the engagement of youths in productive ventures as an aspect of community development," Ujoma stated, commending the Management of the University for affording the new chapter an opportunity to blossom into an NGO. He promised that the organisation would intensify efforts aimed at stemming the rising conflict portfolios in Rivers communities.

In his remarks, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, commended PPP and HMI for instituting a chapter aimed at building peace in tertiary institutions based in Rivers State and their host communities. "With mechanisms, such as the one you are putting in place, the perennial conflicts we are experiencing in this State would be a thing of the past in our universities and their environs," he said at the

"As part of ongoing projects, we have started a microfinance initiative in selected communities for the empowerment of women and donated motor bikes for effective neighbourhood security policing," she stated, pledging that the new body would continue to expand its programmes to cover more tertiary institutions outside Rivers State.

In their goodwill messages, Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Barisua Nwinea, Associate Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Adedaramola Onyase and representative of the Chief Security Officer, Mr. Shirley Chuku, described the inauguration of the NGO as a welcome development for the University and an attempt to ensure that peace returned in the target areas of interest for the new organisation.

Highpoint of the event was the donation of one patrol motorcycle each to three host communities comprising Aluu, Choba, Rumualogu and the University of Port Harcourt to assist in effective community policing.



The donated patrol motorcycles

## INAUGURATION OF SERVICOM MARSHALLS

The authorities of the University inaugurated **SERVICOM** Officers for Faculties and College under the auspices of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control/**SERVICOM** Unit aimed at enhancing service delivery. The event also featured a presentation entitled: Work Ethics and Consequences of Service Failure, by the Nodal Officer at the National Universities Commission, Alhaji Ibrahim Aliyu, who was represented by the Deputy Chairman in charge of **SERVICOM** Focal Parastatals Meeting, Professor Solomon Oyeleye at the Ebbitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the inauguration as shown below:



V-C, Prof Ndawa Lale making opening remarks



Members of the High Table rise for the National and UniPort Anthems



A Cross-section of participants also rise for the Anthems



Director of QAQCSERVICOM Unit, Prof Ikechukwu Agbogu welcoming guests to the inauguration



Keynote Speaker, Prof Solomon Oyeleye delivering the Lecture



V-C, Prof Lale and DV-C (Academic), Prof Itakem Fawehinmi in tete a tete



R-L: V-C, Prof Lale, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Ono and Keynote Speaker, Prof Oyeleye exchanging pleasantries



One of the participants asking a question during the interactive session



Assistant Director of the Unit, Dr. Collins Wzor making remarks



The V-C, some Principal and Senior Officers and the Keynote Speaker set to unveil the SERVICOM Unit Feedback Box



Prof Lale unveiling the Feedback Box, while Director of the Unit, Prof Agbogu and others watch



A group photograph of participants after the inauguration