

## Inaugural Address Georgewill Lists Ways Of Making UniPort More Prosperous

By Humphrey Ogu

**H**arnessing the resources in the University of Port Harcourt to make the institution more prosperous was the focus of the Inaugural Address of the 9<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill presented during a Town Hall Meeting at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor, whose Address was captioned: "A More Prosperous University of Port Harcourt," expressed gratitude to God for making his appointment possible. He also thanked everyone who contributed to his emergence as Vice Chancellor, saying: "I profoundly appreciate the Chancellor of our University and the indefatigable Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Senator Andrew Uchendu and his distinguished Council Members."

On his mission and vision for the University in the next five years,

the Vice Chancellor disclosed his desire to work collectively with Council, Senate, staff and students and other stakeholders to position UniPort among the best in the world, top five in Nigeria, top 10 in Africa and among the best 100 in the world, noting that huge funding would be required to be able to actualise the dream. "I will run an all-inclusive administration that will leverage on the abundant human resources in this University. I will work as a team with Principal Officers, Provost, Deans, Directors, Heads of Department and relevant stakeholders to produce the desired result in the academic, administrative and financial affairs of the University," he assured the stakeholders.

"Today, I stand before you all to say that, with your collective support from this day onwards, no obstacle will be too high to surmount, no barrier too big to overcome, no burden too heavy to bear and no storm too strong to withstand as we strive to take University of Port Harcourt to lofty heights and make the University more prosperous," he said.

scale up all activities that have direct impact on the University and host communities through admission and employment of duly qualified candidates.

Appealing to all stakeholders to forgive, and forget past wrongs, Georgewill, who invited on his co-contenders for the position of the Vice Chancellor to join him, said: "Let the healing process begin... Let us work together as colleagues with the singular aim of making our University more prosperous. I strongly believe that we shall prosper as UniPort prospers."

He disclosed that his administration would create an environment that would foster intellectual curiosity, nurture the ability to question and test received wisdom in search for truth, in addition to accommodating divergent views, and foster new knowledge with solutions to human problems. He also promised to support all recommendations on staff matters made to the Governing Council by the last administration, commending his predecessor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, for his role in restoring serenity in the University.

The new Vice Chancellor, who noted that his administration would be gender friendly, listed the appointment of a Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Development) to drive research and innovation, and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Advancement) to handle the University's resource mobilisation as measures to strengthen and reposition the University.

He also mentioned diversification of Internally-Generated Revenue, setting up of UniPort Auxiliary Business Service, maintenance of robust relationship with all Unions on campus, prioritising staff welfare and security of lives and property in and around the University Campuses, where staff and students reside, amongst other promises.

Earlier in his remark, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Senator Andrew Uchendu, who congratulated Professor Georgewill, recounted the journey towards the appointment of the Vice Chancellor. He commended former Vice Chancellors, including the immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu for their roles in building the University. He also lauded the Acting Registrar and Secretary to Council, Mrs Joyce Tamuno.

Former Vice Chancellors present at the event included the second Vice Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cookey, fifth Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, sixth Vice Chancellor, Professor Don Baridam, eighth Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu.



New VC, Prof Georgewill presenting his Inaugural Address

"The task before us is huge and a p p e a r s daunting, but not insurmountable. I therefore, with a deep sense of responsibility s e e k t h e understanding and cooperation of all of us to come together as we build the UniPort of the future. That glorious future starts now," the Vice Chancellor noted. P r o f e s s o r Georgewill stated t h a t h i s administration would strive to improve teaching and learning, improve all parameters for e x c e l l e n t research and

## UniPort Ends Orientation For 9,450 New Students

By Sam Kpenu

**T**he immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, has advised the over 9,000 new students admitted into various degree programmes of the Institution for the 2020/2021 academic session to set forth at dawn so as to excel in their academic pursuit. He made the call while declaring open this year's Orientation programme organised for freshers on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at the Convocation Arena.

Professor Okodudu, who described students as the greatest asset of an academic institution, admonished the new students to see themselves as assets to the University. He advised them to make the best use of the opportunity offered them through their admission to study in the University, congratulating them for scaling through the rigorous and competitive admission process.

"I congratulate those of you that made it to this University for this academic session. University of Port Harcourt is a choice brand that always attracts a large number of applicants. For this session, over 21,000 candidates applied to study here with over 13,000 meeting the minimum admission requirements. Out of this figure, just over 9,400 made it. So, you are extremely lucky to be here. I therefore, urge you to behave yourselves in tandem with the rules and regulations of the University," the immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor said. Professor Okodudu said the essence of the Orientation was to acquaint the students with their new environment and its new sets of rules, culture and people. He said: "this new environment is guided by rules that are sacrosanct and which you are expected to abide by. It is quite different from your

secondary school experience because you have freedom here. "You take responsibility for your action(s), therefore, maturity is critical to your daily living. This Orientation will expose you to what is expected of you as a student. Resource persons have been selected to address you, encourage and advise you appropriately. Some of them are products of this University who sat like you many years ago and who, by the mercy and grace of God, have become great today. That is why it is important to hit the ground running in order to achieve excellence."

Professor Okodudu enjoined the new students to see the Management and staff of the University as their local parents with an abiding interest of the students throughout their stay in the institution. "Feel free to relate with staff, especially those of them in the Student Affairs division. UniPort is peaceful and I expect you to add value to this peace by shunning all youthful exuberance. We have zero tolerance for cultism and other social vices here. We emphasise the importance of character in addition to learning," Professor Okodudu added.

In his welcome address, the Acting Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Adekunle Sofolabo, urged the students to make good use of the opportunity of gaining admission into one of Nigeria's best universities. One of the Resource Persons and the Director,

Academic Affairs, Dr Agatha Ataga, who addressed the students on "The Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Students in Academic Matters" emphasised the importance of complying with the extant rules of the University, saying that ignorance would not be accepted as an excuse for defaulters. She urged the new students to strive for excellence in their academic pursuit and be good ambassadors of the University.



A cross-section of fresher. Inset: Prof Okodudu addressing them

## I'm Happy To Have Studied In UniPort ~ Gov Wike

By Humphrey Ogu

**"**I am happy to have passed through this University. I cannot be a Governor without contributing to the development of my alma mater. As an alumnus, my business is not to bring politics here, but to develop UniPort." Notable alumnus and Governor of Rivers State, Chief (Barrister) Nyesom Wike, made these

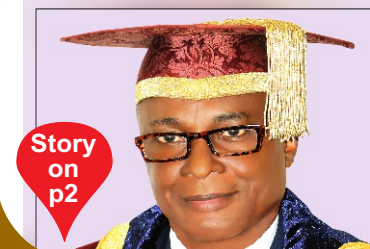
remarks while flagging off the construction of a 9,200-capacity Convocation Arena on Tuesday, July 6, 2021.

"While serving as Minister of State for Education, I met the former Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, whom I never knew before then. I told him that I don't know why UniPort does not have a Faculty of Law and would like him to see what could be done to mount a law programme. I

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### Meet New VC



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### Principal Officers Honour Ex-Colleagues



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### History Dept Fetes Derefaka



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### Ayuwo Advises Accountants...



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## Georgewill Assumes Office As UniPort 9th VC ...Okodudu Bows Out, Relives Experience



By Otikor Samuel

**F**ollowing his appointment by the Governing Council on Friday, July 2, 2021, Professor Owunari Georgewill has assumed office as ninth

Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt. Professor Georgewill took over from Professor Stephen Okodudu, who was Acting Vice Chancellor of the

University for the past 12 months. Speaking at a brief handover ceremony at the Council Chamber inside Senate Building, University Park, on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, the new Vice Chancellor, who disclosed that the agenda of his administration would be captured in his Inaugural Address, expressed gratitude to God for the appointment.

"When I was interviewed for the position, I did say that collectively working with all critical stakeholders, we will take the University of Port Harcourt to an enviable height not only in Nigeria, but also beyond Africa. We will restore the glory of UniPort by concentrating on the mandate of the University. My administration will raise the bar on staff welfare and infrastructural development. However, I cannot do all these alone. I am not a magician, so I want everyone to join me in this task. I call on those who contested the position with me to join me to make UniPort more prosperous," the new Vice Chancellor said.

In separate goodwill messages, the Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo, who spoke on behalf of other Principal Officers, congratulated the 9<sup>th</sup> Vice

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# Meet Owunari Abraham Georgewill, UniPort 9th Vice Chancellor

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By Sam Kpenu

Professor Owunari Abraham Georgewill was born with his twin sibling, Hon Justice Biobele Georgewill JCA on May 15, 1965 in Abonnema, Akuku Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State. He attended Bishop Crowder Memorial School, Abonnema between 1970 and 1976 and obtained a Credit pass in the First Leaving School Certificate Examination. He then proceeded to the Nyemoni Grammar School also in Abonnema where he obtained his O' Level Certificate in 1981 with flying colours. His quest for higher education, took him to the University of Port Harcourt to study Medicine. In 1987, he graduated with Second Class Honours Upper Division (B.Med. Sc.) degree in Pharmacology. His diligence earned him the nickname "Prof" as early as his second year of Undergraduate study. In 1990, he obtained the MBBS degree of the University of Port Harcourt. He did his Housemanship at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital before proceeding to Edo State for his one-year National Youth Service Corps scheme as Medical Officer at the Specialist Hospital, Ossiomo. In 1993, he commenced

Residency training as a Registrar in the Department of Internal Medicine, UPTH. In 1994, on the leading of his teacher and mentor, Professor Reginald Nwairegbu Pawa Nwankwoala of blessed memory, he applied and was employed as a Lecturer II in Pharmacology after a successful interview. He rose through the ranks and was promoted Professor of Pharmacology on May 4, 2010 at age 44. He holds the MSc degree in Pharmacology and the MD degree of the University of Port Harcourt. Professor Owunari Georgewill has served the Department of Pharmacology, the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, the College of Health Sciences and the University of Port Harcourt in various capacities: As Examination Officer in the Department of Pharmacology. He has served as Acting Head of Department, Pharmacology and Associate Dean of Student Affairs Department, Member, *uning*

Prof Georgewill, 9th VC

Hostel Maintenance Committee, Students Welfare Committee, Medical Officer, Team UniPort, Deputy Team Leader *Team UniPort* at WAUG in Kumasi, Ghana and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. He served as Board Chairman, UDPS Governing Board. In all these positions, he

discharged his duties creditably. Professor Owunari Georgewill is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, London and Institute of Industrial Administrators. He is also a Member, International Association of Medical Educators USA, Society of Paediatric Oncologist, Italy, American Society of Neurochemistry, West African Society of Pharmacology, Nigerian Medical Association, Association of Specialist Medical Doctors in Academia, Indian Society of Pharmacology, The World Academy of Science, Research in Medicines Society, National Cancer Investigation Society UK, World Health Workers Without Borders and West African Society of Toxicology. He is a friend to the New York Academy of Medicine and the Australian Academy of Science. Professor Owunari Georgewill has also served his community Abonnema, Rivers State, Professional Associations, Nigeria Medical Association and the West African Society of Pharmacology in various capacities.

He was appointed Justice of Peace by the Rivers State Government in 2002. He has served as Assistant Secretary General NMA, Rivers State, Editorial Board member, Journal of the WASP, Secretary, Board of Governors, Comprehensive Secondary School, Abonnema, and Executive Adviser on Health, AKULGA. In 2015, he served as Honourable Commissioner in Rivers State Commission of Enquiry. He is a Reviewer of Pharmacology articles for many journals. He is currently a Member of the Editorial Board of the Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine.

In 2010, Professor Georgewill was appointed Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Niger Delta University, where he served creditably during his tour of duty there. In February, 2012 he was elected, Deputy Provost, College of Health Sciences of the University.

In 2013, he was voted into the Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt as Congregation Representative where he served in various Committees of Council including the Finance and General Purpose Committee F&GPC. Professor Georgewill, served as Chairman, Syndicate Session on UBE in National

Education Summit, organised by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Abuja in 2008.

He served as Member of Technical Committee for the Senate Committee of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on Education between 2008 and 2009. He was a Resource Person at the National Education Conference organised by the Senate Committee on Education in conjunction with SIGNIP promotions in Abuja in March 2010. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Administration of Nigeria.

Professor Georgewill's engagement in research activity began in 1987 and has culminated in the writing of a textbook in Pharmacology: "Reasoning in Drug Biology" and contribution of Chapters to books on Pharmacology. He has over 50 original articles in peer-reviewed, local, regional and foreign indexed Journals.

His research activities has taken him through the University of Texas in Houston, the MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston, the Faculty of Medical Sciences University of Newcastle upon Tyne UK, Cancer Research Centre London, German Cancer Research Centre Heidelberg, Germany, School of Tropical Medicine Liverpool, Department of Pharmacology University of Liverpool, New York Academy of Medicine NY, Department of Pharmacology University of Birmingham, Harvard Medical School, Boston amongst others. He has served as External Examiner in MBBS, MSc and PhD examinations in many universities in Nigeria.

Professor Georgewill is happily married to his lovely wife, Dr Udem Georgewill, a Lecturer also in the Department of Pharmacology. He has four children, Barrister Melford, Tamunoemi, Tamunodein and Tamunobakam and a grandson, Master Tamunotariye Georgewill.

He loves his wife, his twin sibling, Hon. Justice Biobele Georgewill and his children and grandson dearly. He is a devout Christian of the Anglican Communion. He is a licensed Lay Reader and a Knight of St. Christopher.

In 2009, in recognition of his invaluable services to his community, he was installed a Chief in the Otaji Group of Houses of Abonnema Council of Chiefs.

Professor Owunari Abraham Georgewill, an erudite scholar, an academic colossus, an achiever par excellence, a Knight of St. Christopher, a lover of God, a loving husband, a doting father of four, a Justice of Peace, a traditional ruler, a Pharmacologist, a toxicologist par excellence, a great and unique set of twin, a humble and unassuming academic, is the 9<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt.

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## GUIDE POST

### APPOINTMENT

Professor Patrick Eghwudjakpor, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, re-appointed *Dean of the Faculty*, effective June 10, 2021 to June 9, 2023.

Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science, re-appointed *Chairman, Academic Board, Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PUTOR)*. The two-year re-appointment which took retrospective effect from June 2, 2021, will terminate on June 1, 2023.

Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso, Executive Director, University of Port Harcourt Foundation, appointed *Vice Chancellor's Representative on the Governing Board of the Institute of Petroleum Studies*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on June 16, 2023.

Professor Chinedu Chukuegwu, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, re-appointed *Coordinator, Confucius Teaching Point*, effective July 2, 2021 to July 1, 2023.

Dr Julius Akani, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, re-appointed *Deputy Coordinator, Confucius Teaching Point*, effective July 2, 2021 to July 1, 2023.

Dr Rosemary Ekechukwu, Department of Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Director, University of Port Harcourt Counselling Centre (Professional)*, effective May 2, 2021 to May 1, 2023.

Dr Christian Elendu, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Director, Centre for Higher Education Studies*, effective June 28, 2021 to June 27, 2023.

Dr Boniface Woko, Internal Audit Unit, appointed *Project Auditor, Africa Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemicals Research (ACE-CEFOR)*.

Dr Harriet Agbarakwe, Department of Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education, appointed *Assistant Director, Open, Distance and E-Learning (ODEL) Centre*. The two-year appointment which took effect from May 27, 2021 will terminate on May 26, 2023.

Dr Kingsley Patrick-Iwamanyawu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science appointed *Acting Director, Centre for Marine Pollution and Seafood Safety*. The two-year appointment which took effect from May 27, 2021, will terminate on May 26, 2023.

Professor Kikpoye Aaron, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Head of the Department*, effective June 29, 2021 to June 28, 2023.

Dr Akad-Agbaeze Eteng, Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023.

Dr Amabra Dodiya-Manuel, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective July 11, 2021 to July 10, 2023.

Dr Augustine Nwagbo, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective June 21, 2021 to June 20, 2023.

Dr Anthony Njoku, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective June 21, 2021 to June 20, 2023.

Dr Folake Adeniji, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective July 8, 2021 to July 7, 2023.

Dr Geraldine Ndukwu, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Coordinator of the Department*, effective July 2, 2021 to July 1, 2023.

# News

## Global Peace Advocates Honours Okodudu

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The International Synergy of Advocates for Global Peace and Development Initiative has honoured the immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Steve Okodudu, with the *Icon of Development Award*.

Receiving the Award, Professor Okodudu commended the group for the award disclosing that no meaningful development can take place without peace.

"Development is lacking in Africa because of lack of peace and justice. Conflict does not just happen. It is a buildup of series of events. We have to identify tendencies and manage them at embryo level. It takes application of leadership skills to ensure that one leads according to the rules and regulations of engagement. A university is an institution that would outlive us, so we have to live in a way that it would be said we were also here," he said.

Giving a background on the award, Director of Programme, Mr Otu Abasi, described the organisation as an assemblage of validated United Nations Peace Volunteers with designated roster code numbers that certify them as volunteers with uncommon determination to advance the message of peace to the world.

"We honour outstanding personalities with extraordinary accomplishments whose lifestyle



Prof Okodudu

exemplifies the purpose and uniqueness of peace and their function as rural dwellers with inbuilt consciousness of reconciling erring and aggrieved persons at their place of domicile," Mr Abasi said, adding that the organisation is saddled with the responsibility of promoting peace and development initiatives, building partnership and facilitating dialogue amongst others.

## UniPort Partners UMKC On Research, Others

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow to the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), Professor Jimmy Adegoke, has disclosed plans for a proposed partnership between the University of Port Harcourt and the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC).

Briefing a team of participants during a two-day zoom meeting at the INRES Board Room, Delta Park from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2021, Professor Adegoke explained that his visit to the University was to expand the current relationship with INRES to include an international student exchange programme between UniPort and UMKC for undergraduate students in the Sciences and Engineering.

"At the end of the one to two years exchange programme, the students would receive an undergraduate degree of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. To qualify for the programme, participants would meet a minimum academic standard requirement which would be jointly determined by both institutions. The selected students would also benefit from a scholarship programme that reduces the annual tuition to a level very close to that of the UMKC in-state tuition. Other opportunities of the institutional partnership would benefit younger

academics and doctoral candidates who would serve as visiting scholars to UMKC," Professor Adegoke said.

On the research component of the proposed partnership, he noted that the research on *Coastal Communities and How to Better Manage the Impact of Climate Change* would bring together a diverse and interdisciplinary group of researchers from participating universities in the United States, institutions and agencies from several countries along the West African coast, University of Port Harcourt, the African Development Bank amongst others.

"The research and training would be delivered both in the United States and at partner institutions in West Africa with reciprocal exchange of researchers from these organisations. A key outcome of this research partnership would be the creation of a strong, self-sustaining research and innovation community that would continue to deliver solutions for decades to come," he added.

In her response, INRES Director, Professor Aduabobo Hart commended Professor Adegoke for facilitating the partnership aimed at lifting the standard of education in the University. She also expressed gratitude to the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the Carnegie Foundation while hoping that the partnership would be strengthened to yield fruits in the long run.



INRES Director, Prof Hart (centre) and others during the zoom meeting



## ...Okodudu Bows Out, Relives Experience

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Chancellor on his appointment. The Bursar pledged the support of Management for the new administration. She also commended the immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, for his achievements within the past one year in office. Some members of the Governing Council also took turns to speak at the event. Professor Clifford Ofurum, enjoined the new Vice Chancellor to run an all-inclusive administration by bringing all critical stakeholders on board for the collective interest of the University. Professor Martin Ifeanchio enthused that: "the University is now set to soar again like an eagle. As Alumni, this is the best opportunity to take our University to greater heights, so Mr Vice Chancellor, we will attack you and we will also defend you. The whole essence is to prod you to make UniPort more visible in global ranking." Professor Ngozi Iheanacho, who also showered praises on immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu on his achievements in office, urged the 9<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor to tap from his experience in the short but eventful period in office. On his part, Professor Femi Shaka, urged the new Vice Chancellor to remain focus on accomplishing his goals. He also commended Professor Okodudu for leaving sound legacies, despite the challenges he met in office. Speaking before handing over to the 9<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor, immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu, thanked members of the University community for the support given to him to succeed. He appealed that such hands of fellowship be extended to Professor Georgewill for the continued growth of the University. Earlier, in his Valedictory Address to Congregation entitled: *Love Changes Everything* which was delivered on Monday, July 12, 2021, Professor Okodudu, listed some of his achievements in office to include: the harvest of 60 Professors, over 40 Associate Professors and conversion of over 146 Senior Professional, Administrative and

Technical Staff (SPATS).

Also awaiting approval of the Council, according to him, were the recommendations for the appointments of Directors, Deputy Registrars and Deputy Bursars in the Registry, Bursary and Health Services Departments. Others included Deputy Directors and Programmers/System Analyst for Internal Audit, Works and Service and Sports.

"Fundamentally too, in order to avoid the continuing backlog of promotion matters and staff stagnation, we have, at last, been able to produce the new Career Structure which is also before the Governing Council for approval," Professor Okodudu stated, outlining 40 other cadres of staff that have been recommended for promotion.

On the election of the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu said: "The significant aspect in all the elections that were conducted which eventually culminated in the selection of the 9<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor, was that there was absolute tranquillity in the University. I, as Acting Vice Chancellor, tried my best in not only guaranteeing level playing field for all to contest without interference, but I also made the personal sacrifice I promised from my Inaugural Address by acting at all times in the best interest of the University."

On his experience on the job, Professor Okodudu said: "These months have been a source of very high experience for me beyond what Sociology, my primary discipline, has taught me. The experience has made me more appreciative of the different tendencies of the average person I meet daily. I have seen more good than bad in people. For me, if you are not too judgmental, there is at least, one good aspect in everyone you meet every day. In all, I know I have made more friends and worthy allies that I shall forever



Prof Okodudu (right), handing over to Prof Georgewill (left)

treasure," the immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor said. Professor Okodudu revealed that though he was challenged on various fronts on assumption of office as Acting Vice Chancellor, he was satisfied with the current state of the University. "With what we have been able to achieve in these past twelve months, which has actually been like eternity for me, I can say without equivocation that we have been able to, at least, in the finest tradition of the academia, restore to the University, the time-tested intellectual attribute of letting ideas contend and allowing the superior logic to prevail," he concluded.

## Make Integrity Your Watchword, Ayuwo Urges Accountants ...ICAN Donates To Accounting Dept

By Humphrey Ogu

The Bursar of the University, Dr Felicia Ayuwo has urged professional Accountants to always make Integrity their watchword, pledging support for Association of National Accountant of Nigeria (ANAN) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN). Dr Ayuwo made the pledges when she received the leadership of ANAN and

she would not have been a Bursar without ICAN.

"We want staff to acquire professional qualifications. It is not very easy to sponsor all staff, but we encourage them to help themselves," she said, urging professionals to update their knowledge and skills in line with the demands of digital age or risk being left behind. She also urged the leadership of professional bodies to keep some of their activities online to enable members participate, pointing out that as some members, who are unable to participate in physical

meetings due to security challenges would be able to do so virtually. Speaking earlier, the Branch Chairman of ANAN, Mr Chidi Emmanuel Orlu thanked the Bursar for accepting to host her for her

accountants is through continuous training. In ANAN, we have regular Mandatory Continuous Professional Development programmes. As human beings we keep learning," he observed, noting that ANAN also focuses on the welfare of members and ensures strict adherence to professional ethics. He disclosed that ANAN has acquired an Examination Centre in Rivers State. The Chairman was accompanied on the Visit by the Branch Secretary, Mr Friday Esinwoke, Assistant Secretary, Miss Ogochukwu Uzor and Ex-Officio, Mr Godspower Obah.

In a related development, the 28<sup>th</sup> Chairman, ICAN Port Harcourt and District Society, Mr Philips Eze, also led members of his Executive on a courtesy visit to the University on Friday, July 2, 2021. Speaking, Mr Eze described ICAN as the foremost professional Institute established by the Act of Parliament 15 of 1965 to regulate the study and practice of Accountancy.

"As part of our core mandate, we have to encourage lecturers and students of Accountancy to ensure that accuracy and integrity which is our motto is adhered to in all they do. We are also here to encourage our members to be visible in their work environment," he said, adding that ICAN also donated Accountant Teachers Scheme for West Africa and Professional Exams, for training of middle-level manpower in accounting.

Mr Eze was joined in the Visit by the General Secretary of Institute, Blessing Isijola, Technical Secretary, Anthony Ezike, Financial Secretary, Omaboriowo Akinbode, Membership Secretary, Chinedu Nwachukwu, Ex-Officio, Abah Oloche, Assistant General Secretary, Miema Akpa.

Meanwhile, Head, Department of Accounting, Professor Christian Micah, who expressed appreciation to ICAN, said the book will be of immense use to the Department and make graduates stand out in the labour market.



Bursar, Dr Ayuwo (seated centre), flanked by ICAN Chairman, Mr Eze (right), Other Executives and Staff of the Bursary Dept

ICAN during separate visits on Thursday and Friday, July 1 and 2, 2021, respectively.

Welcoming the Executive Council of ANAN to the University, Dr Ayuwo congratulated the Members of the Executive Council for their election and for successfully bringing a Screening Centre to Rivers State, noting that it would help Accountants in the State to qualify and join the professional body. Ayuwo, who is the first female Bursar of the University observed that

appointment as Bursar and on the safe release of her husband, Dr Jones Ayuwo from his abductors recently. "We are here to see our professional colleagues in the University and we know they work under the Bursar. Most professionals do not participate in the activities of recognised professional bodies. The Bursar has a role to play in ensuring that professional accountant participate in ANAN," he said.

"The only way you can improve as professional

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worked with Professor Ruqayyatu Rufa'i and the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund, (TETFund). I'm happy that today we have a Faculty of Law in this University," Governor Wike recalled. Emphasising the need for people in privileged position to contribute meaningfully to the development of society and impact on the lives of people, the Governor noted that his administration oversaw the completion of Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities in his first term in Office. "Today, we are laying the foundation for the Convocation Arena, and we will complete it in 14 months. I will come back here next year to commission it," he said.

In his welcome speech, immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, commended Governor Wike for donating a befitting Convocation Arena to his alma mater. He appealed to the Governor to continue to contribute to the development of the University.

On his part, Chairman of Council and Pro-Chancellor, Senator Andrew Uchendu, also expressed gratitude to the Governor for the donation of the Convocation Arena, adding that it would be of immense benefit to the University.

Speaking before laying the Foundation Stone of the building, 8<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Ale who described the Governor as an Iconic Alumnus, said history would be so kind to Governor Wike because of his benevolence.

## I'm Happy To Have Studied In UniPort



Gov Wike (2nd right), Dep Gov, Dr Ipalibo Harry (right), 8th VC, Prof Lale, immediate past Ag VC, Prof Okodudu, 6th VC, Prof Don Baridam and others

Others who spoke included the Rivers State Commissioner for Education and pioneer Dean, Faculty of Law, Professor Kaniye Ebeku, Student Union President, Sowari Dikibo, while

Special Adviser to the Governor on Special Projects, George Kelly Alabo gave the Project Description.

## Principal Officers Honour Ogali, Charles-Granville

By Otikor Samuel

As a tradition to honour their colleagues who successfully serve out their tenure, the Principal Officers gathered at the Council Chamber inside Senate Building, University Park, on July 5, 2021, to celebrate their former colleagues, immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali and Acting Registrar, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville.

Speaking at the brief event, immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, commended the two former Management staff for giving of their best to the services of the University. "The positions you held are positions of responsibility, so we decided, on behalf of Council, Senate, Management, Staff and Students of the University, to appreciate you in this little way," Professor Okodudu said.

Other Principal Officers including Coordinator of Academic Affairs, Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani, Acting Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo and Acting University Librarian, Mr Emmanuel Owushi, extolled their former colleagues for their contributions to the growth of the University.

In their separate responses, Professor Ogali and Dr Charles-Granville, thanked their former colleagues for the team spirit among them



Principal Officers presenting a gift to immediate past DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (3rd right)

## Ihekwa Shares Non-Clinical Service Experience At Valedictory Lecture

By Humphrey Ogu



Prof Ihekwa (left) handing over a copy of his lecture booklet to the VC, Prof Georgewill

How a Professor of Medicine, Anele Ihekwa, chaired and served creditably in several statutory and non-statutory committees in the University was the thrust of the 20<sup>th</sup> Valedictory Lecture delivered at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Delivering the Lecture on the topic: "A Clinician/Clinical Lecturer in a Non-Clinical Committee," Ihekwa who is of the Department of

Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, expressed delight that he was delivering his lecture when his former students, Professors Owunari Georgewill and Iyeopu Siminialayi are holding two key administrative positions in the University.

He noted that his lecture would be of immense benefit to his ex-students and other Clinical Lecturers serving in various non-clinical committees in the University, adding that "A Valedictory Lecture is akin to a formal salute to signal the end of a glorious academic career delivered in the presence of peers and academics. It is momentous epoch at which the lecturer seizes the opportunity to share his/her experiences with his/her co-workers, a chance to place on record, notable recollections of the time and accomplishments working with them in the evolving search for the truth." Ihekwa, who had chaired over 10 ad-hoc committees and panels, in addition to serving as a member of other statutory boards and committees in the University, said: "When a Clinician is appointed to chair a committee or panel, it is my considered opinion that he should be guided by the opening sentence, and the closing phrase of the Hippocratic Oath, that: 'I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity', and 'upon my honour', respectively." He added that "When faced with clinical issues, it is

usually a straightforward decision task that has a pre-set solution template. For instance, if a patient has headache, it is headache and not that it looks like it! But when the clinical lecturer is appointed to serve in committees or panels looking at non-clinical matters, the challenges of human nature surfaces and one may be tested like the proverbial fish out of water.

"In course of serving in these positions, I developed a deeper sense of understanding of the character of human beings and how people respond to different socio-economic stimuli," Ihekwa, who chaired the Committee on Exploring Out-of-Court Settlement of Disputes in University of Port Harcourt 2020 to 2021, recounted.

In his remarks, Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill, expressed joy that Professor Ihekwa did not retire without delivering a Valedictory Lecture as earlier planned. "We have listened to the Valedictory Lecture delivered by my own lecturer, the vintage Professor Ihekwa. This Lecture is a compendium of dos and don'ts of serving in committees. It is a must-read for all administrators and members of committees in this University. I sincerely thank Professor Ihekwa for sharing his wealth of experience with us through this lecture," the Vice Chancellor said.



## SGS Holds Orientation For Graduate Students

By Otikor Samuel



Management, Resource Persons and Staff of SGS at the event

In a bid to acquaint newly-admitted Graduate Students with the policies of the graduate programmes of the University, the leadership of the School of Graduate Studies held a virtual orientation exercise for the new intake on Friday, July 9, 2021.

In his welcome address, Dean of the School, Professor Barisua Nwinea, disclosed that the exercise was meant to expose the Graduate Students to the rules and regulations governing the School and the University at large.

"In addition to exposing the Graduate Students to the dos and don'ts in the University, the orientation is also meant to intimate the students of their rights and privileges. The mantra in the School of Graduate Studies is that 'students must graduate in record time', so the exercise is aimed at enlightening them on how to make good use of their time and graduate in record time," the Dean said.

The Dean also made a presentation entitled: *Administration of Graduate Programmes in line with NUC-Benchmark*. Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno attended the exercise. The Acting University Library, Mr Emmanuel Owushi made a presentation on *E-Library and the Use of Library Resources*. Associate Dean of the School, Professor Olufemi Adesope spoke on *The School of Graduate Studies Research Project Guidelines* and Director, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), Professor Roland Uhumwangho delivered a Lecture entitled: *Academic Integrity in Graduate Programmes*.

Others who made presentation at the Orientation exercise included: Dr Kaanakia Konya of the Rivers State University. Dr Konya delivered a Lecture on *Optimising Your Education in Nigeria*. Graduate Studies Officer, Mrs Flora Iyagba represented by the Results and Board Officer, Mrs Georgina Akem, spoke on *University of Port Harcourt Academic Policies on Graduate Programme* and the Deputy Bursar in the School, Mr Lawrence Geeyor, made presentation on financial obligations of the students to the School. The Admission Officer, Mrs Ime Ibanga also made a brief speech on admissions. The virtual orientation featured interactive session.

## History Dept Fetes Derefaka

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following his retirement from service, staff and students of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies in the Faculty of Humanities put together a send forth ceremony for Professor Abi Derefaka at the Elechi Amadi Auditorium on Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Speaking at the event which also doubled as the official launch of the book titled, *Perspectives from the Niger Delta: Essays in Honour of Abi Derefaka*, representative of the immediate past Acting Vice Chancellor and Coordinator of Academic Affairs, Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani, described Professor Derefaka as a great historian who served the University meritoriously. He commended the Department and Faculty for appreciating his effort and services rendered over the years. Chairman of the event and former Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, lauded the pioneering effort of Professor Derefaka as the founding Director of the Institute of Niger Delta Studies and his contributions to the growth of the Department.

"We are celebrating scholarship and a culture of creativity and innovation. We are appreciating effort aimed at deepening academic culture and scholarship. We are celebrating Professor Derefaka today even as we pray that he continues to be of service to the University and society," Professor Ajienka said.

In his welcome address, Acting Head of the Department, Dr Charles Asuk, noted that the event provided an opportunity for staff and students to evaluate the cumulative work of Professor Derefaka in his over three decades of service to the Department and University.

"Professor Derefaka is an Archaeologist and Anthropologist of international repute who has contributed immensely to the shaping of the discipline in Nigerian universities. I am pretty sure that even in his post-retirement life, he will continue to mentor and guide younger academics," he remarked.

Responding, Professor Derefaka expressed gratitude to the Department and University for the honour. He advised younger academics to work together to achieve lofty heights. "When there is unity, you can achieve a lot. Today's event shows that the efforts I put in serving the University is recognised and appreciated. If my predecessor, Emeritus Professor Ebogiebi Alagoa is still contributing to knowledge, then I can still contribute my service to the society," Professor Derefaka said.

Highpoints of the event included the cutting of a cake to mark the 71<sup>st</sup> birthday of Professor Derefaka and goodwill messages from Emeriti Professors Alagoa, Nimi Briggs and Professor Adewale Dosumu.



Guests displaying the book on Derefaka

## Ifeanacho Plans Big For CPSS, Pledges More Support For JCI

By Otikor Samuel

Nigeria, on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. The students' leadership group paid a visit to congratulate Professor Ifeanacho on his election as a Member of the Governing Council of the University.

The Collegiate Chairman, Mariam Bamalli led national, zonal and chapter executives to the visit to Professor Ifeanacho, who has been a Patron to UniPort Chapter of the JCI for over 10 years. In her entourage were Collegiate Conference Director, Promise Muoneke, Collegiate Vice Chairman, South-South/South-East, Nneka Gladness Oyiga, National Executive Secretary, Adeyemo Adeonipekun, Executive Vice President, South-South/South-East, Princess Amachree, President JCI UniPort Chapter, Emmanuel Ikeji, her counterpart in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Ibiaye Tessa Alabipi and Executive Assistant, David Afuwape.

Responding to questions on the new Centre which was demerged from the Centre for Gender and Conflict Studies, Professor Ifeanacho stated that: "We had the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS) which was established by Professor Mark Anikpo, but was merged at a certain time with the Centre for Gender Studies. The two centres then became Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies.

In March 2021, the University administration demerged them based on the argument that Gender Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies are two universal issues that could not be subsumed under one centre."

The Director disclosed plans to reposition the Centre for quality service delivery. "We are aware of security threat beginning from the global dimension down to Africa and Nigeria, so we have plans to reposition the Centre to effectively generate intellectual and strategic responses to security issue. Plans are underway to collaborate with the armed forces, non-governmental organisations and other centres designated to address the issues of peace and security in Nigeria, Africa and the world. We intend to continue to engage in cutting-edge research activities in the area of peace and security," Professor Ifeanacho said.

He further disclosed that the leadership of the Centre has designed special programmes such as Doctor of Philosophy and Master's degrees, Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate programmes in Peace and Security. "We are currently working on a proposal for Executive Master's degree in Criminology and Police Psychology and Executive Master's degree in Peace and Security Studies. All our courses will eventually be delivered in modules, some of them will be 90 percent virtual to accommodate professionals who may not have the opportunity for physical contact with the Lecturers," the Director revealed.



Prof Ifeanacho (seated centre), flanked by JCI delegation

Director of the Centre for Peace and Security Studies (CPSS), Professor Martin Ifeanacho, has unveiled plans to make the Centre more visible and viable in training manpower to tackle security challenges facing the country and the world at large. He also pledged continued support for and mentorship of members of the Junior Chamber International (JCI).

Professor Ifeanacho made the disclosure on the sideline of a Congratulatory Visit by the Junior Chamber International,

## Senate Lauds Okodudu, Approves Results, New Faculties, Programmes

By Otikor Samuel

For his numerous achievements within 12 months in office as Acting Vice Chancellor amidst various challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, paucity of fund and industrial actions by Unions, Senate of the University at its 458<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at the Senate Chamber, gave a standing ovation to Professor Stephen Okodudu.

Members of Senate took turns to shower encomiums on Professor Okodudu, for superintending over the resolutions of contentious issues and ushering in the smooth process that eventually led to the appointment of ninth Vice Chancellor of the University.

Other major highlights of the 458<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Senate was the approval for the establishment of the Faculties of Communication and Media Studies, Computing, and commencement of a Certificate programme in Peace and Security Studies (CPSS).

The establishment of the new Faculties and commencement of Certificate programme followed a presentation by the Senate Committee on Academic Policies and Programmes (SCAPP) made by the Coordinator, Academic Affairs, Professor Abdulzaraq Kilani.

Faculty of Communication and Media Studies was demerged from the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies following the directive of the National Universities Commission (NUC) to unbundle the Mass Communication and allied disciplines, while Faculty of Computing was approved following similar directive to unbundle the Department of Computer Science.

With the approval, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies would run four Departments comprising Departments of Journalism and Media Studies, Public Relations and Advertising, Broadcasting, and Film Production, while Faculty of Computing has Departments of Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology, and Data Science.



458<sup>th</sup> Senate in Session

It would be recalled that Senate at its 449<sup>th</sup> Meeting had directed the Departments of Computer Science, and Linguistics and Communication to work out effective measures on how to migrate to Faculty status in line with the directive of the National Universities Commission.

The august body also approved the commencement of Postgraduate Diploma and Master of Science degree in Health Information Management and Informatics to be domiciled in the School of Public Health. Senate approved the request by the Adam Igbudu Christian Institute, Emevor in Delta State for affiliation in Religious and Cultural Studies and Education programmes. Senate considered and approved modifications to the curricula of the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programmes.

Earlier, immediate past Chairman of Senate and Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu announced some appointments which included that of Professor Raphael Nwachindor as Chairman, Professional Ethics Committee; Dr Obari Gomba, Associate Dean, Faculty of Humanities; Dr Iheanyi Okonko, Associate Dean, Faculty

of Science and Dr Kingsley Patrick-Iwuanyanwu as Acting Director, Centre for Marine Pollution and Seafood Safety.

Other appointments announced were: Dr Joy Olotu, Interim Associate Dean, Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences, Dr Friday Onuodu, Acting Head, Department of Computer Science and Professor Lucky Nwidi, Head, Department of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Professor Okodudu expressed gratitude for the support he enjoyed from all stakeholders that contributed to the success of his interim administration. He enjoined members of the University to extend such hand of fellowship to the ninth Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill Owunari.

Professor Okodudu, urged members of Senate to attend the 171<sup>st</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University entitled, *Accident of Nature: Survival and Sequelae* to be delivered by Professor Angela Frank-Briggs of the Department of Paediatrics, College of Health Sciences at 3:00pm, on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium.

## Council Recalls Woke To Duty



The Governing Council at its 173<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on Monday, June 21, 2021, has recalled Dr Godfrey Woke to duty following his earlier dismissal for engaging in Full-Time studies without authorisation. A letter dated June 28, 2021 and signed by the Acting

Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, said the recall to duty was in response to the request by Dr Woke for reinstatement which was dated July 14, 2020.

"...I write to inform you that the University Governing Council directed that you be recalled to duty and reinstated as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology. This directive takes effect from the date of your suspension from duty and subsequent dismissal from the service of the University. The Bursar is, by a copy of this letter, advised to restore your salaries and emoluments due you with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, being the date of your dismissal from service," the letter read in part.

## UniPort Students Win WAAW Scholarship

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Out of 1600 entries across Africa, two students of the University of Port Harcourt have emerged winners of this year's scholarship of the Working to Advance Science and Technology Education for African Women (WAAW) Foundation. Miss Precious Oscar-Daniels and Goodness Odah, both Second Year students of the Departments of Agricultural Economics and Extension and Mechanical Engineering, respectively, emerged winners of the scholarship alongside five others from Nigeria.

Speaking to a *UniPort News* Correspondent, Miss Oscar-Daniels, disclosed that WAAW Foundation established the endowment to support Undergraduate African young women who have demonstrated a commitment to completing their education in a STEM field (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in an African university. She commended the Foundation for the scholarship,

promising to fully utilise the opportunity.

"WAAW is a non-profit organisation with a mission to empower girls in Africa. The Foundation encourages their engagement in technology; entrepreneurship and innovation to benefit Africa while the scholarship is aimed at helping the recipients reach their educational goals," a visibly-elated Miss Oscar-Daniels said, adding that she also received the Margaret Scholarship funded by a Nigerian-based Non Governmental Organisation, *Edugrant* for indigent female students in tertiary institutions.



Odah

Oscar-Daniels