



UNIORT Donates Mattresses To NDU

In continuation of its special intervention to ameliorate the plight of victims of the devastating flood that hit parts of the country last year, the University of Port Harcourt, has donated over 220 mattresses and pillows to the Niger Delta University (NDU), Wilberforce Island in Amassoma, Bayelsa State, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

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Side Bar

The Staff Training and Development Unit (STADU) organizes a five-day in-house Workshop for staff of Telecommunications Unit, starting today at NASU Labour House, Delta Park. Details next week - Editor

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Wachukwu: Meet Mr Integrity

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IARD To Commence Certificate Programme



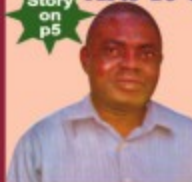
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Chi Ikoku Chair Committed To Local Content Dev



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UNIORT Lecturer Takes Nigerian Arts To UK



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The musical exploits of undisputed highlife king, Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson came alive last Wednesday at the Convocation Arena, as the Department of Music gathered his surviving band members, friends, associates and the cream of the University Community to pay the acclaimed maestro a well-deserved musical tribute.

Cardinal Erekosima Jim Lawson, whose scintillating highlife tunes set dance halls aglow in the 1960s and early 1970s, was not just the undisputed master of the popular music genre, he introduced previously unimagined innovation to the sound of the trumpet that discerning music lovers could not resist.

Wednesday's event titled: *Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson Memorial Concert*, was the highlight of a series of events lined up by the Department to commemorate the sudden demise of the musical genius on 16th January, 1971 after a playing tour in Benin. The event which was the first in the series by the University of Port Harcourt aimed at immortalizing Lawson's musical exploits had the surviving members of the Band, ace trumpeter King Sunny Brown and intrepid conga player, 84-year old Chief Anthony Odili, doing what they had been doing



42 Years After

Rex Lawson Comes Alive In UNIORT

By Obinna Nwodin

in the last 64 years, as their craft lured guests to the dance at the expansive Convocation Arena, venue of the concert.

The University's *Concert Chorus* and Rex Jim Lawson's back-up Band thrilled the ecstatic audience, comprising the old and young, who responded with measured and some weird dance steps in appreciation.

Even Rex Lawson's children Victoria, Christiana and a grandchild, Adokiye, could not resist taking to the stage to re-enact some of their late father's evergreen songs to the delight of an appreciative audience.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who described the event as a wonderful evening, said that "it was not an accident that great musicians such as Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson,

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Wachukwu: Meet Mr Integrity

By Humphrey Ogu
and Williams Wodi



Mr Wachukwu

Just when you want to give up on Nigeria in the Department of Honesty and Integrity, some good news crops up from an unexpected angle to assail your depression. Sometime in June, 2012, a Nigerian Journalist, Mr Martins Oloja, gleefully told his applauding audience in New Orleans, Louisiana in far away America that "Corruption is like a fundamental objective and directive principle of state policy and it does not shock even the Media there (meaning Nigeria) anymore". He was obviously distorting the Second Schedule to the Nigerian Constitution without acknowledging the malapropism! One of our greatest cultural ambassadors, Chinua Achebe was even more patronizing: "To keep a Nigerian from being corrupt is like keeping a goat from eating yam". Both Achebe and Oloja may be technically correct, for there is more than enough hatred, bigotry, lust and programmed violence in the land to convince any audience bent on justifying the erroneous proposition that every Nigerian is corrupt. The virus of corruption has ceased our collective imagination to the extent that those who refuse to yield to its encircling net are simply dismissed as defying the infamous *Nigerian Factor*. In this spreading apocalyptic terror, very few saintly figures can be identified in the land, where corruption has become a first choice destination to unexplained wealth by ex-paupers.

The hypocritical self-righteous rhetoric of professional politicians on how to curb corruption was recently given a huge knock by the exemplary conduct of a lowly Cleaner in the University of Port Harcourt, Mr Godson Wachukwu. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka and Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, could barely contain the excitement roused in them by that rare moment of nobility and absolute integrity exhibited by Mr Wachukwu, who detected something that did not add up in his monthly salary schedule and uncharacteristically alerted the Bursary Department over the anomaly.

Mr Wachukwu did not relapse into any anxiety of moral choice when he objected to being paid far more than he thought he deserved as a Cleaner in the Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit. He not only reported the matter to the Payroll Officer in the Bursary Department; this man of integrity made repeated attempts to see the Registrar on the matter! In a country where some citizens have cultivated a life of obsessive preoccupation with rapacious living that is marked by embarrassing moral decline, Mr Wachukwu's example is a breath of fresh air in the New Year that calls all of us to a new level of restraint in our personal and official conduct. This gentleman is showing us the way back to an idealized and more virtuous past that some Nigerians no longer wish to remember in the line of

duty. Those staff and students of the University, who are openly hostile to a more refined lifestyle defined by personal integrity and self-restraint, must learn a thing or two from the shining conduct of Mr Wachukwu, who actually needed the over-payment (isn't it a windfall) to finance his Christmas and New Year reverie in grand style. Staff and students, who are openly hostile to a life of integrity must listen to the story of a Contract Staff, who is now being programmed for conversion into the respectable position of a full-time tie-wearing Clerk in the Registry Department! Who knows; this moral Knight in shining armour may climb to the pinnacle of his career—provided he does not create a parallel reality on duty or allow himself to be trapped by rationalized bureaucracy.

"Such an exemplary staff", said the Registrar, Mrs Nnodim, "deserves to be encouraged and commended as a shining example in the University."

exhibited honesty? We will keep up the good example.

I will personally monitor Mr Wachukwu's career progression in the University".

Speaking with *UNIPOINT Weekly*, Wachukwu, who disclosed that he was employed on CONTISS 1, Step 5 last July and paid a three month salary in October, adding that he received N82,000.00 which was much more than his actual due. He said he knew it was wrong to cheat. Attributing his honesty to his Christian upbringing and a Citizenship and Leadership Training he had in 2011. "I cannot accept money or things that do not belong to me. The University would still have discovered the fraud", he said. He lauded the Management for recognizing his good example, urging other staff to emulate him. "Contrary to what people think, it still pays to be honest in Nigeria; those who cheat will surely pay for it one way or the other", Wachukwu said.

STUDENT WORLD

I Have Passion For Teaching ~Egelibe

Our Intern, JULIET NNAMDI had a chat with Jonathan Egelibe, a Final Year Student in the Department of Medicine and Surgery, College of Health Sciences on his world as a student of the University. He discloses his passion for the teaching profession and how he hopes to combine evangelism with lecturing to render service to God and humanity. Read on:

"UNIPOINT was not really my first choice; I had wanted to go to the University of Benin for my Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degree, not knowing that I was called to be part of a globally reputable institution. I gained admission through the Basic Studies programme. I did not write the Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination for University of Benin, because it coincided with my Basic Studies examination. I got two admission opportunities in the Departments of Medicine and Surgery and Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Technology. I had the best result in the Basic Studies programme and was offered admission to study Medicine," he recalled.

Egelibe's passion in studying about human life did not start today. He had been doing well in Science subjects right from his days in Secondary School, which earned him the honour of Biology Prefect and Best Student in Biology. His passion to save lives was also influenced by his choice of Medicine.

On his study habit, he said his discipline is quite demanding, so he is seriously in love with his books. He occasionally uses the Donald Ekong Library, because he found out that his colleagues are regular users of facilities there. He would not want to be nicknamed *Jackchan* as students always refer to those that study much. "I frequently make use of the Permanent Site Library (PS Library) and sometimes University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) Medical Library. Towards exams, my reading habit becomes more intense. I tend to cover more topics as there is high level of assimilation. I also read at night during examinations," he said.

"I am computer literate and own my personal computer. I frequently have to browse the Internet to source materials to enhance my reading skills, at least, four times a week," Egelibe said, pointing out that though he uses a Blackberry phone, which is the craze amongst students, but he is not enslaved to it. "Despite the advantages in the use of social networks, I discipline myself in doing the right thing at the right time."

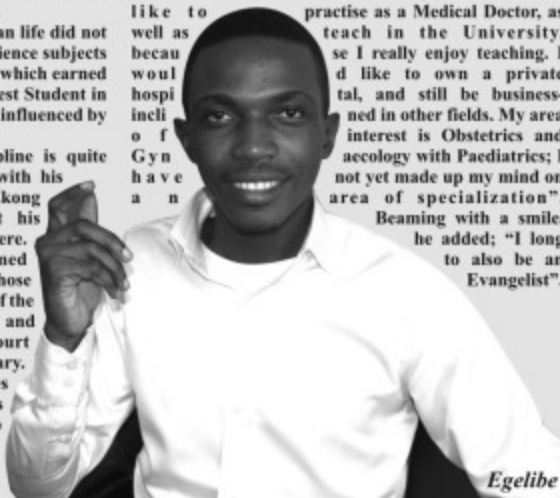
He is known for his corporate wears, which makes some of his friend refer to him as Pastor. "I am a member of some social organizations such as Port Harcourt University Medical and Dental Students' Association (PUMDSA) and Adventist Medical Evangelical Network (AMEN)," he disclosed further, describing Dr

Chituru Orlunwene as his favourite Lecturer and Mentor.

Mr Egelibe lives off-Campus; precisely in Aluu Community. "I have been living there right from my days in the Basic Studies programme, about seven years now. I like Aluu because it is well organized, with few indigenous residents, good accommodation with moderate price," he said, describing it as an environment for students. He keeps few friends and dislikes night outs basically due to security concerns.

On his vision after medical education, he said: "I would like to practise as a Medical Doctor, as well as teach in the University. I really enjoy teaching. I'd like to own a private hospital, and still be business-minded in other fields. My area of interest is Obstetrics and gynaecology with Paediatrics; I not yet made up my mind on area of specialization".

Beaming with a smile, he added: "I long to also be an Evangelist".



Egelibe

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UNIPORT Donates Mattresses To NDU

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Speaking at the Senate Chambers of NDU penultimate Friday, Dean, Student Affairs of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Henry Bell-Gam, disclosed that the donation was part of efforts aimed at bringing succour to the Institution, which was also affected by the flood, as well as fulfilling the community service component of the core mandate of the University which is teaching, research and community service.

"The Vice-Chancellor of University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajenka, had utilized the activities of the community service component of the University to authorize the delivery of relief materials to flood victims in Rivers and Bayelsa States last year. We are here to ensure that this sister University benefits directly from the gesture," Professor Bell-Gam said, assuring the Institution of the readiness of University of Port Harcourt to partner it on research, particularly on the recent natural disaster, just as it has been doing in the area of teaching for the overall institutional growth of Niger Delta University and the region.

Responding, the Acting Vice-Chancellor of NDU, Professor Humphrey Ogoni, who commended the University of Port Harcourt for being the first to come to the aid of his institution, explained that the



Ag Vice-Chancellor, NDU, Prof Ogoni, flanked by Deans, Student Affairs, UNIPORT, Prof Bell-Gam (right), NDU, Dr Comfort Joffa (left), Principal Officers of NDU and some staff and a student of UNIPORT

items came at the appropriate time when Management was refurbishing the hostels for students, disclosing that most of the mattresses in the hostels were destroyed by the flood, thus necessitating replacement.

"We are grateful for your intervention. It is a great relief to us because some of our mattresses were

affected by the flood. This relationship is more than what we are seeing now, it will continue even in research and other areas of academics," Professor Ogoni said, soliciting partnership on further research to ascertain the causes and extent of damage done by the flood with a view to forestalling future incidents.

IARD To Commence Certificate Programme

By Mercy Don-Baridam

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD), has disclosed plans to establish Certificate Programme in the Institute to support ongoing academic work in the Faculty of Agriculture. The Programme is expected to run for a year and four months, respectively.

Acting Director of the Institute, Dr Etela Ibisime, made the disclosure in a chat with *UNIPORT Weekly*, last Monday, stating that the Institute has been undergoing re-organization to attain better operational efficiency following establishment of the Faculty of Agriculture in 2005.

"The Institute is working hard to key into the vision of the present administration to be a world-class institute, where Agricultural activities such as fisheries, forestry research, training and development are conducted in a sustainable manner based on best global practices", he said.

According to the Acting Director, with the approval of Management, the Institute has applied to join the Africa Network for Agro-forestry and Natural Resources

Education (ANAFE) to reposition the Institute and enable them to carry out their core mandates of teaching, research and hip in all agric

holistic manner.

On current happenings in the Institute, the one-time Acting Head, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, disclosed that the Institute is currently developing a proposal on plantain production and utilization of elite local varieties that would be directly beneficial to farmers in the surrounding communities and the Niger Delta Region at large. He stated that the proposal is being developed in partnership with farmers cooperatives in Emohua Local Government Area in its pilot stage.

"We are initiating a process for collaborative research with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in Ibadan, Nigeria on Plantain/Banana breeding. The Institute is also developing other proposals on the utilization of Spent Mushroom Substrate (SMS) as feed for ruminants such as goats and sheep," he said,

adding that the Institute is also working on other proposals such as the conservation and the sustainable use of honey and the economic evaluation on climate change and its effects on small holder farmers in the Niger Delta and beyond.

Dr Ibisime said the breeding of plantain is developed by the Institute, while mushroom is developed in collaboration with staff of the Departments of Crop and Soil Science and Animal Science and Fisheries.

The Director expressed satisfaction with Management's encouragement of research in the University, stating that at the moment, Scientists in the Faculty are indicating interest to partner the Institute in the area of research. He further expressed gratitude to the former Acting Director of the institute, Professor Ebele Erundu who he said achieved some milestone while in office.



Dr Ibisime

Egbogah Kick-Starts Expert-In-Residence Programme Today

Staff, students and stakeholders in the oil and gas sector are invited to the first Expert-in-Residence programme of the Institute of Petroleum, University of Port Harcourt, with Dr Emmanuel Egbogah. The programme holds from Monday, 21st to Thursday, 24th January, 2013 at the IPS Park, off East/West Road.

Public Lecture, Seminar Presentation, Roundtable Discussion and Interactive Sessions with students are scheduled as part of the series of events.

The programme will also feature the 2nd Chi Ikoku Public Lecture on "Perspectives on the Nigerian Oil & Gas Industry: Its Past, Present and Future," slated for Tuesday, 22nd January, 2013 at the ETF Gas Engineering Building Conference Room, University Park at 3:00pm.

Contact: Director, IPS, Professor Mike Onyekonwu



Dr Egbogah

Chi Ikoku Chair Committed To Local Content Dev

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Chair Occupant, Chi Ikoku Chair of Petroleum Engineering, Professor Dulu Appah, says the Chair would focus on capacity-building and capability enhancement, using the Industry as a platform as part of its mandate.

Briefing *UNIPORT Weekly*, last Tuesday, Professor Appah noted that the Chi Ikoku Chair is poised to drive Research in Petroleum Engineering in addition to utilizing human resources to proffer solutions to industry needs. "In this regard, the Chair would train manpower, develop capacity and assist students on a yearly basis with scholarships". He decried a trend where highly qualified personnel lack a befitting environment that would enable them give of their best to the system as is the case in other countries.

Disclosing that all is now set for the smooth take-off of the Chair, he noted that an office, lecture hall, laboratory space and equipment and a library, are already on ground, adding that Late Professor Chi Ikoku donated his entire teaching materials and literature to the Chair. "We would assemble a multi-disciplinary team drawn from Chemistry, Physics, Chemical Engineering and Biological Sciences, to tackle issues of formation damage control to enable us improve well production as part of our direct contribution to the petroleum industry".

Professor Appah, who observed that the Chair was

endowed to immortalize Professor Ikoku, said it was in recognition of his immense contributions to Petroleum Engineering education and profession. "He started the graduate programme in the Faculty of Engineering as Dean for 16 years. He trained the likes of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, Director of the Institute of Petroleum Studies, Professor Mike Onyekonwu and the Shell-Aret Adam Chair Occupant in Petroleum Engineering, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, amongst others", he disclosed.

The former Manager, Planning, Research and Statistics in the Petroleum Development Trust Fund (PTDF) in charge of PTDF Chairs in Nigerian Universities, said he had experience in the establishment, challenges and operation of Chairs. "In the light of more discoveries of petroleum deposits in some African countries, this Chair would serve as a platform to develop capacity for the Gulf of Guinea. It is an opportunity to export human resources to assist universities and the industry in these emerging oil countries", Professor Appah said.

On the contributions of PTDF to local content development, he noted that the Fund has contributed significantly to the training of manpower for the petroleum industry, undertaken university advancement programmes and provided training to academics and professional bodies. "Academic staff of the Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering benefitted from such

trainings when I was in the PTDF".

On the contentious Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) now pending before the National Assembly, Professor Appah stressed the need for quick passage of the Bill to domesticate the petroleum industry.

"The PIB encompasses the Local Content Bill and would address issues of environmental degradation and youth restiveness", he said, describing the Bill as beneficial to host communities of the oil companies, especially in the downstream sector.



Prof Appah

Humanities Elders' Council Thanks V-C For Faculty Building

The *Elders' Council* of the Faculty Humanities has commended the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, for commencement of construction work on the new Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities building donated by the Rivers State Government. Rising from a 'Thank You' Meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, last Monday in his office, Dean of the Faculty and leader of the delegation, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, said that the development was ample proof that the University appreciated the central role of the Faculty in the affairs of the Institution.

Ndimele, who described the Vice-Chancellor as a member of the Faculty of Humanities, expressed gratitude to him for championing the Arts and his physical presence at most artistic presentations involving Departments in the Faculty. "We are particularly happy to note that you have appointed our colleagues from the Faculty into important positions in the University Administration, which goes to prove the confidence your Administration reposes in our ability to deliver when it matters", the Dean said, promising not to disappoint the Administration at all times.

In his response, Professor Ajienka, who expressed gratitude to the *Elders' Council* for the visit, commended the outstanding leadership role that the Faculty had played since the inception of the University. He also praised the quality leadership style

By Oghentejiri Odubu,
Adeola Ojo and Obinna Nwodin

adopted by the Dean in the administration of the Faculty since his assumption of office, promising to continue support for him to achieve the vision of the founding fathers of the pioneer Faculty.

Professor Ajienka, who observed that the Faculty was the first to inaugurate such an *Elders' Council*, advised other Faculties to emulate the novel initiative of the Faculty of Humanities, which he said consisted of seasoned academics and administrators, who not only engage in research and teaching, but also contribute their immense cumulative experiences towards the growth and development of the University. Professor Ajienka advised the Faculty members to continue to exhibit tolerance and understanding for one another to achieve the best for their students, whom he said were looking up to them for guidance.

"We should learn to be at peace with each other and be prepared to learn from the experiences of our colleagues as a means of improving ourselves. The reason we should listen to one another is because where you have intellectuals, divergent issues are bound to arise. Our capacity to understand each other's differences and ability to amicably resolve such differentiates us from the people outside the University environment. We should also show love to our students, because we may never know where we

will meet them in future. Students who are maltreated may never wish to associate with University whenever they are in privileged positions", he advised.

The Vice-Chancellor directed that any review of curriculum in the Departments must undergo due process before it should be presented before the Senate for consideration and approval. "No individual should be allowed to review the curriculum for a programme without considering the input of others in the Department. We must make sure that such proposed reviews undergo the right processes before they can become operational. These are very fundamental things we must pay attention to in our effort to standardize our course content and attain global best practices", he stated. Professor Ajienka informed the *Elders' Council* that construction work was proceeding apace on the Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities building, assuring the Faculty that when the project is completed, it would be one of the most impressive buildings on the University's skyline.

In his speech, Chairman of the *Elders' Council*, Professor N'olue Emenanjo, who described the Faculty as one of the oldest in the University, expressed happiness that positive change was coming to Faculty. He called on the Management to strengthen the academic staff to meet the imminent accreditation exercise and also reduce the heavy workload of academics in the Faculty.

The Vice-Chancellor later led the delegation to the construction site of the Faculty building, as well as the Department of Music. The Elechi Amadi complex for the Faculty of Humanities, which is sponsored by the Rivers State Government, is a storey building that would accommodate the various Departments in the Faculty.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajienka (arrowed) flanked by Dean, Prof. Ndimele, Principal Officers and other members of the Elders' Council

STOP PRESS

WELLS MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Wells Mountain Foundation, a charitable organization based in Bristol, Vermont, has announced its 2013 Scholarship Scheme to support a number of students in pursuit of various educational objectives. Application for the Scheme which covers tuition, books and supplies and some personal expenses, would end on 4th March, 2013. Interested applicants should contact the Exchange and Linkages Programmes Unit at the International Student's Centre, University Park for more information.

Contact: Director, Exchange and Linkages Programmes Unit (ELPU)

SSLT INDUCTION

School Of Science Laboratory Technology inducts the 3rd Batch of Graduates on Tuesday, 29th January, 2013 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Time is 9.00am.

Contact: Dean, SSLT, Prof Anthony Ataga

OUR ERROR

On page 4 of our last edition, we inadvertently wrote that the pioneer Provost of College of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konya is of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology. She is actually of the Department of Animal & Environmental Biology. The error is highly regretted.

Famous Russian dissident, Aleksandre Solzhenitsyn once wrote a thought-provoking book titled: *The Cancer Ward*. In that shattering book, Mr Solzhenitsyn declared: "There can be no greater affliction than for a doctor to suffer an affliction in his area of specialization". Late Eze (Professor) Edwin Nsitem Elechi, graphically fits into this description as he actually suffered a cerebrovascular accident on 13th August, 2005 in the line of duty. As one of his anguished kinsmen and acolytes lamented in a moving tribute, "I now know that a saviour of life cannot save his own life when the appointed time comes". How else do we explain a situational irony in which an accomplished Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon gradually succumbed to an affliction in his area of expertise? He was not the first in this category.

Following a well-grounded foundational education in Nigeria between 1957 and 1964, young Edwin taught briefly in his *Alma Mater*, Western Ahoada County High School, before gaining admission into the premier University of Ibadan in 1965 to study Medicine. Even when the Nigerian Civil War interrupted his studies, Edwin temporarily

By Williams Wodi

preoccupied himself with paramedical support services at the County Hospital, Elele as the drums of war roared in the distance.

Cut off in the emergent Republic of Biafra, the restless Medical Student and his three other UI peers disappeared through dangerous forest paths en route Ibadan in November, 1967 to continue their studies—a feat that prompted famous Playwright Elechi Amadi to write his intrepid play titled: *"The Road to Ibadan"* which celebrated their bizarre exploits through the swamps of the Niger Delta—just to obtain a degree. On graduation in 1970, the young Edwin became the first Medical Doctor in Ndele and second in the entire Ikwere land.

It was during his Internship at Eku Baptist Hospital in Delta State that he had the privilege of certifying famous Highlife musical maestro Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson dead following a road accident. After a brief stint with the Rivers State Government between 1971 and 1972, the then Dr Elechi proceeded to Howard University in the United States, where he engaged in a straight Surgical Internship from 1972 to 1973; a

Senior Lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts and Design, Dr Edem Peters, was among Ceramists that exhibited their works at a joint exhibition, tagged: "Devon Encounter", at the

By Humphrey Ogu

Barn Pottery, Moretonhampstead, Devon, United Kingdom, late last year.

Speaking with *UNIORT Weekly*, Peters, said that other participants, at the exhibition, included six professional

Ceramists drawn from different parts of the UK, and a German, adding that they were joined by an English medical doctor and Chinese engineer.

"We exhibited works that reflected our different cultures, specifically in ceramics. My works have to do with African techniques and shapes," Dr Peters said, adding that he produced most of the works exhibited there. He noted that the event afforded him an opportunity to visit other parts of the country to see arts exhibitions. "I was also invited to other exhibitions after the Moretonhampstead event," he noted.

On how he got to participate in the exhibition, Peters said: "There was an advertisement inviting artists from different parts of the world and I was fortunate to be among those accepted, thereby becoming the

UNIORT Lecturer Takes Nigerian Arts To UK



Dr Peters and some of his works

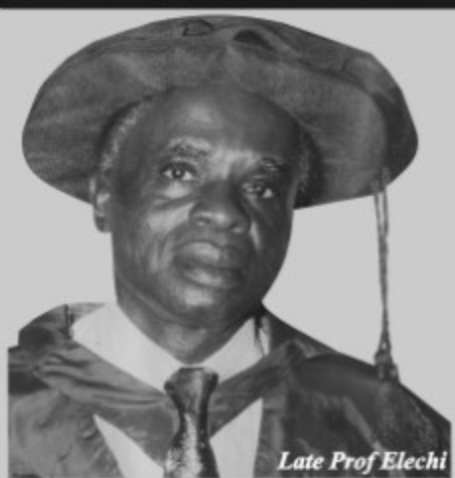
second Nigerian to participate in the exhibition," disclosing that a UK-based Nigerian participated in the exhibition two years ago.

It would be recalled that Dr Peters did an exhibition at the National Gallery of Arts Abuja in 2011. At the exhibition, he showcased the use of available raw materials, especially clay in the production of ceramics, which could be used for electrical installations, rockets, computer chips, among others.

He advised youths to avail themselves of the abundant raw materials and the economic viability of ceramics to take up careers in the field, stating that it could provide jobs for many unemployed youths.

Prof Elechi

A Doctor Of Many Firsts



Late Prof Elechi

Medicine in 1995 and held the Fellowship of many distinguished medical bodies in and outside Nigeria. He served both the University and Teaching Hospital in numerous capacities, including holding the position of Acting Provost of College of Health Sciences between 1995 and 1996 and Dean of the then School of Graduate Studies from then on to 1998. At his Inaugural Lecture, Professor Elechi told his audience that "There is no room for rehearsals in my theatre"—meaning that young doctors and support staff must come ready to perform surgery. He refused to relapse into the comfort zone of self-satisfied complacency. Elechi's recipe for success is that passion should pursue excellence in everything a man sets his mind on. He was confident, consistent and enjoyed his work to the admiration of many.

Professor Elechi was not just addicted to the scalpel, stethoscope and lab coat; he lived an exemplary Christian life, rising to the hallowed rank of a Knight of the Anglican Communion. In fact, St Peter's Church, Omuofe, enjoyed his unlimited patronage until his painful death on 7th December, 2012—four weeks after celebrating his 70th birthday. In the traditional setting, Professor Elechi proved that Western education was not a barrier to a fulfilled communal life. He was installed the *Eze Nwe Ehi III* of Omuofe in March, 1997. He was also a strong believer and contributor to numerous social causes in Ikwere land, Rivers State and Nigeria.

Here was a thoroughly educated surgeon and intellectual, who still found a place for the dark, sometimes terrifying and apocalyptic cosmological world view of his people. He was at home with secular humanists, as he was with the scare tactics of fundamentalist messianic warriors, who preach a bizarre spiritual Darwinism on their crusade grounds.

Marcus Aurelius may have inadvertently summarized the life and times of Eze (Professor) Edwin Nsitem Elechi, when he wrote: "Let your delight and refreshment be to pass from one service to the community to another, with God ever in mind". A great man of many firsts indeed!

Cont'd from p1

Ikoli Harcourt Whyte and Adams Fiberesima, were born in this part of the world. They had a mission to make people happy and they did it very well to popular acclaim". He commended the Department of Music and Professor Onyee Nwankpa for their efforts in promoting the image of the University through music within so short a period of coming into existence, revealing the intention of his administration to make the University a Centre of Excellence in indigenous music.

Also speaking, 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University and art enthusiast, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, who lauded the innovation and creativity exhibited by late Rex Lawson in his playing days, said that it was such innovation for which a University should be known. He commended the Vice-Chancellor, for his abiding interest in promoting the Arts, despite his background as a Petroleum Engineer.

In their separate speeches, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Director, Institute of Education and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Joseph Okoh, Chair Occupant, Harcourt Whyte Chair in Choral Music, Dr Kanu Achinevu, as well as Professor Omolara Ogundipe remembered with nostalgia the soothing effects of Rex Lawson's in the 1960s which cut across all ages grades, urging the younger generation of musicians and scholars to pay more attention to masters of the art, who had very little training in music, but still produced enduring works.

Earlier in his speech, Chairman of the event and Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimie, who described the Faculty as the heart-beat of the University said that the late Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson was the hero of highlife music, whose peculiar style was widely accepted in Nigeria and beyond. He said, "Nothing

Rex Lawson Comes Alive In UNIPORT



V-C, Prof Ajenka and his wife Mercy, with other guests on the dance floor

revolutionary has happened in highlife music beyond what Lawson and his talented colleagues did in those good old days. This shows that he will remain a legend and hero of highlife music".

In his welcome address, the Head, Department of Music, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, who said that "the gathering was not to re-visit the circumstances surrounding the untimely death of Rex Lawson, but to accentuate it and propagate it to our people, especially the Kalabari and Niger Delta people, that we Nigerians, remember, recognize, love and value our hero and legend, the king of highlife music, 42 years after his demise". Professor Nwankpa also disclosed plans to organize the Rex Lawson Garden City International Highlife Festival in July, 2013, calling on persons with information or artefacts on Rex Lawson to bring same to the attention of Department to enable it set up a befitting highlife

museum to celebrate his achievements.

In a chat with *UNIPORT Weekly*, King Sunny Brown described his late band leader as a comrade and friend, adding that his sudden death was a big blow to highlife music. The ace trumpeter regretted that a lot of people did not value Rex Lawson's music until after his demise in 1971. He said that although highlife music is still alive, radio and television stations no longer pay much attention to such genre of music in Nigeria, comparing it with Ghana, where highlife music is given quality air time. He disclosed his intention to establish the KSB Foundation for grooming young musicians in highlife music.

In his contribution, Chief Odili, who said that he had been playing the Konga for 64 years, said that Rex Lawson was a talented musician, who did not live long to make people happy through his abundant talent.

A Word For Unique Students

By Humphrey Ogu

It is yet a new academic year! Everyone knows it is. But only a few students know that every new academic year comes with new challenges and new responsibilities. Whereas serious-minded students see it as a time to strive to improve on their academic performance or sustain their excellent performance, average students merely see it as a time to move to the next class. To the not-very-serious ones, it is simple a time to show the world that they are now big boys and girls. It is therefore time to live an independent life.

"I'm now in final year. I can take care of myself, jive around town, go to night clubs, or anywhere, do whatever I want with my life. It's my own life, after all. Why should I die, reading? Why shouldn't I have fun?" These are some of the attitudes exhibited by some students, who erroneously believe that they are now atop the world.

Sadly, the story is not different among some of the new intakes, who are yet to understand the university environment. For some, after several

years of struggling—yes, struggling to secure admission into the university, one would expect the few, who scaled through to buckle up and face their studies seriously. But this is hardly so. To them, however, being in the university is not just an end, but a phenomenal achievement.

Most students don't attach any importance to their academics. They loaf around on Campus, chattering, playing games on phones, computers, ipad, among others. They allow themselves to be blown about by the wind of information technology, especially, chatting on Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.

Blackberry phones have not only become the latest fad among students, they are also fast becoming a status symbol. Amongst students, possession of a Blackberry phone means civilization, or being up-to-date. This constitutes a major source of distraction for students, resulting in poor academic

performance or rather inadequate academic experience.

Everyone is different. That some students decide to squander their time on frivolities doesn't make it a norm. You are unique. You can excel where others fail. It is a matter of style. That you failed to realize your dreams last year doesn't mean you can't set and attain your goals this year. Great men are not those who play to the gallery; they are not those who follow the crowd. Learn to be unique—be a truly unique student of UNIPORT.

"Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower", said Steve Jobs. You can take a bold step, hold the torch, blaze a trail and lead the way or wait for others to do everything and follow their footsteps. Be who or what you want to be: a great man or woman, leader or follower; a consumer or a producer....

For every student, the new academic year should be a time to take stock of their academic achievement in the previous session. It provides a new opportunity for students that didn't do well to put their acts together and improve on their performances, through enhanced academic commitment. It also provides those with impressive academic record to consolidate on their achievements.

Whatever category you belong to as a student, it is not too late to take a bold step towards your dream destination. The time to initiate the move is now. Whether to make the best use of your time at university and emerge as very productive members of society or to become a graduate only in name is a matter of choice. After all, it is a free world, as they say.

What's your dream for the new academic year? Are you yearning for academic excellence? Do you wish to improve on your academic achievement? Whatever your aspirations, you can achieve what you want to achieve. But you have to work hard. Failure or success is always a choice. The only difference is the approach.

So fasten your seatbelt! It's time to take off. Remember, you can actualize all your dreams. Happy New Academic Year!



Cross-section of students receiving Lectures

GUIDEPOST

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor Chidi Ibe, granted one year Sabbatical Appointment in the Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science & Information Technology, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, as Professor, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Gabriel Ihejirika, granted one year Sabbatical Appointment in the Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Science, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, as Senior Lecturer, effective on assumption of duty.

APPOINTMENT

Mr A. J. Princewill, Bursary Department, appointed Director, University Data Centre.

Dr (Mrs) O. M. Etebu, Department of Mechanical Engineering, appointed Assistant Director, Institute for Engineering Technology and Innovation Management.

Professor Nkem Okoh, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed Head, Department of English Studies.

Professor Onyee Nwankpa, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, appointed Chair Occupant, Rex Lawson Chair of Music.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Alice Nte, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, proceeded on Sabbatical Appointment with Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), effective 1st November, 2012 to 31st October, 2013.

Professor Onyemaechi Udumakwu, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, proceeded on 12-Month Sabbatical Appointment with the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, effective 1st January 2013 to 30th December, 2013.

Dr Martins Adesope, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, proceeded on 12-month Sabbatical Appointment with Michael Opara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Umuahia, Abia State.

Dr Andrew Okinedo, Department of Fine Arts & Design, Faculty of Humanities, proceeded on 12-month Sabbatical Appointment with Imo State University Owerri, Imo State, effective 1st December, 2012 to 30th November, 2013.

Dr Peter Edem, Department of Fine Arts & Design, Faculty of Humanities, proceeded on 12-month Sabbatical Appointment with Cross River State University of Technology, Calabar, Cross River State, effective 1st December, 2012 to 30th November, 2013.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Michael Oti, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 28th August, 2012 to 27th August, 2013.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Mr Charles Uguze, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science, confirmed Staff, effective 1st July, 2012.

Mrs Amaka Awanyie, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, confirmed Staff, effective 26th June, 2010.

Dr Kaladada Korubo, Department of Haematology / Immunology, Blood Transfusion, College of Health Sciences, confirmed Staff, effective 2nd November, 2010.

Dr Sunday Eyearu, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, confirmed Staff, effective 4th November, 2010.

CHANGE OF NAME

Mrs Mercy Adeniji. Former Miss Mercy Don-Baridam of the Information Publication and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit, now wishes to be known and addressed as Mrs Mercy Adeniji. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

PASSAGE MRS LOVE MENUNWO ERIM

The death has been announced of Mrs Love Menunwo Erim. Until her demise, she was a Staff of the University deployed to the Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Science, College of Health Sciences. Erim, who died on 28th November, 2012, was buried on Friday, 21st December, 2012, in her hometown, Rumuodo, Rumuekini, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.



Late Erim



Provost, College of Graduate Studies, Prof Konya, flanked by Deans of Graduate Schools, Profs Ifeancha (right), Awiri (left) and other staff of the University

Ogoni Community Honours Konya As First Female Professor

By Otiakor Samuel

As the first female Professor in Ogoni Ethnic Nationality and in appreciation of her numerous contributions towards the development of Kaani-Babbe Community in particular and Ogoni Kingdom in general, the *Dum Me I Dum Association* in conjunction with all segments of the Community, has honoured erudite Scholar and astute Administrator, Professor Roseline Konya for distinguishing herself in academics and bringing honour to the Community and Ogoni.

In his address at a Thanksgiving/ Reception held last December in the Community, President of the Association, Mr Ledee DeeBari, praised Professor Konya, who is currently Provost, College of Graduate Studies, for her numerous services to the Community, Rivers State, Nigeria and humanity.

"Dame Prof (Mrs) Roseline Konya is the first female Professor in Ogoni as a whole and the only Professor in Kaani Babbe Community as at today. She and her late husband, Mr Barido Konya, were able to use their goodwill to install electricity in Kaani Babbe. The only road network that traverses Kaani Babbe Community today could be traced to this family," the President disclosed, recalling that she constructed a 30,000 litre water project for the Community in 2008.

"She also instituted an Annual Football

Tournament for youths in Babbe District in Ogoni land. During a colourful and memorial service organized in her husband's memory in Kaani Babbe, a new church building for the Methodist Church of Nigeria stands out today as part of her community development efforts," Mr DeeBari noted, recalling that Professor Konya headed the Ogoni Negotiation Committee (ONC) that engaged Shell Petroleum Development Company in 1997 which brought about the much valued tarred road.

In her response, a visibly-delighted Professor Konya, who had declined earlier moves for the reception, thanked the Community for the honour, pledging to continue to do her best for the services of God and humanity. It would be recalled that Professor Konya, who was former Commissioner of Environment and Commerce and Industry in Rivers State, was elevated to the professoriate with effect from 8th December, 2003. She was also the first and only female Chairman of the Civil Service Commission in Rivers State.

Highpoint of the event was the presentation of a merit award for her pioneering leadership role in the development of Kaani-Babbe Community and academic excellence, provision of a lamp, signifying light in the Community, a hoe for farming, calabash full of water and other items to the honoree, who had also earned over 50 awards and prizes to show for her sustained commitment to community and human capacity development.

Department Of Geography And Environmental Management WEATHER OBSERVATORY

Weather Forecast For Port Harcourt And Surrounding Areas For Sunday, January 20 – Saturday, January 26, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNSET AND SUNRISE (AM) (PM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 20 JAN, 2013	36.7 25.0	56	NE	11.2	6:46 6:40	Strong thunderstorm. Morning cloud. Very hot day expected.
MONDAY 21 JAN, 2013	33.9 25.6	66	NE	8.1	6:47 6:40	Thunderstorm expected. More sun than cloud. Hot day expected. Possibility of rain is 70%.
TUESDAY 22 JAN, 2013	34.4 25.4	65	NE	-	6:47 6:40	Decreasing cloudiness. Hot day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 23 JAN, 2013	34.4 25.5	56	NE	-	6:47 6:41	More sun than cloud. Hot day expected.
THURSDAY 24 JAN, 2013	35.0 25.5	60	NE	-	6:47 6:41	More cloud than sun. Hot day expected.
FRIDAY 25 JAN, 2013	34.4 26.1	59	NE	2.5	6:47 6:41	Early thunderstorm predicted. Partly sunny and hot day anticipated. It may rain very lightly.
SATURDAY 26 JAN, 2013	33.9 26.1	54	NE	2.3	6:47 6:42	Thunderstorm expected early. Partly sunny and hot day expected.

VREMUDIA WEKPE
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

PROF. SAMUEL B. AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)



Rep of V-C and DV-C (R&D), Prof Rene Willie-Abbey, exchanging pleasantries with Director, Special Duties in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, Prof Matthew Wegwu (right) and a Facilitator of the training

UNI^{PORT} Trains Host Communities On Agro-Biz

The University of Port Harcourt organized a four-day training programme on agro-business ventures for women and youths of its Host Communities. The training was in line with the vision of the present Administration to grow alongside the communities. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the programme as shown below:



Prof Willie-Abbey presenting Vice-Chancellor's Address



Guests rise for the UNI^{PORT} Anthem



Director of Special Duties, Prof Wegwu, addressing participants



Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Love Akonye, presenting her Address



A Facilitator training participants during one of the sessions



A Resource Person demonstrating to the trainees



A Lecturer in the Faculty of Agriculture training participants



Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Akonye, presenting her Address



Some of the participants during the training



Some traditional leaders from the Host Communities at the training



Representative of U & C Microfinance Bank at one of the training sessions



One of the guests during the training