



UDPS Graduates Pupils, As Administrator Calls For Alumni Support

In a bid to support on-going developmental efforts at the University of Port Harcourt Demonstration Primary School, Administrator of the School, Dr Ibrinke Rosemani has called for the formation of an Alumni Association that would consolidate on the support of the University Management, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

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Side Bar

Screening Exercise for Post-UTME candidates commences today with Faculty of Management Sciences. Details next week. -Editor



UniPort Weekly

Vol. 19, Edition 192

August 4 - August 11, 2014

ISSN: 1850-1859

For Information and Enlightenment

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

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108 Inaugural

By Humphrey Ogu

Professor of Neuropsychiatry in the University, Princewill Stanley, has warned against the menace of alcohol misuse and other forms of drug abuse in society, calling for concerted efforts towards checking the negative trend that portends grave threat to the lives of Nigerians—especially the youths, who are most

Stanley Outlines Dangers Of Alcohol Abuse

vulnerable to substance abuse.

Delivering the 108th Inaugural Lecture titled: "Who Hath Woe? Who Hath Sorrow? Who Hath Contention? A Chronicle of the Consequences of Alcohol Misuse and Interventions," at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday, Professor Stanley, who is of the Department of Mental Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, noted that alcohol misuse is the gateway to advanced substance abuse,

which has dire consequences on its victims and society in general.

Stanley, who currently serves as a Focal Point for training for the national programme on substance abuse organised under the auspices of the United Nations Office for Drug and Related Crimes (UNODC), listed increased risk of cancer, pancreatic, liver and

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Developing Interpersonal Relationships In Workplace

By Justina Yakubu

An interpersonal relationship is the nature of interaction that occurs between two or more people. People in an interpersonal relationship may interact overtly, covertly, face-to-face or even anonymously. Interpersonal relationships occur between people who feel each other's explicit or implicit physical or emotional needs in some way.

Individuals need to get along with each other for a positive ambience and healthy interpersonal relationship in the workplace. It is essential for individuals to trust each other anywhere they may find themselves. Everyone needs people around to discuss and attain better solutions. Trust forms the foundation for effective interpersonal relationship. If you have worked successfully for more than a couple of years, you might have learned and mastered much of the art of how to deal with people at work. Maybe you have not yet figured out how to deal with your colleagues especially the difficult ones, but you may know how to deal with everyday people.

The interpersonal relationships that you form at work are key to your career and job success. If you get along harmoniously with your colleagues in the office, these positive interpersonal relationships will fuel your work achievement, happiness, success and make work more fun and inspiring. It is necessary for personnel to develop effective interpersonal relationships with one another. No matter your job description, dealing

with people effectively is a must for success; thus, dealing with people is both a joy and a challenge. It is important for employees to stay positive at the workplace. Do not always find faults in your fellow workers. Remember, no one on this earth is perfect. No matter how bad the other individual is, one needs to maintain the decorum of the office. The best way is to ignore the one you do not like, rather than indulging in conflicts and

appreciated in front of others. Those who are not performing up to expectation should be asked to pull up their socks next time, irrespective of the relation they share with you or with the senior management. One of your team members can be your best friend, but when it comes to results and targets, even he or she should not be spared. Work should never be mixed with personal relationship.

Backbiting, leg pulling, criticism are the biggest reasons of displeasure among employees. We should learn to be straightforward and reliable. If you feel your colleague is doing something wrong, tell him to his face, rather than discussing with others. Making fun of others is unprofessional. Be trustworthy, sincere and honest.

Don't show unnecessary attitude to people around. You might be heading a particular department, but that does not mean you should be rude to people around you. Never be bossy; leave your ego behind the moment you step into your office. People with good interpersonal skills are usually perceived as optimistic, calm, confident and charismatic. Make sure you do not hurt people. Be self-controlled and never insult anyone intentionally. A smile can actually make a difference. Effective relationships create success and satisfaction on the job. Trust is the cornerstone when dealing with people who are interdependent.

*Yakubu is on the staff of College of Graduate Studies

If you get along harmoniously with your colleagues in the office, these positive interpersonal relationships will fuel your work achievement, happiness, success and make work more fun and inspiring. It is necessary for personnel to develop effective interpersonal relationships with one another.

spoiling relationship. Conflicts turn friends into foes.

Be a little more adjusting: things can't always be the way you like. Listen to others and consider their point of view as well. Don't see your personal interests always.

You never know when someone comes up with a brilliant idea. Ignoring people leads to frustration and eventually spoils relationships in the workplace. Listen to all. Giving importance to few and sidelining others create problems among employees. Such things de-motivate employees to give their best, rather, they start treating office and work as a burden.

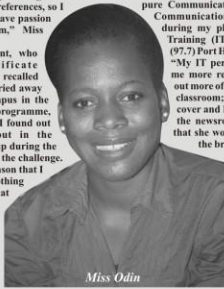
Employees performing well should be

STUDENT WORLD

"I have always wanted to be a Journalist right from my Primary School days; this is because I like casting news during programmes in my school. However, while in Secondary School, the thought of reading Law was competing with my earlier dream course, but I found out that I did not like reading a lot as Lawyers would do to get enough cases as judicial precedence for references, so I chose the one course I have passion for—that is Journalism," Miss Odin recounted.

The Final Year Student, who started as a Certificate Programme Candidate, recalled how she was almost carried away by distractions on Campus in the First Semester of the programme, disclosing that: "When I found out that I almost lost out in the programme, I buckled up during the Second Semester to face the challenge. Academics is the sole reason that I am on Campus and nothing else; it was important that I quickly came to that realization and I have not looked back ever since."

Odin expressed satisfaction with her course of study and the Institution she chose for



Miss Odin

Journalism Is My Dream Profession ~Odin

Miss Ogheneruese Odin is a Final Year Student of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, who realized her burning desire to study Journalism in the University for the 2010/2011 academic session. She shared her experience with our Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL.

her study, stating that "the combination of Linguistics and Communication Studies has placed me at an advantage over my colleagues in pure Communication Studies and Mass

Communication, which was tested during my placement on Industrial Training (IT) at Family Love FM (97.7) Port Harcourt.

"My IT period exposed and made me more responsible and brought out more of what I was taught in the classroom; I was given beats to cover and I learnt a lot working in the newsroom," she said, adding that she would like to specialize in the broadcast media since she

enjoys talking to and addressing audiences. On how she would like to impact on society, Miss Odin disclosed plans to run programmes to educate teenagers to make right decisions that would shape their future, adding that singing gospel

music is her hobby.

On her research interest, she said: "I will be carrying out a research on Audience Perception of Programmes on Radio: A Study of Family Love FM (97.7) Port Harcourt for my Undergraduate Project, in which I will be looking at how the audience views programmes, using my place of IT as a case study."

Her guiding philosophy is to choose friends among those who share her worldview, respect God and humanity. Odin advised Management of the University to strengthen its relationship with students, arguing that the present Management-Student relationship needs to be more mutual.

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Speaking at the End-of-Year activities and Valedictory Service to mark the graduation of the 2013/2014 set, last Friday at the Edithini Banigo Auditorium, University Park, Dr Kaseemai urged the ex-pupils to embark on a wholistic assessment of the School with a view to providing new facilities that would support the growth of the Institution. Recounting the academic strides recorded in the 2013/2014 Academic Year, the Administrator urged the graduates to represent their *Alma Mater* positively at all times as they complete their studies.

Commending the teachers for the quality of selfless service rendered to the School since its inception, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, noted that the School has improved over the years given the level of commitment and dedication to duty displayed by staff, promising that every need of the UDPS will be met to ensure that it gets to an enviable standard as envisaged by the founding fathers. "Let us continue with the passion that we have for our dear UDPS, because one day from amongst the graduating pupils may emerge leaders of the University, State and Country", calling on all stakeholders in the affairs of the School to continue in their support to move UDPS to greater height.

In her remarks, Acting Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation and Chairman of the event, Dr Nyezi Odu, described education as a pre-requisite to human development that should be supported by all stakeholders. She thanked the School Management for mentoring the pupils well. "This School has been known for excellence for decades and has produced great men and women that we are very proud of. It is our hope that it would continue to give direction to the pupils who are the true inheritors of the nation's leadership legacy," she remarked.

UDPS Graduates Pupils

Chairman, UDPS Board of Governors, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, who urged parents to show more commitment in the affairs of the School, noted that all stakeholders had crucial roles to play in ensuring that the School gets better. Representative of the graduating class, Miss Jane Omega, who commended the University Governing Council for providing the pupils a

conducive environment for studies, thanked the UDPS Management for also providing them with quality education.

Highpoints of the event included award of prizes to best Graduating Pupils drawn from all classes and presentation of trophies to the School by the Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe.



Pupils of UDPS at the event

Osuji Speaks On Shell Research Experience

Professor Julian Osuji of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences is a research enthusiast. Osuji recently returned from a one year Sabbatical Leave at the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC). What did he do there? He provided answers to this and other questions in this interview with Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU

"Working in Shell was a very great experience. It exposed me to the industrial work environment and the possible connection between the industry and the academic environment," Osuji told our Correspondent.

"I was selected to do my Sabbatical Leave at SPDC because I was able to convince the Company that I have enough knowledge base on environmental issues to their project during the selection processes," he recalled, disclosing: "I wanted to establish for Shell a diagnostic feature of the environment

that could help characterise the biodiversity of oil exploration in locations that would help in project planning.

"For instance, if the biodiversity of certain areas captured by satellite imaging is properly interpreted, the information would highlight ecologically-sensitive areas that could be avoided during oil exploration processes, thereby preventing genetic erosion and further threat to endangered species," he explained, regretting that due to militancy in the region, Shell had to cut down on field trips to reduce threats to human lives.

Osuji, who noted that his first six months in the SPDC was used for the standardisation of biodiversity reporting format, said: "I also contributed in reviewing the report of biodiversity project carried out prior to my joining Shell on Sabbatical Leave," adding that his activity in the last six months of his stay at the Shell Nigerian Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCO), a member of SPDC included a post-impact assessment of FPSO, which is about 120km off the coast of the Niger Delta.

He explained that SNEPCO has involved in deep offshore

exploration and production and control of Bonga, FPSO, where there was oil pollution before he joined the Company.

"During the study tour, I was able to establish a database on some seabed biodiversity. The work was improved upon when I did Environmental Impact Assessment Revalidation in the same area. The study tour generated a lot of information for the Company," Osuji said.

On his current research focus, Osuji disclosed that he is working on molecular engineering of photosynthesis, focussing on molecular genetics of food crops to help combat food insufficiency in Nigeria by enhancing the productivity of selected crops.

"I'm interested in tuber crops such as yam, cassava and coco-yam. These are high energy crops that store energy as food. The project being planned is targeted at modifying the method and pathway of photosynthesis from a C3 to C4 pathway," he pointed out, explaining that C4 plants consume more carbon-dioxide than C3 plants.

"If there is success in converting the plants from C3 to C4, the resultant plant will extract more carbon-dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby producing more food. This obviously addresses the themes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in terms of boosting food production, and achieving reduction of global warming," Osuji disclosed, adding that the research could also be applied to bio-energy research.



Prof Osuji

V-C Restates UniPort's Commitment To PH Book Festival Slated For October

By Otokor Samuel

Ahead of the forthcoming edition of the Port Harcourt Book Festival slated for October, 2014, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has restated the commitment of the University of Port Harcourt to providing requisite logistic support towards successful hosting of the seventh edition of the Festival.

Professor Ajienka gave the assurance when the Director of Rainbow Book Club and Festival Director, Mrs. Kolo Kalango, paid him a courtesy visit to seek collaboration ahead of the event, promising that the University would make its abundant intellectual resources available to ensure a high profile event that would attract full participation of staff and students of the University.

"We thank you for sustaining the partnership over the past seven years; we cherish the opportunity and we are very willing to continue with it to ensure that Port Harcourt truly assumes the profile of a book city, long after its current status as World Book Capital," the Vice-Chancellor said.

"The University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, who currently chairs the University's Book Festival Committee with the assistance of the University Public Relations Officer, Williams



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (3rd right) flanked by Prof. Okoh (2nd right), Mrs. Kalango (3rd left) and other Senior Officers of the University and a Staff of Rainbow Club

Wodi, would power all the Campus activities aimed at keeping the University active throughout the reign of Port Harcourt as World Book Capital. Things must be seen to be happening all the time in and around the city to justify its historic status as World Book Capital," he added.

Speaking earlier, Mrs. Kalango thanked the University for sustaining the partnership through its valued intellectual input and usual hosting of the opening ceremony, praising the Vice-Chancellor for his love for the arts, which, she noted, manifested in the establishment of the Institute of Arts and Culture and appointment of Writers-in-Residence. She disclosed that *Rainbow Book Club* recently entered into a partnership with the Institute of Arts and Culture for the celebration of the arts as part of the ongoing

activities for the Port Harcourt World Book Capital 2014 project.

Mrs. Kalango promised that activities lined up to mark the upcoming seventh edition of the Festival

and the areas where the University would feature prominently would be made public in due course, soliciting maximum co-operation from all stakeholders to organize another successful edition of the widely-acknowledged Festival in the city and the University.

Speaking separately, University Librarian, Dr. Nwodo, Director of the Institute of Arts and Culture, Professor Julie Okoh, Head of Department of English Studies, Professor Nkem Okoh and Deputy Registrar (Information), Wodi, pledged commitment to the collaborative efforts aimed at encouraging creativity and hard work among talented youths, adding that the collaboration promises to open up new vistas for more partnerships between the University and organisers of the Port Harcourt Book Festival.

UMat Commends Exchange Programme With UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

Participants of the 5th Batch of exchange students from the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Ghana, have commended the efforts of authorities of the University of Port Harcourt in enriching their knowledge in Petroleum Engineering Studies.

They made the commendation during a Farewell Cocktail held in their honour at the Seminar Room of the International Students' Centre, University Park, penultimate Friday.

In her speech to mark the end of the programme, Leader of the delegation and Head of Department of Petroleum Engineering, UMaT, Dr. Grace Ofori-Sarpomg, said that they had benefited immensely from the two-week facility tour of the University, adding that the intensive exercise provided the students a rare opportunity to see the practical side of what they were taught in the classroom back home. She said that the programme was invaluable to the building of a fruitful career in the oil and gas industry.

"As you can see from our faces, we are very excited for participating in the intensive programme. We were

taken through lectures and field trips. There are so many things that we have seen and learnt and we are very happy. The industrial trips were so wonderful and as the students return to Ghana, they will be able to link things up and better understand what they are being taught on the subject," she said, expressing hope that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions would be renewed to pave way for the arrival of the 6th batch of students.

"Our trip to Nigeria makes the study of Petroleum Engineering in Ghana a unique one and we would want this understanding to continue. When I get back to our University, I shall impress it on our Vice-Chancellor to renew the agreement for the benefit of the students and their lecturers," a visibly excited Dr. Sarpomg stated.

In their separate speeches, some of the students, Ashikwei Desmond, Sanfo Nuawiyi, Mahud Abdulhali Ghali, Apedum Samuel and Nguesson Wawadi Rolande, described their experience as both exciting and instructive. They expressed gratitude to authorities of both institutions for the partnership, promising to translate their experience into practical learning manual to enrich their studies back home.

"We want to thank the authorities of both institutions for the opportunity given us to gain valuable experience during this programme. We came here very curious of what to expect and to our greatest surprise, we received more than what we bargained for. In particular, the entrepreneurship class was so beneficial to us that we are beginning to think differently," they stated.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor of UniPort, Professor Joseph Ajienka, represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who said that the University of Port Harcourt has a history of uniqueness, described the Institution as the hub of petroleum training in Africa.

"Here in the University, we have very qualified academics, who are beginning to translate their knowledge into capital by providing solutions to human problems. Almost every academic staff in the Department of Petroleum Engineering is utilized optimally," he told the guests, advising the students to make use of the experience they acquired during the course of the programme as they go back to continue their studies in Ghana.

Also speaking, Coordinator of the Programme, Dr. Boniface Orij, commended all those who were instrumental to the success of the programme, expressing hope that the field trips had enriched the experience of the visiting students.

In his speech, Director of the Exchange and Linkages Programme Unit, Professor John Otaigbe, remarked that the programme had been beneficial to both institutions, hoping that the partnership would continue, despite the fact that the 5th batch represented the last set of students covered by the current agreement.



DV-C (Admin), Prof. Nduka (arrowed), some staff of the University, Lecturers and students of UMaT

400th Senate

Senate Adopts Strategic Plan Document, Elects SSDC Rep

By Obinna Nwodin

Senate of the University of Port Harcourt has adopted the second Strategic Plan Document covering 2014-2019 at its 400th Meeting. Adoption of the document was sequel to a moving presentation made on the floor of Senate on behalf of other Members of the Strategic Planning Committee by its Chairman, Dr Nguzi Odu, last Wednesday. Senate also elected Professor Onyive Nwankpa as its representative on the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee (SSDC). On a motion moved by Professor Augustus Gbosi and supported by Professor Benjamin Ekeazu, Professor Nwankpa was unanimously elected to represent Senate on the Committee.

Presenting the Report of the Strategic Planning Committee, Dr Odu, who noted that the document was a medium term Strategic Plan, said that its content was important due to the emergent changes in the University's operational environment, as well as providing the Institution a road map aimed at achieving its vision. She said that the revised Plan was anchored on the core values of sustaining excellence in teaching, research and public engagement; rewarding and recognizing merit, creativity and innovation; embracing differences and workplace diversity; promoting cross-cultural and cross-national understanding, amongst others, adding that the goals of the Plan were to enhance university governance/financial management; excellence in teaching, learning and research; upgrading of infrastructure and utilities, as well as strengthening and engaging the University with stakeholders.

According to her, excellence in teaching, learning and research objectives implied massive improvements in the quality of teaching, learning and research; international outlook of the University; expansion of facilities for teaching and research to meet global best practices; upgrading of existing library IT services in the University, as well as transforming the Institution into a Centre of Excellence in Niger Delta Studies. She said that the new Plan also made provision for an alternative resource mobilization for the University to



Senate in session

secure presently available landmass and develop it, as well as seek alternative power supply sources to run the activities of the University.

Speaking after the presentation, which was applauded by several respondents, Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of Senate, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who described the new Strategic Plan Document as very detailed and important, thanked Members of the Committee for their concerted effort in developing the document without external assistance. He advised Members of Senate who may have more ideas to add to the document to make same available to the Committee in order to enable it enrich the final Report, urging the Committee to develop an implementation manual that would be made available to staff, students and other stakeholders for them to buy into it.

Also speaking, initiator of the Strategic Plan Document in 2004 and Fifth Vice-Chancellor of the University,

Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, canvassed support for the Document, pointing out that it was a University-wide Document that was not limited to any Department or Faculty. "The ultimate aim of the revised Strategic Plan Document which was initially put together by a Committee headed by Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwelu, was to secure the future of the University in perpetuity. We should all support the initiative to ensure that not drop of revenue from traditional sources does not disrupt academic activities or the future of our University," he advised, promising to do everything in his powers to uphold the interest of UniPort at every given opportunity.

Earlier, Professor Ajienka had briefed Senate on what he described as the precarious financial position of the University due to dwindling statutory allocations from the Federal Government. Professor Ajienka told Senate that the N10 million monthly allocations to the University from the Federal Government came in an irregular basis, pointing out that the yearly overhead expenditure was put at about N100 million. There was difficulty in getting students to pay their approved charges, the Vice-Chancellor told Senate Members, hoping that persuasion from Provosts and Deans would sway the recalcitrant ones amongst them to be able to appreciate the sordid situation as the University gradually settles down. He gave August 15, 2014 as the final deadline stipulated by management for students in all Colleges and Faculties for the full implementation of the agreed fee regime to be paid by all students.

The Vice-Chancellor also informed Senate that a Service Provider was talking with Management to provide power to the University through the installation of gas turbine engines, adding that the University would thereafter pay for the power to be generated as it consumes. He expressed hope that there would be remarkable improvements in the power supply situation before the end of the year.

Professor Ajienka also advised Provosts, Deans and Heads of Department to properly ascertain the felt need for engagement of Adjunct Professors before requesting for such category of staff to be appointed, given the financial position of the University. He said that many Adjunct staff recruited in time for accreditation exercises were yet to be paid due to the poor financial situation of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor also announced the re-election of Professor Henry Alapiki as Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, including new Acting and substantive Heads of Department as introduced by their respective Deans and Provosts on the floor of Senate.

Senate also ratified results executively approved by the Vice-Chancellor, as well as considered and approved other results from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, College of Engineering, Faculties of Management Sciences, Agriculture, and Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, as well as College of Graduate Studies.

Patience Jonathan Centre To Host Confab Sept 22

By Otokor Samuel

The Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GWDS) has announced a two-day National Workshop with the opening ceremony

held for 10:00am on September 22, 2014 at the Centre located in the University Park.

Centre Director, Professor Elizabeth Okeke, who made the disclosure in a Letter dated 25th July, 2014 and forwarded to the Editor of *UniPort Weekly*, revealed the theme of the two-day Workshop as "Gender Equality for Sustainable National Peace and Security."

Professor Okeke stated that a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Lucius Nwosu, is expected to chair the Workshop and present a Keynote Address, while Professor Josephine Odey of the Federal University, Lafia; Manager, Special Programmes of the Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA), Dr Frank Abamu; President, Shell Women's Network, Port Harcourt and Head/RR, UNITAR, Nigeria Office, Dr Lawrence Boms would be Lead Presenters.

"Conceptual and theoretical considerations of gender equality, peace and security; gender equality for sustainable peace and security; methodological issues of achieving peace and security; eliminating domestic violence through gender equality and achieving gender equality in the oil and gas industry for peace and security," are part of the sub-themes of the two-day Workshop.

Interested participants are advised to contact ecoake@yuhoo.com, estarih24@yahoo.com or jericchman@yahoo.com or 08033426466, 08035535870 and 08063514472.



Prof Okeke

Cont'd from p1 Stanley Outlines Dangers Of Alcohol Misuse



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Stanley (6' from right), V-C, Prof Ajenka, some Provosts and Deans

cardiovascular diseases, as some of the consequences of chronic drinking.

"Alcohol misuse disrupts socio-economic, physical and psychological well-being of victims, inspiring both domestic and public violence, poor academic and job performances," Stanley, who is a former Head of the Department of Neuropsychiatry at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), stated, adding that it also makes victims prone to accidents at home, workplace and on the roads, including increased tendency to criminal activities.

The Professor of Neuropsychiatry, however, said that "sensible and controlled drinking could be helpful, while early intervention for affected persons must be aggressive and

rewarding as late intervention is usually futile," stressing that "Early detection of excessive consumption of alcohol misuse is important because treatment of established cases is difficult, particularly when dependence has occurred over time."

He noted that "In chemistry, an alcohol is an organic compound in which the hydroxyl functional group (-OH) is bound to a carbon atom," citing Caputo et al, who defined it as "hydrocarbon derivatives in which one or more hydrogen atoms have been replaced by the hydroxyl (OH) group."

Professor Stanley, who also served as pioneer Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the Niger Delta University, where he had his Sabbatical Leave, observed that alcohol has

psychological, socio-economic and physical consequences, explaining that treatment approach of alcohol misuse include psychological, pharmacological, social, early detection and brief interventions, amongst others. As a way of checking the scourge of alcohol abuse and its attendant consequences, the Inaugural Lecturer stressed the need for the reactivation and strengthening of the

University's anti-drug unit, provision of adequate accommodation for students, appealing for deliberate efforts on the part of government, individuals, staff and student bodies to rid society of the menace. Reacting to the Lecture, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who commended the Inaugural Lecturer for successfully delivering the first Inaugural Lecture from his discipline in the University, also thanked him for his pioneering role in the development of Neuropsychiatry in the University. The Vice-Chancellor also extended his appreciation to all the experts, who contributed to the establishment of the Department of Mental Health and Psychiatry in the University and at UPTH.

What Counts For Academic Productivity In Research Universities?

By Philip Altbach

Publication in high status refereed journals has become a major criterion of academic success in the competitive environment of global higher education. Appearing in internationally circulated journals published in English is especially prestigious. Universities are engaged in a global arms race of publication; and academics are the shock troops of the struggle.

At stake is placement in the global university rankings, the allocation of budgets from governments, national prestige, the ability to attract the best students and professors and a preferred place in the pecking order of academe.

It is also useful to keep in mind that the publications and rankings games are limited to a very small part of the academic system in any country.

Most universities are largely teaching institutions and have a limited, if any, research mission or profile. Only a thousand or so out of the world's 18,000 universities appear

anywhere in the international rankings.

In fact, there needs to be recognition that most universities are teaching institutions and their emphasis should be on teaching and learning – not on improving their research and publication profile.

Productivity for most of any academic system should be the measurement of effective teaching and a careful understanding of what students learn, as well as ensuring that students who enter higher education complete their studies.

Thus, this discussion is limited to a small but important minority of academic institutions.

Measuring research productivity

For research-intensive universities and the academics working in them, the measurement of academic productivity is neither straightforward nor easy.

The key function of teaching quality is seldom measured adequately – in part because the assessment of teaching effectiveness is not easy and there are not widely accepted parameters. The standard metric of asking students for their opinions in each course is widely recognised as inadequate.

Further, current debates emphasise learning as much as teaching – what 'value added' has a student gained as a result of his or her studies. There is little agreement about how to measure either teaching or learning.

Research universities focus mainly on research accomplishment: this is their core mission and what is key to the rankings and the achievement of high global status.

Research productivity is easier to measure than other kinds of academic work – teaching has been mentioned, and community engagement and such important functions as university-industry linkages are also difficult to define and quantify. Thus, research is not only the gold standard, but almost the only semi-reliable variable.

But even measuring research productivity is problematic. The global rankings count journals that are indexed in main global indices – such as the Science Citation Index, Web of Science or Scopus, or their



Prof Julius Okojie, Executive Secretary, NUC

equivalents for other disciplines. These indices list only a small number of journals and tend to favour publications in English – the global scientific language.

The rankings and other national evaluations also count research grants and other awards. Again, this may be appropriate for the hard sciences, but not necessarily for other disciplines. The rankings also do not take into account the vast differences among countries and academic systems in the amounts of funding available.

Neither the indices nor most universities recognise a range of other measures of productivity as well as significant changes in knowledge distribution that have taken place in recent years.

The Science Citation Index, or SCI, and similar indices measure only one kind of academic productivity – that which is most common in the natural and biomedical sciences. In these fields, scientific work is in general reported in peer-reviewed journal articles that are later cited by other scientists.

For example, an up-and-coming African research university, which annually rates each professor according to productivity measures, counts a journal article in a 'top' international journal as double the 'points' granted for a successful book. A professor is expected to 'produce' a specified number of points annually and refereed journal articles yield the most points.

CULLED FROM WORLD UNIVERSITY NEWS

STOP PRESS

Deadline On Payment Of Charges

Returning students for the 2013/2014 session are informed that the initial deadline for payment of charges has been extended to 15th August, 2014. Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim in a statement dated 31st July, 2014 and obtained by this publication, disclosed that affected students are advised to pay all charges and register their courses online. All affected students are to note that a mandatory surcharge of 50% will apply after 15th August, 2014, the statement added.

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Tsumanobelema Orunaboka, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, appointed, *Director, School of General Studies*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 22nd July, 2016.

Professor Henry Alapiki, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, re-appointed *Dean of the Faculty*, effective 25th July, 2014 to 26th July, 2016.

RESUMPTION OF DUTY

Professor Wellington Wotogbe-Weneke, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, resumes duty from *Sabbatical Leave*, effective 1st July, 2014.

CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Mr Isaac Oshene-Boi, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Renewal of Pre-retirement Contract*, effective 16th November, 2014 to 15th November, 2015.

NOTIFICATION OF HIGHER DEGREE

Dr Benjamin Nywesura, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, has completed his Doctoral Degree programme in History and Policy of Education.

CHANGE OF NAME

MR DOMINIC TOCHI DECLAN. Former Mr. Duru Tochi Declan of the Security Unit, Vice Chancellor's Office now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mr. Dominik Tochi Declan. All documents bearing his former name remain valid.

STOP PRESS

New SSC Election For August 5

A new date has been set aside to conduct elections into the Executive Council of the Senior Staff Club, which was postponed on 24th July, 2014. Secretary of the Electoral Committee, Mr Kelsey Mabele, who made the disclosure, added that the new date would now be Tuesday, 5th August, 2014. Accreditation would start at 2:00pm, paving way for the election which would end at 4:00pm. "All bona fide Members of the Club are expected to turn up with their validated Staff Identity Card or current Pay Slip. No Member would be allowed access to the voting venue without producing any of the items listed above. Contestants are required to nominate an Agent who will be at the election venue/collation point," the Committee specified, promising to conduct free, fair and credible election.

CHD Commences MPH Internship Programme August 4

By Mercy Adeniji

The Centre for Health and Development (CHD), University of Port Harcourt, has commenced an Internship Programme in Research Development leading to the award of the Masters degree in Public Health. The programme is to be administered by the College of Graduate Studies (CGS) and Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, in the College of Health Sciences of the University.

A statement made available to *UniPort Weekly* by Acting Director of the Institute, Dr Seye Babatunde, disclosed that the eight-week Internship programme which is to run between Monday, 4th August and Friday, 26th September, 2014 is part of the requirements for the award of the Master of Public Health (MPH) or Masters of

Science (MSc) degree in Public Health in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine of the University of Port Harcourt.

Elaborating in its activities, Dr Babatunde said the Centre for Health and Development (CHD) is a research-based Institute established through a collaborative project between the University of Port Harcourt and the University of Toronto, Canada in 2006 and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada, disclosing that the Centre evolved from several years of international partnerships with institutions such as the Women's Health Group, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (U.K.), Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health, United Kingdom and the Delta Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada.

According to Dr Babatunde, the Internship will avail participants an opportunity to acquire knowledge and develop skills that would assist them to excel in their profession. "Interns will go through an intensive programmes featuring Concept Note (Proposal) Development, Design of Research Study Instruments, Data Collection and Analysis, and Research Paper Writing. It will also feature Hands-on Field Experience and Mentoring and Coaching in Ethical Review Process, Data Entry and Analysis, Seminar Presentation and Journal Publication", he stated, noting that the Interns will be supervised on health-related research that are aligned with the mandate of the Centre by the Director of Research and guided by the Research Officer at the Centre.

The statement further revealed that the primary goal of the programme is to help interns integrate public health concepts into community-based practices to maximise health benefits to relevant stakeholders.



Dr Babatunde

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 03-SATURDAY, AUGUST 09, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE (°C)	REL. HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNSHINE AND BOMBE (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 03 AUG 2014	28.0	22.0	NE	18.7	6:29 10:48	A few showers expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day anticipated.
MONDAY, 04 AUG 2014	27.0	24.0	NE	9.3	6:29 10:47	Rain shower expected. Windy cloudy and mild day forecasted.
TUESDAY 05 AUG 2014	27.0	23.0	NE	5.9	6:29 10:47	Fading shower expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
WEDNESDAY 06 AUG 2014	28.0	22.0	N	-	6:29 10:47	More cloud than anticipated. Warm day expected
THURSDAY 07 AUG 2014	27.0	22.0	NE	-	6:29 10:47	Partly sunny and warm day predicted
FRIDAY 08 AUG 2014	28.0	23.0	E	-	6:29 10:47	More cloud than expected. Warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY 09 AUG 2014	28.0	22.0	N	-	6:29 10:46	More sun than cloud forecasted.

SERVICOM CORNER

Our Complaint/Grievance Address Mechanism

In case of service failure, please contact:

Fiscal Officer
08033400064, 07064018003

Charter Desk Officer
07038650174

Service Improvement Officer
08034211712, 08091988191

Complaint/Complainant Officer
07036492728, 08155303412

Desk Officer
08063358445

e-mail: servicom@uniport.edu.ng

Please, Don't Forget to Always:

- Wear and display your ID card.
- Switch off all electrical appliances when you are not using them.
- Keep our environment clean.

Celebrating Elechi Amadi At 80

The University of Port Harcourt Community and the Rivers State Branch of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) celebrated the 80th Birthday of Writer-in-Residence, Dr Elechi Amadi at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Monday, 12th May 2014. Highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** are displayed below:



Dr Elechi Amadi and his family arriving at the venue of the Birthday ceremony



Vice-Chancellor, Prof Joseph Ajenika, welcoming guests



Dr Amadi addressing the audience



Foremost authority on Elechi Amadi, Prof Eleke Eko of the University of Calabar, speaking



Representative of Keynote Speaker, Prof Godwin Darah, Dr Sunny Awchefe, delivering the keynote address



Prof Chidi Maduka reviewing the book, Elechi Amadi: The Man and His Works



Representative of Rainbow Book Club and Port Harcourt World Book Capital, Mrs Judith Nwanadi, giving a goodwill speech



Chairman, ANA Rivers State, Mr Obinwa Nwodin, speaking



Chairman, ANA Bayelsa State, Mr Frank Opiyo, giving a goodwill speech



Registrar, Matilda Nnodin, unveiling the Birthday Cake



The Celebrant cutting the Birthday Cake with the support of family and other well-wishers



Dr Amadi's granddaughter and violinist, thrilling the guests



Dr Amadi in a group photograph with pupils of UDPS