



UNIPORT Corpers Sweep Presidential Awards

Following their outstanding contributions to the development of their States of deployment, five graduates of the University were among the 52 Corps Members conferred with the prestigious report *Humphrey Ogu and Williams Wodi*

More on p4

Side Bar

V-C, Prof Ajenka, inspects Library, receives book donation from Dr Uzoka of Mount Royal Varsity, Canada. Details next week

-Editor

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V-C Commissions New Staff Club

It was an admixture of back-slapping, clinking of glasses and congratulatory speeches that heralded the commissioning of the ultra-modern Bar of the Senior Staff Club in Delta Park, last Wednesday. Speaking shortly before cutting the tape to declare the new facility open, Vice-

...Pledges Mgt Support

By Williams Wodi

Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who led other Principal Officers to the colourful event, praised the Club Management for transforming the place into a befitting place

for relaxation and interaction in the University.

Professor Ajenka, who recalled a time when most members and guests avoided the Club because of the dilapidated nature of facilities there, expressed gratitude to President of the Club, Dr Tammy Orunaboka

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UNIPORT Gets Grant For Natural Resources Institute

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UPTH Trains Staff On Lassa Fever

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Research Fair Committee Mobilizes Participants

Story on p6



CCE Holds W'Shop On Open Distance Learning

Story on p8



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Mgt Engages Student Leaders on Levies ... Dean Promises Mgt/Students Joint Committee

By Obinna Nwodin



Prof Ajenka, V-C

Following slight adjustment in the schedule of non-statutory levies, authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have assured students of their continued resolve to accommodate their interest when taking decisions on matters affecting them at all times.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, gave the assurance at the Council Chamber, last Monday during a stakeholders meeting with Student Union Executive and Faculty Representatives, who expressed concern

over the slight adjustments in municipal levies.

Professor Ajenka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, said that the slight adjustment in charges was to ensure that students had the best in terms of service delivery to enable them compete with their peers in other universities, adding that the administration was leading by example by operating an open door policy to ensure that students imbibed qualities that would prepare them to face future challenges. He assured them that the present administration will not deny them what is due them, pointing out that Management was welfare-oriented on matters affecting staff and students of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor told the student representatives that despite the financial challenges faced by the Institution, a lot was being put in place to ensure that the students had the best, stressing that the marginal adjustments in levies were based on the resolve of the administration to continue to provide services that would guarantee quality education for them. Said he, "The charges are for the mutual benefit of everybody in the system. We are doing it so that the system does not collapse, especially in the post-subsidy removal era."

Professor Ajenka disclosed that the University spends between N30 and N40 million monthly on power supply and sanitation in order to ensure that students lived in a healthy environment that is

conducive for learning, appealing for understanding of the efforts of the administration to ensure that they had the best within limited resources.

In his speech, the Bursar, Mr. Mark Roman, said that the University was facing acute financial problems, disclosing that the Institution receives an annual allocation of between N52 to N60 million annually, while it spends over N120 million monthly to keep the University running, adding that the levies are used to sustain the University.

Also speaking, Acting Dean, Student Affairs, Dr. Matthew Wegwu, said that as part of measures to ensure accountability and probity a Management/ Students Joint Committee on Hostel Management would be set up, as well as a task force to ensure implementation of all that the authorities have proposed to improve life on Campus for students and staff.

Earlier in his remark, President of the Students' Union, Mr Rhino Owokire, who thanked the authorities for their willingness to dialogue, stated that students felt uncomfortable with additional charges and resolved to seek clarification on the development, adding that they were not too sure of full implementation of some of the proposals to improve facilities for the end beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by the Vice-President, Rachael Elijah, Secretary General, Chinedu Kingsley, Speaker, Maxwell Nyanabo, as well as representatives from the Faculties of Management Sciences, Basic Medical Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Engineering, Sciences and Pharmacy.

ICOI Reappoints Obiechina Into Ambassadors' Circle

By Otikor Samuel

In recognition of his contributions to advancement of Dentistry globally, Dean, the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Port Harcourt, Professor Ambrose Obiechina, has been re-appointed into the *Ambassadors' Circle* of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI).

A Letter conveying the message and jointly signed by ICOI's Co-Chairs, Kenneth Judy and Carl Misch, disclosed that the re-appointment is for another two-year term. "As you know, as inscribed on ICOI's website of the *Ambassadors' Circle*,

you 'are a world leader in the field of Implant Dentistry, who is taking the extra step to help promote not only implant education, but the other tenets of the ICOI's mission,'" part of the letter read.

The Co-Chairs further stated that, "With this letter we are asking that all our Ambassadors plan to attend ICOI's World Congress XXIX in Orlando, Florida September 20-22, 2012. There will be a special meeting for all of our Ambassadors and leaders of our component and affiliate societies in Orlando. The purpose of this meeting will be to re-energize our leaders as we prepare to celebrate our 40th anniversary," adding that the Ambassadors and Society leaders would be recognized at the meeting.

It would be recalled that Professor Obiechina was recently granted extension of tenure as Dean, Faculty of Dentistry to November 2013, to enable him continue his good work of strengthening the Faculty to compete favourably with its counterparts elsewhere in the world.



Prof Obiechina



Owokire

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As part of efforts by authorities of the University to forge a symbiotic relationship between the Institution and the Industry in fostering research aimed at tackle developmental challenges facing the country, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) in bio-fuel research.

Speaking at the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, expressed hope that by signing the MOU, experts from the NNPC Research and Development Unit and the University would jointly deploy their expertise and facilities in the two Institutions to address the needs of the Corporation and the Oil and Gas Industry, including the International oil Companies (IOC) in such areas as Petroleum Geosciences, Oil and Gas Exploration and Production, Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Technology, Offshore Technology, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development.

Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Research and Development), Professor

UNIPORT Signs MoU With NNPC On Biofuel Research

By Obinna Nwodin

Bene Wille-Abbey, assured the NNPC that the skills, experience, knowledge and manpower developed from the collaborative effort would be tailored towards conducting a wholly Nigerian research in selected areas of need in the petroleum industry and also development of technologies and products from the joint effort.

In his address, Group Executive Director, Exploration

and Technical, Engineer Billy Agha, expressed optimism that the Unit and UNIPORT would utilize the opportunity to advance bio-fuel research through commercialization, and large-scale production, adding that the joint research will focus on how to provide new fuels that would bring about energy independence,

development of novel technologies for bio-fuel and production of 'green' and readily available fuels for the economic development of Nigeria. He hoped that the collaboration would breed some of Nigeria's best bio-fuel scientists that can introduce the product to the marketplace.

Also speaking, Group General Manager, Research and Development, Engineer Nelson Oyudo, said that signing of the MoU marked the beginning of serious commitment and cooperation between the two institutions with regards to establishment of the framework and principles under which the parties would collaborate to achieve the goals of the MoU, expressing hope that the collaboration would bring together the academia and industry research experts into a consortium of intellectual strength and expertise in bio-fuel research and development.

Facilitator of the collaboration, Dr. Samuel Ofodile, said that the emergent partnership would afford the two institutions a platform to utilize their resources to tackle the challenges that face the petroleum Industry.

Also speaking, pioneer Group General Manager Research and Development, Dr Eugene Ibe, who stated that the event was a dream come true, hoped that such collaboration would enhance capacity in the industry.

Present at the event were General Manager, Exploration and Production, Engineer Benjamin, Ogbagbena, General Manager, Refining and Petrochemical, Engineer Basil Ezeanikwe, Manager, Technical Services, Engineer Olufemi Adeyemi, Manager, Process and Catalysis, Dr. Obiora Okeke, amongst others.

Also present were Director, Centre for Research Management, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, Professor Godwin Igwe, Director, Refining and Petrochemicals, Institute of Petroleum Studies, Professor Ebenezer Okonkwo, Deputy Director, UNIPORT Technology Park, Dr Sunday Ikiensikimama, who represented the Director, Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS).

**This Story was published last week without picture owing to an error during the lithographic processing. -Editor*



R-L: DVC (R&D), Prof Willie Abbey signing the MoU with Engineer Oyudo of NNPC

UNIPORT Gets Grant For Natural Resources Institute ...Partners Four Varsities To Deliver Project

By Orikor Samuel

Of the 15 competitive proposals for grant submitted by Nigerian universities to the MacArthur Foundation, Chicago, last year, the one presented by the University of Port Harcourt for the establishment of an Institute of Natural Resources,

Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) sailed through thereby, getting the approval and funding of the donor agency.

In a brief on the project obtained by *UNIPORT Weekly*, the Project Leader, Professor Euvie Akpokodje, disclosed that the proposal was jointly written with Professor Ben Ndukwu and Dr Iyke Aghagwa, both of the Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology, stating that its objective is to

produce requisite indigenous manpower capable of developing and implementing an integrated, multi-disciplinary, as well as sustainable solutions to developmental and environmental challenges across the West African sub-region with particular attention on the Niger Delta.

According to Professor Akpokodje, the proposed Institute would produce quality Master's degree graduates and enhance technical skills and managerial capacity of the workforce of both governmental and corporate organisations through specially-designed professional short-term courses to address identified knowledge or skill deficiencies.

"Coordination of all environment-related academic and research programmes in the University and therefore, a platform for quality cross-disciplinary and multidisciplinary training, capacity-building, collaborative applied research, networking and service in the area of sustainable development, resources and environmental management by pooling together experts from the various disciplines," are identified as part of the benefits to be derived from the Institute, he said.

INRES which would take an organizational structure similar to the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) and coordinate Regional Centre for Bioresources, Centre for Biotechnology/Biofuel among other related centres, is anticipated to improve teaching and research capacities.

"INRES will train graduates in Natural Resources and Environmental Management at the Master's degree

level, with research project in the student's area of career interest or future specialization. Additional programmes at the Doctoral, Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma levels would be included later," Professor Akpokodje further disclosed, adding that such programmes would consist of intensive course work and project writing within 12 months on full-time study divided into nine months for course work and three months for field/case studies or project.

University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State and Delta State University, Abraka, were listed in the three-year grant as partnering universities, while collaboration which would be anchored on relevance to the subject is expected to cover institution of higher learning both within and outside the country, government and community organisations, as well as the private sector.



Prof Akpokodje



Prof Ndukwu

Lassa Fever Outbreak

UPTH Team Sensitizes Health Workers

By Humphrey Ogu

As the Lassa Fever epidemic continues to claim lives in parts of Rivers State, the latest being the death of a Matron at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), a Rapid Response Team set up to tackle the Fever in the Hospital has ended a Workshop to sensitize health workers in the hospital on basic skills for proper handling of the virus to stem further casualties.

Speaking during the Workshop which took place at the UPTH Conference Room last Monday, Chief Medical Director, Professor Aaron Ojule, noted that "We got into a situation where it became difficult for us to attend to even ourselves. We had to appeal to the Federal Government which responded promptly. We also got across to the State Government which also has been very supportive. This is an emergency, an epidemic that threatens all of us. For us who are in the frontline, it is very important to know how to protect ourselves because we cannot completely run away from it."

Professor Ojule, disclosed that the Rapid Response Team would co-ordinate activities aimed at checking further spread of the epidemic. "The State Government has set up an Emergency Response Team with me as Chairman. Some funds have been made available, an emergency isolation ward created and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) provided. We very prepared but our hope is that the epidemic will burn out quickly," he said, reassuring participants at the Workshop that "there is no cause for alarm; what is important is universal precaution for everybody that comes into this hospital. But you need to protect yourselves. That doesn't mean you should run away."

Also speaking, head of the Rapid Response Team for Lassa Fever in the Hospital, Dr Charles Tobin-West, said the "the Workshop was informed by the fact that recently, we recorded a fatal case of Lassa Fever in the Hospital and we need to be proactive by raising our index of suspicion so that we won't lose our patients, as well as our healthcare workers, such as Doctors, Nurses, Laboratory Scientists, including Cleaners and Ward Maids. That is why we try to sensitize everybody to understand the problem at hand and how to tackle it."

Tobin-West, who is the Head, Department of

Preventive and Social Medicine, confirmed the death of a Chief Nursing Officer in the Hospital. According to him, a lot of health workers have been lost to this disease in other part of the country, promising that "the Team was working to ensure that no more deaths are recorded."

In her contribution, representative of the Rivers State Government, Dr Justina Jumbo, noted that "the objective of the Workshop is to sensitize health workers on the fact that Lassa Fever is here with us. Since its discovery in the North in 1969, this is the first time Rivers State is recording an occurrence. We are really working hard to tackle it. Apart from this programme, we are also carrying the sensitization campaign to various communities."

Presentations were also made by representatives of the Federal Ministry of Health, led by Lassa Fever Desk Officer and Epidemiologist, Mr Adebayo Duruajaye and Dr Oladayo Biya, who noted that the objectives of the Workshop were to sensitize Physicians and other health workers on how to identify, confirm and treat Lassa Fever, and some other priority diseases, increase the index of suspicion of these diseases and reduce morbidity/mortality as well as reinforce early warning systems for rapid detection and prompt response to their outbreak and acquaint clinicians and health workers of their roles in disease surveillance and control.

Other members of the Team which disclosed that Ribavirin drugs and PPE have been made available by the Ministry, included Mr Mustau Akinpelu and Mrs Funmi Badmus, while a Consultant Cardiologist at UPTH, Dr Eze Nwafor, gave an overview of the virus, dwelling on the signs, preventive measures and management of the killer-virus.

According to the various presentations made at the



CMD, UPTH, Prof Ojule

event, *Mastomys natalensis* is the species of rat that transmits the killer-virus. The virus is shed freely in urine, droppings and saliva; the rats may show no feature of the disease. *Mastomys* often lives in homes, while the virus is easily transmitted to humans. Transmission occurs via direct contact with rat urine, faeces, and saliva, contact with excretion or secretion infected materials, ingestion of excretion-contaminated food.

"Victims can also become infected via skin breaks, and mucous membranes from aerosol transmission from dust-borne particles. Laboratory workers become infected usually from contact with rodent saliva," the Team informed participants, advising that Patients should receive supportive care consisting of maintenance of appropriate fluid and electrolyte balance, oxygenation and blood pressure, as well as blood transfusion and treatment of any other complicating infections.

On preventive measures, the facilitators noted that trapping in and around homes can help reduce rodent populations, proper disposal of killed rats, putting food away in rodent-proof containers and keeping the home clean help to discourage rodents from entering homes. Avoidance of rat delicacies, keeping rodents away from warehouses and stores where canned and sachet drinks are kept, were also listed as ways of preventing primary transmission, while prevention of secondary transmission involves avoidance of overcrowding, universal precaution in handling of patients and specimens.

Major signs of the disease, according to the various Speakers, include bleeding from body orifices (mouth, nose, rectum, urethra, and vagina), swollen neck or face, conjunctivitis or sub conjunctival haemorrhage, spontaneous abortion, petechial rash and haemorrhage, persistent hypertension, while minor signs comprise headache, sore throat, vomiting, chest or retrosternal pain, cough, and diarrhoea, amongst others.

Meanwhile, a Paper entitled "Lassa Virus Infection in Nigeria: Clinical Perspective Overview", published in the Journal of the National Medical Association in December 2010, by one of the facilitators and Visiting Scholar, Professor Vincent Idemiyor of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, USA, was cited as a prophetic scholarly contribution on Lassa Fever.

The Workshop which featured demonstrations on how to use PPE, had in attendance Consultants, Resident Doctor, Nurses and other categories of healthcare workers, including students of medicine and allied disciplines.

SGS Rewards Diligent Staff

By Mercy Don-Baridam

In line with the principle of promoting diligence and hard work in the line of duty, the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), rewarded deserving staff at an End-of-Year/New Year Get-together, penultimate Thursday.

Speaking at the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, challenged Management of the School to place emphasis on research and development, pointing out that "the School of Graduate Studies cannot succeed without laying emphasis on research and development. We have done a lot of research

without development; so this time, most of the work we are going to do would be translated from research to development in line with the entrepreneurial vision of the present administration". Professor Willie-Abbey, who was the immediate past Dean of the School, enumerated some challenges facing it to include proper planning, payment of supervision fees, and teaching claims, among others, expressing optimism that there would be change since Management of the University was working hard

to ensure that the School gets a level of autonomy that would enable it handle its finances and pay Lecturers as at when results are submitted.

She advised staff to show positive attitude and dedicate themselves to their work, stating that the vision of the present Administration is to take the School to greater heights, which could only be achieved through commitment to duty by staff and dedication to study by students.

Earlier, the Dean, Professor Roseline Konya, disclosed that tackling the issue of overstaying on programmes by some student would be her main policy thrust, noting that there have been series of complaints by students on unnecessary delays in graduation, a development she promised to address headlong as part of her strategy to reposition the SGS.

She advised both academic and non-teaching staff in the School to put in their best to deliver on their job schedules, lamenting that some students were also responsible for delays in their graduation. "Most of them take up full-time jobs outside the University and come over to run a full-time programme in the School of Graduate Studies which constitutes a hindrance to efficiency and timely completion of their programmes".

Also speaking, Graduate Studies Officer, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville, who presented awards to the deserving staff, expressed satisfaction over the way they have dedicated themselves to work, urging them to continue in their good work without waiting for recognition.

The awardees are: Mr Clarence Christian, Mrs Maria Akpogomeh, Chinyere Eze, Mr Achese Tamunobere, and Miss Patience Obindah.

Speaking after receiving the awards, the Best Performing Staff, Mr Christian expressed gratitude to the Selection Committee for finding him and his colleagues worthy for the gesture, adding, "I am interested in changing the system and not on what people say. We don't work to earn salaries alone, rather we work to improve the system," he said, advising his colleagues to be up and doing and be ready to contribute their quota to the growth of the University, suggesting that if Management wants to succeed, it should promote staff based on individual output, rather than the number of years served.



Prof Konya

Ejituwu, Obuoforibo

Legends And Their Legacies

One of the most effective ways in which leaders exhibit their qualities and gain acceptance from their followers is to demonstrate exemplary qualities in their daily actions. As academic, administrative and community leaders, the late Professors Claude Nkparom Ejituwu and Abiye Atemie Obuoforibo, were great intellectual giants who truly entered the environments of their subordinates and established frequent human contacts. They practised a leadership style that easily generated trust from those who came into contact with them in public service and private life. Very sedate and focused in their lifestyles—one as a distinguished Historian and the other—a consummate Medical Practitioner and Anatomist, they had a knack to listen far more than they talked, despite possessing a tremendous burst of energy and activity. They had kind words and encouraging smiles and humorous complements for those who crossed their path in the line of duty.

Professors Ejituwu and Obuoforibo were honourable and dependable men, who were trusted, looked up to and followed. As Edward Stanton muttered after Abraham Lincoln's demise, "Now he belongs to the ages". These honest, devoted and extremely capable scholars and administrators truly belong to the historical milieu of the University of Port Harcourt.

Ejituwu taught me *Introduction to World History* in this University with the zeal of a Medieval Crusader and a Pentecostal Preacher put together! This attitude of total commitment to work was expressed in his Secondary School logo '*labor est voluptas*', meaning '*labour is pleasure*'. After a chequered educational career in Ikuru Town, Andoni and Duke Town Presbyterian Secondary School, Calabar between 1954 and 1959, Professor Ejituwu was sufficiently equipped with a good basic education to proceed to Yankton College, South Dakota and University of Wisconsin, Madison, United States, from where he obtained his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in History and English in 1969 and 1971, respectively. He took up teaching appointment with the University of Lagos in 1975. This astute scholar returned home to put an icing on his impressive academic career when he was conferred with the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in History from the University of Lagos in 1977.

Ejituwu's area of specialization were American and Niger Delta History, being a protégée of three famous historians: Professors Philip Curtin of Wisconsin University, Ebiegberi Alagoa of University of Port Harcourt and Ade Ajayi of University of Lagos. No wonder, he was conferred with the prestigious Fellowship of the *Historical Society of Nigeria* (HSN) in 2006. He was instrumental to the training of many of the younger historians who are propagating the subject in the University system today. He joined the services of the University of Port Harcourt in 1979, where he took serious interest in Niger Delta Studies, contributing over 30 articles to national and international scholarly journals and 12 chapter in books, including four books. From the position of Lecturer I in 1979, Ejituwu meteorically rose through the ranks to become Professor in 1994. He was Head, Department of History between 1986 and 1995 and Director, College of Continuing Education between 1998 and 2002.

Professor Ejituwu served on the National Universities Commission (NUC) Accreditation Committees to several Nigerian universities and External Examiner too. He was Assistant Secretary of the African Studies Association of Nigeria and Consulting Editor to many historical journals. Like his great teacher, Professor Alagoa, Ejituwu was a

*Death is the privilege of human nature
And life without it were not worth our taking*
NOCHOLAS ROWE

By Williams Wodi

strong believer in combining evidence from oral sources such as Archaeology, Anthropology, Linguistics and Ethnography with written records to build his case for Historiography as a credible means of studying African History. He was also a pioneer in foregrounding the role of women in the historical progression of society.

He served as Commissioner and later Chairman of the Rivers State Civil Service Commission between 1979 and 1984 and Member of the Governing Council of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology between 1992 and 1994. He was also Chairman of the Governing Council of Rivers State College of Education (now Ignatius Ajuru University of Education) and Member, Rivers State Economic Advisory Council between 2009 and 2011. Ejituwu retired from the services of the University in 2005 and completed a five-year Contract appointment in November, 2010. He died on Tuesday, 20 December, 2011 following a brief illness at the



Ejituwu

age of 71.

On his part, Professor Abiye Obuoforibo, was among the pioneer Medical Class of University of Lagos in 1962 from where he obtained the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery Degree. He joined the Department of Anatomy as a Demonstrator in 1968. This erudite Medical Practitioner and Educator obtained a Fellowship from the World Health Organization (WHO) that took him to the University of Sheffield for his Doctoral Degree in Human Biology and Instructional Technology. He completed his studies in December, 1972 and returned to the University of Lagos. In 1974, Professor Obuoforibo was invited to play a pioneering role in the establishment of the Department of Anatomy, University of Benin, an assignment he successfully accomplished, following which he was elevated to the rank of Professor of Anatomy four years later.

Obuoforibo joined the services of the University of Port Harcourt in 1981 as a Professor of Anatomy and became Provost, College of Health Sciences within a few months of his arrival following the appointment of the incumbent, Professor Francis Theodore Ogiriki as Vice-Chancellor of the emergent Federal University of Technology, Ado Ekiti.

Obuoforibo was Provost between 1980 and 1986. He was thus, an Anatomist, Provost and Chief Medical Director of University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. Under his leadership, the College of Health Sciences established a unique Bachelor of Medical Science programme that resulted in proper coordination of the Basic Medical Sciences to allow better clinical orientation among Medical students. It is to the eternal credit of Professor Obuoforibo that the young Medical School was able to prepare and graduate its first batch of Doctors on schedule, while still meeting the stringent conditions set by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCAN). It is also on record that Obuoforibo joined forces with the second Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cooley, to establish the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital against entrenched interest groups that were bent on sending the pioneer medical class to an established hospital for clinical training outside Rivers State.

An accomplished scholar without boundaries or limitation in his area of expertise, Professor Obuoforibo was invited by the WHO as a Consultant to the Government of Uganda in manpower development for the health sector between 1991 and 1997. He concurrently served as Visiting Professor at Makerere University, where he played a major role in designing a competency-based curriculum in Medicine. Between 1998 and 2004, Professor Obuoforibo was at the Mid-West University, Glendale, Arizona and Morehouse School of Medicine Atlanta. At Morehouse, he participated in the introduction of the Master of Science and Clinical Research to general applause. He was also a knight in the Anglican Communion and a member of the Rivers State Economic Advisory Council.

For his many pioneering roles in medical education and university administration, Obuoforibo was cited and decorated as a *Distinguished Professor* at the second

edition of the award under the auspices of the National Universities Commission (NUC). His numerous Awards for distinguished service span the entire length and breadth of the world. On each occasion, he would mount the garlanded podium with accustomed calmness and focused ambience that betrayed his great erudition and philosophical disposition. He was usually not moved by all the manufactured adulations that are heaped on men of fleeting achievements to flatter their little egos. He was a man bent on doing good in his chosen profession and the larger society. Obuoforibo did not believe in awards in anticipation of performance which is now in vogue in Nigeria.

Professor Obuoforibo was a great and innovative pioneer in diverse areas of medical education and practice for many years. In a Tribute, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, described the fallen academic giant as a man who had a special gift for introducing new concepts and ideas which he usually pursued to the point of realization—attributes that were saluted and celebrated by those who crossed his path. Professor Abiye Obuoforibo left his unmistakable intellectual DNA

wherever he went; be it as a teacher, administrator, medical doctor, church and community leader. He hailed from Okrika Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Walter Scott was right when he declared: "And come he slow, or come he fast, it is but Death who comes at last". The brief institutional history of University of Port Harcourt is replete with great and towering academics and consummate administrators; but Professors Ejituwu and Obuoforibo have risen above the ordinary roll-call by the quality of their service to the University and the larger society. They will be certainly missed by all of us. Their stories are the stuff of which legends and their legacies are made. "Life levels all men: death reveals the eminent", says Wilfred Sheed. Adieu! Great academic generals!



Obuoforibo

V-C Commissions New Staff Club

Cont'd from 1

and his Executive for prudent management of scarce resources to achieve the feat that is being commended by the University Community and other stakeholders. The Vice-Chancellor, who was visibly elated by the development, promised that Management of the University would support the Club to achieve enhanced service delivery to members and other visitors, urging Dr Orunaboka to ensure that facilities are maintained to attract more members to unwind at the Club. He challenged the Club Management to reach out for outside support to ensure continued growth and sustenance of services, stressing that commissioning of the Club was in line with the entrepreneurial vision of his administration for overall development of the University.

Also speaking, Chief of Staff, Government House, Port Harcourt and distinguished Alumnus, Chief Tony Okocha, who donated a set of Chairs and Tables to the Club, commended the Executive for completing the Project, which he said was accomplished within a minimum timeline, promising continued support for the Club to enable it serve stakeholders better. Chief Okocha, who was represented by one of his associates and Faculty Officer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Mr Kelsey Makele, donated N200, 000 to the Club and also defrayed the cost of a *Bouncing Castle* for the entertainment of staff children as part of the side attraction at the well patronized event.

Earlier in his Welcome Address, President of the Club, Dr Tammy Orunaboka, had told the gathering that completion of the new *Club Bar* was in fulfilment of his campaign promise to improve services to members and other patrons of the Club, adding that those who initially doubted his capability to execute the project can now join him to celebrate the spectacle that has been achieved by his Executive.

Commending the Vice-Chancellor and Management for their unflinching support towards early completion of the new *Club Bar*, Dr Orunaboka pleaded for release of the eatery currently being occupied by the University Investment Limited (UIL), to enable the Club run a proper restaurant for its increasing clientele under the new dispensation.

He also solicited assistance from the authorities to fix the disused Swimming Pool inside the Club and provision of other facilities that would enhance quality service delivery in the new complex. The Executive also used the opportunity to present the



V-C, Prof Ajiienka flanked by Club President, Dr Orunaboka unveiling the Club Plaque

new Constitution of the Club and also honoured 21 members for what was described as their immense contribution towards the development of the Club.

Some of those honoured for their contributions towards the growth of the Club were the Vice-chancellor, Professor Ajiienka, former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don Baridam, Chief of Staff, Government House, Chief Tony Okocha, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim and Bursar, Mr. Mark Roman, Professors Tony Arinze, John Enaohwo, Blessing Didia, Obiozor Ayalogu, Willy Okowa, Antonia Okerengwo, Don Anyanwu, Israel Owate, Regina Ogali and Dr Ken Anugweje. The President expressed gratitude to both the Vice-Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Chief Okocha, for their unflinching support for the Club, calling on others to emulate their kind gesture to take the Club to loftier heights.

An Elder of the Club, Professor Blessing Didia, who is generally acknowledged as a major pillar of support, appealed for continued assistance from all and

sundry to position the Club as one of the best in the country, urging the University administration to consider tiling the entrance into the new Bar to enhance the aesthetics of the new facility. He also joined the President to appeal for return of the restaurant to the Club Management to address the culinary needs of the increasing number of patrons.

In her speech, President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) and Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs Mercy Ajiienka, who pledged full support for the Club, appealed to male members to accommodate their female counterparts, who may wish to go there for relaxation without raising eyebrows over their presence.

The new *Club Bar* has a sitting capacity for about 200 revellers, three plasma television sets, new fibre seats, an inexhaustible bar that offers assorted drinks, a water fountain with the logo of the Club, snooker, draught and dart games, amongst other facilities.

UNIPORT Research Fair Committee Mobilizes Stakeholders

By Obinna Nwodin

As the build-up to the first UNIPORT Research Fair continues to gather momentum, Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department have been advised to mobilize their Faculty members to actively participate in the event.

This advice was given by the Chairman of the Committee, Professor Gregory Avwiri, while briefing members on developments in the preparations for the event. Professor Avwiri said that this was necessary because there were a lot of benefits that staff and students would derive from participating in the Fair.

He said that the Committee expected not less than 20 Abstract from each Faculty which should be forwarded to the Research Fair Secretariat at the School of Graduate Studies not later than Friday, 16th March, 2012.

The Chairman Avwiri disclosed that the theme of the Fair which is "Optimizing Research and Development for National Transformation"

would also feature a lead presentation on Research and Development for Sustainable National Development. Professor Avwiri said that the event which would come a week before the 28th Convocation Ceremony will have exhibitions mounted throughout the event.

The Chairman also noted that the Fair which would attract some external organisations would help prepare the University for the Nigerian Universities Research and Development Fair scheduled to hold at Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State.

Also speaking, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konya, described the coming Fair as a noble project designed to enable the University conform to the practise in 21st Century Institution. "It is a good programme designed to sell ourselves and the University. We should try as much as possible to do our best by showcasing our research as stakeholders in the system", she said.



Prof Avwiri

GUIDEPOST

CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Ngozi Okorie, offered *Contract Appointment*, in the Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, effective 30th November, 2011.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Nsirim Nduka, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, granted *renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 1st February, 2012 to 31st January, 2013.

Professor Martin Bestman, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, *renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 7th April, 2012 to 6th April, 2013.

Dr P.N.C. Abuwa, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted *renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 20th December, 2011 to 19th December, 2012.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Professor E.O.P. Agbakwuru, Department of Pharmacy and Medical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, assumed duty as *Professor on Contract Appointment*, effective 27th January, 2012 to 26th January, 2013.

Professor Okpara D.A, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, assumed duty as *Professor on Sabbatical Appointment*, effective 4th January, 2012 to 3rd January, 2013.

Professor Ngozi Okorie, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, assumed duty as *Professor on Contract Appointment*, effective 30th November, 2011 to 31st October, 2012.

PENSIONABLE APPOINTMENT

Mr Emmanuel Oriakpono, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, offered *Pensionable Appointment*.

83TH INAUGURAL LECTURE

The 83rd Inaugural Lecture has been scheduled for Thursday, 15th March, 2012. The Lecture titled "*Educational Assessment: A sine quo non*", will be delivered by Professor Reginald Ukwueje of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education. Time is 3:00p.m. Members of the University Community and the public are invited.

PASSAGES

The University of Port Harcourt announces the demise of Mr Friday Onyuku, who until his death was a staff of Internal Audit Unit. He was aged 52 years. The deceased was buried on 11th October, 2012, in his home town, Elebrada, Emuoha in Emolga Local Government Area of Rivers State.

HEALTH ALERT

Lassa Fever epidemic is everywhere. Kill all rats in your home. Cover all foods. Ensure highest standards of hygiene. Wash your hands always. Avoid cooked food outside. It is an emergency!

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

BANK, ABUAD, SIGN MOU ON ACCOMMODATION

Authorities of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD) have entered into an agreement with Wema Bank to build hostels and quarters for students and staff of the Institution. Part of the terms of agreement is to ensure that the facilities are delivered before the commencement of next academic session.

UNILAG TO INTRODUCE TERRORISM STUDIES

Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos (UNILAG), Professor Adetokunbo Sofoluwe, has disclosed plans to commence a degree programme in terrorism studies with the aim of producing manpower to assist the country to contain the excesses of terrorist attacks, especially the on-going Boko Haram menace.

OAU RESUMES FEBRUARY 26

Olabisi Awolowo University (OAU), Osun State, would resume on Sunday, February 26, 2012, for the 2011/2012 Academic Session, according to a statement released by the Public Relations Officer of the University, Mr Abiodun Olarewaju.

Clearance at Faculty and Admission offices would commence from February 27, while Orientation for Fresh Students is scheduled from Monday, March 5 to Sunday, March 11, 2012.

INDIA PLANS TO BOOST SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Alpa Mishra

In a bid to rejuvenate social science research, India has announced several measures targeted at the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). They include establishing a Social Sciences Knowledge and Research Network, a National Social Science Research Innovation Centre and a fellowship scheme to attract young scholars into social sciences.

The government will also institute 10 annual Amartya Sen awards for advancement of knowledge in the social sciences. The ICSSR is the central government institution that looks after funding of social sciences research in the country.

The initiatives followed a report last June by a review committee set up by the government, which found that social science research in India was suffering severely from lack of funding, recognition and initiative. Addressing an international conference on "Indian Social Sciences in a Changing World: Roles, responsibilities and reforms" in New Delhi last week, Education Minister Kapil Sibal announced that the ICSSR would develop a fellowship scheme to encourage young scholars interested in pursuing social science research.

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2011/2012 SESSION FOR REGULAR AND SANDWICH PROGRAMMES FIRST SEMESTER

1.0 Monday, 12th December, 2011 – Friday, 10th February, 2012

Pre-resumption Registration (On-line) for Fresh Students

2.0 Sunday, 12th February, 2012 – Friday, 24th February, 2012

(i) Fresh students Arrive (12th February, 2012)

(ii) Fresh students Resume (contact with Student Affairs)

(iii) Returning students Arrive (15th February, 2012)

(iv) Registration of Fresh and Returning (16th February, 2012) students

(Registry/College/Faculties etc.)

(v) Interactive session with Fresh students

3.0 Monday, 27th February, 2012 – Friday, 1st June, 2012

(i) Lectures begin for the students (27th February, 2012)

(ii) Late Registration for All students (End of Registration): 27th Feb.-11th March, 2012

(iii) Orientation for Fresh students (21st March, 2012)

(iv) Matriculation (23rd March, 2012)

(v) Easter Break (6th April-13th April, 2012)

(vi) Convocation Ceremony (23rd -28th April, 2012)

(vii) End of Lectures (1st June, 2012)

4.0 Monday, 4th June, 2012-Friday, 8th June, 2012

Revision

5.0 Monday, 11th June, 2012 – Friday, 29th June, 2012

First Semester Examinations

6.0 Monday 2nd July, 2012 – Friday, 6th July, 2012

First Semester Break

7.0 Wednesday, 8th August, 2012

Extra-ordinary meeting of Senate to consider First Semester 2011/2012 Results

SECOND SEMESTER 2011/2012 SESSION

8.0 Saturday, 7th July, 2012

(i) All Students Arrive

(ii) SIWES (July 2012 – January 2013)

9.0 Monday, 9th July, 2012 – 5th October, 2012

(i) Lectures Begin for All Students (9th July, 2012)

(ii) End of Lectures (5th October, 2012)

10.0 Monday 3rd September, 2012 – Saturday, 8th September, 2012

Students Union Week: Cultural Activities/Professional Exhibitions

11.0 Monday, 10th September, 2012 – Friday, 14th September, 2012

Revision

12.0 Monday, 17th September, 2012 – Friday, 5th October, 2012

2012

Second Semester Examinations

13.0 Wednesday, 14th November, 2012

Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider Second Semester 2011/2012 Results

14.0 Monday, 8th October, 2012 – Friday, 16th November, 2012

2011/2012 Long Vacation (Regular students)

2011 SANDWICH PROGRAMME

1.0 Monday, 23rd July, 2012 – Friday, 27th July, 2012

(i) Fresh and Returning Students Arrive (23rd July, 2012)

(ii) Students Resume (contact with Student Affairs)

(iii) Registration of Fresh and Returning Students

(iv) Orientation for Fresh Students.

2.0 Monday, 30th July, 2012 – Friday, 21st September, 2012

(i) Lectures Begin for All Students (30th July, 2012)

(ii) End of Lectures (21st September, 2012)

3.0 Monday, 24th September, 2012 – Friday, 28th September, 2012

Revision

4.0 Tuesday, 2nd October, 2012 – Saturday, 6th October, 2012

Examinations for All Sandwich Students

5.0 Wednesday, 14th November, 2012

Extra-ordinary meeting of Senate to consider Sandwich Programme 2011 Results

2012/2013 ACADEMIC SESSION WOULD COMMENCE ON SUNDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 2012

Professor Bernard Efiuvwevwere

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

-Compiled by Otiakor Samuel

UNI**PORT** Corpers Shine At Presidential Awards

Cont'd from 1

President's National Youth Service Corps Honours Award for the 2011 service year. The Awards also earned the recipients Scholarships tenable in top-rated institutions anywhere in the world. The significance of the awards is anchored on the fact that they competed against 320, 000 of their colleagues from the nation's 117 universities. Exchanging views with *UNI**PORT** Weekly* penultimate Wednesday during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joesph Ajienka, Dr. Ernest Onuigbo and Dr. Sunny Ibeneme, both graduates of the Department of Medicine and Surgery, College of Health Sciences, disclosed that they played vital roles in the running of the Orientation Camp Clinic in their respective States of Primary Assignment, adding that they also rendered medical and other social services to the communities where they served.

"I was very active at the Orientation Camp Clinics and also emerged as a first runner-up in the *Mr Macho Contest*. After the Orientation, I provided free medical treatment and diabetic screening and created health awareness, in addition to immunizing female Corps members against tetanus and building a Crèche for the community," said Onuigbo, whose service covered four health centres in Ekene Local Government Area in Ogun State.

Dr. Ibeneme, who was the Chief Medical Director at the Camp, explained that he carried out enlightenment campaigns on Cholera and infant mortality and morbidity, which he said were rampant in Zamfara State, through regular appearance on NTA Gusau, besides his Primary

Assignment at the States Security Service in the State capital. According to him, treatment of water, mass de-worming of *Almajiris* and beautification of mosques, were some of the projects he embarked on.

constructed toilet facilities, a Science Laboratory, conducted free Extra-mural classes at Community Secondary School, Akam in Ikom LGA, Cross River State, and mobilized funds for scholarships



R-L: Dr. Onuigbo, Dr. Ibeneme, Nwabunike and Ihedike. Award-winning Corpers

Chbuka Nwabunike and Christabel Ihedike, who graduated from the Departments of Physics and Human Physiology, respectively, also shared their experiences with *UNI**PORT** Weekly*. Nwabunike

for 15 students from three schools, amongst others. He also bagged a chieftaincy title: *Ovarr Osi Ediba Kwe Kama (Benevolent Chief of Akam)*

Ihedike, who served at a specialist hospital in Offa LGA Kwara State, featured in *Okim FM* for seven months, educating the local populace on the management of hypertension and diabetes, which she said affected 90 per cent of patients in the hospital where she served. Her contributions, she said, included "screening indigenes of the area for diabetes, checking their blood pressure and donating drugs that went a long way in addressing their health needs." One of the awardees, Alozie Alaoma, who was Best Graduating Student in the Department of Biochemistry at his time, was not available at the time of this report.

Earlier in an audience with the Vice-Chancellor, the Presidential Award recipients had expressed gratitude to the University for the privilege to share their achievements with their *Alma Mater*, adding that necessity and chance brought them together in Abuja. Dr. Ibeneme, who spoke on their behalf, told the Vice-Chancellor that he was also amongst the Best six out of the 52 award recipients, noting that President Goodluck Jonathan was visibly pleased to note that five of the 52 award winners were graduates from his own *Alma Mater*.

"We are grateful to Unique UNI**PORT** for making us what we are today and we are very pleased with the positive comments people make about our beloved *Alma Mater*", Dr. Ibeneme said, promising that the recipients would do everything possible to uplift the reputation of the University.

Receiving the awardees, Professor Ajienka said that their spectacular feat has elated the University Community, pointing out that "competition is now the name of the game among graduates from various universities in this age of globalisation. Your impressive achievements show the quality of education you received here, which should motivate other students to work harder. We are very proud of you and it is my hope that those preparing to go for service would learn from your good example."

"What really make universities famous is major research breakthroughs and honours that are attracted by students, alumni and staff," he added.

CCE Holds W'Shop On Open Distance Learning

By Otiakor Samuel

College of Continuing Education (CCE) held a sensitization Workshop last Monday for Principal Officers, Deans of Faculty and major stakeholders that would participate in the proposed Open Distance Learning (ODL) programme at the newly-acquired CCE facility along Sani Abacha Road, GRA, Port Harcourt.

In his welcome remark, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, described the proposed ODL for the University as a clear transformational step aimed at addressing emerging trends in knowledge transfer. Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Bernard Efiuvwevwere, commended the Acting Director, Open Distance Learning of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Dr Ramon Yusuf, for his untiring effort towards realization of the project that has a potential to benefit a large clientele.

The Vice-Chancellor, who expressed hope that the University would do its best to sustain the programme when it finally commences, charged Lecturers in the

affected Faculties to be fully committed to its smooth take-off, advising all those involved to take the bold step to overcome possible challenges that may be associated with such a pioneering effort.

Acting Director, ODL, NUC, Dr Yusuf advised that the Open Distance Learning system should not be seen as an afterthought to access higher education, but an emerging digital opportunity that would enhance teaching and learning, if properly explored, adding that the online study system has the potential of saving cost for both students and Lecturers.

Dr Yusuf urged every stakeholder in the ODL to grow out of *technophobia* as the ICT-enabled learning is a fast and efficient method of learning, stressing that in the next phase of assessment, the NUC would ensure that basic materials needed to facilitate teaching and learning are on ground before the commencement of the programme in any other location.

Earlier in his remark, Director, CCE, Professor Steve Okodudu, reiterated that it would no longer be business as usual, as the College was now well-positioned to strike a balance between creating access to education and

awarding degrees to only deserving students, disclosing that technological knowledge would be key to gaining admission into the College henceforth.

Officials of *Schulportals Technologies*, an information technology consulting firm facilitated the advocacy training through joint PowerPoint presentation for officers of the University. The officials who included Julius Momoh (CEO), Soji Adewunmi (Head, Training & Implementation) and Siji Akinbola (Head, Media & Implementation) disclosed that they collaborate with NUC to train Tutors and license institutions for Open Distance Learning.



DV-C (Academic), Prof Efiuvwevwere, DV-C (R&D) Prof Willie-Abbey (in white) and a cross section of participants at the Workshop