



## Briggs, Anosike, Nduka, Okiwelu, Invested As Emeriti Professors

**F**our retired Professors who distinguished themselves in the services of the University have been invested with Emeriti Professor status, bringing the total number to six. The new Emeriti Professors are: Nimi Briggs, Emmanuel Anosike, Otonti Nduka and Samuel Okiwelu, *reports Otiakor Samuel*

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## Side Bar

Prof A.O. Ejile of the Department of Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology, delivers the 85th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week -Editor



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## 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony

# President Jonathan Tasks Varsity Mgt's

## ... Commends Governing Council on Standards

By Obinna Nwodin

**P**resident Goodluck Jonathan and *Visitor* to the University of Port Harcourt has charged Nigerian Universities to be innovative in order to compliment government efforts in evolving a better Nigeria.

The President gave this charge in his address at the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University, penultimate Saturday, at the Convocation Arena, University Park.

President Jonathan, who was represented by the Minister of Education, Professor Ruqayyatu Rufa'i, said that "Government expects judicious use of public funds. It should no longer be business as usual in Federal universities", adding that

funding alternatives would help

complement funds from the Federal Government to the universities.

The *Visitor* commended the Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students of the University for remaining true to the conditions of academic excellence, assuring that his administration was obliged to the provision of a conducive environment to maximize the creative potentials of youths.

President Jonathan, who is also the first Alumnus to receive an Honourary Doctorate Degree from the University, said that his administration was committed to meet its obligations to universities for effective learning and research, noting that "the vision of national transformation can be realized if the nation's universities live up to their role of being in the vanguard for national transformation".

President Jonathan, who advised the Governing Council under the headship of Rev. Walter Eneji to make its mark on the sands of time by placing the Institution on the next level of academic excellence, said that government expects good leadership, transparency and judicious use of funds from the University.

The *Visitor* congratulated the Graduates

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Nollywood Stars Get Achievement Awards At Chancellor's Dinner



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Best Graduating Student Plants Tree



Excellence Key To Effective Leadership



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UNIPORT Rewards Diligent Staff At Merit Award Nite



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# Nollywood Stars Get Achievement Awards At Chancellor's Dinner

...As UNIPORT Condolizes With Choba Monarch

By Williams Wodi

University of Port Harcourt Alumni, who are amongst movers and shakers of the Nigerian home video industry popularly known as Nollywood finally received due recognition for their monumental achievements penultimate Friday as the University rolled out the red carpet in appreciation of their contributions to the development of Nigeria's budding film industry and service to humanity.

The spectacular event which held at Hotel Presidential was a major highlight of the 2012 Chancellor's Dinner as a prelude to the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University. The impressive ceremony assembled some of the best in the movie industry, who are also Alumni of the University from the Department of Theatre Arts in the Faculty of Humanities. Most of the stars were trained under the tutelage of drama legend, actor and teacher, late Professor Ola Rotimi, who was also architect of the famous UNIPORT Theatre popularly known as *The CRAB* in Delta Park. Addressing the gathering, Chancellor of the

University of Port Harcourt

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Nollywood Star, Hilda Dokubo dancing away at music from her colleagues at Chancellor's Dinner

University and Akran of Badagry, His Majesty, De Wheno Aholu Menu Toyi 1, Chairman of the Governing Council Rev Walter Eneji and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiinka, praised the Nollywood stars for their dominance of the industry and also for bringing immense pride and honour to their *Alma Mater* in professional practice. They urged the stars to continue to identify with their *Alma Mater* wherever they may find themselves in and outside the film industry, adding that they would always be tied to the University that moulded them in their formative years.

The Vice-Chancellor particularly charged the Nollywood stars to identify legacy projects they should execute on Campus either on individual or collective basis, assuring them that the authorities would do all that is necessary to uplift their *Alma Mater* to become one of the top-rated Universities in Africa with their support. Some of UNIPORT's export to Nollywood who received awards are Ejike Asiegbu, Bob-Manuel Udokwu, Hilda Dokubo, Francis Duru, Victor Osuagwu, Yibo Koko, Julius Agwu, Michael Ogbolosingha, Sam Dede, Emeka Naze, Bimbo Manuel and Patrick Otoro.

In a related development, the Chancellor has paid a courtesy visit on the *Nyenwe Ali Choba*, His Highness, Eze Raymond Okocha in his Palace to console him on the demise of his mother, Madam Comfort Webilor Okocha. The Monarch, who led a delegation comprising the Vice-Chancellor and

other Principal Officers of the University and his entourage from Badagry, commiserated with Eze Okocha on the irreparable loss, urging him to give thanks to God for keeping his beloved mother alive to the ripe age of 91 years.

"I am very pleased that God allowed you to be alive and in good health to give her a befitting burial, which is what every parent expects from the children", the Oba said, expressing gratitude to the Chiefs and good People of Choba on the cordial relationship that has existed since the establishment of the University. Professor Ajiinka and Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs also joined the Chancellor to condole with Eze Okocha on the demise of his mother. Also present was the Paramount Ruler of Akpor Kingdom, Eze Anele Oriebe, and some members of Akpor Council of Chiefs.



Victor Osuagwu in a handshake with V-C, Prof Ajiinka

## UNIPORT To Benefit From RIVCLOUD Project

The University of Port Harcourt was among other stakeholders that participated in the launch of RIVCLOUD, which is a project initiated by the Rivers State Government in partnership with MTN, Equipment Hall, Globacom and Microsoft. It aims at centralizing data-ware housing which could be accessed from any part of the State.

Director, Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) in the University, Professor Anthony Ibe, disclosed that University of Port Harcourt

By Otkor Samuel

with other tertiary institutions, is billed to benefit from the project through proper data storage and retrieval processes. "The University of Port Harcourt was invited to the Rivers State Enterprise Cloud Computing. The Director, ICTC, attended the programme held at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2012," the report read in part, adding that the

University would deploy its full potentials in ICT to assist the Rivers State Government achieve the objectives of the package.

Professor Ibe further disclosed that two Lecturers and 20 students each from the Departments of Electrical/Electronic Engineering and Computer Science accompanied Heads, Training, Networking and SICT Units, as well as other staff of ICTC to the formal take-off of the project in the State.

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Prof Ibe, Director, ICTC

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while the first two distinguished Emeriti Professors are Ebiegheri Alagoa and Kelsey Harrison.

Speaking during the Special Senate for the Investiture which attracted dignitaries within and outside the State, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, congratulated the new Emeriti Professors for their achievements which earned them the honour, urging them to continue to act as role-models and mentors to younger academics in and outside the University.

"This Investiture of Emeriti Professors which we are celebrating for the first time is a major milestone in the academic culture of our University. The ceremony is a celebration of intellectual elder statesmanship. The Emeritus Professor is an Elder in the academic community. It is the highest academic honour a university can confer on a retired Professor, who is committed to academic excellence. This honour makes him a Professor for life and a member of the university academic community," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Elaborating on the significance of Emeritus Professor status, Professor Ajiienka stated that, "Where there are elders grey with wisdom and rich in experiencing we expect leadership and guidance. We expect mentorship of the young academics. Emeriti Professors are academic *iroko*

# Briggs, Anosike, Nduka, Okiwelu, Invested As Emeriti Professors



L-R: Emeriti Professors Okiwelu, Nduka, Anosike and Briggs

trees beneath whom young academics will continue to shelter and be mentored to maturity in their own rights."

The Vice-Chancellor, who enumerated the contributions of the new Emeriti Professors to the growth of the University, said that it was the administration of Professor Nimi Briggs as Vice-Chancellor that kick-started construction of the Senate Building, built the sports facilities which launched the University as a centre of excellence in sports, leading to its uninterrupted emergence as champions of Nigeria Universities Games Association (NUGA) and West Africa University Games (WAUG), attracted the PTDF Chair in Gas Engineering, PTDF Gas Engineering Building and ETF (now TETFund) Gas Engineering Building. Briggs is a

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

In extolling the qualities of Emeritus Professor Anosike, the Vice-Chancellor, pointed out that the retired Professor of Biochemistry showed sound leadership by building an exemplary Department. "In the Department of Biochemistry, he raised a closely-knit research team that worked as a family and have grown together in harmony ever since his arrival here. Biochemistry is one exemplary Department where they teach courses and supervise *Theses* and *Dissertations* in teams headed by very senior academics," he said.

For Emeritus Professor Nduka, his achievements also spans through academic and administrative inputs with his initiation of many academic programmes including

the Sandwich programme, while serving as pioneer Dean, Faculty of Education. His groundbreaking seminal book in 1964 titled: *Western Education and the Nigerian Cultural Background* is seen as a revolutionary book coming at a time the country was emerging from colonial rule.

"He retired in 1991 after a glorious career that produced the next crop of academics in the emergent Faculty. In 2006, Professor Nduka threw another bombshell in the academic space with the publication of his book of essays titled: *The Roots of African Underdevelopment and Other Essays*," the Vice-Chancellor added.

"Professor Okiwelu was the unofficial President of Senate of the University for many years. He was the foremost Senior Advocate on the floor of Senate in the mould of Chief Rotimi Williams of blessed memory popularly called *Timi the Law*. Professor Okiwelu served the University in various capacities during his active academic and administrative career that spanned over three decades," Professor Ajiienka disclosed.

A retired Professor in the Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, Okiwelu was said to have contributed immensely to the growth of the University as Chairman, University Strategic Plan Committee that developed the Ten-Year (2003-2013) Plan, titled: *Building the Future*.

Reading the Guidelines for Conferment of Emeritus Professor Status on Retired Professors, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Andrew Joe, stated that the beneficiary shall have duly retired from the services of the University at the appropriate retirement age and not on contract appointment at the time of nomination, served as Professor for a period of, at least, 15 years, 10 of which must have been spent in the University in active service, must not be found guilty by a Court or Panel of Inquiry of competent jurisdiction among other requirements.

Speaking on behalf of other recipients, former Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Briggs thanked the University for the honour, recalling that it was the University of Ibadan that first started the recognition in Nigerian universities with the appointment of Late Victor Oyenuga as an Emeritus Professor in 1979.

"Seen as a mark of recognition, universities reserve this honour for those who, as it were, have become bedfellows with them; those they cannot let go and those who cannot let the university go. We will be alive to our responsibility, the Almighty God giving us strength and good health and we will at all times, strive to do our utmost best to place this University among the best in the world," Emeritus Professor Briggs summarized.

Highlight of the session included a special poetry presentation by the University Poet, Professor Martin Bestman and musical rendition by UNIPORT Concert Chorus led by the Head, Department of Music, Professor Onye Nwankpa.

## Best Graduating Student Plants Tree

By Mercy Don-Baridam

In a bid to promote academic excellence among students of the University, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, has disclosed that to emerge as a First Class brain, students must make serious effort to concentrate on their studies right from their First Year in the University.

Professor Joseph Ajiienka made the appeal during the *Tree Planting Ceremony* as part of events marking the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation last Wednesday at the University Park, stating that to make a First Class in University of Port Harcourt means that the student has worked extra hard right from the first year. The Vice-Chancellor commended the *Valedictorian*, Boma Tubotamuno for making the University, his Department, Class, Parents and friends proud. He encouraged other students to emulate the example of the Best Graduating students, explaining

that students come from different backgrounds to gain knowledge, adding that students of the University have a sense of responsibility and charged them not to forget that they are competing all the time with students in other Universities.

Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, observed that the achievement of the Best Graduating Student was worth emulating, appealing to the students to always have a target and pursue their studies with vigour to excel at the end of their programme.

In her contribution, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Development, Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, also commended the Best Graduating Students for his determination to succeed in the midst of daunting odds that would have distracted him from achieving excellence, urging other students to work hard and emulate Mr Tubotamuno's good example.

Earlier, Acting Dean, Student Affairs Department, Dr Matthew Wegwu, had praised the academic achievements of Mr Tubotamuno, assuring the authorities and other stakeholders in the affairs of the University of the preparedness of students to bring honour to their *Alma Mater* and fatherland, urging students to embrace discipline and hard work as a panacea for success. Dr Wegwu expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for creating an enabling environment for students to give of their best to their *Alma Mater* and society.



V-C, Prof Ajiienka (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), BGS, Mr Tubotamuno, DVCs (R&D and Academic), Profs Willie-Abbey, Joe and other Senior Officers of the University



Mr. Onyiroro

## Taming Traffic Gridlock On E'West Rd

Despite vigorous efforts made by Management and Traffic Wardens in the University to ensure free flow of vehicles on Campus, it has become a distressing daily experience for commuters in the University of Port Harcourt and its environs, writes **MERCY DON-BARIDAM**.

Reviewing the traffic problem within the University community, it is obvious that getting into the University premises on daily basis has become a great challenge for staff and students.

Simeon Onyiroro, who is a staff of the Security Unit, described the traffic situation as an unpleasant daily experience, noting that traffic jam is on the increase, suggesting ways to unlock the prevalent gridlock, especially on the busy Choba Junction of the East-West Road.

Simeon disclosed that as part of efforts aimed at improving the traffic situation, TIMARIV, the Rivers State Government-owned Traffic Management Agency, has deployed its personnel to the East-West Road. He expressed satisfaction, that since the new Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (Rtd) took office, illegal parking by commercial motorcycle operators has drastically reduced.

Lamenting the dearth of personnel, Onyiroro recommended that the only way the traffic situation can improve is for Management of the University to employ more hands in the unit. "When we started, we were about ten in number and usually ran shifts; we also did posting at the University Park Gate and the junction, as time went on some retired and since then, there has been no replacement to fill this gap", he said, appealing to Management to recruit more able-bodied personnel to the Traffic Unit.

According to him, traffic from the Choba East-West road axis has worsened, listing illegal motorbike operators and bus parking, bad roads, trading as some of the major causes of traffic gridlock in the area, even as he acknowledged the palliative effort by Homan Engineering on the NTA/Choba axis of the road which seems to have eased the situation a bit.

Onyiroro appealed to Management to relocate the Park currently situated near the Aluu Drive Gate as a means of controlling traffic, calling on Government to assist the University fix the roads and construct an overhead bridge to make the road motorable as a lasting solution to the problem.

## Alumni Lecture

# Excellence Key To Effective Leadership ~Prof Wariboko

By Humphrey Ogu

As Nigerians continue to grapple with bad leadership almost three decades after renowned novelist, Professor Chinua Achebe, identified it as the nation's major problem in his seminal essay, *The Trouble with Nigeria*, notable Alumnus of the University, Professor Nimi Wariboko, has prescribed excellence as panacea for leadership challenges in the country.

Wariboko made the assertion in a Lecture, titled "Leadership and Governance" during the Alumni Homecoming of the University of Port Harcourt as part of activities preceding the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation, at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, penultimate Friday.

The Lecturer, who is a 1984 First Class Graduate of Economics, lamented that "Nigerian elites are lost in corruption, lost in the world; they have lost their path to excellence. Elitism is darkness in Nigeria. Leaders need to turn around to find the orientation to the greatness of the black race, to see where the sun is rising."

Defining excellence as "the actualization of the potentialities of all citizens so each and every one can be all that he or she can be," Wariboko pointed out that a leader's concern is to create the ethos, change the orientation of the system or polity so that every human being will have the opportunity to actualize to the highest possible level of his or her potentialities.

According to him, a leader must ensure that each person born into the country dies empty; dies after having blessed his or her generation with all the gifts that God deposited in him or her. "President Barack Obama is not the first black person capable of being the President of the United States. For over three hundred years, the ethos of the United States of America did not allow the potential of any black man or woman to lead at the highest political level to be actualized."

Wariboko, whose Lecture was delivered by Dr Eme Ekeke of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, observed that "a leadership that does not allow participation of its citizens in the development and furtherance of their gifts and capabilities and in doing so contribute to the wellbeing of their community is one that cannot claim to bridge leadership and governance. The command structures, norms, and practices make no sense if it fails in this one supreme duty."

"For Nigerian leaders to refuse the capabilities, training, and socio-economic environment that will enable the citizens to actualize their creative potentials is sheer callousness and wickedness of the highest depravity," he noted.

Also speaking, distinguished Alumnus and President of Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, expressed delight to be invited to participate in the Alumni Homecoming of members of the Association, urging and other stakeholders to contribute towards the used University of Harcourt Alumni Centre.

President Jonathan, who spoke through the Rivers State Commissioner of Education, Dame Alice I, conceded that there are several challenges facing Nigerian universities, stating that "these challenges require concerted efforts by all stakeholders in the education system to tackle them. We must play our roles in ensuring that our university and other universities in Nigeria attain world-class status through the development of the relevant curriculum."



Prof Wariboko

She said that an educated citizenry and a competent workforce are necessary in order to strengthen Nigeria's young democracy.

"Alumni Associations are critical stakeholders. We must realize that it is our responsibility to ensure that those who graduate from our universities after us are better equipped than we were; they should be more competitive in the global knowledge economy. We, as Alumni of Unique UNIPORT, should have a critical role to play. We are the bridge between the past, the present and the future," the President said.

In his address, another Alumnus and Governor of Rivers State, Rt Hon Chibuike Amaechi, who spoke through the Permanent Secretary, Rivers State Ministry of Education, Richard Ofurum, reaffirmed his resolve to build the Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities promised earlier. He announced plans to build a model secondary school in the University, in addition to the model primary school which is ongoing, stating that by the next Homecoming of the Association, the primary school shall have been completed. According to him, the University would be 40 in three years' time, urging members of the Alumni Association to contribute towards the development of their Alma Mater, such as endowing Chairs, building of hostels and classroom, among other forms of donation.

Earlier in his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, observed that "since it was established 37 years ago, the University of Port Harcourt, has recorded giant strides that we are very proud of. The University has made tremendous achievements in infrastructural development, including some groundbreaking researches that have received commendation both at home and abroad."

"I am pleased to announce that the University has produced over 50,000 graduates since its inception. This distinguished crop of Alumni shares a common bond of friendship that has endured. It is gratifying to note that many have had very exciting careers in diverse fields of human endeavour. Among them are university administrators, doctors, lawyers, commissioners, legislators, clergymen, amongst others. Professor Ajenka pointed out, adding that despite their excellent careers, they have remained close to their Alma Mater."

He cited President Goodluck Jonathan, Governor Chibuike Amaechi and Chief Nyesom Wike, Minister of State for Education, calling on other Alumni to emulate the benevolence of the aforementioned Alumni.

Also speaking, Chairman of Rivers State branch of the Association, Mr Sampson Nwagbara, said that the Alumni Homecoming was conceived to draw attention to the need for greater commitment, noting that "the world over, universities are being driven by their Alumni Associations. Ours cannot be different."

He added that although some members of the Association have made remarkable contribution to the University on individual basis, it is necessary for members of the Association to come together and contribute towards the building of an Alumni Centre, which would house the University Exams and Records Office as well as the Alumni Secretariat.

In his contribution, Chairman of the occasion, Dr Alex Otti, who spoke through the Vice President of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) Isa Aremu, stressed the need to sustain the Homecoming, regretting that the Education For All by the year 2000 campaign of the 1990s was not achieved, yet the new Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2015 target is close by with nothing on ground to suggest that the goals are attainable. The highlight of the event was fundraising for the Alumni Centre.



Nwagbara



As part of activities marking the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has commended the 14 graduates, who made First Class for the 2010/2011 academic session, urging them to always put in their best in whatever they do, as they go into the larger society to prove themselves worthy as best brains from the University of Port Harcourt.

Professor Ajienka made the remark at the Vice-Chancellor's Dinner organized in honour of First Class Graduates at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge,

# V-C Lauds First Class Brains At Dinner

By Mercy Don-Baridam



Tubotamuno Boma



Joshua Fubara



Bob-Manuel Onengiyi



Enwereji Ozoma



Otung Daniel



Nwachukwu Justina

penultimate Wednesday, stressing that "First Class is not awarded in Hotel Presidential; it is given in a proper University. I would like to congratulate the 14 graduates who made First Class this year and their Lecturers. You have done well, which means you have worked extra hard, you kept the hope, struggled and finished the race".

Professor Ajienka expressed satisfaction with the success recorded by the First Class graduates, stating that the Dinner was a way of celebrating scholarship and excellence, hoping that they would continue to make the University proud in whatever they do and leave their footprint on the sand of time. He cited Dr Alex Otti, an Alumnus, who obtained the First Class and attracted so much to his Alma Mater as a good role-model to copy.

He expressed gratitude to the Lecturers for inspiring the graduates, urging the First Class brains to do likewise by inspiring others wherever they may find themselves. "Life is not just about academics, it is about interpersonal relationships, it is about the way we live; listen to instructions from managers and superiors. We are confident you will compete anywhere in the world, when you go into the industry, you must learn to introduce new ideas and be patient because people are watching you very keenly," Professor Ajienka advised them.

Speaking with *UNIPORT Weekly*, some First Class graduates recalled their experiences while in the University. Kika Emedu, a graduate of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, with a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.63 said, "I took a personal decision to succeed, I told myself that whatever I do, I will put in my best, and with prayers, determination, hard work, my parents and friends, I am where I am today." She advised other

starts from Year Three; you must start from Year One and be determined to make it, because no goal, no achievement". He expressed gratitude to his Lecturers, especially Dr Ethelbert Kari, who he said he respects and admires, explaining that they taught him all he needed to know right from the Certificate programme.

"First Class is not easy because it comes with a lot of challenge which is part of life", Nneka Okeke, another graduate from the Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, with a CGPA of 4.56 disclosed.

She said she was determined with a strong will to achieve something right from her Certificate programme and the sacrifices earned her a First Class

grade. She appealed to other students, especially the female Undergraduates to be determined, stressing that being married should not be a yardstick for them to defer their admission, rather they should be determined to continue and complete their studies.

Other First Class Graduates who spoke to *UNIPORT Weekly* were; Samuel Joshua, Department of Linguistics and Literature with a CGPA of 4.77, Bob-Manuel Onengiyi, Department of Educational Psychology Guidance and Counselling (4.73), Irene Enwereji, Department of Theatre Arts (4.66), Daniel Otung, Department of Petroleum Engineering (4.65), Chinansa Nwachukwu, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature (4.60), Chioma Okereke, Department of Biochemistry (4.55), Anthonia Iyade, Department of Educational Psychology Guidance and Counselling (4.53), Udem Asanga, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies (4.52), Rich Mueka, Department of Educational Psychology Guidance and Counselling (4.52).

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Boma Tubotamuno, Department of Economics with a CGPA of 4.78 expressed gratitude to the Management and staff of the University for the love, patience and guidance they showered on them throughout their stay in the University and for ensuring that they came out in flying colours.

The Dinner had in attendance Lecturers who also obtained First Class such as, Professors Ethelbert Iyagba, Mark Anikpo, Regina Ogali, Ben Ndukwu, Anthony Ibe, Deans and Heads of Department.



Okereke Chioma



Rev Sr Anthonia Iyade



Udem Asanga



Mueka Zorbari



Grant Ogurinka



Okeke Mariatheresa



Anuchi Samson



Kika Philomina

students to work hard and do their best, stating that it is better to be celebrated than to be decorated; promising to come back to the University to give back something in the near future.

Samson Anuchi, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, with a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.50, disclosed that his Department has been very challenging to many students, "To get to this level, I had to set my priorities right and with God on my side, I am among the First Class graduates," adding that he had wanted to study Chemical Engineering, but found himself reading Pure and Industrial Chemistry. He appreciated his Lecturers for their time and patience to see him through his programme in the University, advising other students to go for the courses they are passionate about if they hope to succeed.

Another First Class graduate, Grant Ogurinka, from the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, with a CGPA of 4.51, explained that a whole lot of work was put into his studies, "Making a First Class is not something that one

# President Jonathan Tasks Varsity Mgt



Procession at the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation

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for their hard work, steadfastness and perseverance that saw them through their studies, stressing that "you have been trained and equipped to be self-reliant", advising them to be generators of employment, rather than job seekers.

Also speaking, Wife of the President, Dame (Dr) Patience Jonathan, who was represented by Wife of the Governor of River State, Dame Judith Amaechi, commended authorities of the University for keeping to what it is well known for challenging them to intensify efforts in improving their courses.

The Wife of the President, who advised the authorities to pay attention on research activities, thanked Government for the consistent support to the University, appealing to corporate bodies and public-spirited individuals to come to the aid of universities to enable them achieve their mandates.

Dame Jonathan congratulated the Graduates and Honorary Awardees on their achievements, advising them to be worth ambassadors of the University.

Chancellor, His Royal Highness, Dr. De Wheno Aholu Menu Toyi I, said that the accelerated development, so far recorded in the University, is a testimony of the collective desire of all stakeholders to build a reputable University that others would be proud to emulate, adding that "you have demonstrated a high sense of responsibility that has taken the University to the level where it is now".

In his Address, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Rev. Dr. Walter Eneji, commended Senate, Management, Staff and Students for partnering the Governing Council in efforts aimed at realizing the goals of the University, calling on all stakeholders to continue in that spirit to take the Institution to greater heights.

Expressing gratitude to members of the Governing Council for their dedication to duty, Rev. Eneji observed that "debates in our meetings have been very robust, focused and frank and I am delighted that we are all committed to putting in our best to take the University to greater heights. He called for discipline and total loyalty to the system as a way of achieving the lofty dreams of transforming the Institution to an entrepreneurial University that others would be proud of in the comity of universities. He congratulated the graduates as well as the three Honourary Degree recipients on their achievements.

Earlier in his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, had enumerated the giant strides recorded by the Administration on his watch. Professor Ajienka, whose address was entitled "The New UNIPORT: The Making of an Entrepreneurial University", gave account of the major activities of his administration. He disclosed that Total International has adopted UNIPORT as a partner Institution for Petroleum Engineering and Geosciences in the Gulf of Guinea. "Our School of Graduate Studies has been transformed into a research-intensive centre

of excellence. We have also set up a Committee comprising national and internationally-known industry experts and scholars to conduct Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in the University", he stated. The Vice-Chancellor also spoke of research breakthroughs, new capital projects, Industry Research and Development partnerships with industry players, Investiture of Emeriti Professors, sporting excellence, innovations and breakthroughs and efforts to rain youths in the University's host communities. Professor Ajienka praised Team UNIPORT for its three consecutive victories at the West African University Games (WAUG) and as reigning champions of the Nigeria Universities Games Association (NUGA). He also paid glowing tribute to Friends of the University, particularly the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Chief Nyesom Wike, for facilitating release of funds towards infrastructural development of the University.

The event which was the climax of a week-long activities to mark the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University, featured Award of Certificates, First Degrees and Prizes, Higher Degrees as well as conferment of Honourary Doctorate Degrees on Dr. Egbert Imomoh, Chairman, Afren Energy Services, Dr. Atedo Peterside, Chairman, STANBIC-IBTC PLC, and Dr. Alex Otti, Managing Director, Diamond Bank PLC.

## UNIPORT Rewards Diligent Staff At Merit Award Nite

By Williams Wodi

As part of the build-up to the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, 23 staff including students of the University who were adjudged to have diligently discharged their statutory functions have been honoured in an elaborate Merit Award Night at the Indoor Sports Hall, University Park.

The awardees are: Mr Christian Ahiauzu (Best ICTC Technologist), Mr Gift Suator (Best CIL Technologist), Mr Pius Fulalo (Best Library Staff), Mr Morgan Onoshokpo (Best Staff, Works & Services), Miss Blessing Nwokocho (Best Staff, UISS), Mr Shell Tissa

(Best Contractor), Miss Gift Ogbe (Best Bursary Staff), Professor Adewale Dosunmu (Best Researcher of the Year), Dr Ken Anugweje, Dr Matthew Wegwu and Team UNIPORT (Best in Sports), Professor Awotua Ebi-Efebo (Best Dean of the Year), Professor Joseph Okoh (Best Mentor of the Year) and Dr Tamuno Orunaboka (Best President, Senior Staff Club).

Others are: Mr Emmanuel John (Best Student Organisation Leader), SIFE (Best Student Organisation), Dr (Mrs) Chineze Uche (Best Staff Adviser of Student Organisation), Mr Victor Osiah (Best Driver) and Professor Elijah Iyagba (Best Organizer of Post-UTME, CBT). Messrs Chibuzor Wordu, Victor Osiah, Mrs Faith Marcus and Miss Victoria Matthew received Special Awards from the Vice-Chancellor.

The impressive event which attracted staff, students and guests from within and outside the University, including former Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, took place amidst mock wrestling, dancing and drumming by host communities and renditions by the UNIPORT Concert Chorus directed by the Head, Department of Music, Professor Onyee Nwankpa.

Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control, Professor Tony Arinze, under whose office the event was packaged, praised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, for recognizing merit as reflected in the quality of those nominated for the various categories of the award. Staff, students and lecturers were cited and rewarded for their meritorious services to the University. A major highlight of the award was the conferment of special recognition on the victorious Team UNIPORT athletes, which won the just-concluded West African University Games (WAUG), hosted by the University of Ilorin, Kwara State for the third time and still counting. The Team was cited for setting a new WAUG record by winning 48 gold, 26 silver and 19 bronze medals to brush aside all opposition. Team UNIPORT was also cited for winning the Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) for the consecutive four times running.



V-C, Prof Ajienka decorating Best Dean of the Year, Prof Ebi-Efebo

## GUIDEPOST

## BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

## APPOINTMENT

*Dr Angela Frank-Briggs*, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director*, Centre for Children Developmental and Communication Disorders. The appointment takes immediate effect and terminates with tenure of the Director, Professor Shirley Yul-Ifoe.

*Mrs Joyce Tamuno*, former Deputy Registrar (Establishments) appointed *College Secretary*, College of Health Sciences, effective 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.

## REGULARIZATION OF APPOINTMENT

*Dr Eyo Ambrose*, Senior Lecturer, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, has been regularized from Temporary to Pensionable Appointment, effective 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2010.

## REVIEW OF STATUS

*Mr Okechukwu Onianwa*, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, promoted from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer, effective 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.

*Miss Ununuma Akpiri*, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, promoted from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer, effective 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

*Mr Ugorji Hycinth*, Department of Maths/Statistics, Faculty of Science, promoted from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer, effective 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

*Mr Nwachukwu Oguegbulu*, Department of Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 and terminates on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2013.

## STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

*Mr Onuoha Oriji*, Department of Pure & Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, proceeds on one year *Study Leave with Pay*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2012.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

*Professor Philemona Ejele*, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted one year *Sabbatical Leave* to Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, effective 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2012 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.

## RECALL TO DUTY

*Dr Alwell Ome-Egeonu*, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science, recalled to duty with payment of outstanding salary, following consideration of Report of the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee (SSDC) by the Governing Council at its 133<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

## TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

*Dr Roger Wilcox*, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, terminated from the University, on the recommendation of the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee (SSDC), effective 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2011.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Interested persons are advised to send in articles for publication in the maiden edition of *Gazette of Medicine*, a publication of Association of Resident Doctors, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. Closing date is Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2012.

Contact: The Editor, Dr Naaji C. chymaoby@yahoo.com, 08056618465.

## WORLD MALARIA DAY 2012

The Centre for Malaria Research & Phytomedicine holds a Public Symposium and Annual Scientific Meeting on Malaria Research & Phytomedicine to commemorate this year's *World Malaria Day*. The event with the theme: *Sustain Gains, Save Lives: Invest in Malaria Control*, is slated for Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 10:00am. Inauguration of Advisory Board and Exhibitions are billed as special features.

Contact: Director, Professor Omatayo Ebong

## CHANGE OF NAME

MRS NGOZI CAROLINE EMECHETA: Former Miss Ngozi Caroline Okereke now wishes to be called and addressed as MRS NGOZI CAROLINE EMECHETA. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

## SAFETY ALERT

- Security is everybody's business.
- Report all strange faces to the Security Department.
- Don't touch strange objects. Be Vigilant!

## UNIJOS PRODUCES SNAKEBITE VACCINE

The University of Jos, has produced vaccine against snakebites. The disclosure was made by the Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Professor John Aguiyi, who credited the feat to the research unit of the Faculty. The Dean stated that the vaccine has been tested and certified, lamenting, however, that the major challenge presently is paucity of fund for mass production of the vaccine.

## TWO PROFESSORS, OTHER WORSHIPPERS KILLED AT BUK

Professors Jerome Ayodele and Andrew Ogbonyomi, were among other Catholic faithful killed in Bayero University Kano by gunmen suspected to belong to the dreaded Islamic sect, *Boko Haram* during Mass in an open theatre at the Indoor Sports Hall penultimate Sunday. About 16



Prof Rufa'i, Minister of Education

persons were confirmed dead while a number of others sustained various degree of injuries. The attack came barely three days after the administrative block of Gombe State University was bombed by suspected members of the sect. National President of National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Mr Mohammed Dauda threatened that students would boycott classes until security of lives and property is guaranteed.

## FURORE OVER MOVE TO STEM MEDICAL BRAIN DRAIN IN INDIA BY ALYA MISHRA

In a bid to curb a major brain drain of valuable medical personnel, India has said that doctors leaving for higher medical studies in America will have to sign a government bond promising to return after their courses – a move that has caused consternation among medical students and doctors.

The American government has always required certificates from the Indian Health Ministry to issue a visa to Indian doctors going to US medical schools.

In the past, Indian students had to provide a written assurance to the Ministry that they would return back to their country to practise after completing medical studies abroad. But now the government wants students to sign a legally enforceable affidavit to return to India.

"If a student does not come back from the US, he won't be allowed to practise there," Health Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad said on 23 April.

In the past three years, 3,000 Indian doctors have gone abroad for studies

and have not returned, the Minister said.

The US authorities require a government No Objection Certificate, or NOC, for every Indian student enrolling with an American institution from this academic session, which gives the Indian government some leverage to attempt to stem the brain drain.

Azad said: "No other country except the US is asking for this

NOC. Those who apply to go to the US for studies from 2012 will have to give us a bond saying they will come back after finishing the studies. If they don't fulfil the bond obligation, we can write to the US to deny the student permission to practise."

But the statement led to criticism from the medical community, which argued the move would not stop the brain drain but simply redirect it to countries other than the US.

Others support the government's bid to keep top medical talent in the country, where it is greatly needed.

"If the government is setting such a condition it is because it is investing heavily in medical education of these doctors and providing highly subsidised education," said Dr Tatyrao Lahane, Dean of JJ Hospital and the Grant Medical College in Mumbai.

Called from World University News

-Compiled by Otiok Samuel



# 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony

The 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt for the Award of Certificates, First Degrees and Prizes, Higher and Honourary Degrees was held penultimate Saturday, 28h April, 2012 at the Convocation Arena. University Park. Pictures show highlights of the event which attracted people from all walks of life.



V-C, Prof Ajienka, leading the Chancellor's procession



Chancellor, His Majesty, Dr De Wheno Aholu, Menu Toyi I, addressing the Convocation



Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji, delivering his address



V-C, Prof Ajienka, presenting his State-of-the-University address



From L-R, V-C, Prof Ajienka, Education Minister, Prof Rugayyatu Rifa'a and Chancellor, His Majesty, Dr Aholu Menu Toyi I



From R-L, Rt Hon Rufinus Amaechi, Pro-Chancellor, Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji and Minister of State For Education, Chief Nyesom Wike



Dr Atedo Peterside, signing the University Register accepting his conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degree



Dr Egbert Imomoh, signing the University Register accepting his conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degree



Dr Alex Ott, signing the University Register accepting his conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degree



Dame Judith Amaechi, presenting a copy of First Lady, Dame (Dr) Patience Jonathan's address to the Vice-Chancellor



A cross section of Doctoral Degree Awardees



A cross section of Graduates