

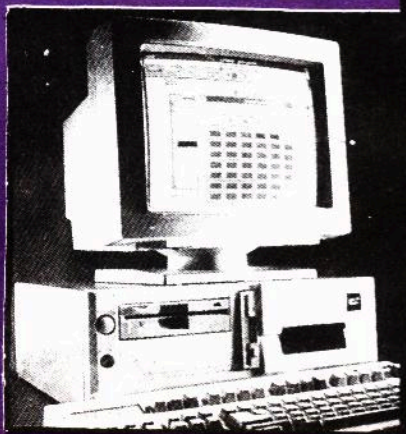


NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI

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FUTO Enters **INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY**



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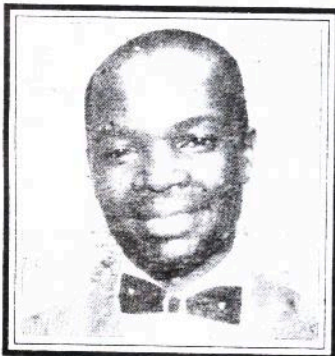
- PTF Team arrives FUTO
- Special Report on Stroke
- Lolo Ezinne Mbase installed
- Guests on FUTONews Platform
- VC's Cup Lifted



From the Editor's Desk

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As a regular quarterly, you must have expected the FUTO - News on the News Stands by June, having read the last edition in March.

We are sorry we could not keep faith with that date on account of some intervening variables. However, the eagle has finally landed and we commend to your healthy reading appetite this freshly hot and juicy edition centred on lively issues.

Despite our dread for the millennium bug, we ventured into the rapidly changing world of computers and addressed the internet. We became involved because FUTO has sprang up a huge surprise: taking advantage of the NUNET facility to join the elite league cruising after countless information on the internet. The speed could be that of light, and FUTO seems alright.

The Computer bug has already caught the newly appointed University Librarian who came on the FUTONews Platform to espouse the theory of dedicated continuity based on automation.

We all know of one school in FUTO with an inimitable reputation - the producers of technocrat managers who pride themselves as job creators and not job seekers - (the school of

management technology, SMAT). This school, under the inspired leadership of its current Dean has proved to be smart. Turn the pages and see for yourself.

While some students are busy plotting and executing mayhem in some ingenuous dastardly acts, others occupy themselves with healthy conducts befitting future leaders.

The Federation of Mbaise Students rolled out drums in June to honour a worthy mother with the reverend title of 'LOLO EZINNE MBAISE I'

This is our package for the quarter. There are lots more, positive thinking series, letters, hard news, and tit bits: Take a deep breath and enjoy yourself

Chike Ezenwa

PTF INSPECTION TEAM IN FUTO

The Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF) Project Director, Eastern Zone Engr. U.C.O. Obiesie has expressed satisfaction with the warm hands of fellowship extended to them when the Inspection Team of the PTF visited FUTO on Thursday April 16, 1998.

In his opening speech, Prof. M. U. Iloeje DVC (Academic) who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor expressed joy at the arrival of the PTF team and noted that the FUTO Community had waited long for the handover exercise. He apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Vice-Chancellor, but assured the visitors that the FUTO team was well constituted and adequately briefed to perform the assignment.

Engr. Obiesie disclosed with delight that their visit to FUTO, attracted the best crop of the University's stakeholders ever witnessed by the PTF team in their previous visits to other beneficiaries. He also apologised for their delay in coming, but gave the following highlights as the purpose of the meeting.

- (a) To enable the beneficiary know the contractors/consultants hired for the job
- (b) To show the contractors their prospective sites for work involved.
- (c) To enable the parties appreciate the volume of work involved
- (d) To enable all parties to the work sign the handover documents.

Engr. Obiesie assured that work would commence immediately after a meeting on the intervention exercise in Enugu the following day. He solicited maximum cooperation from FUTO and enjoined all those connected with the work to ensure effective and close interaction and mutual understanding in the execution of the projects. He assured that if the job progresses to a successful end and within the contractual time frame, FUTO stood a good chance to benefit from the second stage of the PTF intervention exercise in educational institutions in the eastern zone.

The FUTO Team conducted the visitors round the sites of the projects earmarked for rehabilitation by the PTF. The following projects were visited and the contractors noted the nature and type of work on each site thus

(A) SEET HEAD

- Refurbishment of the building
- Control of flood and landscaping
- Repainting, replacement of louvre blades and faulty electrical/plumbing services
- Installation of PABX/Telecom facilities.

(B) STUDENTS HOSTELS A & B

- Internal and external paintings
- Plumbing
- Electrical/mechanical service
- Window/door louvre blades
- Roof leakages - Etc.

(C) MULTIPLE ACTIVITY CENTRE (MAC)

- Details of work as in hostels

(D) THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

- Supply of learning equipment, reprographic facilities
- Supply of photocopier, air conditioners, refrigerators, computers etc.

(E) WATER BOREHOLE/OVERHEAD TANK

- Completion of the abandoned overhead tank
- Limited reticulation

(F) ACCESS ROAD

- Rehabilitation of the dilapidated second gate access road, from the Ihiagwa end.
- Construction of culverts/drains.

At the end of the inspection tour, the PTF leader disclosed that the Eastern Zone has been rated first and best of the six zones of the PTF scheme in the country. He expressed faith and optimism that the zone would maintain its lead. He further hinted that site meetings would be held regularly on the campus to closely monitor and constantly review the progress of work at the sites and this would include representatives from FUTO.

The PTF team confirmed that necessary changes could be accommodated,

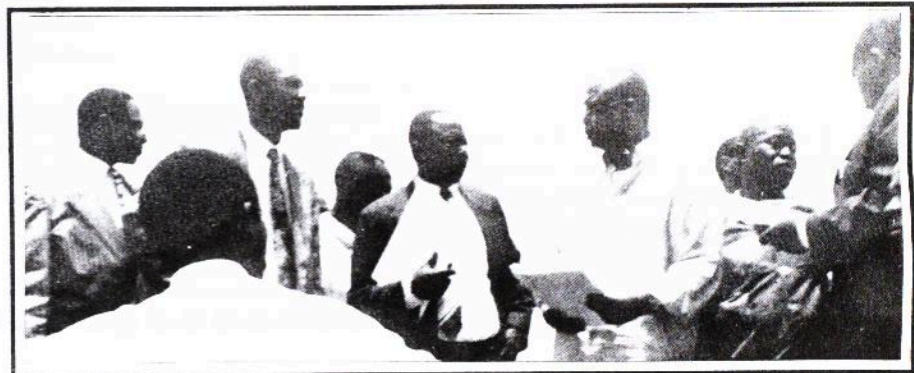
provided that the entire monetary outlay for the projects would not be exceeded. He advised the beneficiary to always discuss their observations and/or requests for modification(s) with the PTF project consultants. He however warned that any major change that could affect or overstretch the budget would not be acceptable to the PTF, as the outfit is now operating on tight budgetary estimates.

In his closing remarks, Engr. Obiesie, leader of the PTF delegation, thanked the university for the wonderful reception, cordiality and friendly atmosphere that prevailed during the discussions. He observed that his team was impressed with all the arrangements made by the university, which led to the success of the day's business. He extolled FUTO as a well organized institution and stressed that the excellent management of the affairs of FUTO is obvious and clearly reflected in the university's products and urged the university to keep it up.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, staff and students of FUTO, the DVC (Academic) Prof. M. U. Iloeje thanked the PTF for the intervention gesture. He urged all parties to the project especially the contractors to do a good and thorough job which he said would positively affect Nigerians.

The highlight of the day's business was the signing of the handover certificates by the beneficiary, the PTF officials, the Project Consultants and contractors.

The DVC (Academic) Prof. M. U. Iloeje handed over copies of the signed certificates to each contractor while Engr. Evans Okoro, a representative of Tele-Power Nigeria Limited said the closing prayer.



U.C.O. Obiesie (PTF) Management led by the DVC (Academics) with the PTF contractors going round the various Project Sites.

FUTO NEWS Platform

Special Interviews

Dr. J. I. Ejimanya (Chairman Nigerian Universities Network)

The next century, only 17 months away belongs to the Computer and its amazing capacity, especially in the area of communication and information technology. It is thrilling to note that FUTO has joined the big league on the internet through the Nigerian Universities Network (NUNET). How did it happen? Dr. J.I. Ejimanya was invited on the FUTO News platform to talk about the new trend. Following below are excerpts from the rich and revealing interview.

Futo News: What is Nunet?

Chairman: I am delighted to be given this opportunity to present a case for Nunet. Nunet is a contraction of Nigeria Universities Network. The Nunet Committee as we know it today is a metamorphosis of the NUC/PIU E-Mail Committee which was set up at the NUC in 1994.

According to the terms of reference, the Committee was to examine the feasibility, the eventual introduction and full utilization of electronic mail system within and beyond the Nigerian University System. That was the basic mandate of the then E-Mail Committee. At that time, the University System was being rejuvenated through the World Bank Loan and the absence of effective

modern communications and infrastructure within the system was identified as a major impediment to any meaningful development or productivity. After touring the country in 1994, members of the Committee, who also visited FUTO, felt that it was necessary to involve the various Universities in the activities of the NUC E-Mail Committee. They asked the various Federal Universities to appoint what they called "The E-Mail Contact

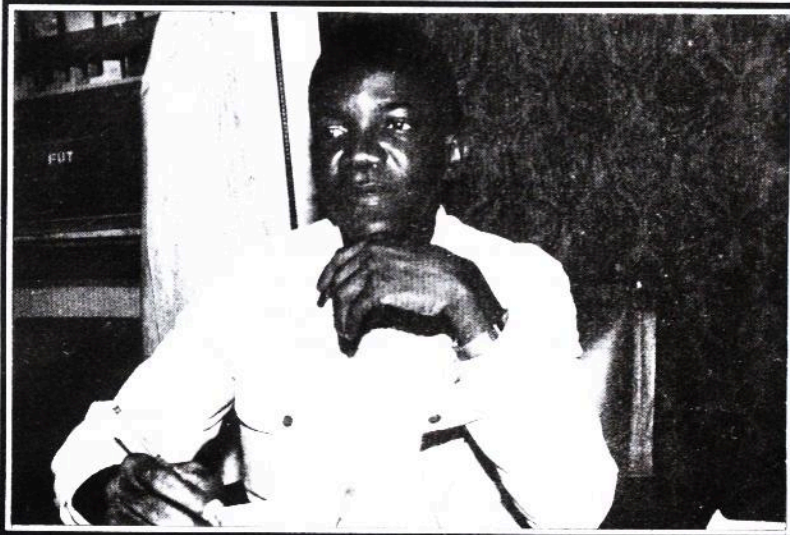
Persons". So the present Chairman of Nunet was originally called E-Mail Contact Person for FUTO. Subsequently, in 1995 a Workshop was organised and it was called Electronic Networking of Nigerian Universities'. At the end of the Workshop, it was realised that the name 'E-Mail

Universities were now asked to translate the Abuja Nunet Committee into their various campuses, appoint Nunet Chairmen and establish well-furnished offices, properly equipped with Administrative Officers and Secretaries. From that point on, the E-Mail Contact Person was redesignated Nunet Chairman for

FUTO and the informal activities of the Committee started in 1996. We were given terms of reference which are summarised thus:-

1. To liaise with the National Nunet Committee as well as other departments and units within this University. We are supposed to liaise with those interested in Networking activities in this University at all levels.

2. To co-ordinate the installation and commissioning of networking activities in this University at all levels.
3. To maintain and effectively utilize whatever is given to us.
4. To ensure that there is awareness on Campus so that people know what to do, how to start getting ready for the new technology we are trying to bring about.



Ejimanya

Committee' was inappropriate, that it was too narrow in its scope and that what Nigerian needed was a much more effective access to the outside community not just E-Mail Service and that was how the name Nigerian Universities Network came into existence. It was highly debated during the Workshop and eventually this name was accepted. Thereafter, in order to pursue the activities of the now NUNET Committee, the various



5. To advise the authorities on the scope as well as the implementation strategy of the new technology.
6. To put in place, cost recovery scheme so that the system will be sustainable.

Futo News: What efforts are being made in FUTO to actually link up with the Internet?

Chairman: When I was preparing for this interview, I asked myself the question 'What is an E-Mail? I thought of how the ordinary person would see E-Mail and not just as I would see it. E-Mail is a paper mail without the paper. It allows two to exchange messages just like one can do with paper, using addresses but this time around, the address is no longer a departmental postal address, it is what we call an E-Mail address. However, the significant difference between the ordinary paper mail and the E-Mail is that the E-Mail is so fast as to make the system look as if it is real time, as if it is happening instantaneously even though it is not. This is what is called 'Near Real Time'. Besides, it allows you to send the same mail to multiple people simultaneously. So it is like the so-called distribution when you write a memo. More importantly, it allows you to go to the box of a remote person and extract mails that you think are your own. This is what we have been doing. We go to Abuja and extract our mails. These are the basic things about the so-called E-Mail.

What is it that you require to transact any business on E-Mail? You need basically, a computer system. The computer must have some basic hardware and software installed. It is not that every computer does E-Mail, you must install the relevant hardware and software to allow you to do that and you must do it at the two ends. That is the two people wanting to communicate must have this facility. However, the usual practice is to have many computers trying to communicate with each other. So when we have computers like that, a group of computers that has been so linked such

that they are able to communicate with each other, we say that such a group of computers is on a network. Essentially, one of the basic requirements for even beginning to do E-Mail is that you must inter-connect the computers to form what we call 'Network'. You can now see why the name 'Nunet' (Nigerian Universities Network) becomes relevant. The network can cover this room. In other words, if there are two or three computers in this room, we connect them together so that they are able to talk to each other, we say we have a network, howbeit, a very small scale network. We can also have a

E-Mail is a paper mail without the paper. It allows two to exchange messages just like one can do with paper, using addresses but this time around, the address is no longer a departmental postal address, it is what we call an E-Mail address

network covering this entire Campus. It is also a network. We can now extend this same content to a network of networks in Nigeria in other words, FUTO Network interconnected with other Campuses in the Country. That is why sometimes we say a local area network, a wide area network.

However, this can now be extended to the global scene where you have a network of networks embracing different countries of the world which is an inter-connection of different networks. This is in fact what we call 'INTERNET'. The Internet is not just a human being sitting somewhere; it is like somebody who has an arm, a leg and all other parts of the body and all these must work together to give the totality of the person we call 'A Person, a Being'. So these are made to rely on all these small networks. I am rather moving to the concept of Internet. We say that a small network is able to talk to another network through a network that is linking the two networks. But one thing with networks is that they have a language

just like we do. Without the language of communication perhaps, we would merely be looking at each other maybe giving signs. But even signs constitute the language. So that means that in the words of computer networks, every network speaks a language and the language is formally called the protocol. So when you hear computer protocols, it is actually another way of saying 'what is the language of the computer?'

If you now network, a network that is speaking Ejimanya's language for instance, to another one speaking Chike's language, the two may not interact, they will be incompatible, so we say that these two systems that are not able to talk to each other are heterogenous, they are not able to interact effectively. This is where the so-called power of the internet resides, because the internet now has a Universal language, a common language which is called the /TCP/IP. This translates Protocol. This language which is called a universal or common language, allows these various heterogenous computers which ordinarily would have talked to each other. So, when you are designing your own network, you do not bother too much about what the person in Abuja or anywhere else is doing, so long as when you finish there will be a platform of the internet, the TCP/IP which is like a lingua-franca. Therefore, the Internet is essentially, an interconnection of heterogenous networks on a global scale. This explains why the electronic mail is the cornerstone or foundation of the internet.

Some people who use the Internet only use E-Mail and for them it looks as if the Internet is actually E-Mail because most of the work they are doing is on the basis of E-Mail. But recently, the internet is more than E-Mail. E-Mail is just a part of it. Let me now link it up to why we should go Internet. Now we want to go global. I have here the briefing of the E-Mail Committee. They had a list of things that they wanted to pass on into the University system. This was targeted at academics. Then they said they wanted to facilitate administrative work. For instance, if we were actually linking up,

maybe I would have been in my office and you in your office while this interview goes on over our networks. So you use despatch clerks to distribute administrative messages like scheduling meetings and sending minutes of meetings. This can be readily moved around if there is an E-Mail Service. The MIS will be more effective if we had a network because presently, nobody sees the data they gather. The Vice-Chancellor cannot assess them, but if we have such network, the Vice-Chancellor sits in his office, the Registrar also sits in his office and looks at the computers at the MIS Unit and they do not have to go there to check their records. The data will be available to the Vice-Chancellor without him standing up from his desk. You would have required from me from the E-Mail where I would want the interview to hold.

The other one is Library Service. Most of the problems of the University system is inefficient library service. So by having an E-Mail service, we will be able to have an on-line library catalogue system where we can access other catalogues from other libraries both within and outside Nigeria and know exactly what we can get at. We need Distance Learning. The Imo State University is doing it but we are finding it difficult to do it because of our location. If we had an effective E-Mail service, the lecturer stays in his house and delivers mails to every student who has a computer or they could gather at the Computer Center and he delivers his lectures to them without coming to the Campus. The E-Mail scheme is supposed to be a money generating scheme because it allows one to cut down, because if we have it going, many people would prefer to use an E-Mail service to using Fax or Telephone because it is far less expensive and faster than those other facilities. You can now see that when technical people see Internet as a network of networks, the user sees it as one of the many information technologies that exist, just like telephone, print, television, fax. He sees it as an information technology scheme which is

so powerful that it seems to do so many things. This is the attraction. So if just E-Mail which is part of the Internet can do this at a local level, you can now imagine what it can do if this same facility is extended to the international level. Which means E-Mail at international level and also the additional services that we are likely to get. Right out there on the Internet is a vast data base of information that nobody can ever hope to access throughout his lifetime. It spans medicine, engineering, law, mass communications in fact, they are the people filling up the place. It contains discussion groups of experts on any topic. They are available to every user of the Internet which allows these users to access

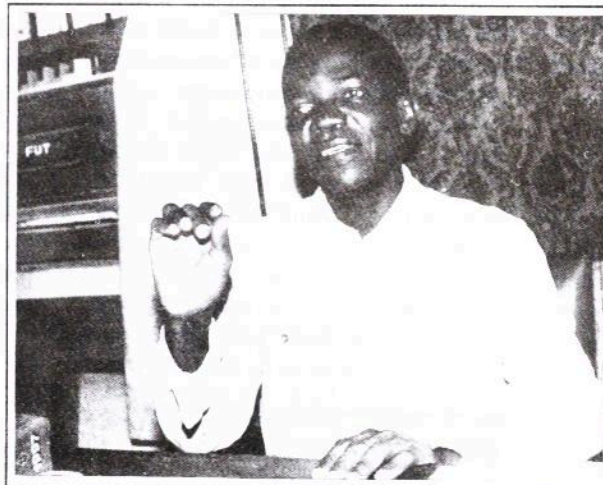
system. The Doctor here has a lot of problems because he is not communicating with his colleagues. So he wants to diagnose something but he is having problems. He can access the internet and get on-line help-expert information from the Internet, so that some of the things he is confused about, he will be able to contact those who have been in the field for many more years.

Perhaps, the most important for FUTO is that FUTO would be able to be on the Internet. FUTO can now establish what we call a 'Way Page'. A Page where everything about FUTO can be featured on the Internet. For instance, when I was in Italy, it was possible for me to get at my former University, know those who are still in my Department, their special areas of expertise and who to talk to. I was able to get their E-Mails right from the Way Page and immediately sent them an E-Mail. This can happen in FUTO which means that anybody in FUTO could be contacted by any other person from anywhere at anytime because FUTO is already on the internet.

Futo News: What are the cost implications of this NUNET Project?

Chairman: The first thing about anything on communication is that the initial capital outlay is always high. Right from the onset when E-Mail project came on stream, it was

supposed to have been financed by the World Bank but the World Bank was at that time, financing many developmental projects in the University system. So the first problem is financing. The NUC at the inception said they were going to assist in financing the projects and asked the various Vice-Chancellors first to set aside part of their research grants towards NUNET projects because they know that if NUNET comes on stream, many of the people who have problems saying they want to access journals, Nunet will help them get the journals. That is the primary source of the funding. Also training, expertise. So funding is not just buying equipment, funding also has to be human development. The first phase of the



Dr JI Ojimanaya stressing a point

these various platforms for information. But most importantly, the academic who has been crying that he cannot access his colleagues abroad can get at his colleague within a few seconds and in fact establish a near real time contact with a Professor in Harvard, in Illinois, anywhere in the world and get first hand advice. Libraries are now going on-line. You have the electronic libraries. So we do not have to cry that we do not have money to stock library books or journals. We simply access an electronic library and anyone in FUTO who wishes to read a book or access a journal simply goes there and reads the journal. The library here will be empty physically but electronically it will be rich, so it can be extended. We have experts on line, the so-called expert

human development which involves money was borne by the World Bank. They sponsored some members of the Committee to Italy and before then, they had sponsored members of the NUC at the NUC level to Europe, America, Far East and so on and even other African countries. So money is the first thing.

And that money also translates into equipment procurement, man-power training. However, at the local level, the NUC can do this, but if you come to the local level and the will is not there, the NUC does not implement because the implementation is done at the local level. At the local level we are getting considerable support. In fact, if you look behind your office, you will see a sign that something is happening. We have been writing. The first time the Chairman took over, he wrote long memos on the need for FUTO to have access to the outside world even if it is a single telephone line. Luckily, the Vice-Chancellor himself is a Communications man so it did not take him time to do, in fact he already knew that was necessary. So after lengthy discussions, right now part of the funding is being done both by the University and the PTF. The PTF has undertaken to bring telephone lines. Initially, it was to be 12, I wanted even 24 so that everybody will get a line but now, they said they are bringing us up to 16 lines. They are going to have a PABX (Private Automatic Box Exchange) which will ensure that the various officers can communicate because as you know at this point in time, any person wanting to talk to another person has to walk to the place. But PTF has undertaken to provide access lines to the NITEL, Radio, Telephone links. They have accepted to install a PABX which will be the basis for the Intercom. They have also accepted to extend the lines up to 250 lines to check offices on Campus. We would want a situation where as soon as they finish that, we ourselves will add twice as much. The era where telephone service is only for the boss has gone for ever. That is what we should be preaching, that the era now is that everybody has access to the telephone service.

But most importantly, we want that

as soon as people begin to have this access, we would also want the various Units not just to have telephones, but also computers because it is more effective to network the Campus with computers than with an Intercom, because virtually everything the intercom will do can be done by the computer and much more. If you look at the Master Plan there was no provision for computer network because in 1981/82, what everybody knew was telephone. Even fax was not so popular. We now say that part of the funding gladly is coming from the PTF (Petroleum Trust Fund). The one you have seen behind here is by direct approval of the Vice-Chancellor because after several months of waiting and complaints from Nunet, the Vice-Chancellor decided to take the initiative and said well, we would go ahead even if it is one or two lines, let us have something pending when PTF will deliver, and that is what you are seeing at the back. Before then, he also approved a line to his lodge and then gave us two high class computers. I think NUNET has the highest class of compendium computers presently on Campus, with the most sophisticated software resident in them.

Basically, these two systems have enabled us to establish an E-Mail link with

“So that means that in the words of computer networks, every network speaks a language and the language is formally called the protocol. So when you hear computer protocols, it is actually another way of saying ‘what is the language of the computer?’”

Abuja and in fact, we can talk to any other University which is also connected to Abuja. So the funding comes in different forms, the University is helping one side, the PTF is also helping. At the early stage of the Internet Committee Project, we tried to develop a Master Plan for complete network in FUTO. We wanted to identify that this is the so-called ‘Action Plan’ area of FUTO. We wanted

to see what the layout will look like if we interconnect the whole University. If we were to use cable, our cables routes run along the various routes and it is not quite easy because computer cables are expensive just like NITEL cables, even more expensive. So it was felt that, perhaps, a cheaper way to do the interconnection would be to use wireless loops, and that will mean that one will need to know the heights of the various building on Campus because this will tell us where to mount the antennas so that instead of using the cable to link two cables, I approached the Physical Planning and Development Unit and asked them to provide me with the heights of all the buildings on this Campus, and they did. I also asked them to tell me how far each building is from the major road, and they did as well. This is intended to help us do a preliminary design because if you know these things, if you are using cables, it will allow you say O.K. this is the length of cable the overall system design will take. Subsequently, if you do not want to use cables, you say O.K. these are the places I should mount my antennas in order to have effective communication. Two copies of this map are already in Abuja because we wanted to use this to do a preliminary master design for an expert commission for various campuses. Unfortunately, the anticipated funding which would have made it materialise did not come forward. But, we now see that we already have something in place that should we have sufficient support any time, we would be able to go ahead.

It is important to know that this system requires that the various units must have computers. I observed sadly that many people we expect to be using our network up till now, do not have computers and I think it is one of the things that the Information Unit should be preaching to people that the Units should strive to acquire computer systems because even if Nunet succeeds in registering so that it is able to access the rest of the world, if the Units do not have computers, the whole project will not be meaningful.

Futo News: Thank you Sir 

BASIC RESEARCH, KEY TO TECHNOLOGY

Basic research in science, according to Engr. Prof. C. O. G. Obah, will continue to be the key to all forms of technology. This, according to him, has to be so "because while science deals with organized human understanding of the real world and its inherent properties, technology refers to the ways of doing things on the basis of scientific knowledge".

This was said during the 22nd Annual Conference of Nigerian Society for Microbiology held in the Federal University of Technology Owerri from 27th to the 30th of April, 1998 at the COMSKIPTECH Hall. The Vice-Chancellor who was represented by Prof. J. E. Njoku DVC (Admin) went further to give

them a mandate to "ensure that with concerted efforts, material vaccines will be produced in commercial quantity by the time you hold the next Annual Conference".

In her keynote address, the Associate Dean of the School of Science, Dr. (Mrs) I. Njemanze explained in detail the major theme of the conference which is "MICROBES IN OUR ENVIRONMENT".

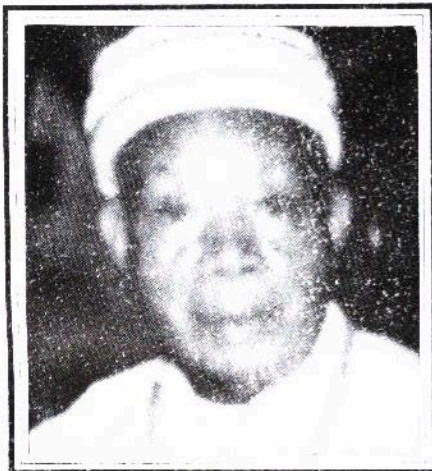
Earlier, the chairman of the occasion Prof. A. I. Ukoha thanked the audience for honouring the invitation. He urged scientists to have patience, because with it, there will be better results. According to him, not all researches have immediate answers, and so many

professionals shy away from such research. In conclusion, Prof. Ukoha said that dedication, patience and interest are what matter most in scientific investigations.

Delegates drawn from many Nigerian Universities presented papers on the conference theme "Microbes in our Environment". Prominent among the papers presented were the ones delivered by the National President of Nigerian Society of Microbiology Dr. G. C. Okpokwasili from the University of PortHarcourt.

The conference was well attended by staff and students within and beyond the University.

MINGI XI, AMANYANABO OF NEMBE CHALKS 30



CHIEFS IN NEMBE

Kingdom to represent their group of houses as Chiefs-In-Council.

The Chairman of Nembe Chiefs Council, Chief D. C. Ikoli Berena and his members screened and recommended 30 Chiefs elect to His Royal Majesty for Chalking. But when His Royal Majesty rescreened the chiefs elect 30 of 31 scaled through the exercise.

The chalking ceremony started with an opening prayer by Chief Ezekiel O. Enu. In his opening remarks, His Royal Majesty presented the 30 chiefs elect to the community and asked if there is any

objection to any of them. The crowd responded, No! No!! To His Royal Majesty. He then reminded the chiefs elect that they were elected by their group of houses on their personal merit, honour and integrity.

The new chiefs took the Oath of allegiance to the Kingdom under the leadership of Mingi XI, Amanyanabo of Member and to defend Nembe honour and integrity under rain or sun. The chiefs were chalked according to their group of houses. Ockiva group of Houses presented 5 chiefs; Amain/Ojoko

His Royal Majesty, Hon. Justice Ambrose Ezeolisa Allagoa, Mingi XI, Amanyanabo of Nembe and Chancellor of FUTO on Monday April 13, 1998 (Easter Monday) chalked 30 new Chiefs in Nembe



group of houses presented 2; Kulo group of houses presented 2; Igbeta group of houses presented 9 chiefs; Yekorogha group of houses presented 1; Ogbari group of houses presented 8, and Amangi group of houses presented 3 chiefs.

In his closing remarks, His Royal Majesty thanked the Nembe Chiefs-In-Council, men, women, children, friends and well wishers

who travelled from far and near to grace the occasion. He reminded his people that God sent Pope John Paul II to Nigeria so that all things in Nigeria will become pure, noting that nobody should go to bed carrying ill feelings against his neighbour. He pointed out that the Catholic Church in Member is being built by him alone without asking anybody to contribute money.

According to His Royal Majesty it is his prayer that his chiefs and elders should live up to the people's expectation.

Traditional and cultural dances entertained the audience during and after the ceremony. The ceremony was witnessed by over 10 thousand Nembe people and their friends. Among them was the Chief Judge of Bayelsa State and his entourage.

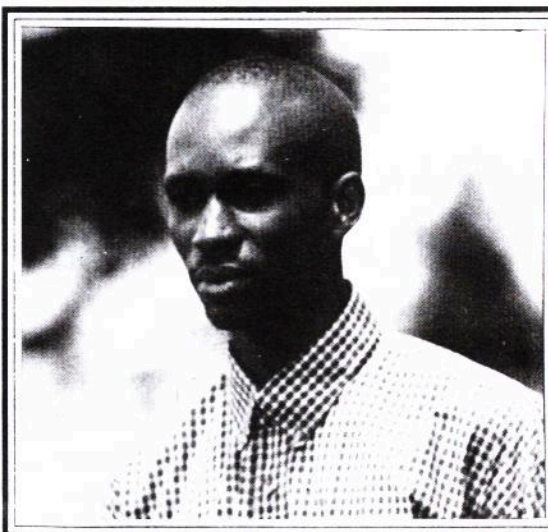
NEW STUDENTS' UNION EXCO COMMENDS VC

The untiring and trail blazing achievements of FUTO over the years especially for being the first and only university in Nigerian to turn out graduates for the 1996/97 academic session in a record time has elicited kind words from the Students' Union Government of the University.

Speaking when the new executive council called on the Vice-Chancellor, the President, Mr. Ken Opara noted that the Vice-Chancellor has succeeded in making FUTO unique in many positive ways. He observed with deep appreciation the spirited efforts of the administration in solving the sumo-pump problem that nearly disrupted the semester examinations.

Nevertheless, the Union President reeled off a litany of other pressing problems where

the authorities must come in to give the student population a new lease of life. These include



Mr Kenedy Opara - President SUG

provision of medical facilities, sports equipment, refurbishment of the Union Official Car and rehabilitation of FUTO/Ihiagwa road.

In his reply the Vice-Chancellor thanked the students' leadership for their mature approach to sensitive issues like

the water scarcity occasioned by the break down of the sumo-pump.

Addressing the problems, Prof. Chuka Obah chided the union officials for the constant breakdown of their official vehicle and admonished them to be more careful with the use of the car after the refurbishment. The FUTO chief executive went on to assure the students that management was taking firm steps to reorganise the medical centre for enhanced services and provide essential sports equipment. On the issue of road rehabilitation, Prof. Obah informed his guests that the Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund had promised to assist the university in the rehabilitation of the FUTO/Ihiagwa road, noting that an inspection team would soon be around to assess the situation.

A leading cause of death and chronic disability in the Western industrialized world is stroke. The very word "stroke" implies the suddenness with which a "brain attack" occurs. One moment, you may be feeling fine, and the next moment, you feel as if you were hit by a bolt of lightning - a major stroke can abruptly and dramatically change your life. Cruelly maiming and crippling you, it may render you speechless, wreak havoc on your emotions, alter your personality and powers of cognition, and thrust upon you a seemingly endless struggle to regain the normal life you and your family once knew. "Few realize how the shock of this sudden change affects one emotionally and psychologically. I almost felt as though it were the end of my existence as a person"

"The brain is the most delicate organ of the body", states neurologist Dr. Vladimir Hachinski, of the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada. At only 2 percent of the body's total weight, the brain contains more than ten billion nerve cells, which are in constant communication to produce our every thought, movement, and sensation. Dependent on oxygen and glucose for energy, the brain receives a steady supply via an

intricate system of arteries.

However, when any part of the brain is deprived of oxygen for even a few seconds, delicate neuron functions are impaired. If this persists for longer than a few minutes, brain damage results, as brain cells begin to die along with the functions they control. This condition is called artery blockage. Further damage is inflicted on brain tissue as oxygen starvation triggers a deadly cascade of chemical reactions. The result is stroke. A stroke also occurs when blood vessels rupture, flooding the brain with blood, which cuts off connecting pathways. This disrupts chemical and electrical flows to the muscles and causes injury to brain tissue

“However, when any part of the brain is deprived of oxygen for even a few seconds, delicate neuron functions are impaired. If this persists for longer than a few minutes, brain damage results, as brain cells begin to die along with the functions they control. This condition is called artery blockage. Further damage is inflicted on brain tissue as oxygen starvation triggers a deadly cascade of chemical reactions. The result is stroke.”

Its Effects

Every stroke is different, and strokes can affect individuals in

ways that are almost limitless. Although no one suffers from every consequence of a stroke, the effects may range from mild and barely observable to severe and painfully obvious. The area of the brain in which a stroke occurs determines which bodily functions are impaired.

A common affliction is weakness or paralysis of the upper and lower limbs. Generally, this is limited to one side of the body, the side that is opposite the side of the brain where the stroke occurs. Thus, right-brain damage results in left-sided paralysis, and left-brain damage, in right-sided paralysis. Some individuals may retain the use of their arms and legs, only to find that their muscles shake to such an extent that their limbs seem to go off each in its own direction. The victim looks like a novice skater trying to keep his balance. Dr. David Levine, of New York University Medical Center, says: "They have lost the kind of sensation that tells them whether or not their limb is moving and where it is in space.

Upwards of 15 percent of survivors experience seizures, resulting in episodes of uncontrolled movements and, commonly, in periods of unconsciousness. Also, feeling



pain as well as changes in sensations is common. A stroke survivor who experiences constant numbness in his hands and feet says: "There are nights when something touches my legs and I wake up because it seems as if I am receiving electric shocks."

Stroke outcome may include double vision and problems with swallowing. If the sensory centers of the mouth and the throat are damaged, further indignities can be suffered by stroke victims, such as drooling. Any of the five senses can be affected, causing disturbances in sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

Communication Problems

Picture yourself being followed down a dimly lit street by two huge strangers. Glancing back, you see them rushing toward you. You try to scream for help, but nothing will come out! Can you imagine that utter frustration you would feel in such a situation? That is what many stroke victims experience when they suddenly lose their ability to speak.

Being unable to communicate thoughts, feelings, hopes, and fears - figuratively being isolated from friends and family - is one of the most devastating consequences of stroke. One stroke survivor described it this way: "Every time I tried to express myself nothing came out. I was forced to remain silent and could not follow either verbal or written commands. Words sounded

as though the people around me spoke a foreign tongue. I could neither comprehend nor use language."

Charles, though, understood everything being spoken to him.

“Being unable to communicate thoughts, feelings, hopes, and fears - figuratively being isolated from friends and family - is one of the most devastating consequences of stroke.”

But about making a reply, he writes: "I would frame the words I wanted to say, but they came out scrambled and garbled. At that point I felt I was trapped inside myself." In his book *Stroke: An Owner's Manual*, Arthur Josephs explains: "Over one hundred different muscles are controlled and coordinated during speech and each of those muscles is controlled by an average of over one hundred motor units.

An astounding 140,000 neuromuscular events [are] required for each second of speech. Is it any wonder an injury to a portion of the brain controlling these muscles may result in garbled speech?"

Many baffling phenomena in the speech area are produced by a stroke. For example, an individual who cannot speak may be able to sing. Another may say words on impulse but not on command or

may, on the other hand, talk incessantly. Others repeat words or phrases over and over or use words inappropriately, saying yes when they mean to say no and vice versa. Some know the words they want to use, but the brain can not prompt the mouth, lips, and tongue to say them. Or they may experience slurred speech because of muscle weakness. Some may punctuate their words with explosive outbursts.

Other stroke damage may be impairment of the portion of the brain that controls emotional tone. The result can be speech that sounds flat. Or there may be difficulty in comprehending the emotional tone of others. Communication barriers like these and those described above can drive a wedge between family members, such as husband and wife. George explains: "Because stroke affects facial expressions and gestures, indeed the whole personality, we suddenly did not get on with each other as before. It seemed to me as if I had a totally different wife, some one I had to get to know all over again."

Emotional and Personality Changes

Inappropriate mood swings, outbursts of tears or laughter, extreme anger, unaccustomed feelings of suspicion, and overwhelming sadness are just part of the bewildering emotional and personality disturbances stroke survivors and their families

may have to deal with.

A stroke victim named Gilbert relates: "At times, I get emotional, either laughing or crying over the slightest thing. Once in a while, when I laugh, somebody will ask, 'How come you're laughing?' And I really can't tell them. "This, coupled with problems with balance and a slight limp, prompted Gilbert to say, "I feel as though I'm in some other body, as though I'm somebody else, not the same person I was before the stroke."

Living with mind - and body - altering impairments, few people

if any escape feeling a sense of emotional upheaval. Hiroyuki, whose stroke left him with impaired speech and partial paralysis, comments: "Even with time I just didn't get better. Realizing I would not be able to continue my work as before, I fell into despair. I began blaming things and people and felt as if my emotions would explode. I did not act like a man".

Fear and anxiety are common to stroke victims. Ellen comments: "I have feelings of insecurity when I experience pressure in my head that could

warn of a future stroke I become really fearful if I allow myself to think negatively." Ron explains the anxiety he deals with: "To arrive at correct conclusions is almost impossible at times. Sorting out two or three small problems at once frustrates me. I forget things so quickly that I sometimes cannot remember a decision made a few minutes before. As a result, I make some awful mistakes," and it's embarrassing to me and others. What will I be like in a few years? Will I be unable to converse intelligently or drive a car? Will I become a burden to my wife?" ■

Warning Signs

- ❑ Sudden weakness, numbness or paralysis of face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
- ❑ Sudden blurred or dimmed vision, especially in one eye; an episode of double vision
- ❑ Difficulty speaking or understanding even simple sentences
- ❑ Dizziness or loss of balance or coordination, especially when combined with another symptom

LESS COMMON SYMPTOMS

- ❑ Sudden, unexplained, and intense headache - often described as "the worst headache ever"
- ❑ Sudden nausea and fever - distinguished from a viral illness by the speed of onset (minutes or hours rather than several days)
- ❑ Brief loss of consciousness or a period of decreased awareness (fainting, confusion, convulsions, coma)

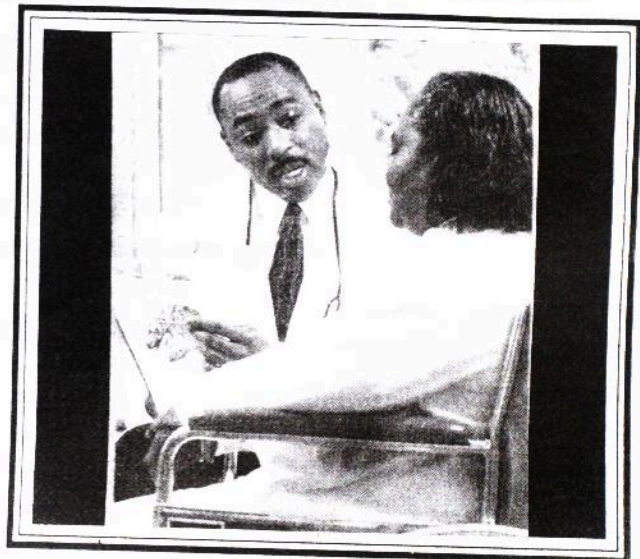
DO NOT IGNORE SYMPTOMS

Dr. David Levin urges that when symptoms appear, the patient "go as quickly as possible to a hospital emergency ward. There is evidence that if a stroke is treated in the first

few hours, the damage can be minimized".

Some times symptoms may appear for a very short period of time and then disappear. These episodes are known as TIAs, or transient ischemic attacks. Do not ignore them, as they may indicate serious stroke risks, and a full stroke may follow. A doctor can treat the causes and help reduce the risk of a future stroke.

— Culled from AWAKE February 8, 1998



Stroke Victim

FUTO NEWS Platform

Special Interview (2)

Interview with the University Librarian

Mr. M.S. Onye, who recently came on board as the newly appointed university Librarian in FUTO, has promised to pursue a policy of dedicated continuity with enlightened bias for automation. He bared his mind to the FUTO News crew in an interview. Excerpts from that encounter are reproduced below.

Profile

Mr. Michael Sunday Onye's quest for knowledge started at St. Columba's Catholic School, Umuakagu where he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate and later a Teacher's Grade III Certificate at St. Malachy's T. T. C. Minna, Niger State.

By private preparation, Mr. M. S. Onye was able to obtain the General Certificate of Education (London) Qualifying Test in English Language in 1960. Thereafter, he acquired the Teacher's Grade II Certificate in 1964 at St. Enda's H. E. T. C. Zaria. His desire for learning further led him to take a correspondence course from Wosley Hall College at Oxford where he obtained the General Certificate of Education in 1963 and 1964. He obtained the Diploma of Librarianship (Dip.Lib) from the University of Ibadan in 1966 and the Master in Library Science (M.L.S.) from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1981.

Mr. Michael Onye has attended several courses and workshops relating to Library and Information Science in Wales, London and Nigeria. He took up a teaching job in 1957 but in 1963, he accepted the job of a Library Assistant at Kashin Ibrahim Library, A. B. U. Zaria. He grew on the job and moved to Katsina College of Arts, Science and Technology (KASCT) Zaria as a sub-librarian and later as the College Librarian in 1978.

Mr. Onye took up appointment with the Federal University of Technology, Owerri in 1981 as a Principal Librarian, and was later promoted to a Deputy University Librarian in 1991.

In August 1997, he was appointed the Acting University Librarian, a post he held until he was appointed the University Librarian in March - 1998.

Mr. Onye has many publications to his credit - articles in learned journals, seminars, index compilations, book chapters and video documentary of FUTO Library. He was also the Chief Editor for Northern State Library

Notes (1972 - 74) and the Editor, President Kennedy Library Bulletin (1972-75).

The new University Librarian has been a member of many University/School Committees and Boards like Post-Graduate School Board Committee from 1990 to date and Junior Staff Matters Committee from 1982 to date among others.

Mr. Onye has also engaged in services to outside bodies, Patron, Mbano Students Association FUTO branch, External Assessor on the Interview Panel for recruitment of Librarians at the Polytechnic Nekede, 1992 and External Examiner, Imo State Civil Service Promotion Examination for Clerical/Library Staff, 1992.

Mr. S. M. Onye reached the peak of his career when the 6th Governing Council met at its recent sitting and appointed him the University Librarian.

Mr. Onye, a linguist is married to Mrs. Chioma Onye and the marriage is blessed with seven children.

FUTO News: What really is a Library? Your immediate past predecessor described it as 'the heart of the University' whereas the Former Executive Secretary of the National University Commission (NUC) believed that the Library is the soul of the University. In your

Interview.

own words, what is the University Library?

University Librarian: As a matter of fact, I go for the other description which says that a Library is 'the heart of the University'. Many

people have styled in various ways. A University is assessed by the type of library it has. The library is very truly, the heart of the University. Recently, the newly appointed Registrar described the Registry as the heart of the University. I was tickled. The library is the heart of the University in the sense that it is a

repository of learning.

It is a custodian of all that it takes to suit any meaningful learning. The Library is the pumping station. Without the contents of the Library, the academic enterprise of the University may never be achieved.

FUTO News: What innovations or ideas do you hope to bring to the FUTO Library?

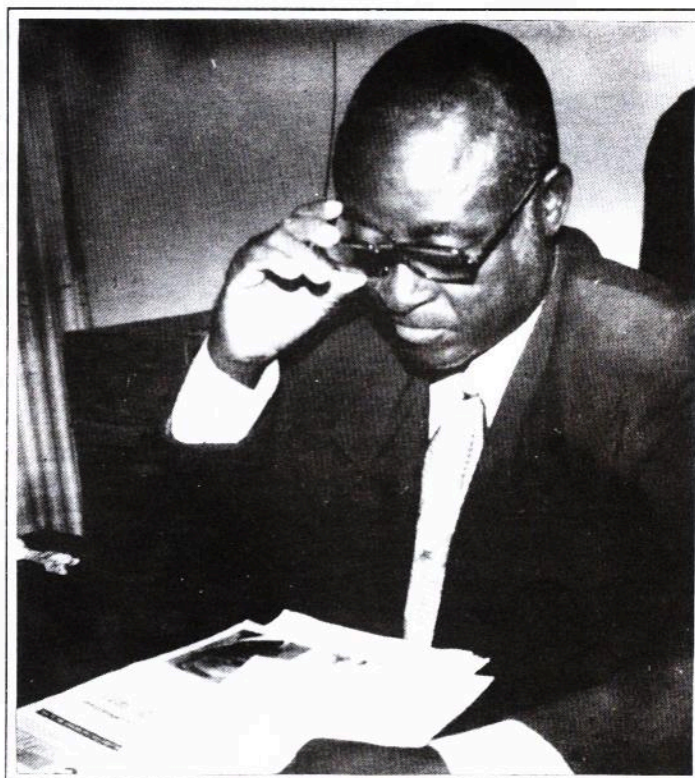
University Librarian:

Before answering this question, I always like to pay deference where deference belongs and I take the liberty to pay deference to my predecessor, the first University Librarian of this University, Mr. J. C. Anafulu - a man of ideas, a man full of energy. Together we have worked to build this Library and put it on a solid footing. My predecessor laid a very solid foundation. He was able to do this because he had the personnel who worked hand in hand with him to enable him achieve the present level of excellence.

Having said that, my job is to advance on what we have built together. *The philosophy remains the same to build an enviable library of excellence for a University of Technology. The innovation which I have already taken a plan of is in regard to library automation.* Now I have taken steps to start a meaningful, purposeful and determined computerisation effort of the Library. I have started computerisation of our catalogu-

ing which is the data bank of the Library. They have been properly receipted, properly organized for prompt retrieval.

We are lucky to be one of the Federal Universities that received our PC's from the NUC and not only that, the NUC also arranged and supplied a custom-made library software for this exercise which is



Mr. M.S. Onye making reference to his data

called - The Tin LIB software. Tin Lib software is a customer's software for Library operations. Hitherto, we do have such software which can take care of the operations of the Library including its circulations activity, its serials activity, its cataloguing and transmission activity as well as the routine administrative functions of the Library. What enabled me to take the plunge is that I was lucky sometime in 1996, to participate in an NUC

workshop at Ibadan. After that I decided that time was now ripe to move ahead because information now is riding on a super highway. Everybody is focusing on the internet and it is my thrust that by the time I leave office, this Library will be on the Internet. We will be able to harness information wherever it is located on the globe. This is my focus.

FUTO News: FUTO has recently joined the Internet and the thrust of your programme of action is automation, computerising the entire system. How is the Library grappling with this new development?

University Librarian:

The world has become a Global village due to the arrival of the Internet. So the issue is that everybody is struggling to be part of this new drive. It is even more applicable to the Libraries because libraries are the vehicles of information transfer and communication. So, on my own part, computerisation of the Library is actually where I started as I said earlier, and we are going ahead in computerising our cataloguing and we are very soon going to have our records on the computer and this means that we are trying to acquire more computers and be able to network our library services to be able to log in also to the NUNET. What the University have achieved now is NUNET (Ni-

gerian Universities Network) which the NUC started. So, Libraries can now ride high if they logged in as FUTO has logged into the NUNET and FUTO was praised for this in the last Estimate's hearing. FUTO did that without the assistance of the NUC engineers. Our own men did it. This means that we can send our E-Mail messages. I have sent E-Mail messages myself to NUC through our own system. We also receive our E-Mail messages back. So this is one good thing that FUTO has achieved but you know that we also have constraints, you do not have the lines. The NUNET Office machines and equipment are out there in the town. So, things are not working the way they should. I should just sit here in the Library and then receive my E-Mail messages from my own desk. That is the way it should be. But it is not so now, until we get telephone lines into this place, so the systems would be here and operate as such. Then in that manner, we would be in a position to get on to the Internet from here. So long as we are logged into the NUC we can sit here and then press the button and search any data on the webs. So that is what it is supposed to be and we hope to be able to do that by the year 2010.

Mindful too, of the usual constraints - power outages things are not steady, so you find all these interruptions battle against the systems. Power outages have been destroying a number of gadgets that we have, so you loose data except where you are fortified with UPS, we do not have any in the Library yet. But now the question is, people

talk about libraries as irrelevant - Books and journals printed stock. No. As far as I am concerned, I know that you would not have a completely paperless University library. It will not be feasible yet. I do not know when that can become feasible in our own circumstances. We still need the books. What you are talking about is that the Internet affords you the opportunity to down-load the information from other data banks. But when you

“So, Libraries can now ride high if they logged in as FUTO has logged into the NUNET and FUTO was praised for this in the last Estimate's hearing. FUTO did that without the assistance of the NUC engineers. Our own men did it. This means that we can send our E-Mail messages. I have sent E-Mail messages myself to NUC through our own system.”

down-load you will still need to print them out. You will still have some print materials available. Everything will not be in the head. So whatever information you get from there, you will still have to down-load. Down-load means that the information has to be printed out too for people to use - as many as would require them.

Until you can have the computer all over the place, in the hostels, all the classrooms, all the offices, so that lecturers can stay in the offices, press the button and then search the library. What they can search is the availability of information or the availability of these information sources - books, jour-

nals, etc. And then, if they are available, the Library will supply them but if they are not available, the Library will then make arrangements to enable them to down-load and then, still printout. You have a class of 2,000 and you cannot boast that you have 2,000 personal computers all over the place and students come into the Library in their thousands. You cannot expect them not to be able to handle textbooks at will and read through. They will not do all that, stop the use of textbooks and so on by just pressing the thing on the screen. That will not do. We still have a lot of print forms. They will still be there for a University Library but we are trying and my thrust is that we will computerise our resources and then it would be easier to access them, we would be able to offer more meaningful services with minimum loss of time. So that I will be able to access information wherever it resides. That in fact, is the truth of the Internet, so that people can access information wherever that information resides. But there are certain forms that you cannot obliterate, not in this our present century.

FUTO News: We are thrilled by your projections. Where would you lay emphasis in terms of budget allocation?

University Librarian: 10 Percent recurrent grant is what the Library gets. Actually the expenditure pattern has been defined by the NUC itself. From this amount of 10 Percent, 60 Percent of it is reserved for books and journal. So, we must not spend anything less than 60% on

books and journals. The grant itself cannot take care of our journals and books need. So we are still operation a very tight budget as far as I am concerned.

FUTO News: Apart from this 10% recurrent grant allocation from the University recurrent expenditure where else do University Libraries get support of any kind?

University Librarian: The type of support that we have had in the past have come from various external donors at various times. The British Council has played a very important part in our collection building. From time to time in the past, they have donated books to the libraries. They have also donated visual and audio-visual equipment, for the General Studies Section. The was when the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) was quite active. We have also benefited from an organisation known as RAN based in the Great Britain. They collect books and ship to developing countries. Also, we had at one time a former colleague of ours, one Mr. Christopher Max with whom we started in the early 1980s, who went back to Britain. He remembered us one time and sent us a ship-load of books from their collections. We integrated some into our own collections and then we gave out some also to various other libraries including the University of Abuja. They paid us a lot of deference on the pages of their

own bulletin for what they collected from us. We gave to other libraries around. We source for gifts, some give us on their own and some we source.

FUTO News: Students and other library users are known to pilfer important books or mutilate them by removing some pages or some even borrow without returning. This has been a regular problem in Library

lived off-campus in Ihiagwa. I was personally involved in discovering that wrongdoing. So I accompanied the security and the student who gave us the tip-off, with the lecturer who first got the tip-off. We went to Ihiagwa and discovered that the student had so many books in his room. The police was called in and they searched the building.

Forty - Five (45) books were found in the boy's custody - 41 belonging to this library and 4 belonging to various other libraries. I think by now that boy has taken to his heels. As I am talking to you now, we have not been able to recover our books from the police. Our Chief Security Officer is taking that up. We have written and asked the police to release those books. So the question of pilfering and mutilation is age old with libraries. What libraries do is to tighten up their security.

As part of the measures I have started to take is to improve on the surveillance equipment installed to monitor the movement of students in the reading room of the library, and with that any student coming into the library will see himself on the screen and will see a flash saying, "you are being monitored". As soon as that is installed, I will be able to monitor what goes on in the library from my office. The circulation desk will also be able to monitor the movement of students in the library. Anybody trying any funny game will be picked up.



Mr. M.S. Okeke, the University Librarian stressing a point during the interview.

Management. How would you combat this problem?

University Librarian: As a matter of fact, our most recent experience in this regard was in August last year (1997) when we were lucky enough upon a tip-off from a student on another student who made away with so many library books and the student

FUTO News: What major constraints are you having now?

University Librarian: Thank you very much. Well, constraints are there all the time. But the important thing is one's ability to manage the constraints. Straight away, one major constraint that I have been facing from the time I took over has been in the area of staffing. We have lost a good number of our Library staff in quick succession between September 1997 and January this year. We lost three graduate assistants through resignation - all females and they went to join their husbands, one of them got a more lucrative job. That is very serious considering the areas we have had to employ them. So the job is suffering in the area of technical services where we had them. Then, to heighten the constraints or the problems, we also lost five of our Assistants to the newly established University Bookshop - a Driver, four Library Assistants and two Library Attendants were all re-deployed to the University Bookshop. So the Library lost their services and that is quite critical because these are people who have been trained in the area of shelving and they have shelves assigned to them which they must shelve every morning as we do our house-keeping before the students come in, our Library is quite heavily used. Every morning, we have thousands of books consulted the previous day which we have to put back to their right places on the shelves for the next day's activities.

FUTO News: You are one of the founding members of this University. How do you feel being a part of the team of 'the Man of History' - that is

committed for taking FUTO into the next century?

University Librarian: I must say that FUTO made history when the present Vice-Chancellor got appointed in the first instance. FUTO should count her blessings because it was his dynamism that saw FUTO into this campus when, in fact there was no hope. It was so frightening; the forced movement to this permanent site. It was like the Israelites going to inherit the land of Canaan, the promised land. They were in the wilderness, they sent people to go and see what was happening in that place.

People were afraid to come into the place because of the giants they saw there. This place was a thicket and we were so frightened. So, just like Joshua and Caleb said, we would get into that land. The present Vice-Chancellor moved the University into this place, and with his reappointment has further engraved his worth and capability on the marble of history. I am happy to be part of his administration, his foresight and part of everything that is a culmination of his great strides.

Above all these, this Chief Executive is also himself a Joshua. When I say Joshua, I do not mean an academic Joshua, he is a spiritual Joshua as well. I think he has a lot of God's spirit in him that moves him to take the decisions he takes. You can see that since he started, all his meetings start with opening prayer and end with closing prayer.

Thank You. ■

OBITUARY

The funeral of **Mrs. Eileen Okechi Okere** began with a flag stop at the Federal University of Technology, Owerri where she was received by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. J.E. Njoku on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Engr. Prof. C.O.G. Obah and other members of staff. Then, the staff of the University escorted the body to her home town, Ulakwo in Owerri North Local Government Area on the 4th of June, 1998. Mrs Okere died on 2nd May, 1998 after a protracted illness.

Mrs Eileen Okere joined the services of FUTO in October, 1981 as a Nursing Sister. Due to her dedication, commitment and excellence in her duties, she rose through the ranks to the position of Senior Matron before her death.

Prof. M.U. Iloeje, DVC (Academic) who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the funeral remarked that "Mrs. Eileen Okere had a cheerful and radiant personality... Friendly and courteous to patients. No wonder, she received a commendation from the University Management in 1989".

Mrs Okere had taken several post-graduate courses in Ear, Nose and Throat, Dermatology, Family Planning, Immunization etc. She also served as the Secretary for the Nurses Association for twelve years.

Apart from her regular job, Mrs Okere excelled in dress-making and farming. She was a devout Christian and a member of the Catholic Women Organization, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Chaplaincy, FUTO. She is survived by her husband and two children. May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

3RD SMAT AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM HELD



The Dean of SMAT - Prof. T.Y. Obah (Centre); Prof. M.U. Iloeje DVC (Acad) Left; Dr. G. Nworuh Ag (HOD (Project Mgt) right).

The School of Management Technology (SMAT) which has evolved a culture of annually organizing an awareness symposium for her students, recently held another one.

According to the Dean of the School, Prof. T.Y. Obah during their 3rd Awareness Symposium held on June 17, 1998, the programme is aimed at inspiring and informing the students about the nature and career prospects of their discipline.

The Dean pointed out that a successful student must be found worthy both in CHARACTER and in LEARNING. Prof. T.Y. Obah stressed that FUTO is pioneering this programme both in Nigeria and in the West African sub region, adding that SMAT is not just another Management or business school. She also urged the students to have role models to help them in character moulding join such clubs like JAYCEES and Roteract.

On career prospects of Project Management Technology, the Acting Head of the Department, Dr. G.E. Nworuh explained that Project Management involves a series of tasks and activities that run within a given period. The department, he said trains Technocrats that use the skills acquired in the

management of engineering, industrial construction works etc. Career prospects according to Dr. Nworuh include all industries and parastatals like NEPA, Railway and Banks. The Technocrat equally creates employment especially in consultants services.

The Ag. Head of the Department of Transport Management Technology, Engr. D.U. Ekwenna said the department created in 1998 covers Maritime, Aviation and Land Transportation issues. Career opportunities exist in shipping lines, Airlines, airport authorities and mass transit.

Dr. A.E. Agbogu, Acting Head of General Students Unit said the unit involves Science and Arts and Use of English. The course which is compulsory for all first year students enlightens the students about their environment and proper use of English thereby providing materials needed for other courses.

Mr. Jerry Obi - Okogbue in his paper "Knowledge is Power" centered on the need for students to be found WORTHY IN LEARNING which is their sole aim of being here. Stressing on the importance of knowledge, he made reference to Promethens of the Greek Mythology, Pandora and her box and the temptation of Eve. These stories, Mr. Okogbue said

show that curiosity is an essential nature of humans and knowledge demands great responsibility. He further touched on the grading system in FUTO and concluded by reminding student that consistency from day one is the key word for a student to be found worthy in learning.

In presenting "Worthy in Character", Mr. N.C. Nwezeaku said inspite of the level of moral decadence in the society, there are exceptional men who continue to preserve the societal norms, principle and values like the ZIKS, the Nkrumahs and the Prophets Elijah who refused to worship baal. He therefore advised the students to desist from such practices as absenting themselves from lectures, joining bad association and bad friendships. Mr Nwezeaku urged them to be "temperate in all things so as to leave their footprints on the sands of time and history."

In his remarks, Prof. M.U. Iloeje DVC (Academic) congratulated SMAT on their consistency in organizing the programme saying "SMAT has learnt to lead while others dared to follow". He equally congratulated the speakers on their intellectual presentations and the students to endeavour to graduate within the expected time frame.

However, he frowned at the poor grammatical expressions of the students, urging them to acquire skills that will enable them sell themselves.

In his vote of thanks, the President of Project Management Technology Students Association, Mr Ikenna Njoku thanked the school for the enlightenment Programme while promising on behalf of the students to live up to expectation.

The symposium was attended by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof. M.U. Iloeje; Ag. Dean of Students Affairs Dr. U.R. Ojinmah, representative of the University Librarian, Mr J. Nwogu, all the lecturers in SMAT and a host of students.

The Making Of 'LOLO EZINNE MBAISE'



The Lolo Ezinne I of Mbaise using the Royal Dance round the arena, she is flanked to the right by the DVC Prof. J. E. Njoku.

The drums of history were rolled out on Saturday, June 20, 1998 as the Dean of the School of Management Technology (SMAT) Nneoma Prof. T.Y. Obah was installed the LOLO EZINNE MBAISE I by His Royal Highness Eze D.O. Anyanwu, Eze udo II of Ogbe Autonomous Community, Ahiara in Ahiazu Local Government Area of Imo State.

This prestigious honour was bestowed on Prof. T.Y. Obah at the instance and on the popular recommendation of the Federation of Mbaise Students in FUTO.

In his moving address, the President of the Federation of Mbaise Stu-

dents, Mr. Chibuikwe Obilor, described the Association as "a veritable organ in the general administration of Mbaise". According to him "the Mbaise people believe so much in themselves and are hard working". On why Prof. T.Y. Obah was selected, Mr. Obilor revealed that it was "in recognition of her excellent qualities and for being instrumental to the upliftment of students welfare and promotion of education in Nigeria".

His Royal Highness Eze D.O. Anyanwu in his installation speech noted that Prof. T.Y. Obah deserved the honour "having distinguished herself in many fields of human endeavour". The highly respected tra-

ditional ruler cautioned the students against secret cultism - a phenomenon he believed 'is unpleasant'.

He challenged the youths of Mbaise to bestir themselves and work hard, advising them that "our route to National acceptance and enhanced social esteem lies in making more positive input into the Society".

Despite all efforts to make the occasion low keyed, the students pulled a fast one by inviting various dancing troupes including the highly regarded 'Abigbo Group' made up of old men in their sixties. The Federation of Mbaise Students on their own mounted a most entertaining drama with the theme of Culture Conflict. Also represented was the Holiness Evangelical Choral Group who rendered soul lifting songs.

In her acceptance speech, the newly installed LOLO Ezinne I of Mbaise thanked the Federation of Mbaise Students for doing her that unique honour and commended HRH Eze D.O. Anyanwu for finding her worthy to be given that historic title. She particularly noted with profound gratitude the sacrifice the distinguished royal Father made to come personally to FUTO to perform the installation and prayed God to continue to guide and protect him.

Among other distinguished personalities that graced the occasion with their presence were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Prof. J.E. Njoku, Ag. Dean of Students, Dr. U.R. Ojinmah, Dr. Nzotta, a lecturer in SMAT, Anambra Ladies' Executive members, Mr. B.N. Nwaobasi and Mr. P.U. Ekeziem.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY HOLDS "CELEBRATION SUNDAY"

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Chaplaincy FUTO had a special service on June 21, 1998 during which they thanked God for special mercy received. The celebration featured the following activities:

- Sending off their present Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Dr. L. E. Asiegbu
- Receiving their present Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Dr. J.C. Ejimofor
- Recognizing the Archdiocese - honoured Nneomas - Prof. T.Y. Obah and Mrs Emelda Udeh
- Sending off of their former Catechist, Mr. A. Iheaturu.

The thanksgiving started with a mass at 10.30am with the first and second readings delivered by Prof. C.O.G. Obah, the Vice-Chancellor, and Mrs Allagoa (Odo-Oba Nwanyi of Nembe Kingdom), wife of the Chancellor respectively. In his sermon during the mass, Rev. Fr. Dr. Ejimofor stressed that God's love for his children is immeasurable as highlighted by the parable of the lost sheep. Welcoming the guests at the subsequent reception, the Chairman of the Chaplaincy Council, Dr. A.E. Iheonye said the chaplaincy was thanking God for

His numerous blessings. Dr. Iheonye appreciated Rev. Fr. Dr. L. E. Asiegbu's contributions as the Pioneer Chaplain who initiated the building of a Catholic Chapel and the successful movement of the

him to continue in his endeavours.

Congratulating the two Christian mothers who were honoured by the Archdiocese as Nneomas - Prof T.Y. Obah and Mrs Imelda Udeh, Dr Ihenonye said this was in recognition of their sterling qualities.

The chaplaincy equally thanked God for choosing from her members some principal officers of the University Engr. Prof. C.O.G. Obah (Vice-Chancellor), Prof M.U. Iloeje (DVC Academic), Prof. J. E. Njoku (DVC Administration) and

Mr M.O. Okoye (Registrar). Dr. Iheonye prayed God to grant them sense of direction in discharging their duties.

The Chairman, Dr. Iheonye concluded by praising the efforts of all that attended the ceremony and reminded them to equally respond when invited for the impending launching of the chaplaincy building fund.

The staff school dancing troupe and the popular "Ojionu" masquerade from Obinze entertained guests at the occasion.



The Chaplain Rev. Fr. Dr. J.C. Ejimofor poses with Nneoma Prof Thelma Obah (left) & Nneoma Emelda Ude (right)

Chaplaincy to the permanent Site.

Dr. Iheonye also thanked Mr Iheaturu, the former Catechist for shouldering his responsibilities very seriously. The Chairman thanked the Bishop for retaining Rev. Dr. J.C. Ejimofor as the new Chaplain. Father Ejimofor, he said has "energized the chaplaincy" to the extent of starting work on the construction of the chapel and has also created awareness of the chaplaincy's needs abroad. He therefore prayed

NYSC DIRECTOR VISITS FUTO

The final year students of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri have been counselled to stop meddling with their postings for the national service. This advice was given by the Imo State Director for National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Mrs. E.O. Ogbamife on May 5, 1998 during an Orientation Lecture on the aims and objectives of the service. She noted that such action tends to defeat the aims of the scheme.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Ag. Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. U.R. Ojinmah thanked the Director and members of her entourage for their visit and also enjoined the students to be patient and attentive in order to benefit from the lecture.

Speaking, Mrs. N.N. Chukwuka said the aims of the NYSC programme is to promote education, national unity and understanding among diverse people and also

inculcate discipline in our youths.

She enlightened the students on posting policy and procedures, deferment of services, concessions posting and omissions of posting. Mrs. Chukwuka also elaborated on other aspects of the NYSC like Orientation Camp which lasts for three to four weeks and its para-military training and drills; place of primary assignment, community development and the passing out. Thereafter, the Director, Mrs. Ogbamife entertained questions from the students.

The occasion was well attended by the students and some members of staff.

Sports

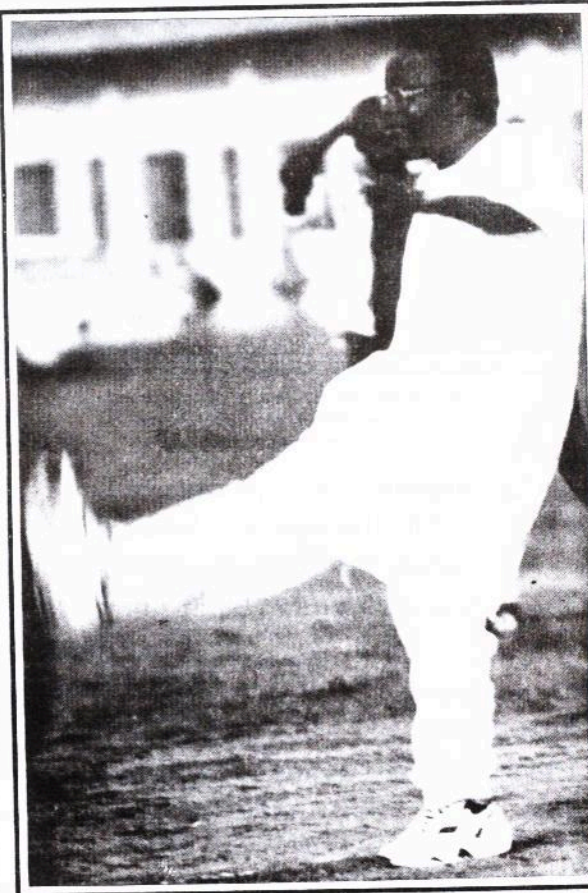
Emotions ran high on Thursday May 28, 1998 when two hostels squared up in a titanic battle to lift the Vice-Chancellor's Cup in the football championship.

In this final and decisive Match, hostel C took on the hard fighting hostel B in a tension soaked contest for supremacy. The Vice-chancellor, Engr. Prof. C.O.G. Obah took the kick off in grand style.

The match began on a high pitch note with both sides striving to out the other. Despite some skillful displays, the first half ended goalless, with hostel C team showing greater football artistry.

At the resumption of play, both sides again frantically sought for avenues to slot in the needed goals. The opportunity came suddenly with a masterful connection from the far left of the field by a hostel C utility player which was instantly converted at the 19th minute for curtain raiser. This opening goal elicited instant jubilation from the crowd of spectators. Hostel B fought like a wounded lion and made several incursions into the territory of hostel C but their hope of equalising was sealed

HALL C WINS V-C's CUP



The V.C. takes the kick-off

by a last minute second goal by the all rampaging hostel C team.

With a clear 2-0 score line, hostel C thus became the new champion of the inter-

hostel football competition for the Vice-chancellor's Cup. Presenting the prizes, the Vice-Chancellor commended the spirit of sportsmanship which prevailed throughout the competition. He congratulated the Victorious team and urged the losers not to loose heart. "Tomorrow" he said "could be your own day."

The champions — hostel C received the coveted trophy from the Vice-Chancellor with a redemption fee of ₦10,000.00 while hostel B went home with ₦5000.00. Two other runners up in the competition got ₦2000.00 each.

Commenting, the sport office of the university Mr G.A. Emejanara noted that this was the best reward any hall had received in the history of this competition in FUTO. Among the dignitaries who watched this encounter were the following: DVC's- Profs M.U. Iloje and J.E. Njoku. Principal Officers- Mr M.O.Okoye (Registrar), Mrs C.C. Ahiarakwe (Bursar), Mr M.S. Onye (University Librarian), Deans of Schools -Prof T.Y. Obah (SMAT) Prof M.E. Enyiegbulen (PGS).

Director of OUD Engr. G.O. Anya, Ag. Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. U.R. Ojinmah and a host of HOD's, Co-ordinators and an impressive turn out of students.

Poetry

(AN ODE TO J. C. ANAFULU)
Former University Librarian

IROKO

1. IROKO, How angry I must be
How hurt by your departure
I would seek your stay
Though power doth not explain
What has precipitated your departure
2. I have met a man
So unlike the men I have known
That even the words I must use to
describe him
Seem to me inadequate
He is a poet
He is an intellectual
He is a visionary
He feels with a different fervour
And thinks with a sharper clarity
3. He loves with a fair passion
Than anyone I have ever known
You were a wonder to us,
unattainable
You were a light beyond our light
Your life perhaps a meaning to us
Our hands have touched you
In your depth of knowledge
4. What would you wish to know of
this IROKO?
He is honourable
He is forthright in nature
He is gentle to an extent
He is noble spirited
He is hardworking
And gives a home to many a creature
The root network of the IROKO
Grips the soil firm, and
Defends it from menacing flood
The branches like tentacles spread
The leaves like a blanket
Shields the open earth
From the scorching sun.
5. Oh! IROKO, the bliss of those
words imparted to us emblazon
Giant thoughts that take form in our
mind
The images of the FUTO Librarian
Will never cease to thank you - J.
C. ANAFULU
For giving us a taste of our heritage
Even though fate is unlikely
To prove such a life for us
The good from you
Will remain to sustain us
6. Can you think of any other IROKO
Who could be party to such a
commitment?
If we can bear witness
If we can get his knowledge and his
character
And play it to the attention of the
right persons
We believe that even those of the
river IROKOs?
Will come to know of his gift.
7. As you have passed it to us
We pray the Heaven sustain the
IROKO
We remember you as the best of
IROKOs
And we shall hope
Each day of our life
That this breach between us and the
IROKO
Will be of short duration
We revere you as the best of fathers.

AGWU, MARY
FUTO Library

Briefs

The site for the proposed Senate Building of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri was on Thursday April 30 handed over to a team of contractors and consultants led by Borgus Foundation (Nig) Ltd., the major contractor handling the prime project.

Deacon I. I. Akpan, a Senior Patrolman has been promoted to Assistant Patrol Supervisor. According to the Registrar, Deacon Akpan was promoted as a "Model Staff" in view of his outstanding performance of his duties over the years.

SABBATICAL LEAVE APPOINTMENT

The Governing Council has renewed the Sabbatical Leave Appointment of Dr. E.J. Otagburuagu as a Senior Lecturer in the General Studies Unit (SMAT). The appointment which took effect from the 1997/98 Rain Semester is for a period one year.

APPOINTMENT

The Vice-Chancellor, Engr. Prof. C.O.G. Obah has appointed Dr. B. Obah as the Acting Head of the Department of Petroleum Engineering in SEET with immediate effect. The appointment is for a period of one year in the first instance.

SCHOLARSHIP

NATIONAL MATHEMATICS CENTRE ABUJA
Miss Chioma Okereke has been awarded scholarship by the National Mathematics centre Abuja based on her performance in the mathematics competitive examination organised by the center in 1997. The award covers her fees at the Federal Government Girls' College Owerri. We congratulate Chioma Okereke and the FUTO Staff School for this achievement.

OUR ERRORS

1. In our FUTO NEWS Vol. 18(1), Friday January 30, 1998 Page 22 under the heading - 'Promotions', Mr. John Emeka Nwogu's name was inadvertently written as John Mouka Nwogu and we also listed the staff school promotions under the Academic Staff Appointment and Promotions Committee (Professorial) Column.

The correct thing is as follows:

NAME OF STAFF	SCH/DEPT	FORMER POSITION	NEW POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
MR. JOHN EMEKA NWOGU	LIBRARY	PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN	DEPUTY UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN	1 10 95

2. On the recommendation of the Administrative and Professorial Staff Appointment and Promotions Committee (APSAPC), the Governing Council has approved the Promotion of the following Staff:

NAME OF STAFF	SCH/DEPT	FORMER POSITION	NEW POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
MRS. C. C. ONYE	STAFF SCH	MASTER II	MASTER I	1 10 97
MRS. C. C. OSUOHA	"	"	"	1 10 97
MRS. R. C. NWAGBARA OCHA	"	SENIOR MASTER	PRINCIPAL MASTER	"
MRS. R. U. OPARA	"	"	"	"
MRS. S. ANYANWU	"	MASTER I	SENIOR MASTER	"
MRS. E. O. EGWIM	"	MASTER II	MASTER I	1 10 97
MRS. J. C. OGU	"	SNR MASTER	PRINCIPAL MASTER	1 10 97
MR. ALOM OSI	AUDIT	ASST CHIEF CLERICAL OFFICER	CHIEF CLERICAL OFFICER	1 10 97

3. In our last FUTO NEWS, we erroneously published the date of birth of Mr Ikwuwunna's baby boy as 15th November, 1998.

The correct date is 15th November, 1997. We regret these errors.

NEW ARRIVALS

S/N	NAME OF STAFF	SCHL/UNIT	DESIGNATION	EFFECTIVE DATE
1.	MR OLIVER OPARA	SECURITY	WATCHMAN	10 - 10 - 98 (T)
2.	MR STANLEY IBEAWUCHI	"	"	15 - 03 - 98 (T)
3.	MS EDMOND N. AHUMIBE	"	"	02 - 03 - 98 (T)
4.	MR HUMPHREY NWACHUKWU	EST & WORKS	DRIVER MECHANIC	15 - 03 - 98 (T)
5.	MR RICHARD ODUOCHA	SECURITY	WATCHMAN	15 - 03 - 98 (T)
6.	MR MICHAEL OSONDU	"	"	15 - 03 - 98 (T)
7.	MRS NGOZI A. C. CHUKWUOCHA	SOSC	ASSIST LECTURER	31 - 03 - 98 (T)
8.	DR. (MRS) ULOMA ONO EKA	FOODS SC. TECH	LECT II	30 - 03 - 98 TEMPORARY
9.	ALAJEMBA CHIMEZIE C.	SMAT	GRADUATE ASSISTANT	16 - 01 - 98 TEMPORARY

DIED

MRS MERCY U. OMAI

On 23rd July 1997 and was buried the same day in her home town Akanu-Ohafia in Abia State. She is survived by many children among whom is Mrs. Nnenna Uduma of the Registrar's Office.

MADAM THERESA NWAZUONU EZEH

On 8th March, 1998 and buried on Thursday 2nd April 1998 in her compound at Umugamuma Village Awuda Nnobi. She is survived by Mr Anthony O. Eze of the Audit Unit in the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

MRS SALOME NMA ABEL NWAUKE

On 21st January 1998 and buried on 18th of March, 1998 in her home town Agbunike-Isi-Ugwu in Obi-Ngwa Local Government Area, Abia State. She is survived by Miss Nkechi Nwauke of FUTO Staff School.

MRS MARTHA NGUGO

On May 15, 1998 after a brief illness and has since been buried. She was aged 60 years and hails from Eziama, Izombe in Oguta L.G.A. She is survived by Mr Ngugo Raphael of the Vice-Chancellor's Office (Guest House).

NZE JACOB MBAOMA IHEKWEAZU

On May 27th, 1998 and buried on 30th May, 1998. He was aged 90 years and hails from Umuanu Amaigbo in Nwangele L.G.A. He is survived by Mrs Maureen Okereke of the Library Department.

NEW ARRIVALS

S/N	NAME OF STAFF	POSITION	SCH'L/DEPT	DATE ASSUMED DUTY
1.	Rev. Matthew Nnoli	Tech. II	Biol.Scs.	4 2 98
2.	Friday Nwaneri	Watchman	Security	29 5 98 (Temp)
3.	Chizaram Ochulo	Lab. Attd.	Poly/Text. Engr.	8 6 98 (Temp)
4.	Mrs R.C. Mbanefo	Higher Agric Suptd.	Crop Prod.	1 6 98 (Temp)
5.	Mrs C.A. Peter Onoh	Senior Agric Suptd.	..	1 6 98 (Temp)

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

On the recommendation of the Heads of Unit/Department the Registrar has approved the Confirmation of Appointment of the following Junior Staff:

NAME OF STAFF	DEPT/SCH'L	EFFECTIVE DATE
Miss Akudolu Nkechi E.	IPRP	3/01/98
Mrs Violet E. Ejiogu	SIWES	2/01/98

Positive Thought Series

Take Your Troubles to God

When the Chaplain at Long Island, Coast Guard Base, is away on short leave, he hangs this sign on his office door.

Chaplain's gone ashore on shore leave.

Take your troubles to God!

All of us can take a useful hint from this story told by Bill Fields. How often we go to a friend for consolation or help. If the friend is out, or not in a sympathetic mood, we go deeper into the dumps; we feel the world has let us down badly—we have no one to cheer us up; no one who really cares for us. In such moments let us recall the Chaplain's advice and take our troubles to God.

We should go oftener than that!

If we could realise the significance of the fact that God is all-powerful and all loving, and if we lived up to that belief, we would not be rushing to and fro for comfort and succour, and entirely neglecting the one source of unfailing help. When a dear one is seriously ill we race to the doctor for help, to the chemist for medicines, and to the specialist for assurance, and in the haste and hurry we don't even pause to say a prayer to the Divine Physician—the Creator of human life. We forget God till human aid is powerless, then we turn to Him for a miracle.

Again when trouble comes our way we rush to our relatives, then seek our friends, and finally even appeal to strangers for assistance. Sometimes, no one can help us. Then, in despair, we sink to our knees, and in utter anguish cry out this urgent appeal: "Lord, save us or we perish!"

Such a prayer is the outcome of dark despair, not the expression of faith and confidence. True faith in God inspires a firm belief in His goodness and continuous co-operation with His will. We ask His blessing as we wake with the dawn; we seek His aid in every difficulty and thank Him for every favour. We must think to please Him! We must speak to please Him! We must act to please Him! We must win to please Him and we must accept defeat to please Him.

If we do this, we shall not wait till death knocks at the door or failure stares us in the face before we turn to Him to seek for aid. We shall go to Him first and then seek human aid for all strength, all power and all knowledge come from God.

BANISH YOUR BLUES

CHANGE OF NAME

MISS UGOCHI ONUOHA

Former Mrs Ugochi Mahakwe of Health Services Department henceforth wishes to be called, known and addressed as Miss Ugochi Onuoha.

MR. PETER OBIORA MONEKE

Also former Mr Peter Obiora Onodu of the Library Department now wishes to be called known and addressed as Mr Peter Obiora Moneke.

All documents bearing their former names remain valid

GSA EXECUTIVE INAUGURATED

The Graduate Students Association Executive Committee of Federal University of Technology, Owerri was on May 22nd, 1998 formally inaugurated by the Dean of the Post Graduate School, Prof. M. E. Enyiegbulam.

Those who took the oath of office were:

LUKE EGEJURU

Chairman

MR. IHEDIOHA CHUKWUDI

Secretary General

MISS NGOZI NWEKE

Vice Chairman

MR. KELECHI NWOSU

Financial Secretary

MR. CELESTINE NSE

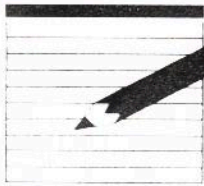
Treasurer

MR. TIMOTHY OBODOZIE

Public Relations Officer

MR. CHARLES IBEZIM

Asst. Secretary General



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Sub Saharan Africa is 5th world, not 3rd world

"In spite of its enormous wealth, contemporary Africa is one of the poorest Continents! The average GNP Per Capita for Sub-Saharan Africa was US \$330 in 1988 compared to the United Kingdom \$12,810, New Zealand \$10,000, Federal Republic of Germany \$18,480, Sweden \$19,300, United States \$19,840, Japan \$21,020 and Switzerland \$27,500. The fact that subsaharan Africans earn an average of

\$330 per annum and citizens of the industrialized nations earn \$18,000 per annum, shows obvious great disparity. A researcher recently drew attention to the quantized character of this relationship. He pointed out that \$18,000 divided by \$300 is 54.55. This turns out to be the base of natural logarithm, e , raised to power 4 ($54.55 = e^4$). This yields the following insights:

1 Income distribution on a global scale is quantized and

2 If the industrialized nations constitute the first world, then subsaharan Africa which is four quantum levels below the industrialized nations, should have been placed in a fifth world rather than the so - called third world where it has been presumed to belong.

The same quantum mechanical argument explains the persistent 57% share of average white income by African - Americans in the United States. Africans, therefore, require extra - ordinary efforts, in fact quantum socio - economic jumps, to catch up with the rest of the world."

- Science and African Survival in the Twenty-First Century by Prof. Chimere Ikoku

Sent in by:
Mr. Ogbonnaya Ofor
Chemistry Dept.

The Editor,

Letter of Congratulations

On behalf of the Executive Council of the Students Union Government and myself, I write to congratulate you and your staff on the journey so far in the transformation of the information unit of this premier University of Technology - as shown in the publication of the **News Bulletin** titled "FUTO NEWS"

Since this is the first of its kind in the history of the University, it has become a model others are now consciously or unconsciously taking after. You are therefore urged not to relent in your onerous efforts in promoting and maintaining a befitting image of our University.

Once more, congratulations! and keep the flag flying.

CHUKA MATTHEW OSUDOH

The Public Relations Officer, on behalf of the Students Union Government of FUTO, 1997/98.