

# UBAANA NEWS



News and updates from the members and friends of the University of Benin Alumni Association of North America

## UBAANA Renovation Project

By Vivian E. Deniran, Lead, UBAANA Renovation Project

**G**reatest Alums of the Greatest University of Benin! It is now the fourth week into the collection of the levy for the Renovation of our beloved University of Benin Common Rooms and Bus Stops project. We are all concerned about the prevalent corrupt practices in our school that have caused the dilapidation of the existing structures in the first place. However, we cannot focus on that to the detriment of the students after us. We have to look past all the hurdles placed in the path of this great project and see the endless possibilities that could emerge from a seemingly small gesture of giving back. Please peek into the future with me... project into the future to the completion of the project for a minute and begin to visualize the depth of gratitude that would well up in your heart, when you step into that school one day, and see the transformation that your contribution would have made. Would you rather dwell on all the other things that don't matter at this time, or run this race with those who are already seeing the complete accomplishment of this project?

Our objective is to raise \$60,000, which is earmarked for the complete project. The goal is to renovate all the common rooms and bus stops on both Ugbowo and Ekenwan campuses, but that determination can only be made by the payments realized. The project will be supervised by Professor Ehiorobo, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) University of Benin. The Student Union body is also going to be actively engaged in the process. UBAA's involvement is also being sought. Negotiations are ongoing with the authorities regarding ways to immortalize us concerning this project. The money collected will also be disbursed in phases to enable us closely monitor how the money is being utilized before further disbursements.

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Dilapidated Bus Stop & Common Room in UNIBEN

## From the President's Corner

Dearest Alums,

The 13th annual re union has come and it has gone by. It left us with very beautiful memories decorated by the presence of our Prof. Grace Alele Williams in our midst. She simply electrified our dinner and gala night with so much grace.

I thank all our members, their families and their friends for their different roles in creating the best re union ever in the history of UBAANA.

I particularly want to thank the UBAANA Executive Committee and the North Carolina chapter Local organizing Committee led by Dr Kingsley Cadmus for their hard work.

I have to specially thank the reunion Director Mrs. Lisa Sido for her exceptional commitment and dedication to a fantastic reunion.

This year we have adopted a project approved by the UBAANA Board of Directors and ratified by the 13th General Assembly to help address the deteriorating state of the living conditions of our dear students at the University of Benin.

The project seeks to renovate all the Common rooms in the Halls of Residence and also to rehabilitate the dilapidated Bus stops at the University of Benin.

The General Assembly also approved a levy of \$150 dollars on all alums to fund this project. You are encouraged to give more if you can.

Please remember that UBAANA has a 501c tax exempt status, which implies that you can claim your donations when you file your taxes.

As a consequence of our coordination with the authorities at the University of Benin, the University Engineers did the evaluation of the project and have estimated the cost of the project to be about 20 million naira. This comes down to about 60,000 dollars at the current exchange rate of the Naira to the dollar.



This project when fully executed will immediately impact the transformative experiences and living conditions of the current Uniben students.

We have eight weeks to raise 60,000 dollars. We have the critical mass to create positive change in our Alma mater.

Every dollar makes a difference and generous alums like you help to keep Uniben strong.

I appeal that you all take ownership of this project to ensure its success.

To ensure effectiveness and the highest level of transparency, I have named Vivian Deniran of the Mid west chapter to lead a special ad hoc Committee to coordinate this fund-raising effort with the full support of the UBAANA Executive Committee. And she has been amazing. The Treasurer of UBAANA has provided a dedicated Wells Fargo Endowment Account No. 9153100061 with routing no 121000248 for this project. So all donations towards this project should be made through this bank account. Finally, on behalf of the UBAANA Executive Committee, I thank you all for supporting our Uniben students and for helping to define a Uniben education by your generosity.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

**Dr Oise Kingsley Momodu**  
**President**  
**UBAANA**

## UBAANA – Building a Legacy

By Awele Anyanhun, UBAANA Secretary-General

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of UBAANA was hosted by the Carolinas Chapter in the Queens City of Charlotte, North Carolina. As always, the event was a great delight and a memorable one for all alumni who participated.

On behalf of the Association, I will like to extend special thanks to the chapter chair, Dr. Kingsley Cadmus as well as the director of the LOC, Mrs. Lisa Sido along with the entire membership of the Carolinas chapter for a very spectacular and memorable event. Our utmost gratitude goes to the President of UBAANA, Dr. Kingsley Momodu for his philanthropic and tireless effort in ensuring the massive success of the reunion.

During the year, the EXCO led by Dr. Momodu have worked hard in continuing UBAANA's legacy of giving back to our alma mater and making an impact in the lives of current students by engaging in meaningful projects that improve, and lead to the overall benefits of the students first and foremost, the faculty and the University as a whole. Notable among the fantastic projects recently accomplished by UBAANA is the part-sponsorship of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the School of Dentistry held on the 8<sup>th</sup>– 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.

This project and other activities were made possible by the continuous generosity of all alums and we sincerely appreciate each member for your sacrifice towards the overall goals of UBAANA.

UBAANA yet again answered the cry of the current students of our great alma mater by embarking on the Renovation Project of the Common Rooms and Bus Stops on campus.

As we make dreams come true for the students, may our personal dreams and aspirations come true as well.

Remain Great!

## Alumni on the Move: Chigbu receives 2018 Presidential Award

Congratulations to the chapter chair of our DMV chapter Dr. Paulinus Chigbu on being named as a recipient of the 2018 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. He was recognized for his outstanding efforts in encouraging the next generation of innovators and developing a science and engineering workforce that reflects the diverse talent of America.



*continued on page 14*

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### UBAANA Renovation Project Bank Account Details

#### UBAANA Endowment for Common Rooms & Bus Stops Renovation

Bank: Wells Fargo  
Account Number: 9153100061  
Routing Number: 121000248

Checks can also be mailed to:

UBAANA Treasurer  
304 Chartwell Drive  
Jonesboro, GA 30236

## Reconstitution of UBAANA Endowment Committee

Dear Greatest Alums,

It is my pleasure to introduce the reconstituted Endowment Fund Committee of the University of Benin Alumni Association, North America.

The Committee 's terms of reference are as follows:

1. Continue to develop strategies to raise money towards the Endowment fund.
2. Research and propose investment opportunities for the Endowment fund.
3. Liaise with the Alma mater to identify programs which are worthy of Endowment at the University and propose such programs to the UBAANA Executive Committee, Board of Directors and the General Assembly for approval
4. Continually monitor and review endowed programs at the University and make regular status report to the UBAANA Executive Committee with recommendations for improvement where progress may be lackluster.
5. Collaborate with the President and Treasurer to facilitate the transfer of funds to support programs which are endowed at the university
6. The Chairman of the Endowment shall be a signatory to the Endowment fund account which shall be separate from the UBAANA account

The members are as follows:

1. Dr. Austin Ifedirah (Chairman)
2. Jude Arijaje
3. Dr. Nnamdi Alicela Madukwe
4. Ulame Erese

5. Dr. Sylvester Ajufo
6. Oby Moneke
7. Dr Bode Olumofin

The University of Benin is the greatest because of the work and commitment of the above-named alums working together to reflect the excellence of our powerful Uniben heritage.

UBAANA is so proud of the work that you do.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kingsley Oise Momodu DDS  
President,  
UBAANA

### DMV Chapter to Host 2019 Reunion!!!!

We are excited to announce that the DMV chapter has agreed to host the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual UBAANA Reunion! As the chapter chair **Dr Paulinus Chigbu** along with members from Washington D.C, Maryland and Virginia prepare to host the UBAANA family, Let's spread the word and encourage all alums to plan towards attending UBAANA's 14<sup>th</sup> reunion celebration in 2019.

## UBAANA 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Highlights

By Lisa Sido - 2018 Reunion Director



**K**udos to the Carolinas Chapter for hosting a **stellar convention!!** Our LOC is so proud as everything turned out great. Initially, we were worried about the low registration count. However, 22 members registered on-site to bring the total number of attendees to 93. We are also happy to report that we had 28 children to attend our convention. Furthermore, tremendous efforts were made to sell the gala tickets, and at the end, 86 guests attended the Gala night. The total number of UBAANA members, guests and children that attended the Gala event was 207.

The UBAANA 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Convention attracted Alums from 11 **Chapters**. They are as follows:

The Canada Chapter, Carolinas Chapter, Dallas Chapter, Florida Chapter, Georgia Chapter, Houston Chapter, Midwest Chapter, New York/ New Jersey

Chapter, Pennsylvania Chapter, Southern California and Washington/Maryland/Virginia. We had an Alum attend from South Africa, how great is that?

Our UBAANA National President, Dr. Kingsley Oise Momodu presented distinguished **awards** to the following:

1. **Life-time Membership Award** to Prof. Grace Alele Williams in recognition and appreciation of many years of distinguished service as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Benin, 1985–1992.
2. **Posthumous Award** to Dr. (Mrs.) Comfort Iyangbe Emokpare for her dedication and contributions to the development of the Department of Medical Micro-Biology.
3. **Distinguished Award** to Prof. Dickson Ufomata during his tenure as Provost of the College of Medical Sciences.

4. **Excellence Award to all Past Presidents of UBAANA:** Mr. Ifeanyi Rumundaka, Dr. Phillip Igbinador, Dr. Lanre Gbadehan, Dr. Patrick Egbe and Dr. Idith Ojo for their exceptional commitments to the University of Benin Alumni Association of North America.
5. **Awardees from 9 UBAANA Chapters** in grateful appreciation for their devotion and continued support of University of Benin Alumni Association of North America.
- Carolinas Chapter:** Dr. Julius Tokunboh, Dr. Kingsley Cadmus & Mrs. Lisa Sido
- Dallas Chapter:** Dr. Didi Ogbue & Dr. (Mrs.) Ufuoma Ogbue.
- Florida Chapter:** Mr. Desmond Alufohai
- Georgia Chapter:** Dr. Gege Odion
- Houston Chapter:** Mrs. Elizabeth Omozuwa Etokhana
- Midwest Chapter:** Mr. Paul Idemudia & Mr. Owen Ogefere
- New York/New Jersey:** Mr. Collins Ihaza & Dr. Dan Ogbovo
- Pennsylvania Chapter:** Dr. Ben Imoobe
- Washington/Maryland/Virginia:** Dr. Paulinus Chigbu & Mr. Peter Uyioshoro

## Queen City Highlights !!!



Embassy Suites Uptown, Charlotte - Venue of the UBAANA 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion

Delegates started arriving to the Embassy Suites Uptown on Thursday, July 19, 2018. There was **on-site registration** on Friday, July 20, 2018. Thanks to Mr. Desmond Alufohai and Ms. Eloho Sido for ensuring a stress-free registration process throughout the weekend. We also owe gratitude to our capable volunteers who helped with registrations. We kicked off the Reunion weekend on Friday with the **Financial Workshop** "Building a Strong Financial Foundation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" presented by our very own Dr. Billy Osawaru, Sr. Marketing Director, TransAmerica

Financial Advisors, which went very well.

**Prof. Grace Alele Williams** arrived in the afternoon. Mr. Henry Emenanor, LOC treasurer and Mrs. Tina Emenanor, CNA, and LOC member did a fantastic job catering to her needs throughout her stay. In the evening, we hosted a welcome **dinner and dance**, where delicious Nigerian cuisine by Mrs. Dola Wey was served and we danced into the night with DJ Hamed providing great music. It was well attended, and the hotel facility set up was great as well.

The General Assembly Plenary Session was held in the morning. Very constructive issues were discussed, and it was a great meeting. Then off we went on two buses to the picnic. This is a great facility with a bit of everything. The popular, long awaited soccer game finally took place, with Team Ekenhuan and Team Ugbowo and officiating referee and linesmen. This was the highlight of the picnic as Away Away the goalie for the Ugbowo team decided to use Jazz to fend away the goals. This was so much fun. Women also joined in the game to show how soccer is played. At the end, team Ugbowo won and was awarded a trophy at the Gala night.

The facility had a swimming pool with life guards, basketball, bean bag toss games, table games and a life DJ with soothing music. The food was served indoors with great seating. We are happy to state that it was a successful and well executed picnic.



## Gala Night Highlights

Distinguished delegates and guests took pictures behind the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion background backdrop while they were serenaded by a Jazz musician and enjoying cocktail before the doors were opened to the ballroom. Our very able and capable MC/Comedian, Away Away entertained all present. LOC chairman, Dr. Kingsley Cadmus welcomed guests and the UBAANA National president, Dr. Kingsley Oise Momodu presented the welcome address where he stated his goals and achievements to date, followed by a beautiful speech by our keynote speaker, Prof. Grace Alele Williams. Governor Godwin Obaseki was represented by Mr. Joe Okojie who delivered his written report. We were entertained by a Michael Jackson performer who did an excellent job. We had raffle draws, awards were presented, and DJ Chieffide got all

dancing into the night. We are happy to state that the Washington/Maryland/Virginia Chapter will host the UBAANA 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Convention.



## UBAA Congratulates UBAANA on the Occasion Efficacious 13th Annual Reunion Celebration



# UNIVERSITY OF BENIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UBAA)

*ALUMNI CENTRE*

University of Benin P.O. Box 10250, Ugbowo – Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

Website: [www.ubaaworldwide.org](http://www.ubaaworldwide.org)

07<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

The President,  
University of Benin Alumni Association, North America (UBAANA),  
U.S.A.

### **CONGRATULATIONS ON A VERY SUCCESSFUL 13th ANNUAL REUNION CELEBRATION BY UBAANA.**

On behalf of the President Worldwide, Hon. (Sir) Ifaluyi Isibor and the entire University of Benin Alumni Association (UBAA) family, I heartily congratulate you on the successful hosting and celebration of the 13<sup>th</sup> Reunion of UBAANA.

I wish to congratulate the entire UBAANA family especially President Kingsley Momodu and his EXCO for sustaining this wonderful tradition of unbroken and improved annual reunion activities. UBAA is excited about the relationships that are being developed between Dr. Kingsley Momodu, since his assumption of office as the UBAANA President and UBAA Worldwide and look forward to continued cooperation with UBAANA as we collectively make every effort to give back to our University as a leading center of excellence, and partner with the University Management in the Development of our alma mater; University of Benin. UBAA notes with thanks the uncommon gesture of the UBAANA family towards the President Worldwide; Hon. (Sir) Ifaluyi Isibor, during his medical vacation in the United States.

I wish to applaud the decision of the UBAANA 13th General Assembly to undertake the renovation of all the Common rooms in the Halls of Residence and also to rehabilitate the dilapidated Bus stops at the University of Benin. This project which will cost about 60,000 dollars will impact positively on the academic and social environments of the students of the University of Benin.

Finally, UBAA will continue to work assiduously to maintain the cordial relationship between UBAA Worldwide and our Diaspora Branches with a view to promoting the growth and development of UNIBEN, our alma mater.

Once Again, Accept the Healthy Congratulations of UBAA.

**GREATEST UNIBEN!**

Omoigberale Myke (Prof.)  
Hon. Secretary General

## Chapter News



Members of the Carolinas chapter have had a great year with various fun-filled picnics and activities which culminated in the very successful hosting of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual reunion celebration.

UBAANA says a big thank you to the Chapter Chair **Dr. Kingsley Cadmus**, the Reunion director **Mrs. Lisa Sido** and all members of the Carolinas Chapter. You made us proud!

### Carolinas Chapter

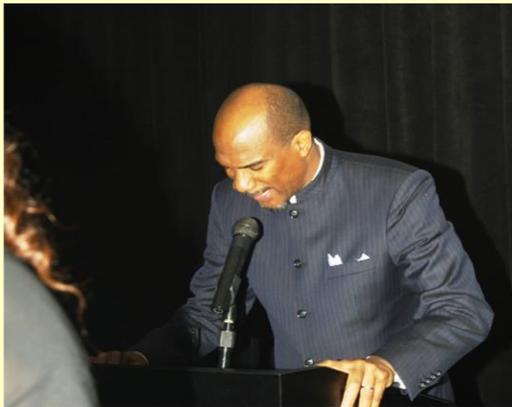
The Chair of the Philadelphia Chapter **Mr. Ben Imoobe** along with all chapter members congratulate UBANA and the Carolinas chapter for the successful hosting of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion.

It was indeed a memorable occasion for members of the chapter as they had fun with other alums from other chapters.



### Philadelphia Chapter

## UBAANA's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Celebration in Pictures



# UBAANA's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Celebration in Pictures



# UBAANA's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Celebration in Pictures



## Chigbu (continued from page 1)

Chigbu earned a BS and MS in Zoology from UNIBEN along with a Ph.D. in Fisheries from the University of Washington, Seattle, USA

Dr. Chigbu is a Professor of a Professor of Marine and Fisheries Science at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) where he serves as Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC), as well as Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology – Center for the Integrated Study of Coastal Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics in the mid-Atlantic region.

UBAANA congratulates you once more on this distinguished and memorable achievement!

### ALL Roads Lead to Houston 2020 Reunion!!!!

We are happy to announce that the Houston Chapter will be hosting the 2020 annual reunion in Houston.

Necessary machineries are already being put in place for the Reunion by the new Executive!

Kudos to the chapter chair, Mr. Olaniyi Oyedele and the men and women of the Houston. You are indeed the GREATEST!

## Reconstituted Growth Committee

UBAANA has a newly reconstituted Growth and Membership Committee. The Committee will:

1. Develop and implement strategies to increase membership growth.
2. Promote and assist in the development of regional and local chapters with a clear mandate to increase the number of UBAANA chapters to 10 by the 2019 reunion.
3. Identify, develop and implement programs towards Membership retention and development.
4. Develop and maintain a database of UBAANA membership in conjunction with the Secretary General.
5. Maintain UBAANA 's website in conjunction with the webmaster.
6. The website shall profile members and their businesses: Events and programs of UBAANA, as well as other contents that propagate the aims and objectives of UBAANA and that encourage and facilitate UBAANA social life.
7. To ensure that the contents of the UBAANA website are non-political and secular in nature.
8. Work to increase the number of UBAANA chapters to 10 by the 2019 reunion.

Members are as follows:

1. Hilda Dunkun – Chairman
2. Osasere Osifo – Secretary
3. Agatha Orumwense
4. Dr. ify Okeke
5. Dr. Uvo Unoriobe
6. Dr. Chichi Okoro
7. Taiye Salami

UBAANA says a big thank you to our very distinguished alums who are named above to serve on this Committee. UBAANA takes pride in your work and commitment.