

# UBAANA NEWS



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

## New York/New Jersey Chapter to Host Reunion



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Greetings from the "Big Apple" and  
the "Garden State".

On behalf of UBAANA New York/New Jersey  
chapter, we are pleased to invite you to join us  
for **UBAANA's 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion.**

**Date:** Friday July 22nd to Sunday July 24th, 2016

**Venue:**

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel  
128 Frontage Road  
Newark, New Jersey 07114  
USA

*Come and renew old friendships and share  
memories as the University of Benin Alumni  
Association North America gets together for the  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion in July.*

*For a complete list of the reunion weekend  
activities and pricing information visit  
<http://www.UBAANA.org>.*

*Or*

*Email: [organizers@ubaana.org](mailto:organizers@ubaana.org)*

## From the President's Desk

Dear UBAANAites,

I hope your 2016 has started off and stayed good to set the tone for a great year. Your executive committee is working hard to make sure we are setting the tone for a peaceful, progressive and successful year. We are working hard to make sure our service to UBAANA is transparent. Beside the executive committee, other UBAANA members are pledging to help make the success of this organization a reality. These members are making good on their pledges by working hard in committees. To that end, please join me again to welcome, congratulate, and commend all current UBAANA 2015-2017 committee members for giving of their time, energy and expertise to UBAANA. Hopefully many more members will help to steer the affairs of the organization through donations to the endowment fund and other academic prizes.



### UBAANA'S 2015-2017 COMMITTEES

#### LEGAL AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

1). Robert	Omoyeni	<b>Chair</b>
2). Rose	Egbuiwe	<b>Secretary</b>
3). Beatrice	Adigwe	<b>Member</b>
4). Bola	Aguda	<b>Member</b>
5). lyke	Eriator	<b>Member</b>
6). Timothy	Mozia	<b>Member</b>
7). Chris Israel	Uvieghara	<b>Member</b>

#### GROWTH AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

1). Omozuwa Elizabeth	Etokhana	<b>Chair</b>
2). Vivian Ese	Deniran	<b>Secretary</b>
3). Hilda	Dunkwu	<b>Member</b>
4). Ifeoma	Anekwe	<b>Member</b>
5). Osarugue	Sanusi	<b>Member</b>
6). Nkoli Stella	Uwechie	<b>Member</b>

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**ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE**

1). Daniel Obaroakpor	Ogbovoh	<b>Chair</b>
2). Paul	Umukoro	<b>Secretary</b>
3). Chris	Uvieghara	<b>Member</b>
4). Alex	Uzamere	<b>Member</b>
5). Nnamdi	Maduekwe	<b>Member</b>

**INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE**

1) Olaniyi	Oyedele, CPA	<b>Chair</b>
2) Agnes Ejemen	Egbe, CPA	<b>Secretary</b>

**PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

1). Peter	Uiyoshioria	<b>Chair</b>
2). Abraham	Obar	<b>Secretary</b>
3). Chris	Uvieghara	<b>Member</b>
4). Obinna	Oriaku	<b>Member</b>

**UBAANA's 2015 – 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1). Idith	Ojo	president@ubaana.org	215-498-7664	<b>President</b>
2). Chris Israel	Uvieghara	vicepresident@ubaana.org	619-977-6180	<b>Vice President</b>
3). Edward	Fubara	secgen@ubaana.org	517-881-2657	<b>Sec. General</b>
4). Orumé Hays	Agbeyegbe	treasurer@ubaana.org	917-676-8522	<b>Treasurer</b>
5). Alex Imuetinyan	Eronmwon	asstsecgen@ubaana.org	718-844-0771	<b>Asst. Sec. Gen.</b>

## Are You Ready for the Reunion?

Great UBAANITES!!

The New York/New Jersey Chapter is hard at work preparing for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion scheduled for July 22-24, 2016 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Newark, New Jersey.

We look forward with excitement to seeing many of our alumni and friends at the celebration. We promise that you will have an enjoyable weekend with fun-filled activities and lots of food and drinks! We'll take care of some business too.

😊

The reunion is a family affair with activities geared for children and adults. We added a twist to this year's brochure called "**Where Are They Now**". Please send a brief profile about your accomplishments and any photos you have will definitely be a nice addition.

Here's what to look forward to during this Reunion Weekend .On Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be hosting a comedy show at the hotel .After the Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning, there will be a picnic at Lewis Morris Park in New Jersey where we will be serving New Jersey style BBQ with lots to drink and eat...And also some field sports for the adults and youth .Please come prepared with your sports gear! We round up the weekend with our red carpet event on Saturday night with the paparazzi buzzing around.😊

Please watch out for updates through this forum.

Great UNIBEN!!!

Sarah Uzamere, Secretary

New York/New Jersey Chapter

### 2015-2016 Membership Renewal is now Available

For your convenience, UBAANA membership renewal is now available for the 2015–2016 membership year. Do not wait on an invoice; for timely processing, please visit

<http://www.ubaana.org>

## Inspirational Corner with Dr. Mozia

### *What is YOUR WHY?*

Fellow UBANNA, HAPPY NEWYEAR!! By the time you read this newsletter, it may be a few months into 2016. Nevertheless, know that “your morning begins whenever you wake up.” Therefore, there is still plenty of time to explore your “why” or your life’s purpose. So, why is knowing your purpose important? It is significant because your purpose is the rudder for your ship! It helps you navigate your daily life; keeps you persistent and resilient at challenging times and helps to remove the confusion that can arise when deciding what to do next. In other words, your purpose helps to maintain focus and accelerate your results! And if you are wondering what your purpose is, consider these four ways in which your purpose reveals itself to you: your values, your passion, your personal assets and legacy. I invite you to reflect on these areas. Become quite still and listen for answers. Write down whatever comes to mind without self-editing. Then synthesize into 2-3 sentences at the most. Voila! This is your “Why” your “Purpose!” Remember, it is the rudder for your ship. So keep it simple and safe!

Remain Greatest!

*Dr. H.E. Mozia*

If this inspired you, visit

<http://www.supportandstructure.com>; for more.

## An Affair With the Unknown *Iruka A. Ndubuizu*

A few months ago, I declared to some friends that one of my goals for the year is to be bold and audacious. Interestingly, most of them reacted with the response “you already are”. This response took me by surprise each time. None of them asked what I meant or what I hoped to achieve. They just assumed that I have the guts to leap into any goal I set for myself. It’s either I am bolder than I think I am or I have gotten good at faking it. If they only knew that I am constantly riddled with self-doubt and second guessing myself; that sometimes I am crippled with fear and can barely make the next move; that for each move I make, there are many more I did not dare to make. I am still processing how I feel about their unanimous reaction - either they do not truly know who I am or they believe I can do anything.

. I rarely see myself as bold or audacious. I do not always have the nerve to tackle a lot of the things I would love to do. So, why do my friends believe or see me as brave? Is it because I tend to dive in, even when I don’t have all the answers or know how it will all play out? Or because I try not to let myself be deterred by obstacles.

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## An Affair with the Unknown

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This is why I do not agree with those who define courage as the absence of fear. I may be seen as courageous but it does not mean I am fearless. I get anxious that it may not work out. I get stressed that my plan will fail. I have doubts that the venture may not be profitable. I worry that I may come up short and disappoint people. When these voices of fear rear their heads, I silence them and muster the courage to go ahead because I believe the price of inaction is greater than making a mistake. I choose to focus on the process not the final outcome. If it fails, I learn from it and move on.

My favorite definition of courage is by Osho, the Indian guru, who says that "*courage is a love affair with the unknown*". It is natural to be afraid particularly when you cannot guarantee the final outcome or do not know your ultimate destination. The problem arises when you let fear put you in a state of paralysis to a point where you cannot take a step. The preferred option is to use fear as a guide. Acknowledge the fear and come up with creative options to tackle it.

Clearly, you will not have all the answers, but you will be able to move your legs and make a move. This is your first brave decision and an important step in the right direction. You have chosen to act *in spite* of your fear.

That is the true meaning of courage. Remember, fear is not a fact; it is only a feeling.

Life is full of unknowns and there are very few guarantees. On a daily basis, we need courage to face our day. We need courage to make that first call, apply for a new job, become an entrepreneur, take that trip, ask for help, offer assistance, resolve a conflict, pop the question, ask for a raise, submit an application, take that class or just make a decision. Fear of rejection or failure may keep you from embarking on any of these ventures. Do not let that deter you, rather confront your fear head on and proceed regardless of it. Focus on the process of getting there. Once you do that fear becomes paralyzed, not you. Your perception changes and you find yourself embracing the unknown. There might be disappointments along the way. It's okay. Use them as tools to help you make the next move.

I am determined to stay in the game as I continue my affair with the unknown. The outcome is uncertain and failure is a possibility. However, I am learning my lessons along the way as I embrace the uncertainty of it all.

Resolve today to enter into a relationship with the unknown. Move forward in spite of fear. Slow down enough to face your fears and do not get deterred by obstacles. They are just speed bumps.

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## An Affair with the Unknown

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Acknowledge them. Drive over. Keep moving. Your destination is very important. Something great awaits you there.

*Iruka A. Ndubuizu is a “contract guru”, negotiations expert, attorney, entrepreneur, consultant and trainer. She is an Assistant Director for Contracts Administration at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia and the Founder of Eureka Consulting, LLC ([www.eurekaconsultingllc.com](http://www.eurekaconsultingllc.com)). You can reach her at [info@eurekaconsultingllc.com](mailto:info@eurekaconsultingllc.com); Tel: 678.224.1960.*



*UBAANA Carolinas Members at their Spring 2016 Meeting*

## UBAANA Carolinas Chapter Swears in New EXCO

March 5, 2016 marked a new beginning for the Carolinas chapter as the 2016-2018 leaders were sworn in. The gathering was generously hosted by new chapter chair Dr. Kingsley Momodu and his family. Five first time members attended from as far away as Charleston, South Carolina!

The evening featured great food, conversation, fundraising and planning for the future. The chapter continues as one of the national standard-bearers with an exemplary record of service. We expect nothing less from the new leadership team!

In addition to Dr. Momodu, the other leaders are Ms. Agnes Egbe (secretary) and Mr. Henry Emenanjo (treasurer). CONGRATULATIONS on your election and all the best for your tenure!



*Outgoing Carolinas Chapter chair, Ralph Ereyi swearing in the new EXCO. From left to right: Treasurer Henry Emenanjo, Secretary Agnes Egbe and Chairman Kingsley Momodu*