

# UBAANA NEWS



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

## Carolinas Chapter Annual Picnic

By Henry Emenanjour, Carolinas Chapter Treasurer

The Carolinas in Charlotte!

On August 20, 2016, a record number of members from North and South Carolina, and a visiting member from Canada, attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Summer Cookout at the YMCA Hemby Center in the Weddington area of Charlotte.

It was a family event and we do not like to make any noise, but we had a blast! There was food and a live DJ.

You can check out photos and relive the fun at <https://photos.dropbox.com/app/timeline>.

GREATEST!



*Members of the UBAANA Carolinas chapter enjoy a day of fun, family and friends!*

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## UBAA Biennial General Assembly

A message from Prof. Emmanuel O. Oghre, UBAA  
Immediate Past Sec-Gen and  
Chairman, BGA Committee

Greatest,

The 2016 Biennial General Assembly of the UNIBEN Alumni Association Worldwide has been slated for 9–13th November, 2016 at the University of Benin. This is to specially invite you and your Branch, and members to this special occasion. All Branches are expected to attend with 10% of their membership.

[Editor's Note: The detailed programme of activities is available at [www.ubaana.org](http://www.ubaana.org).]

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## From the President's Desk



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I wish to extend my personal appreciation to members of this great association for making time to participate in our annual reunion from year to year. At the 2016 Newark Reunion this past July, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, we raised more than \$7000 for UBAANA's Endowment Fund. Your support and dedication to our alma-mater enables UBAANA to continue to support relevant programs and projects at UNIBEN.

I wish to particularly, express my gratitude to members of the NYNJ chapter for a successful hosting of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion in Newark, New Jersey. The local organizing committee (LOC) Chair, Mrs. Stella Aduba and her team worked diligently, and succeeded beautifully, in providing a memorable and fun-filled weekend for all attendees. Highlights of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual reunion will be presented by the LOC.

While the reunion provided a forum for members to network and reacquaint with alumni and friends, it also provided an opportunity for live conduction of official UBAANA business. UBAANA's EXCO, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs met and deliberated on a variety of issues. Comprehensive committee Reports were delivered and recommendations proposed at the General Assembly. These comprehensive and robust recommendations are now been implemented.

Thanks to Ms. Megan Begert, the international graduate education coordinator of Binghamton University, New York for joining us at the reunion. Thanks to the NYNJ LOC; Megan visited UNIBEN in October of this year and made a presentation about Binghamton University. More on this by the NYNJ LOC in later pages.

I like to use this opportunity to invite members to ***UBAA's Biennial Reunion in Benin City, November 9 – 13, 2016***. If you plan to be in Nigerian around this time, please join your fellow alumni at the homecoming festivities. Also, I like to announce that the host and City for the 12<sup>th</sup> UBAANA Annual Reunion will be Georgia chapter and Atlanta. The date will be July 21–23, 2017. We look forward to welcoming UBAANA members and guests to the "Peach" State come July 2017.

Finally, I want to thank everyone, including DVC Abiodun Falodun of UNIBEN, and Prof. Emmanuel Oghre, Immediate Past SecGen of UBAA Nigeria, who took the time to email, respond to email, text, or call our members in Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas during the recent hurricane weekend. Mathew, a Category 4 hurricane, flooded cities and caused damage to life and property worth billions of dollars.

With the Growth & Membership committee, led by Ms. Omozuwa Etokhana, Chair, in the forefront, we were able to maintain contact with all chapters in harm's way during hurricane Mathew. A little caring goes a long way in improving our wellbeing. Thank you all for your positive roles in making UBAANA better and stronger together. We can conquer the world if we stick together.

**God bless UBAANA; and God bless UNIBEN!**

Idith Ojo, DNP, FNP  
President

## Highlights of the 2016 Reunion

By Stella Aduba, Local Organizing Committee Chair and New York/New Jersey 2012-2016 Chapter Chair

The 11th annual reunion was hosted by the New York/New Jersey Chapter at the Doubletree by Hilton hotel, Newark, New Jersey, July 22 – 24, 2016 where it welcomed a little over 200 registered attendees. Activities began on Thursday, July 21, for early arrivals, with a networking reception and dinner. Official reunion activities took off on Friday afternoon, July 22, with a meeting of the EXCO, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Chapter Chairs. The evening ended with a welcome party which featured a special musical performance and comedy night, headlined by comedian and MC Tompson Ola Tabi of the Florida chapter. On Saturday, July 23, activities included the General Assembly, picnic, red-carpet/open bar reception, and a closing banquet and awards gala.

Award recipients include the following:

- Outstanding Leadership Award – Ms. Stella Aduba
- Outstanding UBAANA Member of the Year – Ms. Elizabeth Etokhana
- Outstanding Supporting Member of the Year – Ms. Ese Vivian Deniran
- Meritorious Service Award – Mr. Olaniyi Oyedele, CPA
- Selflessness/Commitment of Time & Support Award – Mr. Okagbue Aduba
- Service Award – NY/NJ Chapter – Host of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion
- Highest Number of Delegates Award – Georgia Chapter

The following out-going Members of the Board of Directors also received “Recognition of Service” Awards – Ms. Stella Aduba, Dr. Dele Ekunsami, Dr. George Alakpa, Dr. Gege Odion, Esq. and Mr. Chris Salami.



*Reunion Keynote Speaker, His Excellency Mr. Israel Kapiro, Minister/Deputy Consul General, Nigerian Consulate, New York; with the UBAANA President, Dr. Idith Ojo and Chief Richard Oma Ahonaruogho, Esq., Past President of UBAA.*



*Dr. Judith Giwa-Amu and daughters at the Gala Event*



*The 2016 Reunion New York/New Jersey Local Organizing Committee*

## New York/New Jersey Chapter Hosts Breakfast with Binghamton University during the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion

By Stella Aduba, Local Organizing Committee Chair and New York/New Jersey 2012-2016 Chapter Chair

A couple of months before the 11<sup>th</sup> UBAANA reunion, Megan Begert a representative of the Binghamton University, contacted us about the opportunity to speak to UBAANA and UNIBEN officials about several funded Management Ph.D. openings for the Fall, with specializations in Marketing and Leadership.



Knowing that this will be a fantastic opportunity for our alma mater, our chapter secretary, Sarah Uzamere and I got on a conference call to discuss logistics. During the call, Binghamton University extended an

invitation to UBAANA and UNIBEN representatives to meet with them at their Campus. Due to time constraints, we decided to meet with them at the Reunion venue instead. Ms. Begert already had a scheduled trip to go to Nigeria in October and was willing to include a University of Benin Campus visit in her schedule.

The informal breakfast meeting took place on Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Newark Airport. In attendance were the UBAA President, Honorable Chief Ifaluyi Isibor, UNIBEN Alumni Relations Officer, Mr. Omagbon, New York/New Jersey Chapter Chair, Mrs. Stella Aduba, Mrs. Sarah Uzamere (Chapter Secretary), Ms. Ngozi Obi (Chapter Treasurer), Dr. Austin Atiyota (UBAANA Director), Mrs. Ngozi Ezeihuaku (UBAANA delegate) and Mr. Aloysius Ihezue (UBAAUK delegate).

The meeting went very well. Ms. Begert was very warm and friendly. She was very familiar with the Nigerian culture and we were able to connect on a personal level with her.

The following decisions were made during the meeting:

- Ms. Begert to coordinate her October visit to the University of Benin, with the Hon. Ifaluyi Isibor and Mr. Eguasa Omagbon.
- The Hon. Ifaluyi Isibor and Mr. Eguasa Omagbon to connect Megan with University of Benin officials who will arrange meetings with UNIBEN students to present several funded Binghamton University Management Ph.D. openings.
- UBAANA EXCO to help with any issues arising if Ms. Begert is unable to get in touch with the University.

We are happy to say that Ms. Begert connected successfully with UNIBEN, and was able to do a presentation on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the University of Benin. **(Please See below)**. The New York/New Jersey Chapter and UBAANA are happy to have facilitated this meeting. This is what” giving back” to our Alma Mater is all about!!! Greatest UBAANA!!! Greatest UNIBEN!!!

## **Binghamton University, New York USA seeks collaboration with UNIBEN**

Source: University of Benin Research News, October 2016

The Vice Chancellor, F. F. O. Orumwense (FNSE) is also pleased to announce academic collaboration between the University of Benin and Binghamton University, USA.

In strengthening collaborative relationship between these universities and other institutions, there [was] a two-day (4th and 5th October, 2016) seminar entitled: Binghamton University Graduate Programs: Applications and Opportunities. The workshop also featured speakers from EducationUSA, and the American Embassy, Abuja.

According to Megan Begert, Binghamton University, USA, "This seminar will avail post graduate students (Master's and PhD) of this great University the opportunity to discuss issues related to programs, application processes, Scholarships/fellowships and funding Graduate education. Binghamton University, a State University of New York, USA, is a high-value Research institution which offers excellent education.

### **New York/New Jersey Chapter Elects New Officers**

Congratulations to the new leaders of the NY/NJ Chapter elected on Sunday October 16, 2016.

Alex Eronmwon – Chair

Nkoli Uwechia – Vice Chair

Risi Lawani – Treasurer

Collins Ihaza – Liaison Officer

Thank you for your leadership!



*Megan Begert, Binghamton University, USA*

## Biennial General Assembly

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There is a special plan to recognise and honour the First set of students (1970 set) during the programme. Part of the plan is also to pay a courtesy visit on the first Visitor to the University, our Distinguished Retired General Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia with the first set. The Association also plans to specially host our Distinguished Alumni and Alumnae during this event. I therefore wish to invite you to be a part of history by attending this year's Assembly.

Lastly I also wish to solicit your support through placement of adverts, goodwill messages and so on in the programme brochure to be used during the programme. The rate of advert is as follows:

Back cover, centre spread	N150,000.00
Centre spread	N150,000.00
Inside Front	N100,000.00
Inside Back	N150,000.00
Full page (product and services)	N70,000.00
Half page (product and services)	N40,000.00
Full Page Goodwill message	N30,000.00
Half page Goodwill message	N30,000.00
Classified advert	N5,000.00

All payment should be into the United Bank for Africa UBA Plc No 1000934357 in favour of University of Benin Alumni Association.

Thank you as we look forward to seeing you.

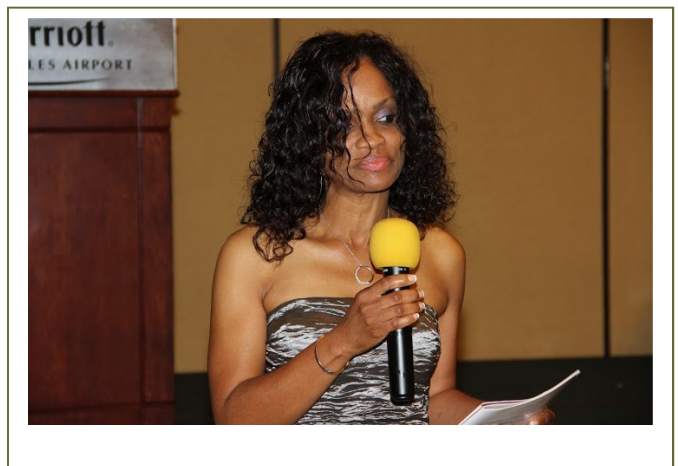
## Condolences

Our hearts go out to **Tonia Iwobi** in the loss of her bother, Lawrence. He was killed in a car accident on the road to Port Harcourt earlier this summer. He was only 36 years old. Please continue to encourage and support Tonia in her loss.

**Omolara Majemite Okerentugba** lost her beloved mother on Sunday, night (9/11/16) in New York. Condolences may be sent to her email address at: [contactmajemite@yahoo.com](mailto:contactmajemite@yahoo.com). She can be reached on (718) 753-3338.

We mourn with UBAANA Board of Directors and Growth and Membership Committee member **Ifeoma Anekwe, Esq.** who lost her mother on October 17th. Funeral arrangements have not been announced yet but feel free to extend your condolences to her at [ianekwe@aol.com](mailto:ianekwe@aol.com). Our thoughts and prayers go out to her and her family.

Southern California Chapter Member, **Mrs. Esosa Obasohan** loses Mother-in-Law. UBAANA mourns with Esosa during this challenging time for her family.



UBAANA Southern California Chapter Member,  
Mrs. Esosa Obasohan



## Members of the NY/NJ Chapter Mourn with one of their Own

Photos by, Alex I. Eronmwon; Chapter Chair



Ifeoma Anekwe, Esq., member of the UBAANA Board of Directors and the Growth & Membership lost her mother recently. UBAANA members paid her a courtesy call.

## ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

### City of Miami Gardens Selects New Vice Mayor



UBAANA Florida's own Dr. Erhabor Ighodaro

The City of Miami Gardens has a new Vice Mayor. At its October 26, 2016, City Council Meeting Councilman Erhabor Ighodaro was appointed by a unanimous vote of his colleagues to serve as Vice Mayor for a two-year period.

Vice Mayor Ighodaro is an educator with a solid background in public management, urban justice, urban education, curriculum design and implementation of best practice methodologies, educational public policy and the intervention and resolution of school and community based conflict.

He holds a Ph. D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from Nova Southeastern University (2007). He graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Justice Administration from St. Thomas University (2000) and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Florida Memorial University (1997). Dr. Ighodaro studied Social Work at UNIBEN in 1989.

A former Miami Dade Council Public School Teacher and Chief of Staff to School Board Member Dr. Robert Ingram, he serves as the Miami-Dade School District's Administrator for the Ingram Africa School Alliance (IASA) "Rites of Passage" Project and leads a delegation of students, teachers and parents on the district's annual excursion and student exchange opportunities with schools in Africa.

He serves as Professor of Criminal Justice at Florida Memorial University and he is the Founder/CEO of Oracle Consulting Group, LLC a dispute systems design and conflict resolution firm and he is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator. An often heralded speaker on youth and non-violent engagement, he is the author of the groundbreaking publication Curriculum Violence: America's New Civil Rights Issue (2010). Nova Science Publishers.

## You're Invited: New York/New Jersey Holiday Party

### Great UNIBEN!!!

Compliments of the season.

Our 5th Annual Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, the 10th of December 2016.

Event will feature a Live DJ, great raffle drawing, prizes and much more!!!

Adults: 50.00 USD

Children: 20.00 USD

Please RSVP and let us know the number of guests that will be attending the event.

This is a good opportunity to reconnect with friends and rekindle old relationships.

All Friends and Family are welcome. For more information contact  
[nynjchapterexco@ubaana.org](mailto:nynjchapterexco@ubaana.org).

### 2016-2017 Membership Renewal is now Available

For your convenience, UBAANA membership renewal is now available for the 2016–2017 membership year. Do not wait on an invoice; for timely processing, please visit [www.ubaana.org](http://www.ubaana.org)

## Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP)

Applications are now being accepted through

**December 8, 2016 11:59 PM EST**

for the fall 2016 competition of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP).

Accredited universities in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda can submit a project request [online](#) to host a scholar.

Scholars born in Africa, who live in the United States or Canada and work in an accredited college or university in either of those two countries, can apply [online](#) to be placed on a roster of available candidates for a fellowship. Scholars must hold a terminal degree in their field and may hold any academic rank. Scholars who have already received a fellowship in the fall 2015 or spring 2016 competitions, are not eligible to participate.

Links to the African host institution project request application, scholar roster application and guidelines are posted on the program website,

<http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Carnegie-African-Diaspora-Fellows-Program/How-to-Apply>.

Selection decisions will be made in **March 2017**; project visits can begin as early as **May 1, 2017** and must be completed by **August 31, 2017**.

**Activities:** African host institutions can request that the scholar participate in projects in curriculum co-development, research collaboration and/or graduate student mentoring and training. The CADFP Advisory Council seeks applications for innovative projects and specifically encourages projects that involve collaboration among multiple institutions or from groups of faculty addressing related topics. The Council also plans to award some fellowships to faculty members who are alumni from the first two years of the program.

**Process:** Prospective African host institutions and fellows (scholars) can cooperate in designing a project that the institution submits. An institution may, but is not required to, name a proposed scholar in a project request. Both the proposed scholar and the project request are subject to evaluation by a review committee and approval by the program Advisory Council.

Scholars submit their information online for the roster. The Institute of International Education (IIE) maintains and searches the roster for a possible match, according to the discipline specializations, expertise, activities and objectives described in a project request.

Website: <http://www.iie.org/AfricanDiaspora>

## Aftermath of Hurricane Mathew

Fellow UBAANAites:

Greatest UNIBEN!

I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of those members and friends who contacted us to inquire about our well-being as Hurricane Mathew made landfall in Florida. Hurricane Mathew's last-minute "wobble" spared South Florida. The "wobble" was triggered by changes in the storm's eyewall, just enough to move the edge of the hurricane 20 to 30 miles east away from the coastal cities of South Florida.

We are very grateful to know that many UBAANA members cared about us and reached out to us through various means (emails, text messages, phone calls, social media, etc.). It is noteworthy to recognize the following individuals:

- Dr. Idith Ojo, UBAANA's President contacted me and my members prior to, during and immediately after the hurricane made landfall in Florida to enquire about our well-being and safety.
- Ms. Vivian Ese Deniran, Secretary, Growth and Membership Committee contacted us. Other Growth & Membership committee members (Ms. Stella Uwechia and Ms. Ifeoma Anekwe, Esq.) contacted us via text messages and made repeated phone calls to Florida chapter members and their families.
- The Hon. Ifaluyi Isibor, UBAA Worldwide President and Chief Richard Ahonaruogho, Esq., Past UBAA Worldwide President called from Nigeria to enquire about our welfare during the hurricane.
- Dr. Patrick Bob Egbe, UBAANA's Immediate Past President and Mrs. Agnes Egbe also contacted us to express their concern for our welfare.
- Mr. Chris Uvieghara, Esq., UBAANA's Vice President, Dr. Edward Fubara, UBAANA's Secretary General and Mr. Paul Umukoro, Southern California Chapter Chair also called to check on us.
- Ms. Osarugue. Sanusi, Chair, UBAANA Houston chapter called to wish us well.
- Ms. Sarah Uzamere and Dr. George Edafe Alakpa, immediate past secretary and immediate past vice chair respectively, of the NY/NJ chapter contacted me on behalf of the chapter.

While South Florida was spared, it was reported that Hurricane Mathew caused more than 30 deaths in the United States. It dumped more than a foot (30 cm) of water on inland North Carolina and parts of Northern Florida. Mathew is reported by analysts to have inflicted damage in the U.S., estimated at more than \$10 billion. Before reaching the Southeastern U.S. Coast, the fierce storm caused the deaths of an estimated 1,000 people in Haiti and destroyed this nation, still rebuilding from the 2010 Earthquake.

Hurricane Mathew additionally ravaged parts of Cuba and the Bahamas. It had peak winds of up to 140 miles per hour (Category 4).

Thank you all for your prayers and concern for our welfare as we rekindle the spirit of brotherhood for a better world!

Sincerely,  
Desmond Alufohai, Chair, Florida Chapter



## UBAANA Georgia Chapter to Host 2017 Reunion

We are excited to announce that the UBAANA Georgia chapter has agreed to host the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual UBAANA Reunion! The host hotel is the Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel & Conference Center, 3405 Lenox Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30326. Dates are July 21–23, 2017.

The chapter/local organizing committee chair is Mr. Raphael Otaigbe. Ralph is the Chief Operating Officer of 20/20 Group, Inc., a leading provider of customized Advisory Consulting and Integrated Training services in the areas of Healthcare Managed Services, Information Technology/ICT, Communication and Energy services.

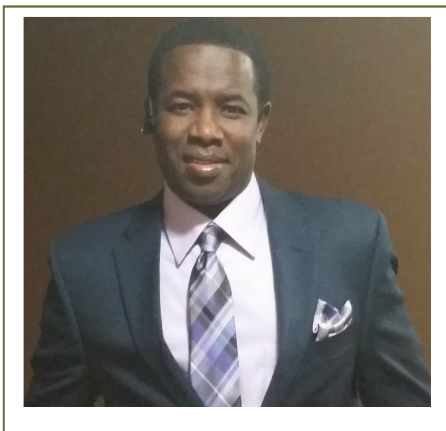
He has over 25 years of technology and project management expertise directing business processes, systems integration & implementation in the areas of Information Technology, Electronic Health Records (EHR), NETWORKX and QNXT Payer systems.

Mr. Otaigbe has worked with Fortune 500 companies such as Sprint Nextel, Southern Company, Coca-Cola, Georgia Power, SunTrust Bank, Amerigroup, Premera, BCBS and United Health Group managing various operational and consulting positions.

Mr. Otaigbe graduated from the University of Benin in 1986 with honors in Industrial Chemistry, has an M.B.A with specialization in Information Security and Health Management from Keller Graduate School of Management. He has certifications in Microsoft, Cisco, Health Informatics and HIPAA/ICD.

Raphael Otaigbe has been actively involved with UBAANA and was elected Georgia Chapter Chair in 2012 and to the Board of Directors in 2016. As reunion chair of the 2017 convention taking place in Atlanta GA, Mr. Otaigbe Raphael will be responsible for fostering and preserving the deep relations and connections of UBAANA community.

Raphael Otaigbe is resident in Atlanta, GA with his wife, Eve Otaigbe and four children, Prince, Duke, Emperess and Contessa Otaigbe.



*Mr. Raphael Otaigbe, Georgia Chapter Chair*



## Edo State Governor-Elect Meets with UBAANA Florida Chapter Members in Miami



*Edo State governor-elect, Hon Godwin Obaseki, pictured in the middle, meets with Vice Mayor Dr. Erhabor Ighodaro to his left, and Mr. Desmond Alufohai to his right on October 30, 2016*

### **Did you miss the 2016 Reunion?**

Photos, videos, highlights and minutes of the General Assembly session are all available at [www.ubaana.org](http://www.ubaana.org)