

# UBAANA NEWS



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

## UBAANA's Evolution Continues

By Edward Fubara, UBAANA Secretary-General

UBAANA recently celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Annual Reunion in the great city of Miami, Florida. Our continued gratitude goes out to Mr. Desmond Alufohai for the absolutely amazing work that he did in pulling off the event. Everything was first class! Even the after-action report is a work of art! If you'd like to read it, or to see photos from the event surf over to [www.ubaana.org](http://www.ubaana.org).

Of course the reunion also featured the election of the 2015–2017 UBAANA executive team, led by Dr. Idith Ojo, our fearless president. The team, in consultation with the UBAANA Board of Directors, has been hard at work continuing the work of the last administration and developing a number of new initiatives. Highlights include:

- An assessment of the utilization of the e-library (EBSCOHOST) funded by UBAANA and set up at UNIBEN earlier this year
- Potential donation of a heart catheterization lab to UNIBEN
- Continuing our efforts to upgrade and modernize UNIBEN's information and communication technology infrastructure
- Bringing UNIBEN's valedictorian to the United States to attend our 2016 reunion and visit with alumni in various cities
- Further improvements to the transcript requisition process

Of course, no one can do this work alone! We need your help. Will you share your time, talent

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treasure to enrich our great alma mater? We are reconstituting our standing committees and are always in need of volunteers. If you are ready to help, please contact our able vice-president, Chris Uvieghara, Esq. at [vicepresident@ubaana.org](mailto:vicepresident@ubaana.org).

GREATEST!

## UNIBEN Builds Ties with U. S. Partners

One of the activities that took place around the Miami reunion was a set of meetings with two Florida academic institutions for the purpose of building affiliations with UNIBEN. These relationships will allow for joint research, student exchanges and more. UBAANA is proud to be a partner in facilitating these relationships.

See *Partnerships*, page 3



UNIBEN and UBAANA Officials visit Florida International University

## From the President's Desk

### Joining Hands to Move UBAANA Forward

Fellow UBAANAites;

According to Martin Luther King, Jr.: ***“If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”*** Please fly with me, run with me, walk with me, or crawl with me; whatever is in your power to do, whatever is in your ability to do, please commit within you today to do it; let's all individually and collectively commit to do whatever we can to “move” UBAANA “forward”.



I want to express my utmost gratitude to everyone for electing me as UBAANA's 6<sup>th</sup> National President at the recently concluded Annual Reunion in Miami, Florida. I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate returning members of UBAANA's executive committee (EXCO) – Dr. Edward Fubara, National Secretary General; Ms. Orumé Agbeyegbe Hays, CPA, National Treasurer; and newly elected EXCO members – Mr. Chris Uvieghara, Esquire, National Vice President; and Mr. Alex I. Eronmwon, Assistant Secretary General. My thanks to all past UBAANA Presidents and Exco members for their support and contributions in helping to get UBAANA to where she is today. I would be failing in my gratitude if I do not thank all UBAANA members who have offered to give of themselves by running for National office whether or not they have ended up serving in those offices.

As this administration begins its mandate, I invite every member of the UBAANA community to join hands with me and the executive committee to move UBAANA forward by building on the work of previous administrations as we look ahead to exploring greater heights. We will report on the details of activities, programs, and projects we engage in as we go along.

My gratitude goes to all UBAANA members who have served in previous committees and I take the opportunity to invite members to consider serving as we commence reconstitution of the following standing committees:

- Legal & Ethics
- Endowment Fund
- Growth & Membership
- Program & Projects

We are all stakeholders in this organization, and it is in our collective interest to take charge and ownership of the organization's future prosperity. I am asking us all to please continue our commitment, support and passion in matters of the association for the benefit of this wonderful organization. Let's pledge to honor the organization and utilize it to develop ourselves, UBAANA and our alma mater.

We have challenges, but the solutions to these challenges lie within our reach; the solutions exist within the ingenuity of our members. The ingenuity of our members is among other things the quality that makes UBAANA the force of progress and the networking platform it continues to be for our members.

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## Partnerships

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Since the reunion, UNIBEN has written Memoranda of Understanding with Florida International University and Miami-Dade College. UNIBEN is also developing a relationship with California State University Long Beach. Kudos to Prof. Tim Mozia for facilitating that exchange. These ties are helping to solidify UNIBEN's status as a world-class learning, research and service institution.



*UNIBEN and UBAANA Officials visit Miami Dade College*

### 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> /Pay Dues and renew before December 31 2015.

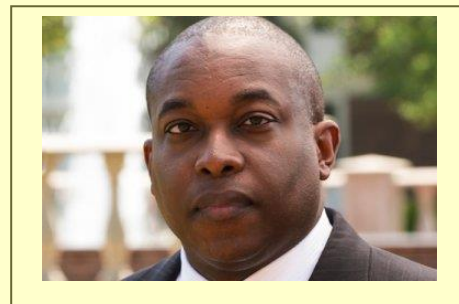
## Alumni on the Move: Fubara named Interim Dean

Source: [www.campbell.edu](http://www.campbell.edu)

BUIES CREEK -- Dr. Edward Fubara has been appointed interim dean of the Campbell University Lundy-Fetterman School of Business effective Thursday, Oct. 1. Fubara, who joined the Campbell Business faculty in 2005, will serve as interim dean until the next dean is identified. A national search will commence later this month.

"With over a decade of faculty and administrative experiences at Campbell, Dr. Fubara is uniquely and well-prepared to assume the role of interim dean for our School of Business," said Campbell Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Mark L. Hammond. "Ed's efficient management style and gentle, professional demeanor will make him especially successful as we transition and conduct a national search for a new dean. I am excited for the business school students and faculty that he is willing to fill this hugely important role. I look forward to working with Ed in this new capacity and to helping with his transition."

An associate professor of business, Fubara currently directs the Campbell Business MBA Program and teaches courses in management, human resources, organizational behavior and business ethics. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Benin in Nigeria, and MBA and Ph.D. degrees in management from Michigan State University's Eli Broad Graduate School of Management. Fubara is also an ordained minister.



*Dr. Edward (Tonye) Fubara*

## UBAANA Business Network: We Can Do Better Together

By Orumé Agbeyegbe Hays, CPA, UBAANA Treasurer

### Do You Run a Business or Use Any Business Services?

North America is blessed with a tremendous number of graduates from the University of Benin. A vast number of professional alums currently have the opportunity to network at our annual reunion and business forums. The question then becomes, how do we motivate our alumni community to patronize fellow alumni businesses year round?

This is an important issue that cannot be resolved overnight. However, we can all begin to tackle this issue by taking baby steps to patronize and promote alumni businesses. Instead of simply finding a business partner via Google or another outside service, we can make inquiries within the alumni body for a recommendation on the required service.

As a member of UBAANA, one of the membership benefits at our disposal is access to the alumni body and to alumni businesses. This benefit, amongst others, is currently underutilized. However, we do not need to settle for the status quo, we can change things. We can start utilizing this benefit all year round instead of only connecting with alums at our annual reunion events.

As we round out this year, and look ahead to 2016, I can think of one new initiative you can embark on ... it is an easy one: Patronize your local alumni businesses.

Growing up in Nigeria, I recall we often shopped locally; we hired people recommended by family members and neighbors. Of course we used other professional services provided by businesses outside of our inner circles but that was usually the last option.

Many of us need a dentist, a pediatrician, a lawyer, an accountant, an insurance broker and on and on. These professionals and more are right within our circle. Why don't we take advantage of the professional resources in our community and support our alumni businesses? We can take back our power and our dollars and revert from patronizing big corporate chains to patronizing our small businesses.

Of course, there is often the elephant in the room. How trustworthy is this or that Nigerian (unfortunately many of our country men have done us a great disservice). Well, there is no need to engage in a new business partnership without doing the required due diligence. Your fellow alum will understand and will appreciate the effort and the business opportunity.

So make the pledge to make 2016 the year of promoting alumni businesses. Patronize an alumni business; recommend an alumnus's service... Know someone with a commendable achievement? Write an article and give a shout-out to him or her in our newsletter. And guess what? You can also advertise your business in UBAANA's newsletter, which is emailed to our membership mailing list of over 700 alumni and friends.

GREAT UNIBEN!

## From the President's Desk

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I am proud to serve as your president and with your support and cooperation we will continue to build new linkages and partnerships to ensure that UBAANA emerges stronger as we "*keep moving forward*". Let's share this journey; let's move UBAANA forward *together*. We can do this; *together!* Let's do it!

# INVITATION TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL UBAANA REUNION IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

## Greatest UNIBEN!!!

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

Please join us next summer for a weekend of reminiscences, friendship, fun and nostalgia as we celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual UBAANA reunion at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Newark Airport, New Jersey from July 22 to 24. The Organizing Committee is in high gear, working very hard to ensure that we have a successful and memorable event. The festivities will begin with a Welcome Dinner and Dance Reception on Friday, July 22. Come with your dancing shoes and be ready to party as the Committee promises to make this a very "exciting occasion".

Saturday's activities consist of various events which include a visit to the Liberty State Museum (for friends and family), General Assembly/Business Forum, a New York/New Jersey style Picnic/Barbecue at the famous Liberty State Park and a Dinner/Dance Fundraising Gala to crown it all.

We are also proud to announce that **His Excellency Adamu Emozozo, Ambassador and Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Brazil**, has accepted our invitation and confirmed his attendance as keynote speaker at the Reunion.

In the spirit of the 2016 Reunion theme "**Giving back to UNIBEN, our alma mater**",

- Your support is integral to determining the future and continued growth of the university
- When you give back you are helping to ensure quality education for the next generation
- The value of our degree increases as our alma mater sustains her prestige
- Giving back is a "Thank You" for the amazing college experience we had
- Regular contributions help bolster the operating budget of our alma mater
- Your contributions are tax deductible when made through UBAANA

Take advantage of our early bird rate and register for the Reunion before May 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. Also, please note that UBAANA T-shirts, wristbands, caps, visors and other souvenirs are available for purchase by members.

*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 next July.*

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

Sincerely,

Stella Aduba

Chair, New York/New Jersey Chapter

For Local Organizing Committee, 2016 Reunion



## Condolences

As always we mourn with those who mourn. UBAANA would like to express sincere condolences to:

Ms. Ameze Imarhiagbe (Zoology, 1988) in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Theresa Osasogie Imarhiagbe Who went home to the Lord on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. A service of songs was held for her on November 7, 2015 in Woodlawn, Ohio.

William Ebhomilen (Ebo) who lost his father Rev. Paul Omieka Ebhomielen, aged 91 on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 in Benin-City, Nigeria.

Our hearts, our prayers and our support go out to all of our brothers and sisters who experience pain and loss. Know that we are here for you.

### UBAANA 2015-2017 Executive Committee

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The EXCO meets on the first Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. Eastern. All are welcome to attend. Contact the Sec-Gen for call-in information.



*Akin Deko Auditorium, University of Benin  
Photo by: Alex I Eronmwon, UBAANA Assistant Sec-Gen*