

# UBAANA NEWS



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

## Join Us in Atlanta!

By the 2017 Reunion Publicity Committee

You are all invited to the University of Benin Alumni reunion taking place in Atlanta in the hot summer month of July.

Atlanta lives up to its name Hotlanta at this time, both in temperature and in that all-around groove that you will be experiencing during this 3-day event. Book your flights, fill up your tanks, hit the highway, whichever way, just find your way to our great city...the New York of the South, and be prepared to have a ball.

Come with the family, get away from it all, and take this mini vacation. It will be worth it. The attractions in Atlanta run for miles, you just need the time to see it all. We guarantee you'll love the hottest sites of the city like the CNN Center, the Underground, and the World of Coke where you can taste every kind of Coca-Cola from every country in the world.

*continued on page 4*



*Downtown Atlanta*

**UBAANA's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion!**  
**July 21-23, 2017**  
**Do not miss it!**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Join Us in Atlanta!	1
It's Election Time	1
From the President's Desk	2
UNIBEN Appoints New DVCs	3
Carolinas Chapter to Host 2019 Reunion	3
Condolences	4
Momodu Gives Back to UNIBEN Dental School	5
Alumni on the Move	5
There Goes President Idith Ojo	7
NY/NJ Chapter Announces its Annual Picnic	7
U.S. Embassy Scholarship Program	8

## It's Election Time

One of the things that makes UBAANA so GREAT is the way in which members step up to carry the burden of leadership. Over the years several men and women have given of their time, talent and treasure to help make our association and our alma mater GREAT.

Well it's that time again. On Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at our reunion in Atlanta we will elect the next slate of UBAANA leaders. Our fearless electoral committee chair, Mr. Robert Omoyeni sent out an announcement back in March opening up the nominations. As his memo indicated, all of the EXCO positions (president, vice-president, secretary-general, assistant secretary-general and treasurer) will be open as well as one additional seat on the Board of Directors (open only to current chapter chairs).

Is it your turn? In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve." For more information contact Mr. Omoyeni at [robertomoyeni@yahoo.com](mailto:robertomoyeni@yahoo.com).

GREATEST!

## From the President's Desk

*May you live in interesting times*

Fellow UBAANAites,



I hope your summer season is off to a good start. This is of course a busy time as we prepare for the 2017 UBAANA reunion in Atlanta including the election of a new set of leaders.

These are also, as the Chinese proverb says, “interesting times.” As you may have already heard, UBAANA recently received a letter from the University of Benin Alumni Association (UBAA) Worldwide secretariat in Benin indicating that UBAANA has been “suspended” by UBAA. Needless to say, this letter came as quite a surprise. Shortly after the “suspension” we received a letter from the UNIBEN Registrar expressing the concerns of the University administration and offering to mediate between UBAANA and UBAA.

At the risk of oversimplifying here’s the situation: UBAANA was conceived in 2005 by a group of alumni who wanted a venue to get together with other UNIBEN alums living in North America. In 2006, that informal gathering was formalized into a non-profit organization in order to facilitate our support of the University. Since its founding, UBAANA in furtherance of its charitable purpose and mission has had a close collaborative and cooperative working relationship with the worldwide alumni body headquartered in Benin (UBAA). We fully recognize and respect the vital and preeminent role of the worldwide body. However, UBAANA is not a branch of UBAA and was not set up as a foreign entity under a subsidiary structure, nor was there any form of branch legal partnership between UBAA and UBAANA included in the application for a United States IRS 501(c)3 non-profit organization status. From the beginning, UBAA and UBAANA have conducted their affairs as independent, autonomous but cooperating corporate bodies with a shared objective for the ultimate benefit of our alma mater, University of Benin.

UBAANA’s objectives are enumerated in its Constitution and By-Laws. A prime objective of UBAANA is to promote and sustain collaboration between UBAANA, UBAA in Nigeria, and other alumni interest groups worldwide utilizing all available resources including technology and information systems. For UBAANA to operate as a branch of a foreign organization in post-9/11 America will require a new legal registration of UBAANA as a foreign entity with a very high level of scrutiny from the IRS and other government agencies. UBAANA does not have the legal, accounting and audit infrastructure that this would require. UBAA would also become subject to extra scrutiny in the United States and would need to establish its own infrastructure, independent of UBAANA, both in Nigeria and here in the United States to comply with the United States IRS Code governing organizations such as ours. Such an arrangement is simply not practical or beneficial to UBAANA.

We have responded to the UNIBEN Registrar’s offer to mediate between UBAA and UBAANA. The text of either of these documents may be requested via email at [secgen@ubaana.org](mailto:secgen@ubaana.org).

I sincerely regret any confusion these developments may have caused. However, the UBAANA leadership has made decisions based on due process, reverence for our organizing documents, the laws of the United States, and the best interest of our members and our alma mater. In these waning days of my administration, I am proud of the work that we have done together, and grateful for the sacrificial service of so many of you who have made UBAANA what it is today. My hope is that we will continue that good work and continue to make UNIBEN...the GREATEST.

Always,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Idith Ojo'.

Idith Ojo, CRNP, DNP, FNP-BC  
President

## UNIBEN Appoints New Deputy Vice Chancellors

UBAANA congratulates UNIBEN's newest team of Deputy Vice Chancellors (DVCs). These men are vital players in keeping things running at our alma mater:

Prof. Jacob Odeh Ehiorobo  
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration)

Prof. Pius Ehiawaguan Iribhogbe  
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Prof. George Edaghogho Eriyamremu  
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Ekehuan Campus)

We are excited about the opportunity to work with these new leaders. Once again congratulations! More grease to your elbows!

### Carolinas Chapter to Host 2018 Reunion

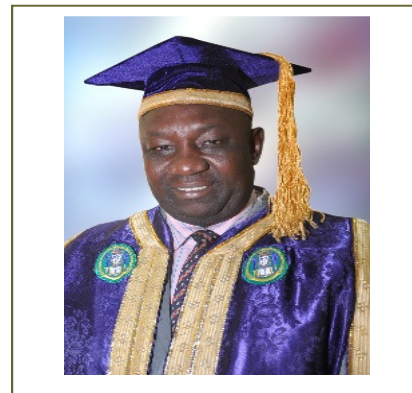
Pending the approval of the General Assembly, the UBAANA Carolinas Chapter has volunteered to host the 2018 annual reunion. They have already begun the planning process! Kudos to the chapter chair, Dr. Kingsley Momodu and the men and women of the Carolinas. You are indeed the GREATEST!



*Prof. Jacob Odeh Ehiorobo, DVC (Admin.)*



*Prof. Pius Ehiawaguan Iribhogbe (DVC Acad.)*



*Prof. George Edaghogho Eriyamremu (DVC Ekehuan)*

## Condolences

### Atlanta

Continued from page 1

We continue to express our support for Midwest chapter members **Dr. Kizito Ojiako, Dr. Ifenlota Ojiako** and their extended family in the loss of their mother, Mrs. Ugoeze Ojiako. She made her transition on March 26<sup>th</sup> and a funeral mass was celebrated on May 5<sup>th</sup>. You can reach out to the family at [chijiokeojiako@hotmail.com](mailto:chijiokeojiako@hotmail.com).

We extend our sympathies to former NY/NJ Chapter Treasurer **Ngozi Obi** and Midwest Chapter member **Joy Obi-Ebhomielen** in the loss of their father, Dr. Solomon N. Obi on Saturday, April 29, 2017. You can express your love and support at [ngozi8@gmail.com](mailto:ngozi8@gmail.com) .or [joyebho@trapdata.com](mailto:joyebho@trapdata.com)

Dr. Obi's life will be celebrated on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church, 300 Clinton Ave. in North Plainfield, NJ and on June 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Eulalia Church Hall, 845 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Maywood, IL. For additional information email [secgen@ubaana.org](mailto:secgen@ubaana.org).

Condolences section continued on page 8



*Members of the NY/NJ chapter pay a condolence visit to past chapter treasurer Ms. Ngozi Obi.*

Take a tour of the Martin Luther King Center, the Centennial Olympic Park, get sprinkled in its so many fountains to cool your skin on a hot summer's day, let the kids enjoy an ice cream in the sun, soak in the history of our beautiful city with a large population of upper middle class Blacks... Feel the heat that is Atlanta.

If you are up for a little more adventure, you could visit the Stone Mountain Park located on 3,200 acres of unspoiled natural beauty. Stone Mountain Park features a wide variety of fun family activities. Amazing adventures await you.

You can also take the Skyride to the top of Stone Mountain and get a picture-perfect view of the Atlanta skyline and everything else lying right at your feet. There are attractions for adults and children.

Ride a scenic train around the mountain. If you're not worth it, the kids are worth it and the memories will live with them and they will thank you for it!

Think about this. You will also meet some of your "lost and found" friends from UNIBEN. Take the opportunity to network...for business, for pleasure, for old times' sake.

Let's set our sights on Atlanta this summer. Take a break from all the humdrum, the stress and everything in between.

Live and Play.

Come to UBAANA ATLANTA REUNION.

Book your rooms now and register at [www.ubaana.org](http://www.ubaana.org).

We are waiting.

## Momodu Gives Back to UNIBEN Dental School

UBAANA Carolinas chapter chair Dr. Kingsley Momodu recently returned from a trip to UNIBEN where he donated hand pieces to the School of Dentistry. In a letter of appreciation, the school reflected on Dr. Momodu's generosity over the years and described him as "a worthy ambassador especially in the area of service to humanity and giving back to our common legacy."

We salute Dr. Momodu for his vision, sacrifice and love for our alma mater. You make us proud!



*Dr. Kingsley Momodu (third from left) meets with faculty and students of the UNIBEN School of Dentistry*

## Alumni on the Move: Egiebor Appointed Provost and EVP

Congratulations to Dr. Nosa Egiebor on his appointment as provost and executive vice president at the College of Environment Science and Forestry, known as America's top-ranked environmental college. Egiebor earned a BS in industrial chemistry from UNIBEN along with an MS in chemical metallurgy from the University of Manchester and a Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Continued on page 7

## Alumni on the Move: Hays CPA

Congratulations to our national treasurer, Ms. Orumé Hays Agbeyegbe on the opening of her new CPA practice. Hays CPA provides a variety of services to individuals, small businesses and other organizations from two locations, Staten Island and Manhattan. We also congratulate Ms. Hays on her recent appointment as adjunct professor of accounting at City University of New York, College of Staten Island.

UBAANA is forever grateful to Orumé for four years of service as UBAANA's treasurer and the amazing job she did in professionalizing our treasury! Well done!

For more information on Hays CPA, see the press release on page 6.



*Orumé Hays Agbeyegbe*



**Hays CPA Launches Boutique CPA Practice  
Serves Businesses, Entrepreneurs and Startups.**

**Hays CPA [370 Saint Marks Place, (347) 286-0498]** has officially opened its doors. The brainchild of longtime Staten Island resident Orumé Hays, the firm was established to help startups, growing businesses, entrepreneurs, independent contractors and individuals solve their accounting, finance, and tax needs.

Hays CPA offers tax, managerial financial accounting, and comprehensive accounting services, including QuickBooks set-up, training, and maintenance services. The company maintains high ethical standards in conformity with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**Grand Opening Discounts, Consultations and Deals**

The grand opening special includes a 45 minutes complimentary consultation, a complimentary review of the prior year's return (business & individual), 10% discount on individual fees and a 20% discount on business fees.

**Two Locations – Staten Island and Manhattan**

Hays CPA has two convenient locations – one on Staten Island (370 Saint Marks Place) and the other in downtown Manhattan (25 Broadway, 9<sup>th</sup> Fl) – perfect for residents and commuters.

For further information, contact (347) 286-0498 or email [o.hays@ohacpa.com](mailto:o.hays@ohacpa.com).

## There Goes President Idith Ojo: A Tribute to a Great Leader

A 77-mile one-way trip with a same day return to offer support  
A marathon same day return flight to commiserate with an alum  
A measured hand at meeting discussions  
There goes President Idith Ojo

A call to dig deep behind an issue  
A request to join hands and aid the alma mata  
A charming outreach to a potential chapter host  
There goes President Idith Ojo

A recommendation here and there  
A sponsorship to this chapter or that  
A UBAA outreach for a needful alum  
There goes President Idith Ojo

Oh no don't get her started  
We could be here for another hour  
A project here, a project there  
A fight for UBAANA every single time

The officer roles evolved with years  
The accomplishments - immense  
Alas for many selfless acts  
President Dr. Idith Ojo, UBAANA thanks you.

By Orumé



*UBAANA's Fifth and Current President  
Dr. Idith Ojo*

### NY/NJ Chapter Annual Picnic

You're invited to the NY/NJ Chapter's 4<sup>th</sup> annual picnic scheduled for July 1, 2017 at the Saddle River County Park in Saddle Brook, NJ.

For details of this event, please contact the chapter chair, Alex I. Eronmwon at [eronco@yahoo.com](mailto:eronco@yahoo.com) or 718 844 0771 or the vice-chair, Ms. Stella Nkoli Uwechia of the picnic planning committee at [NK1chiuzo@aol.com](mailto:NK1chiuzo@aol.com) or (631) 384-3048.

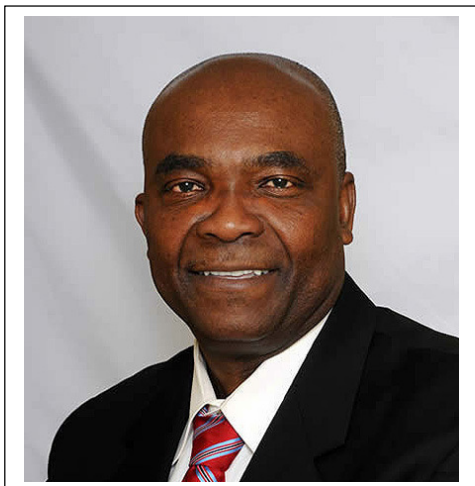
## Egiebor (continued from page 5)

Dr. Egiebor has over 30 years of higher education experience and has served at the University of Alberta, Tuskegee University, University of Mississippi, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He also served as a Fulbright Scholar and an Alexander von Humboldt fellow in Germany. His research focuses on the areas of industrial water and wastewater treatment, biomass conversion for activated carbon and biofuel production, solidification for low-level radioactive waste treatment, and mining and milling waste management.

Once again, congratulations, doctor!

For more on this story go to:

<http://www.esf.edu/communications/view.asp?newsID=5858#.WRuFwuAGC5E.email>



*Dr. Nosa Egiebor*



Have you checked out our Facebook page? There are pictures and other items to help you connect with UBAANA

## U.S. Embassy Scholarship Program

The United States embassy in Nigeria operates a program known as the EducationUSA Opportunity Funds Program (OFP), which seeks to provide educational opportunities for low-income students. The selection criteria include:

- Strong academic record/ transcript
- Robust participation in extracurricular activities
- Involvement in leadership roles
- Excellent community service participation
- Financial Need

Do you know someone in Nigeria who might qualify? Click on <https://ng.usembassy.gov/education-culture/exchange-programs/educationusa-student-achievers-program-edsap/> for more information.

**Application deadline is June 16, 2017.**

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

*Mrs. Ekeoma Kaine Eruenwosu*

MAY 27, 2017  
12-4 PM

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
701 S. EOLA ROAD, AURORA IL 60504  
630.851.3444

PLEASE WEAR WHITE OR BRIGHT COLORS ONLY, NO BLACK.