



Ekiti State  
University (EKSU)



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salute to outstanding  
**EKSU ALUMNI**



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**Oyebanji**

*Executive Governor of Ekiti State*

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of our founding fathers”

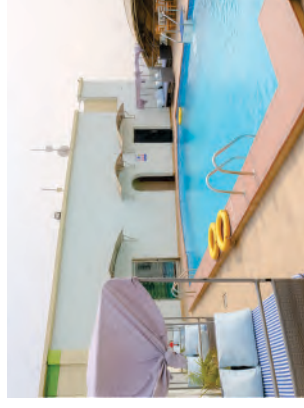
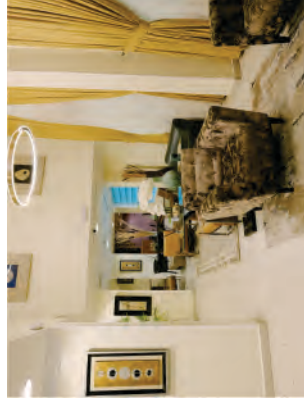




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**“** *I do most sincerely desire that Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado Ekiti should be a prominent Promontory from which the Lights of intellectuality and morality will mingle together to illumine the hearts and influence the actions of our future leaders.* **”**

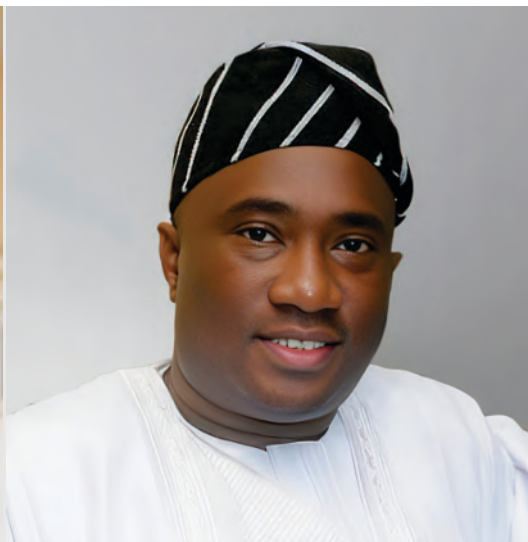
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*"Ekiti made me what I am today"  
We were over 1000 in my department and I had the opportunity to be the President of the department.  
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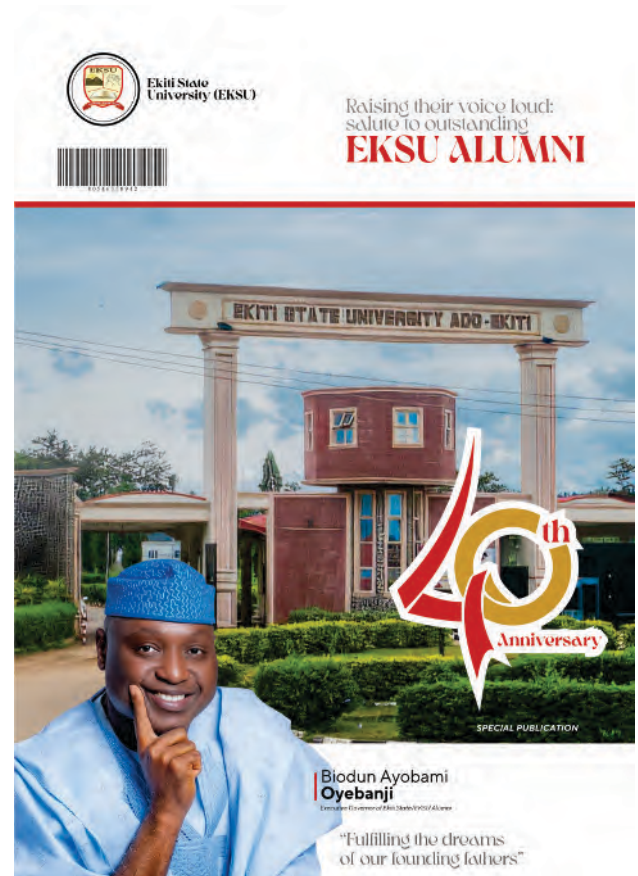
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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE



Creating an enduring publication that will pass down through future generations takes a very strong foundation and a reliable work force. So when XYNOSURE MULTIMEDIA SERVICES team set out to document the EKSU@40 we had fore knowledge of the task ahead.

The story of Ekiti State University(EKSU),Ado Ekiti is a unique one. The first non-residential University in Nigeria. Its 40 years of existence has indeed been eventful, challenging and yet progressive. The University has stood the test of time; gaining strength and tenacity of purpose from its founding fathers to survive its turbulent past.

The story of EKSU is a critical metaphor of what Nigeria could have been and certainly of our future greatness. It worths recalling, it worths documenting and it also worths reading.

The folklore of EKSU is a sweetened oxymoron that cannot be kept in a cellar. It was an experiment, alas,now a successful one. Today, the awesome record of this great school is not only surprising but spectacular. The impactful and impressive but not exhaustive profiles of its large spectrum of old students in this Special

Edition is inspiring and illustrates the strength of endurance, hard work and the persistent pursuits of purpose in the face of daunting challenges of life.

Interviews with some of the Alumni review a typical OSUAITES, UNADITES, EKSUAITES as they are called at different times as happy,thrifless and exciting personalities, naturally courageous, daring but polite.

While we thank the VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. EDWARD OLANIPEKUN and THE PRO, MR BODE OLOFINMUAGUN, we also appreciate all old students,EKSU ALUMNI TEAM led by its Global President, ENGR DIPO BAMISAYE for giving us the opportunity to add this new media product to our staple, we cannot but mention the passionate enthusiasm of BARR. DR. ADEOLA FASUBAA, PRESIDENT OF OSUA CONNECTION, the immediate past Global President, DR. DOTUN ADETUNBERU, the Global Secretary, PASTOR ISAAC AKINLEYE, UK & Ireland CHAPTER PRESIDENT, MS. WONU ADELADUN, President, LAGOS STATE CHAPTER MR TOLU EGBEYEMI and,also, EKITI STATE CHAPTER President, MR DEJI OSO. And most importantly, we thank all old students who advertised their brands, supported financially and shared their stories with us. These stories advertently produced a great compendium and souvenir that will outlive the 40th anniversary celebration.

The media world is coming full circle- Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp and websites have become viable portals as consumers go mobile and the digital audience grows dramatically over the years. Our teeming followers can read EKSU@40 on our website [www.xynosuremultimedia.com](http://www.xynosuremultimedia.com).

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*The Odoba Castle which served as the  
Administrative Block of the University at Ado-Ekiti  
in 1983*



## *Brief History Of Ekiti State University*

### **LOCATION AND SOCIO- HISTORICAL PROFILE OF EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY, ADO - EKITI, NIGERIA**

Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti is situated on a 3,500 hectares of land, approximately 12km, North of Ado-Ekiti, the capital City of Ekiti State, Nigeria. The State which was created in 1996, is the 29<sup>th</sup> largest of Nigeria's 36 States, with a population of 2.4million and an area of 6,353 sq km. The State that prides itself as the Fountain of Knowledge and The Land of Honour - *Ile-Iyi, Ile Eye*, connoting the sterling attributes of hard-work, integrity, honour and honesty of Ekiti indigenes, is predominantly agrarian, homogenous in language and culture, and rich in human and natural resources. The State enjoys a beautiful tropical climate with distinct rainy season (April -

October) and dry season (November - March), annual temperature range of between 21°C and 28°C and high relative humidity.

The history of Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti was dated back to 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1981, when the then Governor of the old Ondo State, Chief Michael Adegunle Ajasin during the fourth National Development Plan, announced the intention of the government to establish a University in the State. Consequently, the Governor, Chief M. A. Ajasin set up a 16-member Planning Committee to advise him on the global issues of the establishment of a multi-campus university in Ondo State. The committee was headed by Prof. O. O. Akinkugbe, a Professor of Medicine.

As a follow-up, the constituted Planning Committee submitted its report on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1981. In the

comprehensive report, the Akinkugbe Committee recommended the establishment of a multi-campus university. The Ondo State Government approved the recommendation with the following locations for the campuses:

1. Ado-Ekiti as the Main campus
2. Akure
3. Ijero-Ekiti
4. Ikare Akoko
5. Ikere-Ekiti
6. Ikole-Ekiti
7. Okitipupa
8. Ondo
9. Owo

The University was originally named OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY, ADO - EKITI. The first Governing Council for the University was inaugurated on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1982 and held its first meeting on the same day under



the chairmanship of Chief B. A. Ajayi. In his address of welcome, during the inauguration of the first Governing Council, the pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Prof. I. O. Oladapo assured that “we shall endeavour to build what has been conceptualized as a developmental university; a university that will be an organisation for effective application of higher education to the problem of development in the state through research, technical assistance, consultation and informational services. A university that will provide innovative educational programmes of high standard and a university that will serve as a Custodian, Promoter and Propagator of the State's social and cultural heritage”. Corroborating the Vice-Chancellor, the Governor and Visitor to the University, Chief M. A. Ajasin, while inaugurating the Governing Council stated that “Our University would be an institution that will aim at fulfilling the traditional role of manpower development, relevant research, consultancy and extension services, whilst at the same time addressing itself to the developmental problems of the State”. The Council then decided that 30<sup>th</sup> March of every year will be observed as the University's Foundation and Convocation Day. The University started in a modest way from the old Catering Rest

House in Akure and moved to a temporary site in Ado-Ekiti in November, 1983. The University, at its inception, had no option than to go for facilities located in several places. The personal building of the Odoba of Ado-Ekiti, Chief Alex Ajayi, located at 33, Aremu Street, Ado-Ekiti was secured and designated the Central Administrative building. Christ School, Ado-Ekiti was magnanimous enough to release its former Higher School Certificate (HSC-classes to the University. These were renovated and equipped for the use of science students as classrooms and laboratories. A three-storey building owned by Mrs. Jinadu was rented and earmarked for use as Library and faculties' Offices. Finally, Chief J. E. Babatola's Ajitadidun Nursery-Primary School Compound located at Opopogbooro, along Iworoko Road, was equally rented and it later served as the University's main campus and lecture rooms. With all arrangements put in place, the operations of the University were moved to Ado-Ekiti on 1st November, 1982. Lectures started with 136 students offered admission into three faculties: Arts, Science and the Social Sciences. The name of the University was later changed by the Military Government of the late Commodore Michael Bamidele Otiko in 1985 to ONDO STATE

UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI. As a result of the creation of Ekiti State on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1996, the name of the University was changed to the UNIVERSITY OF ADO-EKITI in November, 1999.

Shortly after the assumption of office of Governor Kayode Fayemi, there was a convocation of Ekiti State Education Summit in April, 2010. Among the recommendations of the summit was that Ekiti State needed only one University which would become a World-Class University. To that effect, the three erstwhile State-owned Universities in Ekiti State, University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD), The University of Education, Ikere-Ekiti (TUNEDIK), which started on 16th May, 2008 and the University of Science and Technology, Ifaki-Ekiti (USTI) which started on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 were consolidated and christened EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU). The erstwhile University of Science and Technology, Ifaki-Ekiti was headed by Professor Samuel Oye Bandele while the defunct University of Education, Ikere - Ekiti was headed by Prof. Akin Ogunlade.

The consolidation and change of name, was followed by the appointment of a former Governor of the old Ondo State, Evangelist Bamidele Olumilua as the Chancellor of the University while a prominent Academician and Diplomat, Professor Akinjide



*The Administrative Block (The Old Catering Rest House, Akure) where University Started*

Osuntokun was appointed the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council. The search for the Vice Chancellor following the change of name and consolidation began and after series of tests and interview, Professor Patrick Oladipo Aina, a Professor of Soil Physics from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife became the first Vice-Chancellor of the newly christened Ekiti State University on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2011, he is, actually, the sixth substantive Vice-Chancellor.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

The pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ifedayo Oladapo, a distinguished Professor of Structural Engineering from the University of Lagos was in charge from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1982-30<sup>th</sup> March, 1990. He was succeeded by the Late Professor Oluwambe Bodunrin, a Professor of Philosophy from University of Ibadan, Ibadan. He assumed duty on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1990. Professor Akin Oyeboade, a Professor of International Law and Jurisprudence from University of Lagos was the third Vice-Chancellor from 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2000 – 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2004.

The fourth Vice-Chancellor, Professor Israel Olatunji Orubuloye assumed duty on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2004 as the first pioneer staff to become a substantive Vice-Chancellor and completed his tenure in March, 2008. The fifth Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dipo Kolawole assumed duty on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 and was in office till 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2011. He was succeeded by Professor Patrick Oladipo Aina, a Professor of Soil Physics on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2011. Professor Aina completed his tenure on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 and was succeeded by a Professor of Tests & Measurement, Professor Samuel Oye Bandele, who assumed office as the 7<sup>th</sup> substantive Vice-Chancellor on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015.

In 2018, the Visitor to the University and Governor of Ekiti State, Dr. John Kayode Fayemi constituted a

Visitation Panel on Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti. Arising from the consideration of report of the Visitation Panel, a change in the leadership of the University was effected which culminated in the termination of the tenure of Professor Samuel Oye Bandele as the Vice-Chancellor on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2019. An Acting Vice-Chancellor was appointed and inaugurated on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 in person of Professor (Mrs.) Olubunmi Ajayi who eventually handed over the administration of the University to the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Edward Olanipekun, a Professor of Industrial Chemistry, who assumed duty on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 as the 8<sup>th</sup> substantive Vice Chancellor of Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti.

Professor Edward Olanipekun is committed to improving the academic standard of the University as well as its infrastructural facilities. This commitment necessitated the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with two reputable investors for the provision of accommodation for both staff and students on campus.

In line with the above, the ceremony for the turning of the sod for the construction of a 6,000 capacity hostel was performed by His Excellency, Otunba Bisi Egbeyemi, Deputy Governor of Ekiti State on behalf of the Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi. On the same day, the turning of the sod for the construction of an Entrepreneurial Study Centre was also performed. The centre has now been completed.

The construction of TETFund sponsored Twin Lecture Theatres were completed and handed over to the University to improve infrastructure. The Twin Lecture Theatres were constructed in the Facilities of Arts, Agricultural Sciences, Engineering, Science, and the Social Sciences. Also, a state of the arts Medical Ward sponsored by TETFUND has been completed and handed over to the University.

In terms of improvement in the University's academic standard, the Vice Chancellor once stated that "I have a mission to improve the academic content of this school. The best way to improve the visibility of an academic institution is the quality of the input, in terms of research, from members of its academic staff. This is an area where we have to build capacity"

Consequently, the University is ranked as the 14<sup>th</sup> among all the Universities (Federal, State and Private) in Nigeria, while it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best State University in Nigeria.

To kick-start the 40th anniversary of the university, a colourful ceremony was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 where the 40th anniversary logo was unveiled by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Edward Olanipekun. The 40th anniversary was planned to coincide with the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremonies.

#### **VISION**

Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti aims to be one of the best institutions of Higher Learning in the World, epitomized by high training of graduates, not only to acquire education in its broadest sense, but to inculcate in them the spirit of self-actualization in line with national aspiration for genuine development.

#### **MISSION**

Ekiti State University is a Developmental University meant to be one that sets itself the mission of providing all the functions that an institution of Higher Learning can perform in a developmental process through a defined constituency.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of the University among many include:

- acting as an agent of development through applied research, technical assistance, direct consultation,



information service and internship programmes.

- provision of innovative educational programmes of high standard regardless of the nature of the degree being pursued, as long as it has importance and relevance for the state and national development.
- meeting of the specific manpower needs of Ekiti State in particular, the

nation and the world at large.

- serving as a custodian, promoter and propagator of the state's and nation's social and cultural heritage.

**PROGRAMMES:**

Ekiti State University has numerous academic programmes out of which 97 percent of them have been fully accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and other professional

bodies. Some of the fully accredited programmes are: Agricultural Science, Computer Engineering, civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Law, Geology, Political Science, Biochemistry, just to mention but few. The University has a College of Medicine and a College of Postgraduate Studies which are being developed to meet the World standard envisaged by the institution's proprietor.

*The First Academic Procession at the First Foundation Day Ceremony (30th March, 1983)*



*The First Set of matriculating Students (1983)*

A portrait of Abiodun Abayomi Oyeibanji, Governor of Ekiti State, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red tie. A small circular emblem is visible on his lapel. The background is a solid blue color.

# Abiodun Abayomi Oyeibanji

*Governor of Ekiti State  
The visitor to Ekiti State University*

**A**biodun Abayomi Oyeibanji, born 21 December 1967 is the Governor of Ekiti State since 2022 and the Visitor to Ekiti State University.

He is a former Secretary to the Ekiti State Government and a former Chief of Staff. He was elected governor during the 2022 Ekiti State gubernatorial election

Oyeibanji attended Awo Community High School before transferring to C.A.C Grammar School in Efon-Alaaye, Ekiti State, and then the Federal School of Art and Science in Ondo State and the District Commercial Secondary School in Aramoko, Ekiti State (1979 to 1983).

In 1989, Oyeibanji obtained a Bachelor of Science (BSc.) degree in Political Science from the Ondo State University (now Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti), and proceeded to the University of Ibadan, Oyo State in 1992 where he bagged his masters' Degree (M.Sc) in Political Science. Oyeibanji has at various points

served in public service through appointments or as a member of committees.

In 1994, Oyeibanji was appointed the Secretary of the committee set up for the creation of Ekiti State, headed by Baba Deji Falegan. He was also the Secretary of the Ekiti State Development Fund at one point.

When Nigeria reverted to democracy in 1999, at 32 years old, he was named as one of the top advisers to Otunba Niyi Adebayo, the state's first democratically elected governor. Oyeibanji ascended through the ranks to become the state governor's Chief of Staff in 2003.

In 2009, he was appointed as the chairman of the governing board, Citizenship and Leadership Training centre under the federal ministry of youth and sports development (June 2009 - December 2010).

In 2010, Oyeibanji was appointed the commissioner for integration

and inter-governmental affairs and later Ekiti's office of transformation strategy and delivery (OTSD) a year later by the administration of Kayode Fayemi.

In 2018, Oyeibanji was appointed secretary to the state government (SSG) by Kayode Fayemi, after being reelected for a second term as Governor of Ekiti State.

In 2021, Oyeibanji resigned his position as the Secretary to the State Government to pursue his governorship aspirations.

On 8 December 2021, Oyeibanji declared his intention to contest the Ekiti State Gubernatorial Election.

On 18 June 2022, Oyeibanji was elected governor on the APC platform with a 30% margin over second-place finisher and former Governor Olusegun Oni of the Social Democratic Party. He was officially Sworn in as Governor of Ekiti State on October 16, 2022.



## Engr. Oladipupo Olukayode Bamisaye

FNSE, FNICE

Oladipupo Olukayode Bamisaye started out his post-secondary academic journey at the then Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti now Ekiti State University, in 1997 and graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Civil Engineering- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honors, Upper Division. His quest for higher knowledge led him back to University of Abuja in 2007 for a Master's Degree in Environmental Planning and Protection. Since then, he has attended several executive and managerial courses within and outside Nigeria among which are: **Bridge Design and Construction**, University of Florida, Orlando - United States of America; **Highways and Transportation Management**, Ohio State University, Ohio - United States of America; **Extended Mechanized Agriculture**, Orlando - USA; **Highways and Transportation Management**, Gauteng - South Africa; **Mechanized Farming Procedure**, Cape Town

- South Africa;  
**Prince 2 - Project Management Professional**, London



- United Kingdom; **Emerging Leadership Course** - Global Leadership Centre, Oxford-United Kingdom; and **Sustainable Water Development, Treatment, Production & Packaging**, Guangzhou - China, Shanghai - China, and Jiangsu - China respectively. His career experience in Engineering was acquired in topnotch organizations, among which are; Exxon Mobil Corporation, AAP Consulting Limited, BOB Architect & Planners, Bapel Ventures International Limited, Gilmor Engineering, CITEC International Estates Limited, Pilforj Nigeria Ltd, Horizon Construction Company Limited, the World Bank Group - where he was Team Leader/Supervising Consultant for FADAMA III AF and FADAMA III AF-2 Rural Infrastructure Development Projects in Kogi State; and various Government Ministries, Departments & Agencies (States and Federal) in Nigeria.

Dipo Bamisaye rose through the ranks in Engineering and has superintended, to mention a few, the construction of **four Major Bridges** (90m 6-span: Ihiala-Anambra State, 120m-6span: Immiringi-Bayelsa State, 120.-6span: Sumaila-Kano State, 15m-1span: Kwall - Abuja) and **Several Road Projects from Inception to Completion**. He is on the profile of a few blue-chip companies as Management Consultant, Board Member or Shareholder. He is currently the Executive Director Project/Chief Executive Officer of Dipcrest Integrated Services Limited - an Engineering Management Firm with vested interest in Sustainable Infrastructure, Oil Exploration and Agricultural Development.

Bamisaye, is an unassuming yet accomplished Civil Engineer, a **Conferee of the Ekiti State University Alumni Eminent Persons Group (EMG) Award**, an Inductee; **EKSU All Time Alumni Hall of Fame**, a **Fellow of The Nigeria Society of Engineers (FNSE)-the youngest conferee in Fellowship of the Nigeria Society of Engineers' history**, a **Fellow of The Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers (FNICE)**, a **Registered Member -Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN)**, a **Licensed and Certified Member of the American**

# PROFILE

## Society of Civil Engineers (P.E-MASCE).

An indigene of Ijesa Isu Ekiti, Engineer Dipo as fondly called by family, friends and associates is an ardent philanthropist guided by the principle that **“God makes us strong so we can help the weak, and he gives us means so we can be of means to the needy”**; on the backdrop of this sense of duty to humanity, he is the Founder and President of BOO Charity Trust - a humanitarian nonprofit organization established in 2014 to assist the less privileged, give to the needy and lend a hand to society.

Engr. Oladipupo Olukayode Bamisaye married with children is a recipient of several honors and awards. He was elected on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as the 10<sup>th</sup> Alumni President, Ekiti State University Alumni Association and as a statutory member of the Governing Council, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State.



***I want people to assess us based on what we are trying to build.***

***-Engr Dipo Bamisaye**  
Global President*

**E**ngr. Oladipupo Olukayode Bamisaye, fondly called Engr. Dipo, is the third son of Chief (Architect) Olu Bamisaye and Chief (Mrs) Monilola Bamisaye. He is the current and 10th Global President of the Alumni Association of the Ekiti State University. He was elected on the 27th of March, 2021. He is a graduate of Civil Engineering from the Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, 1997 set. He has reached the Pinnacle of his profession as a fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers and a fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers. He is also a certified/licensed civil engineer both in Nigeria as well as the United States of America. In addition to undertaken a masters in Environmental Planning & Protection at the university of Abuja, He has also undertook several executive courses in Bridge Construction, Transportation, and Highways Management overseas at the University of Florida and the Ohio State University, both United States of America, Germany, France, China, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

### **How does it feel when you think about the Ekiti State University, your alma mater?**

I feel proud of my alma mata to the glory of God, without which I may not be where i am today.

Also, i am most elated to be a part of the Alumni Association of the University because our members are not doing badly in their various field of endeavors today. I am proud to mention names like Dr Wale Jegede who is the present Board of Trustees Chairman, Professor Kunle Ajayi who is a National Commissioner at INEC, Dr Vincent Olatunji who is the DG of the Data Protection Bureau, we have Directors in Federal Ministry of Power, Finance, Aviation industry to mention a few, and we have first class traditional rulers both in and outside of Ekiti State, such as HRM the Olowo of Owo Oba Ogunmola among others.

My priority is to ensure that the standard of that university remains our pride. We will not allow our Alma mata to go into extinction. That is the premier university as far as Ekiti and the old Ondo state is concerned.

### **How did studying at the Ekiti State University impact you?**

The University was founded by the late sage, His Excellency, Chief Adekunle Ajasin in 1982 with a



view to producing eggheads, captains of industries, leaders of government and business, building human capacity development for self-reliance. Studying there taught me resilience and teamwork in addition to human capacity development, not to rely on government. I am proud to say that after my National Youth Corp Service, I was offered a job at the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory, which I declined due to decadence on the system. I've been in the private sector all my life. If not for that institution, I probably wouldn't have had the courage to stand on my own. One of the major problems in Nigeria today is overdependence on the Government to provide everything. The purpose of going to the University is for you to be self-reliant.

**How do you feel about having an Alumnus as the new Governor of Ekiti State?**

I am happy that one of us has become the Governor of the State. That is a fulfillment of the dreams of the founding fathers. It proves that you don't need to go to UI, OAU UNILAG, or ABU before you can equip yourself with needed technicalities to turn your fortune or the fortune of the State around for the benefit of mankind.

**During the tenure of President Goodluck Jonathan, there was an attempt to change the name of Unilag to Moshood Abiola University, but the alumni of the university resisted it because they were strong, is EKSU alumni that strong? If not, what are you doing to build a strong alumni?**

That is a very good question. I remember that I took that up with the former Governor, H. E Dr. John Kayode Fayemi, when the first industrial action (strike) during my administration occurred. I think we are now at the point where we are strong enough, not to allow the name of

our Alma mata to be changed arbitrarily for self aggrandisement. We, the alumni, are the ones suffering from the previous changes. Some of us who attended OSUA or UNAD find it difficult today when applying for Masters and other programs abroad because the name of the school no longer exists on the listing of the Nigerian Universities Commissions portal. We won't allow future generations to go through that. We need to come together in order to be strong. This is one of the things we're doing; trying to leverage with our people, especially those who graduated within the last thirty years. They are in the cadre of Permanent secretaries, Directors, National commissioners, SANs, Accomplished Entrepreneurs, etc. With such people working together with us, we can stand against such a proposition. The UNILAG Alumni Association did not get to where they are in one day. When people begin to put in efforts, we will make it there as well.

**On the issue of Old students of EKSU whose school no longer exists on paper, what can be done to solve the problem you identified above?**

The only way the issue of past students can be solved is if the University issues a new certificate for all old students who are still alive. We don't mind paying a small token. It could be a way of giving back to the University. The certificate will have a bar code that can be scanned to be authenticated from anywhere in the world. This is the same thing we're trying to do on the issue of transcripts. People apply and have to wait for months before they get it. We hope to make the process seamless in the coming months. The current registrar is one of us and he is working day and night to make this possible even though he is limited by funds. We

will continue to appeal to our well-to-do alumni members to give back to their Alma mater so that we can implement some of these ideas in no distance time. In the course of this interview, I spoke to a number of alumni who are not members of the association. What are you doing to bring them in? I give glory to God that alumni from all over the world are now trying to identify with us. I also thank Dr. Adetuberu, the Immediate past president, for bringing a number of us on board. If not for him, some of us wouldn't have been involved at all. What we're doing is trying to change the perception of non active alumni members to contribute and see the association as owner of the institution. We're trying to show people our seriousness, and thankfully, people from all over the world are coming on board. We now have robust chapters in the UK, U.S Canadian and now we have members trying to come together in Germany. The image rebranding started with Dr. Adetuberu, he did a good job as well, Dr. Adetuberu brought people from outside the state into it. We are trying to build on that.

**Professor Omole described you as someone who is passionate about the University, who never misses a meeting and is committed to the progress of the school. I wonder, how are you able to combine your private work and the alumni work?**

Indeed, It is not easy. I respect Professor Omole a lot. I never had a close encounter with him prior to my being a member of the council. I heard of him when he was the Vice Chancellor at the University of Ife. I respect him personality. When I look at the issues of the University such as the incessant strikes and its effect on the students and even the economy of Ekiti State, I have no choice but to give my best. Think about the banks and



## AT UK 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

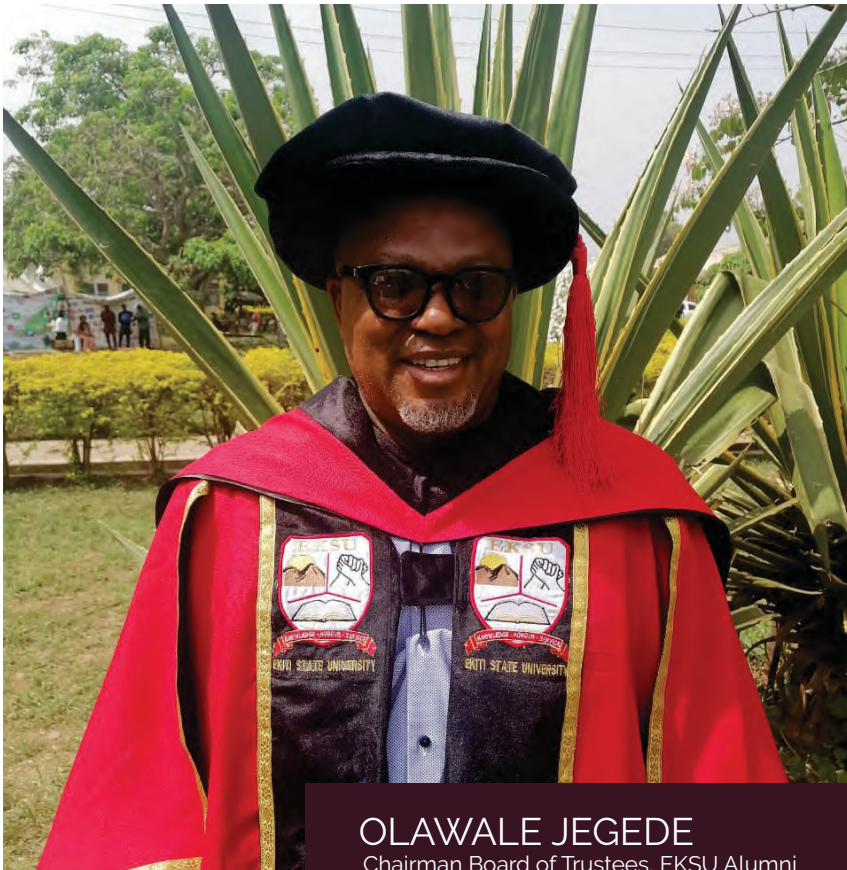
business within the school community, that don't get to work for months when students are sent home due to strike action, the traders that don't get to sell or even the Landlord of students who doesn't get paid when the properties are not in use for months during industrial actions. Ekiti State government has an allocation as low between 2.5 billion to 3.2 billion during the COVID-19 Era; averagely less than 3 billion monthly. The outgoing government gave the school about 260 million naira subvention monthly which is about 9-10% of the state total allocation. EKSU is not the only institution in the state. We have other institutions at BOUSTI, in Ikere, School of Health Technology in Ijero, Agriculture Polytechnic at Isan, and so on. The University must look inwards to generate funds. Universities abroad are not funded by the government. They have patents that bring in commission to them. Endowments from alumni and even non-alumni who wanted to immortalize themselves or their parents, these are also other sources of revenue to the University.

### Finally, what is your desire for this tenure?

I want people to assess us based on the legacy we are trying to build for generations to come like Pa Ajasin did, and today we H.E Hon. Biodun Abayomi Oyeboji as the Governor of Ekiti State. Thank you.

*“I am happy that one of us has become the Governor of the State. That is a fulfillment of the dreams of the founding fathers”*





**OLAWALE JEGEDE**  
Chairman Board of Trustees, EKSU Alumni

**O**lawale Olusegun Jegede was born into a Christian family on the 24th day of September, 1964. He started his Primary School education at St. Stephen's Anglican Primary School, Modakeke, Ile-Ife, old Oyo State, Nigeria in 1969 and passed out in 1974 and thereafter proceeded to Oyemekun Grammar School, Akure, old Ondo State, Nigeria for his Secondary school education the same year he left Primary School and he finished in 1979. In his quest for advanced education, he enrolled at Christ's School, Ado Ekiti for Higher School Certificate (H.S.C.) in 1979. Upon completion of the H.S.C. program in 1981, Olawale got admitted into Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado Ekiti now Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti in 1982 and left in 1986 bagged with B.Sc Sociology. He later came back to the same institution in 2003 for his MBA. In

2015, he attended the Lagos Business School for Senior Management program (SMP). He started his career as a Staff of Directorate for Social Mobilization, now called National orientation Agency (N.O.A.) between 1987 and 1992 before joining the defunct Universal Trust Bank from March 1992 to December 2001. He left as the Akure Branch Manager. He, however, joined FSB International Bank in December 2001 as the Akure Branch Manager. The Bank later merged with Fidelity Bank and he worked in various capacities up till 2017: Branch Manager, Akure Branch, Head Public Sector, South West Region (covering 6 States), Acting Regional Bank Head, South West Regional Bank (covering 6 States), Branch Head, Challenge, Ibadan branch. He retired voluntarily from Fidelity Bank in 2017 to start a private

business. He attended various courses/Trainings while in the Banking sector - Credit Courses, Leadership Courses, International Trade Courses, Trade Finance Courses, Relationship Management Courses, Management Skill Courses, Problem Solution Skill Courses, Marketing Courses and various Courses in Lagos Business School including Senior Management Program (SMP) Course.

He is a Fellow, Institute of Public Administration of Nigeria, Member, Lions Club International and Past President, Akure Owena Lions Club, Member, Cathedral Light Society of St. David's Cathedral Anglican Church, Ijomu Akure, President, Elders Fellowship, Life-gate Parish, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Taiwo Close, Lagos, Vice President, Excellent Men Exclusive Club, Lagos. He has held different positions ranging from being a former President, Ekiti State University Alumni Association, a Former Member, Governing Council, Ekiti State University, Former Member, Court of Governors, College of Medicine, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti to being the Present Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ekiti State University Alumni Association. He is the Chairman/Managing Director, LEVANTE TRUST NIGERIA LIMITED.

His personal mantras include: 'Meeting a goal is not the end of a life journey' and 'Be fair, be just and be accountable'. As a young man, he was an active sportsman.



Dr Oludotun  
Adetunberu

"My dream was to make the Alumni Association the best in the world and to an extent, we are making efforts towards achieving that" - Former Global Alumni President and a product of Ekiti State University, Dr Oludotun Adetunberu, who graduated in 1999 from geology department; bagged his second, third and fourth degrees in 2003, 2016 and 2020, in peace and

security studies respectively, at the same institution.

**WHY ARE YOU SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS SCHOOL?**

This is the only industry we have in Ekiti State. This is our NNPC here in Ekiti State we value education, so we have to be passionate about it.

**HISTORICALLY, BEFORE YOUR**

**EMERGENCE, HOW MANY PRESIDENTS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WERE THERE?**

The first President was Mr Akinsipe Stephen; he was there for eight and half years, then Mr P.S Ogundana took over and spent 2 years; followed by Late Barrister Kole Ajayi, and then Dr Olawale Jegede, the regime of Dr Wale Jegede was very peaceful and reached out for





wider participation followed by Dr Jadesola Babatola, Steve Akadiri, Bola Ogunlayi, Prof M.A Ayeni. During Barr. Kole Ajayi's tenure, that was when we had a reformed (Alumni) association, he wrote the Alumni a new constitution that determines the tenure and activities; a detailed constitution. He gave the mandate of 3 years to each serving president and one tenure of office. So after him Wale Jegede, after Jadesola Babatola, the son of Chief Olora succeeded him. Due to crisis during his tenure, Babatola Jadesola tendered his resignation letter, When Jadesola Babatola resigned, Hon. Tayo Abidakun was appointed the head of administration to direct the affairs of the association, later there was another election and the mantle fell on Steve Akadiri. However, due to the unresolved crisis, after six months, he (Akadiri) was removed from office, before the emergence of another president, the association was registered with Corporate Affairs Commission, (C.A.C) by myself,

Otunba Tola Johnson, Kole Ajayi, and Dr Wale Jegede, thereafter, Bola Ogunlayi became the head of government as President of the Alumni Association as ratified by the Board of Trustees afterwards, (he) led the Association for 4 years instead of the 3 years prescribed by the constitution. It should be noted that Bola Ogunlayi was initially elected the publicity director under Steve Akadiri's administration, Prof. Matthew Adedeji Ayeni eventually became elected president of the association after the regime for three years, and, there were lots of developments, renovations, commissionings and projects during his tenure. And after that, I contested and won.

#### **WHEN YOU WANTED TO BECOME PRESIDENT AT THE INITIAL STAGE, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM?**

My dream is to make the Alumni Association the best in the whole world, and to an extent, we were achieving that. The Association envisioned the

birth of Alumni Village which is the first of its kind in Africa, we requested for plots of lands from the Governing Council, upon approval, we have four chalets built for postgraduate use, and Ooni of Ife, Olowo of Owo kingdom, Ewi of Ado were there to commission the buildings at the village, the current administration under Engr Dipo Bamisaye is developing the village by building more infrastructures to enhance the value of EKSU Alumni village.

During the covid 19 pandemic, we (alumni members) gave out supports and palliatives to the less-privileged and some of our students that were stranded in some francophone countries. We created endowment committee Which gave out awards and cash prizes worth millions to students and staffs, among other successful projects, we requested that our members be awarded Doctorate Honorary Awards during convocation and many have benefitted from such honours.

**COMPARISON OF PAST AND PRESENT QUALITY OF  
EDUCATION IN EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY**

**BY**

**PROFESSOR ABIODUN JOHNSON OLATUNJI**

**(An Alumnus of 1989 Extraction)**

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING SCIENCE**

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**PMB 5363, ADO-EKITI, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA**



# 1.0

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Ekiti State University (formerly Obafemi Awolowo University) was established on 30th

March, 1982 as a multicampus, non-residential tertiary institution. The university is now single campus and has since witnessed tremendous transformations in infrastructures and human resources development for the past 40 years.

Also, the university has, since inception, witnessed change of names four times. First from OAU to Ondo State University in 1985, then to UNAD on 3rd November, 1999 sequel to the creation of Ekiti State from old Ondo State, and lately to EKSU in September, 2011. The later



occurred when UNAD was merged with 2 other Universities namely; University of Education, Ikere-Ekiti (founded in 2008) and University of Science and Technology, Ifaki (founded in 2009). The university has since remained relatively stable despite changes in political terrain in Ekiti State over time.

## 2.0 PAST QUALITY OF EDUCATION

A comparison between past and present quality of education in Ekiti State University can be X-rayed through her carefully-coined mission statement which read thus:

*To provide a high quality educational experience shaped by outstanding teaching and research that benefits cultures, society and economies.*

The pertinent question we should therefore ask ourselves is that “has the quality of education in EKSU improved over time from the past to present generation of students?”. The university system is a global phenomenon which portrays universality of Knowledge. It involves exchange of ideas, researches, and teachings amongst other universities all over the world. Up till late 1980s, we still witnessed foreigners as lecturers and staff of Ekiti State University. I remembered vividly well one Dr Afrifa from Ghana (in the Arts), Dr. J.T. Hathaway from Minneapolis, USA (in Geography Department), and one Dr. Barbados in the Sciences. A one time Director of Health Services of the University also hailed from USA. Many of them probably left due to noticeable and gradual decay in the overall systems of the country.

The reservoir of knowledge of EKSU Alumni in terms of

professors, Doctors and seasoned administrators which it has produced in the past culminated in the inauguration of over 60 EKSU Body of Professors (BOAP) in 2019 by the former Worldwide Alumni President – Dr. Dotun Adetuberu. Professor I.G. Adanlawo and Comrade I.O. Akinleye were pioneering chairman and secretary respectively. Such quality of education were common in the past when most brilliant graduates would be called back to take up lecturing jobs.

In the past, ASUU strikes were not as frequent as the present. University calendars were more stable and students would often be aware of possible dates of semester examination right from the beginning of the semester and this would seldom change. Such a stable calendar often enhanced adequate preparations and reading plans by students.

Also, population of students and staffs (sometimes less than or around 6000) was usually small in the past. They were therefore very easy to control and manage during lectures and examinations, culminating in improved quality of Education. During 2018/2019 academic session for example, EKSU matriculated 7,664 fresh, regular degree students to 100 level alone. This was more than the population of the entire university students in the 1980s.

Security of lives and properties were relatively better in those days than the present and cultism were not as rampant. You could decide to read throughout the night in class in preparation for forthcoming examinations without any iota of fear.

The zest, zeal and enthusiasm for education with characteristic stoicisms and perseverance were there in the past than the present. For example, we used to travel as far as UNILAG, UI, OAU, IITA and other sister institutions in the past for reading materials, term papers and assignments since there were no internets, virtual libraries and modern ICT equipments.

I remembered, I once traversed the length and breadth of River Eleme (a 35km – long local drainage river) from Igede uplands to Ago Aduloju bridge where it enters River Ogbese for my B.Sc. research project in 1988/1989, and I was making several hydrological variable measurements along the river course.

This might not be possible today due mainly to security reasons and lack of enthusiastic student observers. One popular slogan in the 1980s and early 1990s was that “you don’t need to interview EKSU (then OSUA/UNAD) graduates for employment because potential employers knew they would always be of good quality.

33 years after living the university, I still remembered vividly well my matriculation number, virtually all the courses I offered, and names of most of my lecturers. These things are not easily remembered by today’s students even when they are still very fresh, yet they can recite off-head names of foreign footballers line-up in a penultimate evening local or international soccer duel. The present generation of students engage themselves with so much worldly or rather cosmetic things and events that are simply at variance with their academic excellence.

Many of past EKSU Alumni are

now Doctors, Professors and Scholars in tertiary and research institutions, captains of industries, seasoned administrators and political office holders. The quality of education they had in the past propelled them to the lofty heights and positions they now occupy at present. They have also successfully “keyed-in” to the on-going digital, computer and ICT revolutions which were new or inadequate during their own time.

## 3.0

### PRESENT QUALITY OF EDUCATION

The quality of education in recent time have been greatly influenced by pervasive introduction and use of modern infrastructural facilities, computers, internet and ICT equipments. It has led to massive migration from purely analogue, manual ways of doing things in the past to digital and electronic systems of the present with attendant improvement in the quality of education. This computer revolution reflected in virtually all activities within the university system.

We also move from analogue, paper and reality senate to fully digital, paperless, and later virtual senate during the tenures of Prof. S.O. Bandele and Prof E.O. Olanipekun as Vice Chancellors respectively. This innovation hastens decision-making processes on students and staffs and it also improves the quality of education and learning environment. It was climaxed by the use of online registration of courses, computer based tests and examinations, use of remita for tuition fee payments, request for transcripts,

certificates, and other electronic activities, in virtually all units and departments of the university. The effects of Covid-19 pandemic in 2019 on the education system through a national tragedy was important in that it triggers the introduction and adoption of virtual teaching and distant learning systems.

Transformation of EKSU to an e-friendly environment where almost all activities on campus follows global trends, standards and best practices in electronic documentation and recording started with Prof. S.O. Bandele in 2016 and was miraculously christened by the donation of 300 million worth of WLAN ICT equipments by Dr. V.O. Olatunji, a former Acting Director General of NITDA. He was a 1989 set graduate from the Department of Geography of the University. The CBE/CBT and the ICT unit of the university received a boost through this rare feat.

The pervasive influence of TETFund interventions (mainly as a result of past ASUU struggles), in areas of infrastructures, researches, conferences etc have benefited the new generation of students more than the past ones. Upon his resumption as Vice Chancellor on December, 2 2011, Professor Dipo Aina embarked on these unprecedented infrastructural development to tackle outrightly the seamless integration of 3 erstwhile universities: UNAD-USTI-and TUNEDIK.

Professor Aina was able to attract TETFund Needs Assessment of Nigerian Public Universities during his tenure as Vice Chancellor. Also, he was able to source for Special Presidential Intervention Phases I and II Funds, Normal

Intervention Funds, and Special Intervention Project Funds from government.

These have provided stimulating and convivial atmosphere to think, work, and improve the present quality of education within the university. According to him:

*Our focus has been building a culture of academic excellence that is founded on adequate infrastructure and a conducive environment for research, teaching and learning.*

The above achievements also paved way for modern education support services from which recent students benefitted more than their predecessors. For example, the use of student support services to assess the level of quality and standard of teaching facilities existing in the campus started in 2019 by NUC delegate visit led by Professor George O. Ezeifeka. This happened during Professor (Mrs) Olubunmi Ajayi's tenure as Acting Vice Chancellor. The support services include hostel accommodations, sport arena, counselling department, health services, entrepreneurship studies etc. One off-shoot of these facilities was full accreditation of College of Medicine after 10 years and maiden induction ceremony of 43 medical and dental students on Monday 29th July, 2019 by Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN). There is no doubt that these facilities and support services are far more today than in the past.

The four faculties that started in 1982 were Arts, Education, Science and The Social Sciences during the tenures of Late Professor I. Oladapo and Late Profesor P. Bodunrin as Vice Chancellors respectively. The



faculties of Management Sciences, Law, Agriculture and Engineering came later during the administration of Professor I.O. Orubuloye as the Vice Chancellor. The university witnessed the approval of 11 new academic courses by the NUC in 2018 with the Vice Chancellor, Professor S.O. Bandele. The courses included Library and Information Science, Acturian Science, Insurance, Marketing Cooperative and Rural Development, Tourism Studies, Educational Technology, Entrepreneurship, Industrial Relations and Personnel Management, Anatomy and Physiology. These diversification of courses were measures of education quality for the present generation of students.

## 4.0

### AN APPRAISAL.

Holistically speaking, we can say that the pervasive influence of modern technology and infrastructures have contributed to the improvement of education quality of present generation without prejudice to the past one. If we must maintain this tempo, there are some loopholes that must, as a matter of urgency, be filled with the present generation for the sake of seamless integration and continuity.

Some students will not register for courses, perfect their admission processes, nor turn-up for lectures until few days to examinations at the end of a semester. This was not so in the past. Registration was usually one week with a grace of extension by another week (late registration) after which a student who failed to register might face commensurate sanctions including possible review of his/her studentship.

The issue of cheating during examinations were not as rampant in the past as in the present generation of students. This has become worrisome with the pervasive use of handheld android phone devices. A student that secured admission just few weeks to the examination while lectures were almost being rounded-up will probably result into cheating or perform woefully in the examination thereby affecting education quality on the aggregate.

It can be argued that "is the pervasive use of android phones by today's students a blessing or a curse? Sometimes they even engage the phones during lectures and will interact more with the social media or illicit aspects of the phone rather than explore its scientific and educational benefits. This can also affect the quality of education if not moderated.

Cohabitation of students of opposing sex were not as rife in the past as today. This will definitely affect their class performances with high propensity to lower educational quality by indulging students. New generation students are more into social, worldly "get-rich-quick" livelihood nowadays than their academic pursuits and this will also affect their devotion to learning.

Pervasive ASUU strikes have also affected the quality of education in recent times. During such periods, teaching activities will be brought to a halt for months. It disrupts the smooth running of university calendar, elongates student's residency and academic programmes and results into rushing of school curricular any time they resume teaching activities. Such an 'open-and-close' syndrome

which the university system have witnessed recently will definitely affect the quality of education.

The recent pervasive and unprecedented increase in ICT, internet, computer and teaching facilities must be used positively if we must further improve the quality of education. In addition, most brilliant students were often called back in the past to take up lecturing jobs, but in recent times they do not want to stay in the academic due to purportedly poor pay.


In conclusion, the quality of education in EKSU can be said to have improved from the past to the present especially with the recent influence of modern ICTs, infrastructures and support services. It will however improve further into the future if the loopholes highlighted above are urgently bridged.

**“ Alumni Association is thus the mainstays and the future of any well established institution ”**

**— COMRADE ISAAC AKINLEYE**

*The Global Secretary*

*Ekiti State University Alumni Association*



In this all-encompassing chatter with the Global Secretary of the Ekiti State University Alumni Association, a man that has seen it all from the tooting stage to the present state of the institution. He delved into the core issues bothering on the achievements attained by the Association in line with infractural inputs and policy formulations which culminated to having the current Governor - elect who is also an Alumnus as being victorious in the last gubernatorial election in the State. Very interesting session.....

of this University are always having full foresight. They are rugged and they can adapt to any situation, reason been that the University itself did not start on this campus that we are now.

It started on two campuses in town - the Humanities and Education faculties at on Ajitadidun Nursery/Primary School owned by our late revered mother; Chief Mrs Babatola. The school started on that particular campus and again, the Science faculty also started at Christ School such that the old boys in town were referring to us as students of glorified secondary school

students! That was how we started.

The administrative office was at Oke Ori Omi donated by a philanthropist. Other offices were along Iyin Road. The major hall of residence for students was Similoluwa along Teaching hospital Road and there was where the major convergence of students was.

By your judgement, you will discover that the distance between where we called campus now and in 1982,1983,1984 & 1985, you will know it was not a short distance. Then, the mode of transportation was very poor. Many students had to trek from town to campus here because they wanted to meet up with 7am or 8am lectures, because of the distance in terms of transportation and accommodation made some of us to shift to Iworoko. That was how the school started having

#### **Let's meet you?**

I am Comrade Akinleye Isaac. I am currently the global Secretary of Ekiti State University Alumni Association. I am also a Director in the Registry department of this institution. I am an Alumnus of the University and to the glory of God, I am one of the second set of graduates from this University. Now, I am a principal stakeholder in the Alumni Association worldwide as the Global Secretary.

**The University is 40years old and you are one of the second set of graduates of the institution, tell us about the journey so far?**

The journey has been so enterprising - full of a lot of metamorphosis. One thing that is very very colorful about it is that at the beginning, all of the products



impact on Iworoko community. I think I was in 300level when the students moved to campus here. My first 3years was spent in town from 1982 to 1985. By 1986, we started receiving our lectures on the main campus here. From then, the University started developing gradually in phases up till now.

### **Let's talk about your teaching profession. What was it like?**

Actually, I left here 1987 and I read Botany and for my National service, I served in a Women's Science teachers' College in Gulu in Niger State. After my service, I took up teaching appointment in 1989 with Ondo State Teaching Service Commission. My first place of call was Oba Grammar School, Otun Ekiti which I always call my second home. I was there between 1989 & 1998. When I was in school, I was in the students parliament and a little of students' politics has crept into my fabric. So, when I joined teaching, there was no substantive union on ground. The teachers were governed by Caretaker Committees which was more or less an autocratic rule. Most of us that were young blood rose against them and came up with a pressure group and because of my activities in labour pressure group, I was transferred out of town but fortunately, I got it intercepted and I landed in Owo town till creation of State in 1996. I was at New Church Grammar School, Owo, I was already promoted to the position of Head of Department of Science & Agriculture. Then, before you can become an H.O.D, you had to have risen through the ranks.

At State creation, I was redeployed to Ekiti State and I found myself in Ayetoro - Iloro High school in Ekiti. I was there from 1996 to 2001. In between then, I was the Registrar of exams for the school and I was accredited H.O.D science throughout and I was at the verge

of becoming the School's Vice Principal when I got appointed as an Admin Officer in the University.

### **Why did you decide to come to your Alma Mater?**

One, I have very many of my colleagues that we started together in the University. When I finished, I was to be recalled as a lecturer but because there was no tangible means of communication, I lost track of the message while I was in the North. By the time I came back, the vacancy had been filled. Some of my colleagues were now Professors there and some of those we started together were already here. That is one. Although, I had been applying all the while.

Secondly, I was looking for job satisfaction which triggered my interest to come over. All that while that I was teaching, I was never an educationally biased person. I did not study education. I was one of those that was fighting for professionalism in education. I knew I would not benefit from the crusade. My interest was that there must be a change of line. In teaching, you can be punished if you are too hard on the government. You can be transferred to the remotest part of the State where you will have no information, but in a University setup, you will be on the campus and you cannot be transferred beyond where the university is operating.

Another thing is the Alumni interest.

### **Talking about alumni interest, what are the functions or objectives of an alumni body as peculiar to Ekiti State University?**

We thank God. I have to say it unequivocally, world over, when you talk about Alumni Association, even from Primary School setting, you will discover that Alumni Associations have roles to play. Yoruba parlance

translates that an egg begets a cock i.e the youths of today are the leaders of tomorrow. When you look at Ado Ekiti, you will discover that very many of the indigenes that are prominent today are products of Emmanuel Cathedral Primary School, St. Andrew's, Oyo, Queens' college in Lagos, Kings' college, Lagos, Christ's School, Ado Ekiti and so on and so forth. One, there is comradeship. There is what we called family ties in alumni relationship. My secondary school was A.U.D, Ikole Ekiti. When I was there, we had people from Ogun, Lagos, old Bendel states and all over the country. You had to obtain admission form and sit for entrance examinations. You would be interviewed here and there. You could apply into 3 or 5 secondary schools. It was more or less an admission of culture and it brings relationship.

Alumni Association is thus the mainstays and the future of any well established institution. They are the owners of the institution. You could not be a principal of Christ's school if you are not an alumni for a long time. That means you would not want to destroy the old legacies there. You will want to promote the interests of the school so as for you to be able to boast that during your time, you were able to add this and that. It was just like competition. You will want to give back by administration, by innovation and even by development. You will be pressed to contribute your own quota. You will see it as your opportunity and moment of reckoning and records.

Where Alumni Associations are efficiently established, there are various interventions. I remember in UNILAG a few years ago, the Federal Government suddenly changed the name of the school but the Alumni Association kicked against the move to change the name to that of an individual. Even as the Federal Government had

pronounced the name, the Alumni Association had its way!

Not only that, when an institution gets to a level and its products are properly nurtured and trained, they found themselves in various areas of human endeavors. You find them in the public sector, you find them in the private sector, in politics, in governance, in legislature, in the executive arm and judiciary and what have you. There will be infrastructural interventions and policy interventions. For example, here, we have just established a board on another level not even at the University level. A Board for research, development and innovation. This is to help the university in achieving its goals. We have a lot of us here that are Permanent Secretaries and Directors in the civil service. I must confess to you, we do not have less than 100 Professors who are products of this school and are lecturers here. Definitely, the present and future of the University is now in our hands. So, we can now decide what and what is to be done with the institution and how we want it to impact on the society i.e the town and gown relationship.

**With the strength of the Association, has this been interpreted meaningfully?**

Before now, we did not get it right. When things were at the miniature stage, the association went through a lot of rough roads here and there, but we thank God that we have finally gotten our footing rightly.

Yes, part of the impacts on the University is that one of our members facilitated an I.C.T project that is not less than #300m and software accessories for the institution. That is Dr Vincent Olatunji.

Another member, Kingsley Kuku a former adviser to the then President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan donated an alumni bus. Another thing he did was the construction of Student Union Building which is the best of its kinds in the nation. It is a storey building.

The landscaping of the entrance gate was constructed during the administration of Professor Dipo Kolawole as the Vice Chancellor by the Alumni Association.

We also constructed toilets for the students on campus. The mock court building that was used for the accreditation of Law Faculty was delivered by the Association.

Also, there is an operation building for the security department that was constructed and handed over to the management by the Association.

We also have a 500seater building named after

President Goodluck Jonathan as a mark of honour to him for appointing one of us as his Special Adviser on Niger Delta affairs i.e Kingsley Kuku was delivered by the Association.

The University suffered a lot of encroachments on its land expanding towards the town by individuals. During the era of Dr Dotun Adetuberu as the President of the Alumni Association, we applied for about 150plots of land where we now have the first of its kind VISION OF ALUMNI VILLAGE in Nigeria, even in West Africa and it is coming with game arena, shopping complex, security facilities, medical facilities, eateries and so on. There would be a road that will link the village to the campus. Work will start on this in due course. That is on infrastructure.

When it comes to policy formulation, the Association is represented on the governing council by its President and there and then, we have been able to intervene on various policies that will enhance the development of the institution. We have done a lot in helping the school in the areas of records, transcripts and certificates. We always donate facilities e.g computer systems, power generating sets that will facilitate the work of the University and we have been getting results.





When it comes to labour/management impasse, the Alumni Association has always been intervening because we discovered that the more the workers are at loggerhead with the management, the University will not run. As such, we are friends to the management as well as to the unions. We make sure that there is an enabling environment for robust discussions. Do not forget that this is not a Federal Government owned University. For this reason, our future lies in our hands! So, we have to look inwards to solve our problems. We jaw - jaw on the way forward as to what needs to be done. Presently, we have set up a committee on challenges facing the University and how to combat them. The committee is headed by a former Registrar, Dr O. Awofusi and all the labour leaders are in that committee. Our report will be out and will be submitted to the Governor - elect as soon as he assumes office.

**What has been the relationship between the students and the host community, "town and gown relationship"?**

In the real sense of things, there has not been any friction between the students and the host community but we have been having intra community problems - the students versus the school. This is their office too. We have Federation of Ekiti Students Association, NANS and so on. We are friends to them all. They are our potential Alumni. We groom them while they are still in school. They have access to us. We give bursary and scholarship awards to indigent students every year.

They are picked from various departments depending on their financial standing. We penetrate them through that. Again, we are always in constant touch with the students' body leadership. They see us as fathers and mothers.

They run to us and we interface between them and the management. We also guide them in ways that will not be violent. In that wise, we are training constructive leaders. What are the short term and long term solutions to particular challenges are what we brainstorm together upon. We do that just for the corporate sustenance of the institution. Students' crisis occur but not the conventional types that make students destructive. Thus, there has not been any communal clashes between the students and the town per se. Do not forget that the proximal community that may have problem is Iworoko. Hardly do they have problem with Ado community. The security department is always handling that so it has not escalated.

**What should be expectations on the Alumni Association?**

Since you posed the question to me (I think the President should be the one to answer that). Firstly, we have started the town and gown relationship. We are going to mobilize all our members wherever they are; in the private or public sector. We want to run an all inclusive government so that everybody will be proud to belong and for overall development of the school. This is our own Jerusalem and it belongs to all of us. About 3 years ago, I was then the Global Treasurer and Asiwaju Adetuberu was the President. Out of passion, we saw vision for the State that one of us should be the governor of Ekiti State and we started the vanguard. To the glory of God, the Governor- elect of State; Honourable Biodun Abayomi Oyebamiji is one of us.

We also have people that are honourable members of the Ekiti State House of Assembly, Permanent Secretaries, even the current Head of Service, Mr Bamidele Agbede is one of the

2nd set of this University.

Thus, the University and the town are already merging; they are already marrying! We do not want to be limited to the State only. The President is a private sector person. We have people all over the world - in UK, USA, Canada, Ireland and so on. We also have functional branches/chapters. Our Lagos chapter is headed by Honorable Tolu Egbeyemi, the son of the Deputy Governor. Ogun State chapter is headed by Mr Seun Idowu. We have chapters in Oyo, Osun, Kogi, Ondo and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The present President was formally the Chairman of Abuja chapter. The home branch - Ekiti is headed by Honourable Deji Oso. In Kogi, some of their Permanent Secretaries are products of EKSU. Within the confine of the country, we have not less than 9 chapters and 3 in the diaspora. UK chapter celebrated 40th anniversary 2 months ago. U.S chapter is also planning one for November. That is how far we have actually gone and we are still moving. We want to make sure that the institution will no longer depend on the State government for conventions! We want it to be self sustaining and God will help us to do that.

The association went through a lot of rough roads here and there, but we thank God that we have finally gotten our footing rightly.

# PROFILE

## **BARR. (DR.) ADEOLA ADELEYE-FASUBAA**

*(BA, LLB, BL, LLM, MCI Arb, MIDRI, FSABA, FIIM)  
ECOWAS Youth Ambassador*



Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa, Esq. was born in the 60's to the family of Dr and Madam B. A. Fayemi.

She attended the prestigious Corona School, Victoria Island in Lagos and then proceeded to one of the foremost Unity institutions in Nigeria, Federal Government Girls College, Akure.

In the bid to be nearer home she transferred to Methodist Girls' High School, Yaba, Lagos – The first female secondary school in Nigeria which has turned out many great icons of our time, like Madam HID Awolowo.

A brilliant student, Adeola passed WAEC and JAMB with flying colours and her father wanted her to travel abroad to the UK to study, like her elder sister. However, in a resolve not to leave her mum, destiny propelled her to the then Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti, a relatively new university where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English and Literary Studies while majoring in Linguistics.

After graduation, she worked at Classique Magazine, under the tutelage of MEE, May Ellen Ezekiel of blessed memory. From there she worked at the Nigeria Television Authority, Ilorin, Kwara State – as a Newscaster, Continuity Announcer and Producer before proceeding to the United Kingdom which ironically she had earlier shied away from!

In the UK, she worked for the defunct West Africa Magazine and the Nigerian Link Magazine as Advert Executive/Reporter before venturing into

the Civil Service.

Mrs Adeleye-Fasubaa worked in the Personnel and Council Tax departments of the London Borough of Lewisham before moving to work for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for about 20 years in various capacities, gradually rising through the ranks. For several years she was a warranted officer of Her Majesty's and a Tax Specialist.

She was the first person of African descent and certainly only Nigerian to manage the Custom House Gravesend, which then had an annual turnover of over £100 million pounds.

In her quest for further education, she attended the University of Wolverhampton and then Robert Gordon University both in the United Kingdom for her LLB and Post-Graduate studies.

Barrister Adeleye-Fasubaa attended the Nigerian Law School, Abuja and is a Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Mrs Adeleye-Fasubaa is very involved in many International Humanitarian, Voluntary and Philanthropic organisations, sitting on the Boards of several of these organisations.

A born pioneer, she was instrumental in the formal formation of the UK Alumni of her Alma mater MGHS and was the founding Vice President, likewise the UK Alumni Association of the Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, and was the founding General Secretary.

She founded and is currently the President of OSUA Connection Legacy Foundation – a body that caters for anyone who attended, worked in or is connected with the former Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti – whose main focus is Networking, Leadership, Nation Building and Philanthropy.

Adeleye-Fasubaa, a seasoned Mediator, Counsellor and Arbitrator, is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, U.K. (MCI Arb);



the International Dispute Resolution Institute (MIDRI), Fellow, School of Articulation and Behavioural Alignment (FSABA), Fellow, Institute of Information Management (FIIM). A humanitarian per excellence, she has been a Sunday School teacher and church leader for over 30 years. She leads the Prevailing Prayer Network and Prevailing Women Prayer Network which holds monthly prayer cum business breakfast meetings, empowering women to fulfil their various destinies. Mrs Adeleye-Fasubaa is married and also pastors a Community Assembly with her husband, Pastor Ademola Adetokunbo Fasubaa.

the insidious instances of Abuse, Youth Crime and Human Trafficking prevalent in Nigeria, the UK and the world at large. Currently, the organisation has vibrant campaigns against Gun and Knife crimes in the UK while in Nigeria it is against Drug Abuse amongst the youths.

Mrs Adeleye-Fasubaa is internationally sought after as a Speaker and Strategic Leadership Expert.

Below are some of the many other organisations she is involved with:

- Group Legal Affairs Coordinator, Ekiti Economic Development Group
- Peace Ambassador, Universal Peace

- Committee, Ekiti State University, Nigeria
- Member, Partnership and Investment Committee, Ekiti State University, Nigeria
- Member, Alumni Harmonisation Board, Ekiti State University, Nigeria
- Member, Alumni Endowment Board, Ekiti State University, Nigeria
- Adviser, FGCG Akure Alumnae, Abuja branch, Nigeria
- Chair, Constitution Review Committee, FGCG Akure Alumnae Abuja branch, Nigeria
- Member, Greenwich and Bexley Credit Union, Greenwich U.K
- Member, London Community Credit Union, U.K
- Member, International Society of Female Professionals, U.S.A.
- Member, Trinity Methodist Church Council, Plumstead, U.K.
- Secretary, Trinity Methodist Church Council, Plumstead, U.K.
- Member, Adun Society U.K.
- Member, Black Roof Housing Association, U.K.



With the now CJN, Ariwoola JSC

She has attended numerous vocational and leadership training courses worldwide. These include, John Maxwell Leadership conferences, Andy Harrington Coach/Speaker trainings as well as International Toastmasters meetings. After sojourning in the United Kingdom for over 25 years, she was triggered to start the Oasis Empowerment and Advocacy Foundation, a vision she had nursed for several years due to

- Federation
- Ambassador, Merit Time International
- Trustee, Humrenmon Foundation on Diabetes and Lifestyle, Nigeria/U.K.
- Trustee, Christ the Cornerstone Tabernacle, Nigeria
- Member and Moderator, Mind and Soul Helpers Initiative, Nigeria
- Chair, Speak - Up

Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa, Esq. is a recipient of several Awards globally. These include her appointment as an Ambassador for Peace by the Universal Peace Federation, U.K (an organisation in permanent consultative status with the United Nations); Merit Time International - Distinguished Merit Icon and Ambassador; The Impactful Woman Award, Ghana; also, the Nelson Mandela Leadership Award of Excellence and Integrity to mention a few. Further, she was recently appointed an ECOWAS Youth Ambassador by the West African Youth Council also, Merit/UNDP Ambassador.

*The products of an institution determine whether or not it is regarded as a great institution and EKSU has great products.*

**- Barr (Dr.) Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa**  
(President, OSUA Connection)

Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa is highly committed to EKSU issues, she is involved in the A-Z of EKSU Alumni matters, especially through the OSUA Connection Legacy Foundation. To her, giving back usually requires time, effort and resources which very often may be material and financial. She is playing a big role in fostering unity and integrations among generations of EKSU Alumni.

#### **How have you been able to give back to the school?**

In many ways! We've provided support for the school and former schoolmates in various ways.

During the recent governorship elections in Ekiti State, I served as Chairperson of the Diaspora Relations Committee of the EKSU Solidarity Support Group for BAO. As allowed by law, we levied ourselves - with some Diasporans, the OSUA Connection as well as some other friends - to support our candidate. We also organized a 72-hour prayer-thon, joining in to pray on Zoom at 3-hour intervals from four different continents. To the glory of God, our candidate and fellow alumnus, Mr Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji won the election, and is today the Governor of Ekiti State. Most interestingly, by virtue of his new office as Governor, he is now by law, the Visitor to the Ekiti State University, our dear alma mater.

My family has been able to initiate 2 prize endowments:

1. Pastor Ademola & Barr. (Dr) Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa
- High Chief Julius Adeleye

Fasubaa Prize - N100k for the Best Graduating Female Student in Law.

2. Pastor Ademola & Barr. (Dr) Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa

- Dr. B. A. Fayemi Prize - N100k for the Best Graduating Female Student in the University.

Also, I was able to pioneer the formation of the ELS class of '89 Alumni. We have also instituted a prize Endowment for the best graduating student in the Department of English and Literary Studies.

I have served on various University and Alumni Committees. I currently chair the Speak-Up Committee of the Alumni which stands against harassment and exploitation of any kind within our University.

I was inspired to formally start the U.K. (UNAD) Alumni chapter on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2002. My 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary provided a great opportunity to get Alumni members who had been at the wedding to meet up again and we had our inaugural meeting in my living room. I was the founding General Secretary and Electoral Chair- who was able to achieve a free and fair election.

In 2016, I was again inspired to start OSUA Connection - to locate, relate with and support OSUAITES due to the unique situation we found ourselves in. With time and with the support of other friends, we evolved into OSUA Connection Legacy Foundation which we can safely say has encouraged the evolvement of the vibrant Alumni association that we are all enjoying today. I currently serve as the President of the foundation.

We have been able to find and

funnel into the Alumni a lot of our old mates that others didn't even remember any more. OSUA connection encapsulates everyone who matriculated, graduated from OSUA or who lived in or worked at Ado-Ekiti during the OSUA era. So, not all members of the OSUA connection attended the university. That is why we call it a "connection". It involves all those who are connected in one way or the other by virtue of work, studies, accommodation and friendships through OSUA.

Most of us are also involved in various committees of the Alumni and that has triggered a new wave of projects for the school. The Foundation has several projects going on at the moment for the beautification and general development of the school. We are building an exotic garden within the school. We also have a water project ongoing, we are building toilets and we have some other things in the pipeline that I won't talk about just yet.

#### **Let's talk about your school days. What were you like in school?**

I belonged to the Man-O-War and Tiata Unique groups. Although, back then, my focus was more on graduating well and making my parents proud. I also served in a few churches and the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship as worship leader.

Recently one of my former schoolmates joked on our platform that I was shy while in school. The truth is, I was never shy, just reserved. I'm still the person I was. I was known as gentle and reserved. Even now, I really still would not consider myself as an outspoken person, just honest and forthright.

#### **What can you say about the quality of education OSUA provided?**





We had a very high-quality education at OSUA. We had the very best University administrators and lecturers from all over Nigeria and beyond. Lecturers and administrators were drawn from Ife, Lagos, UI, Ilorin, South Africa, Ghana, Cameroon, US and so on into the staff and faculties. We had the same quality of education as those from Ife, Lagos, UI or Ilorin. Don't forget that Ekiti has always been known as the State of professors. So the establishment of the University afforded these academics who had made their mark across the globe the opportunity to give back to what was seen as their own institution. They came back on sabbaticals, as Visiting Lecturers etc. For instance, my former department the English Department had the great Professor D.O. Olagoke of the Incorruptible Judge fame, the Mathematics Department had Professor Olubunmo, who famed for being the first professor of Mathematics in Africa, the Linguistics Department had Professor Bisi Ogunsina among many of such in others departments.

Beyond classroom education, being in Ado also taught us resilience - which I have found to be a guiding light for us all in the years after graduation.

Today, you will find OSUAITES doing well everywhere all over the world.

**What would you say was the impact of schooling at OSUA on your career?**

As I said, it taught me resilience. For one, I didn't want to go there. I don't even know how I got there. \*laughs. It came as a shock to me but I knew that I had to stay there because I didn't want to be sent to England! I had to make the best of that situation, so I approached it with seriousness and put every distraction aside.

There were a lot of challenges in schooling there. I came from a relatively privileged background so having to walk to school sometimes, stand at the roadside looking for a ride, fetch water in buckets from long distances and such things were difficult. If my parents had gotten a sniff of that, they would have removed me from the school! So, I couldn't even tell them what I was going through at the time. There were times that I would just sit down and cry! Towards the end, I had grown up. It toughened me.

A lot of us fell into that same category for whatever reason. It taught us all resilience. I look back and wonder that if I'd gone

to another university, would I be me? I know that there are things that I do now that I wouldn't have done if I didn't go to OSUA.

**What advice would you give to students now if opportune to talk to them?**

I am an ECOWAS Youth Ambassador. Also, President of Oasis Empowerment and Advocacy Foundation, Nigeria and Oasis Organisation, U.K. at the moment running campaigns against Gun and Knife Crimes in the UK and Drug and Sexual Abuse amongst the youths in Nigeria.

Further, I currently head the Speak-up committee of the Alumni Association. We speak against sexual harassment and intimidation of students. We also offer career advice and mentorship.

So, I am speaking with them already and will continue to positively impact them.

They should not be intimidated or feel lesser than their counterparts from other universities. They have highly successful role models among the Alumni that they can pattern their career progression after. I know of judges, captains of industry, lawyers, a SAN, a pilot, nurses, politicians and almost any career you can



conceive amongst us. They should be proud of their school. They should also make the most of the opportunities they have as these would stand them in good stead in the future.

I recall that, in 2018, I was headhunted from the U.K. and invited to facilitate at the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum conference in Abuja, Nigeria. On getting there, I met Dr. Vincent Olatunji, a fellow Alumnus, who happened to be the Chair of the panel I was on. We hadn't seen each other in years so there was a lot of talking and catching up. Other participants were curious about which school ours was. They were openly guessing Ife, UI, Uniben, and so on. When we told them it was OSUA now EKSU, they were astonished. The fact that the two of us were on that panel was astonishing to our colleagues. At the conference, our Alma Mater was the only one so represented.

Therefore, the idea is to mentor them appropriately. I spoke with another prominent Alumnus a while ago and he said that he noticed a lack of self-esteem among the current set of students who feel intimidated by other universities' relatively better facilities etc. That is one thing we need to build in them. Confidence! We need to let them remain undaunted, knowing they can be anything, do anything and go anywhere. They shouldn't feel intimidated.

**Lastly, what makes an institution a great institution and is EKSU a great institution in your opinion?**

The products of an institution determine whether or not it is regarded as a great institution and EKSU has great products. For instance, the present Governor of the State, Governor Oyebanji, is an OSUAITE. We've

had many Commissioners who are also products of the school and people across various levels within Nigeria and abroad as afore mentioned. By all standards, EKSU is a great institution, and will be greater still, with our continued support.

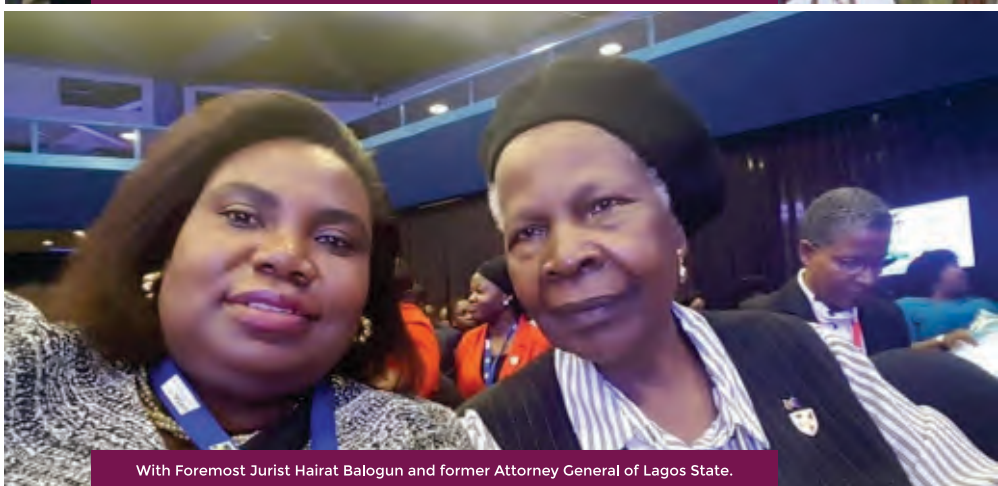
*"I currently head the Speak-up committee of the Alumni Association. We speak against sexual harassment and intimidation of students. We also offer career advice and mentorship."*



At the NICF 2018 with Vincent Olatunji, Oby Ezekwezi and Mary Uduma



At the Cyprian Ekwensi Centre, Abuja with the Director, Nigeria Film Village, Youth Corp officials and members after interactive training session.



With Foremost Jurist Hairat Balogun and former Attorney General of Lagos State.



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### **How were your OSUA days?**

I belong to the very first set of the University and I have to say, it was challenging but it also strengthened us. The early administrators were very hard on us. It involved starting a lot of things from scratch, take the Student Union for example. It was both challenging and full of lessons that have followed us ever since.

### **How would you say the school impacted your career?**

The major thing I can draw out is that the school gave us that can-do attitude and the ability to overcome challenges. We did not have the luxuries of other schools and that helped us get accustomed to difficulties and develop the ability to cope. That obviously helped our outlook of life and how we faced it.

### **EKSU is now 40. Do you think it is worth celebrating with the level of education in Nigeria now?**

Absolutely! I think EKSU has done well. Undoubtedly, there were challenges, there still are, but there have been remarkable

improvements over the past 40 years. I know the current VC is doing some good work. I also know that the school recently came up from being over 100 in ranking to being number 17. I think there is still a lot of work to be done, but the school has done remarkably well.

### **For someone who has lived abroad, what prompted you to get into the politics of Nigeria?**

I am someone that is very passionate about impacting people's lives. I say that with all sense of modesty. God has been kind to me and I think the only way for me to show gratitude is to go out and impact people's lives. For me, politics seems to be a good avenue to do just that and that is the reason why I decided to get into politics.

### **Finally sir, what is your advice for the current students of the school?**

I think the students should focus on developing themselves and avail themselves of all the opportunities that come their way in terms of learning. They should set high goals and reduce distraction that might hinder them from achieving their goals. They should maximize all their opportunities so they can contribute to society.



*Dr. Soji Ehinlawo is an IT and Management Consultant who worked in Europe and America for over 25 years. He is a Politician, and was heavily involved in the Campaign of the current Governor of Ekiti.*



# DR. ISRAEL OVIRIH

Dr. Israel, a valedictorian, graduated in 1989 with award-winning degree in Economics from the Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti, (now Ekiti State University) Nigeria and in 2018 awarded a Doctorate in Business Administration (hc) from the same University.

Dr. Israel Ovirih has been active in the finance, entrepreneurial and macro-economic policy space for the past 32 years, having worked at mid and senior positions in GTBank, Ecobank Plc (formerly Oceanic Bank) and ETBank (now Sterling Bank Plc). In the 90's, he was Financial Advisor to the World Bank/IBRD/IDA on infrastructure development Fund (IDF) and Health Systems Fund projects in Nigerian States of Yobe, Delta, Edo and Plateau.

His internship in financial engineering, private equity and venture finance enabled the founding of **Banklink Africa Private Equities Limited** - a fledgling and emerging PE firm he set up in 2008 where he currently sits as Board Chair. Israel has been active in raising finance for Nigerian companies, especially local content operators and has since 2008 raised in excess of US\$1.4 billion for the Nigeria's oil and gas, marine and shipping amongst others.

Dr. Israel Ovirih attended various management development and entrepreneurship training programs in leading institutions including the Lagos Business School, Swiss Finance Institute and the prestigious MIT Sloan School of Management, Boston, USA.



As an active serial entrepreneur, banker and venture-focused personality, he invested in strategic sectors within the African space. He currently Chairs the board of OOS International Oilfield Services Limited (member of OOS International BV, The Netherlands), and sits on the board of Continental Lithium, CeLD Innovations Limited (promoters of Africa's first loyalty commodity - CASHTOKEN AFRICA), OneOcean Upstream Limited amongst others.

Dr. Israel is already leading charge helping Sub-Saharan Africa and indeed Nigeria

companies access global capital by positioning them for listing on International Stock Exchanges including NASDAQ, NYSE and Euronext.

A portrait of Bamidele Jonathan Olagunju, a middle-aged Black man with a short beard and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is standing against a dark blue background.

# BAMIDELE JONATHAN OLAGUNJU

**FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR;  
BATOIL SERVICES NIGERIA LIMITED**

## **Academic and Professional attainments -**

He was born on 31st of August 1968 in Lagos to Pastor Daniel Olagunju of Efon Alaye in Ekiti State, a successful Civil Engineer on Highway Design with British Government till retirement; an ordained Pastor and Mrs. Bosede Deborah Olagunju, a businesswoman. He attended St. Stephen Primary School, Ute in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State between 1974 - 1980. Apata Memorial High School, Isolo Lagos between 1981 - 1986. He gained admission into Ondo State University, now University of Ado-Ekiti, for a Bachelor Degree program and graduated with Bachelor of Science degree with Second Class Upper Division in the year 1995.

After his one-year service as a Youth Corper, in his desire to acquire more education, Mr. Olagunju enrolled for Postgraduate Studies with the University of PortHarcourt and obtained Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing 1997.

In 2016, he gained admission into University of Lagos for a Master's degree Program in the Faculty of Law. He graduated in the year 2019 with Master's in International Law and Diplomacy

He is a renowned philanthropist, recognized and honored in his community due to his passion to serve the less privileged with all his strength and resources.

Mr. Olagunju has travelled to many countries and all the continents of the world, United Kingdom, United States of America, some countries in Asia and



West Africa.

He has attended many Survey, Marine and Corrosion Courses, conferences, seminars and presented papers both in Nigeria and abroad.

Olagunju Bamidele is a distinguished and Internationally recognized member of National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE), USA. He arose along the ladder after he carried out several successful projects with companies like SPDC, Kaztec, Addax, Agip, Chevron, Afren, Transocean, AMNI, NNPC, TENOIL, CMES, Dover Engineering, Marine Platform (MPN) to mention but a few.

He is also the Managing Director of Batoil Services LLC USA, and Batoil Services, Ghana Limited.

Mr. Olagunju Bamidele Jonathan is an accomplished Business Executive and a professional, who founded and successfully piloted Batoil Services Nigeria Limited, a Geotechnical and Geophysical oil and gas service company in Nigeria. He is an accomplished Executive with local and international experience in Survey and Marine operations which involves sourcing, business development, planning, operations and execution, proven track record of over \$20million annual turnover in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry. As Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since November 17th, 2003 when it commenced business, the company has grown to become the preferred indigenous sea bed Survey Company in the oil and gas sub-

sector in the country. His style and knack for assembling competent and skilled professionals to deliver every time on multimillion dollar oil and geotechnical and geophysical projects have been responsible for the phenomenal growth of the Company such that its vessel, equipment and professionals are never idle throughout the year. 's management, Batoil's clients readily attest to the fact that Batoil, without fail always gives qualitative onshore and offshore results with its skilled professionals and sophisticated modern equipment in delivering services to its numerous clients. Some of his provision of competent and visionary leadership for Batoil is exemplified in some of the following technical and business achievements

A. equipment and Marine Vessels over \$55 million for various shallow water operations in Nigeria and West Africa.

B. Growth in personnel from 5 to 75 and increasing revenue growth from \$4.5 million to \$20 million annually.

C. Participation in the tender preparation, submission, and numerous successful contract enhanced growth.

D. Provision of Survey Supply Vessel during various Chevron, Addax and Mobil Producing Nigeria Seabed & EIA operations in their respective OMLs.

The following are some specific examples of successfully executed the projects:

a. Pipeline positioning for Risers

Installation of Pipelines – Lagos

b. Geophysical and Geotechnical Survey: Idoho – Inanga in Mobil Producing Nigeria Field for Tenoil Petroleum and Energy Services Ltd

c. Geophysical Seabed/2D HR and Geotechnical OML 88 for Movido E&P

d. Seabed Survey of The Critical Paths Along The Route, From Aveon Quayside To Open Sea for Saipem Egina and Ofon Projects

e. Geotechnical Investigation Survey for the ATA-6 for placement of Jack up Rig – According to Matthew Daniel Specification.

f. Coordinated Soil Investigation and Soil 18" Ajaokuta-Geregu Gas Pipeline for DOVER/ZAKHEM/NGC.

g. Provision of Surface Positioning on Jack-Up Barge on Whiskey Star XI OML 123.

h. Conducted Seabed Survey of Robertkiri Crude Barge Route Navigation Route for Chevron.

i. Resistivity Survey and Soil Investigation of 24" X 121km Ob/Ob – Ogbainbiri Gas Pipeline for Digitex /Daewoo Nigeria Limited (Dn41).

j. Navigation and Positioning Survey of AD 10 Rig)

k. Seabed and Environment Survey for SK Endeavor Fire Location at Escravos

l. Mesotech (Bathymetry Survey) Surveys of 2 x 4" Pipeline @ ADSW m. Executed for Saipem Ofon Survey

n. Soil Resistivity Survey At All Land Flowstations for Spdc-West.	College of Education, Ondo Member, Lions Club of Ponle Gold, Alimosho, Lagos Member, Efon Alaye Development League, PortHarcourt and Lagos.	Visionary Leadership
o. Design of Cp Systems For Spdc-East Land Based Flowlines (Zones A&B, C&D) Including Soil Resistivity Survey, Terrain Description, Current Drain Test, Test For Stray Currents, Detailed Designs, Material Specification Et.c	Member, Air Assault Golf Club, PortHarcourt Patron, Eko Club Austin SA	4. Human Resource Partnership Development High Stake Negotiations Market Planning
p. ce Positioning on Jack-Up Barge on Whiskey Star XI OML 123	His service to the business community and the community at large has naturally earned him numerous awards and recognitions. Some which are:	5. Budgeting
q. Installation of Impress Current Cp System for Gas Supply To Lagos Industrial Areas	a. Sponsorship Awards – International Federation of Surveyors.	6. Tender Commercial Risk Management
r. Coating Defect Survey of Selected Spdc Pipelines in The West.	b. Best Corrosion Control Cathodic Protection and Survey Service Company 2013- Institute of Government Research and Leadership Agency.	7. CRS
s. Site Survey for Obagi Flowstation	c. Sponsorship Award -Nigerian Navy and Hydrographic Agency	8. Networking
t. Supervised the and Installation of Permanent Cathodic Protection Systems (Gas Supply To Guinness Brewery Plc,Benin) for Boab Engineers.	d. Merit Award- The C&S Rabbi Church.	Mr. Olagunju Bamidele is happily married to Mrs. Ajibola Olagunju. The marriage is blessed with children.
He has been able to impact into the company the essence of delivering ts thus making Batoil slogan to be “What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well” Just as Mr.Olagunju takes excellent service to his company's clients seriously; his avowed commitment to upliftment and betterment of society and the environment is not lost on him, hence his membership and service to several service organizations and unions. He is:	e. Merit Award- Ose Social Development Union	
President, Ose Social President, Ondo State University (Now Ekiti State University), Ado -Ekiti. 1990/1995 Set Alumni.	f. Certificate of AWARD: Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board, Local Govt Education Authority Oshodi-Isolo as Donor	
Member, Rotary Club, Adeyemi	g. Pillar of Support Award – Philanthropist Gesture	
	It is apposite to summarize the business cum professional competences as follows:	
	1. Company Management Finance Sourcing	
	2. Strategic Oversight Business Development Team Building	
	3. Project Management	



***"University of Ado Ekiti actually shaped my future and the destiny I have today" -  
Prince Bamidele Jonathan OLAGUNJU, MD, BATOIL NIGERIA LIMITED***

**TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF?**

My name is Prince Bamidele Jonathan Olagunju. I was born on the 31st of August, 1968 to the family of Pastor (Prince) Doctor Olagunju in Lagos. I had my primary school education at St. Stephen's School, Ondo State. I had my secondary school education at Ote High school. After that, I came to Lagos. I came to Apatá Memorial School in 1988 where I had my WASCE and GCE. So, in 1990, I gained admission into Ondo State University, now Ekiti State University to study Sociology. I graduated in 1995 with Second Class Upper. I was a member of the EXCO in the department. When I graduated, I was posted to Sokoto as a Youth Corper and then I served in Sokoto for like 3-4 months. Unfortunately, with the nature of the environment and being my nature as a black man, the weather was not okay for me, so I had to find my way through the then NYSC Director and I was then redeployed to Port Harcourt. After I finished my Youth Corp, I enrolled for Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing at UNI-PORT which I had between 1997 & 1998. Thereafter, I joined technology as a field worker during the construction of the OBJ gas land, the survey of the entire plough station, I was there for two years. I was with the Company for a while, I had knowledge about technology of cathodic protection because my company was running both survey and cathodic protection of the whole pipeline. As a gifted child, I put my head down to study, learn gradually, by the books.

Along the line, I met with white men who saw that I had interest in Engineering, so they started buying me books to read. I enrolled with the National Association of Engineers in USA. I was able to go through all the necessary paperworks and eventually I got an international

recognition from the National Association of Corrosion Engineers. Gradually, we finished the job and I worked with them for a while. I realised that with the experience I have gathered in the Engineering field, I should be able to do something. I registered Batoil Nigeria Limited in 2003 as approved and legal Engineering Company. When I started, my first contract was #35,000, the next one was #45,000, the next one was #245,000. After that the next one was #15million, then the next one was #38million and then the next one was #60million followed by #300million. I did not stop there because I wanted to major in survey. I started investing in the Survey equipment and the rest and that was how I started growing in it. After all this, I was the first person to survey Ajaokuta to Kaduna of 700km in 2010. I own the first company to run such length of survey in this country. After I did that, someone got to know that there was a company that was investing in equipment and Chevron invited me that they wanted to visit my office in Port Harcourt. They saw the equipment I had acquired and they said they are going to patronize me. Not less than a week that they visited, I got the contract.

I have been working with them till then. I have been working for all manners of field operators, oil field owned by ELUMELU (2015-till date). I work for a lot of big companies. Along the line, I decided to give to the society. I sponsor children who are less privileged, orphans and motherless babies. I am a sponsor in Rotary club, I am a member of the club because I have a program that gives children on yearly basis. I am also a member of Lions' club, I am a Fellow of Nigeria Institute of Research and Technology, President of OSE Social

Development Union and the President of OSUA Alumni 1990/95/96 sets. I have got several awards. In 2013, the Institute of Research and Technology, Abuja awarded us the best Survey company in Nigeria. We have gotten award from Navy Hydrography. We have gotten award from Concensorship Development Union. I am also a member of Efon Alaye Club. We have gotten award from RABI. I am a member of PETAN (Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria). I belong to the firm Organization so that has been the success story behind the glory of my life. I would not have being able to do all these simply because the period I went to OSUA was the period when there was nothing both in the University and the Community where we lived, though the knowledge was there to impact but there was nothing to play around with. It was purely academics, rugged life, endurance life, that lifestyle that you just do not have any option than to focus on what you were sent to do. The University of Ado Ekiti actually shaped my future and the destiny I have today.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH ALUMNI?**

I have a cordial relationship with the Alumni because when I got to know that it was existing, I did not hesitate that very day I ensured that I was added to the platform so that we can follow up the news and activities within the University and the community. I have realised one or two occasions where we have helped medical students who are in need. I have a good relationship with all the Executive members particularly the Chairman, Board of Trustees. He is my brother and he has also identified what we stand for because they were all there when we had our first reunion of my mates and it was a funfair and in the place, I made a

promise that I would be instituting scholarships or awards on yearly basis for #1.5million from next convocation and that money will be spread within both the academics, non-academics and the best students in different departments in the University. This is what myself and my wife Princess Ajibola Olagunju intend to give back to the University as long as we live on yearly basis.

I was exposed to practical aspect of Engineering not the theoretical aspect, so I have to study to read the theoretical aspect through trainings, seminars, and conferences outside the country. Several ones in UK, California, and different parts of the United States. I have also been to Brazil for the same training. I have been to Turkey, Kenya, Gambia.

Today, my company is a household name in the Oil and gas sector when it comes to Survey. As I speak with you, on yearly basis the Survey Council of Nigeria issued practising certificate to my company ( A yearly licence to practice Survey). Over 25 surveyors have passed through us and they are qualified as Registered Surveyors. We have an agreement with the department of Survey of the University of Lagos to train Surveyors from

University of Lagos signed by Professor Ogundipe before he left. So most of the people that passed through us are pursuing their Masters degree programs in Universities abroad. Recently, as I am speaking with you, I have invested in first class ROV (Remote Operation Vehicle) that will work in water for 3000m depths. The ROV are in the country. In the next one month, our partners from Norway will be here to setup the entire system and we also believe that our young Engineers and Surveyors are also going to benefit in the training and at the same time they will earn better income from it.

#### **ADVISE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENTS OF EKSU**

When I left OSUA now EKSU in 1995, it was a funfair, I came back the same year around December but after that I did not come back to that University till 2015 and I drove down from Port Harcourt with my escorts and came to the the University and I realized that so many things have changed. A lot of opening up. I moved around the departments, I looked at the small buildings, our lecture halls were no more useful and I can see different administrative block. different hall, different modern buildings and the theater are also different. I

looked at the current students, they have opportunities. They will never appreciate what they have today because they were not part of the olden days of the University. Even the environment they live in, they did not see the way Ado Ekiti used to look like. They have a better condition and learning environment. My advise is that they should be what they want to be. Hooliganism/protest is not going to pay anybody. Most of my mates had carry over because of hooliganism even though they came from affluent family. For anybody who passed through the University before this present dispensation of enjoyment, we need to appreciate God and life. For those that are there now, it is not easy for parents to raise school fees for their wards. The students need to give back to their parents that happiness and fulfilment that they deserve. The University is our baby, as much as possible we should try our best to grow the University so that the University will be able to impact learning to students not just for now but for generation of future students that will come to the University. My advise is that the students should not join cultism and all manners of activities that will disrupt their academics and I know that the sky is the beginning.





*'I am proud to be a product of OSUA'*

## **Dr Tope Fasua**

*Fellow ICAN,  
Chairman, Eminent Person  
Group, EKSU Alumni.*

**Tell us about yourself.**

My name is Tope Fasua. I am 51years old. I attended the then Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti from 1987 to 1991. I graduated at the age of 19 and I clocked 20 by the time I concluded the mandatory National Youth Service. I studied Economics and I got a job in the banking sector. Everyone was doing ICAN exams in the bank then, so, I decided to follow suit and I qualified in 1996 as a Chartered Accountant. Later, I went for a late Masters program in 2005 in London Metropolitan University. I did Financial Marketing & Derivatives. I wanted to do something in that area because it is

called "HIGH FINANCE" for it has to do with all these financial products. I later started a Ph.d course. I wanted to do it in Nigeria but many of the universities were not quite ready. I got my Ph.d in Public Policy last year. I started working in 1992 which means I have been working for 30years now, but, only about half of those years was in paid employment. Actually, I did 13years in paid employment and 17years of being on my own.

***Invariably, you were 15 or 16years old when you got admission into OSUA. Can you share what your days were like in the School?***

It was very exciting to me because it was my first time of leaving home. I never attended any boarding school. When my dad brought me to OSUA and we managed to get the admission processes going, we went to Osikita estate which was new then. We were the first set of students to stay there for hostel accommodation. Dad got me a room there, got me a bunk and he left. He told me I should be coming home every week or fortnightly. Thus, I would go, collect whatever he could offer me and I would go back to School. At times, I would not meet him in Akure as he would have gone to Lagos and I would find my way back to school. It was very interesting. I was just an average student coming out of secondary school. Maybe because I was young, I had few

friends. When I was in Form 3/4classes, what we did then was to use our notebooks to draw cartoons. I was not serious in my secondary

school days. In my first WASCE, I had 2Cs, 1A, about 5Ps and F in Economics which I eventually studied at B.Sc level. I had to resit the WASCE. I think it was when I got to the University that my brain started developing, so, when we sat for our first semester Year 1 exams in 1987 and students were moving about checking their results, I was playing around until someone told me to go and check my results. I asked, "where?" and I was told to go to the Faculty of Social Sciences notice board. My first GDP was 5.24. Mine ended up being the highest in my class and I maintained that throughout my stay in OSUA. Basically, as a young boy then, everyone left me to myself except when it came to studying that they would ask me to teach them one or two courses. In exam hall, some of the big boys would threaten me that if I did not open my answer scripts for them, they would emboss the sign of their confraternity on me. At a point, I opened my answer script to one of them and the invigilator caught us. I was just lucky that I was left off the hook. I made friends there and we still see one another till date.

***What will you say OSUA contributed in form of impacts to your career?***

The bottom line is that when you go to such a University, being a very young one for that matter, you have no illusions. You are basically on your own. So, when I finished in 1991, I was posted to Calabar for my Youth service. I served in UNICAL as an admin officer. At the completion of the service, I moved back to Lagos because everybody just wanted to keep ahead. In those days, it was banking jobs that were reigning. There were a lot of Merchant banks & co. Babangida had made popular the banking sector. Luckily, because my



result was not bad, I was able to get an opportunity after about two months of my coming to Lagos. I put everything I had into it. I did not have any godfather, and, fortunately, nobody discriminated against my State University certificate but I also did not take it for granted. What I have seen over time is that someone that went to UI or UNIFE found it easy. If someone on the recruitment panel attended either of these schools, the applicant will have an edge over others. In those days, you will not see many people that went to OSUA, and, so, you have to struggle on your own and prove your mettle. So, once I got the job, I put everything I had into it. I got a job in an Igbo bank as in the owners of the bank were of the Igbo extraction. In those days, we had Igbo banks, Yoruba banks and Hausa banks. Like Commerce bank, Ecobank were seen as Yoruba banks. When the Chairman is an Igbo man, he brings in an Igbo man to head the board as the Managing Director. This also was exhibited in other banks as well. Owena bank was owned by Ondo State and Lion bank was owned by Plateau State. What worked on me was that I had no illusions. When you lived in Osikita in OSUA days where at some point you did not even have water and you needed to go to Aba Igbira to fetch water from the stream. Sometimes, when we boiled that water and you pour it into a pot, it left green coloration in the pot and everybody would be coughing all over the place. It was a rugged way of living. You needed to trek to school. Sometimes, in the middle of the night you would have to walk to school to read or you were walking back to your individual hostels. No torchlight. Nothing! Some people lived in Iworoko and all of that. It was not easy. For me, I believe that there is nothing anybody can do that I

cannot do that was the reason why I was bold enough in 2019 that I vied for the presidency in this country. We formed a political party and I ran under that party. I am very proud of that!

***After your University days and now you are the Chairman of Eminent Person's Group. What is EPG?***

Well, I was just going my way, minding my own business (laughs) when the President of the Alumni Association dragged me. Actually, I am a very private person and I do not always love justling for positions. The President of the Alumni Association said the concept of the EPG is to help the work of the Association as a whole and we were supposed to. My own understanding is not to make the EPG an elitist affair. My own view is to democratize the group with discipline. Give people the opportunity to come on board of the group. It is a group of people that can project the image of the Alumni/University. A University that has changed its name about 4 times. It started out as Obafemi Awolowo University, into Ondo State University, to University of Ado Ekiti and now Ekiti State University. The truth is this. We have very many eminent people everywhere. Some are captains of industries - insurance, banking, oil and what have you. Directors - General in organization not having to talk of billionaires that have come out of this school as its products. One of my struggles in EPG is that initially, it was almost like a clique affair. Those of us that graduated between 1986 and 1991/92 said we should look for those that graduated outside that stratum. The last time we had a meeting, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Olanipekun was in attendance. From his own records, the University has over 50,000

graduates and the Alumni Association does not have up to 1500 members. Where are the rest? We just have to look for them. It is like throwing our net and see how many people that can be caught. I think 10000 members will be a decent figure. We are still working towards that number.

***For someone who has aspired to the highest position in the country, what do you think can be done to forestall incessant strikes in our ivory towers that is threatening the education sector in Nigeria?***

One of the things I would say is that the Federal Government is too involved in academia and that is very very unfortunate. In fact, I did my research and found out that the concept of Federal Universities is in itself a misnomer; an aberration. It is something that should not exist in a federation such as ours. In any real federal system, there is no university that is managed by the Federal Government. That the Federal Government is poking its fingers in the management of the universities - centres of excellence that should be feared by people in government in itself is a big issue. The Federal Government has taken too much than it can chew. If you go to these so called federal universities, you will found out that they are more divisional than the State Universities. In a place like OAU, Ife, according to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ogunmodede, they are still paying #90 for accomodation for a session as at 2022. The receipt booklet with which the fee is acknowledged is even costlier than the total amount the booklet will accommodate. He said that when there was a move to increase the fee, the students threatened to go on protests or riots and that the Federal



Government said the management of the Uni should not worry about the increment. That is how the Federal Government got itself into this big problem and owing ASUU about #1.9trillion that it cannot pay. So, the ultimate solution is that the future of university education in Nigeria should be private and that is why the private universities are cashing out right now as parents now prefer to take their children and wards to private universities so as not to waste their future and time in federal universities where strikes of different brandings occur. As a matter of fact, a State can own a University. Even, the State must look at how to reduce the burdens. So, there is a need for us to do a proper reassessment. My vision is a scenario where the federal government hands off but that does not mean the federal government will not fund the universities, even in the U.S, the government still funds university education despite the fact that a place like Harvard is a private university, the government over there is still giving them a lot of money for research works, even for infrastructure. So, what we need to do now is for federal government to look at how those universities can be independent. Let the unis run themselves and allow the Vice Chancellors to be the CEOs. Let the Senates be the decision making bodies so that they can begin to get some fees from the students so that the students will appreciate the unis. Then, private individuals and groups like EPG can come up with scholarships for outstanding students at 'O'level and be responsible for tuitions and other fees of such students. The system under which university education is run is now archaic as it was an idea brought

to us by the colonialists.

***What do you think makes a university great?***

It is the quality of the graduates from a particular university that brings out the greatness of the school and their impacts in the larger society. Apart from research impacts, a university can be a niche university even with one block of lecture rooms. It can be reference point for research in a certain area. One can be known simply for Architecture, another for Medicine and another simply for Law. Look at Afe Babalola University owned by one man and because he is a lawyer, the Law department of the school is excellent such that graduates from that school perform well in Law schools. University is not about size. It should not target rapid expansion. It should rather target depth in what they do.

***What roles do you think the Alumni Association should play in the development of the school?***

There was an idea that was put up recently by Mr Soji Eyinlanwo that people should put out endowment funds to the best students in whatever department that is agreed upon and people really responded. Do you know that in the last convocation, some of the best graduating students went home with more than a million Naira? Someone went home with #2Million. In the next one, I hope the best 3students from each department should be honoured and not only the best overall students in the departments. That will be a very powerful instrument. It will encourage more new entrants into the University. The students will try to outwit one another academically in a healthy rivary setting.

Alumni Association can sponsor scholarships/bursaries for students like sponsoring at least 100 indigent students who are brilliant but cannot afford payment of fees on yearly basis. We can also project the image of the school positively. Like, I am proud to have been a product of OSUA! I go on television and I speak and stand up for the school. So, the Alumni Association can do a lot in repositioning the image of the school apart from sponsoring different things. Infrastructural development is another area where the Alumni Association can come in.

***Now, your University has attained 40years and it has produced a Governor and you contested for the presidency in 2019. Are we to look forward to produce the next President come 2027 in your person?***

I did that in order to learn. I tried to learn about Nigeria. You know Nigeria is a big country and we know our challenges with our people with high level of illiteracy, poverty & co., anybody that will win an election has to be really embedded and his or her platform has to be strong. Running the country is too much trouble. By the time you are done, you will be blamed. Most State Governors cannot return to their States for years probably because they have offended a lot of people. They become persona non grata in their own States. It is not what I am looking forward to, so, I cannot tell about the dictates of tomorrow.

## PROFILE

# Dr Vincent Olatunji

Dr Vincent Olatunji has a doctorate degree in Geography and Planning from the University of Lagos and an Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies. He is a Certified Public Private Partnership Specialist (IP3 Specialist) and a PECB Certified Data Protection Officer. He has worked in the public sector for almost 30 years thereby acquiring practical proficiency and thorough understanding of government operations in Nigeria and other countries. He brings on board significant experience in team building, research activities, policy development and strategic planning on various development initiatives across the three tiers of government in Nigeria.

He equally offers significant capability in the delivery of high value outcomes as a skilled negotiator, social networker and public speaker whose personal focus is on working with teams and individuals to maximize economic potentials.

He joined NITDA in 2002 and has worked in various departments thereby rising to the position of a Director in 2014 and Acting DG in 2016. Currently as the Director of eGovernment Development and Regulations,

he has effectively.

He has served in many positions at various times which include the following amongst others:

Co-ordinated the development of actionable programmes for NITDA's current strategic Pillars leading to repositioning the agency towards regulating the IT sector in Nigeria;

Coordinated the development of strategies and plans for the implementation and co-ordination of Nigeria's eGovernment and National ICT Transformation Agenda; Successfully mainstreamed the development and launch of various Policies, Guidelines and Frameworks such as the Nigeria Inter-Operability Framework, Nigeria Enterprise Architecture, Cloud First Policy, Government Digital Service Policy, Nigeria Data Protection Regulation and Smart Initiatives Framework to enhance Nigeria's digital transformation;

Currently serves as the coordinating chairman of the activities of the National Interoperability and Enterprise Architecture Committee, Digital Transformation Technical Working Group, and Nigeria Data Protection Implementation Committee amongst others.

He has attended many Capacity Building programmes in various areas such as Public Sector Management, Project Planning and Management, Digital Transformation and Data Protection amongst others.

He is a member of many committee of experts and also chaired some of them.

He has represented NITDA and Nigeria at several local and international engagements. He was listed among the 100 Leading Telecom and ICT Personalities in Nigeria by the Association of

Telecommunication Companies

of Nigeria in April, 2018.

He has also won several awards from public and private sector organizations including his Alma Maters; University of Lagos, UNILAG Alumni Association, Award of Outstanding Commitment to University of Lagos Alumni Association, July 2017 and Ekiti State University Alumni Association, Award of Eminent Personality, Ekiti State University, 22nd June 2018. Ekiti State University also awarded him with a Doctor of Public Administration (HC) on 23rd June 2018.

Dr Vincent Olatunji is happily married with children.

Dr Vincent Olatunji graduated from Osua in 1989. He went to the University of Lagos for his Masters in 1993 and concluded in 2008. He entered the public sector right after, starting with the Federal Government in 1991 before moving to the National IT Development Agency (NITDA). He became the acting Director General in 2015. When a new Director General was appointed, he became the Director, e-Government Development and Regulations and held that position till the 1st of February, 2022 when he was appointed as the National Commissioner, Nigeria Data Commission. He is married with children and resides in Abuja.

**What will you say are the impacts of EKSU on your career?**

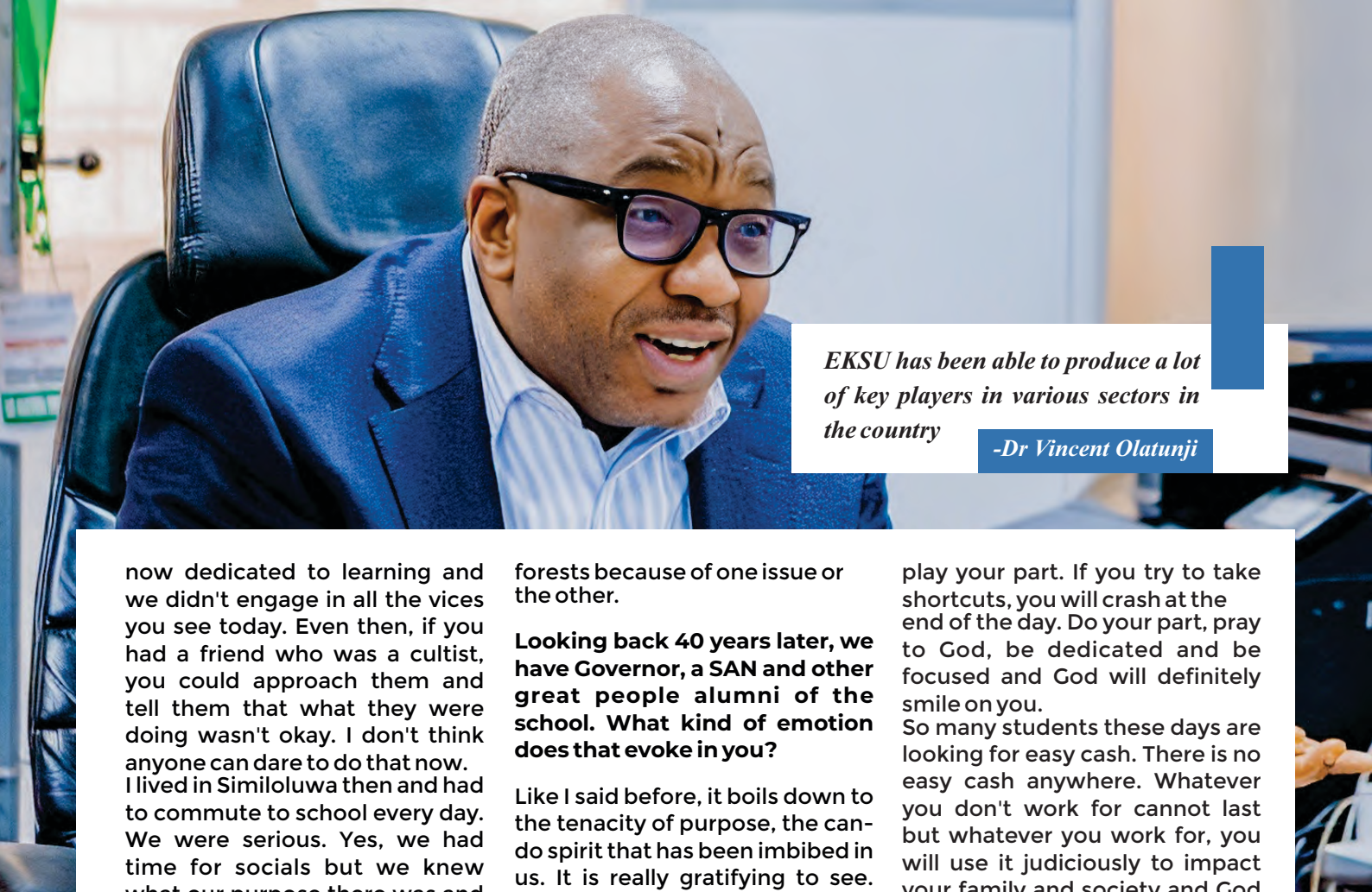
Those were my formative years. I entered at the age of 19. We were taught the tenacity of purpose, persistence and strong will which still follows me to this day and I was able to develop a high level of intellectual capacity there. The school laid the foundation for all that I have been able to achieve today.

**What would you say was the quality of education then?**

Far better than what we have







*EKSU has been able to produce a lot of key players in various sectors in the country*

*-Dr Vincent Olatunji*

now dedicated to learning and we didn't engage in all the vices you see today. Even then, if you had a friend who was a cultist, you could approach them and tell them that what they were doing wasn't okay. I don't think anyone can dare to do that now. I lived in Similoluwa then and had to commute to school every day. We were serious. Yes, we had time for socials but we knew what our purpose there was and that kept us going. Even the lecturers were dedicated. We could see the passion in them. Coming to the department, we had good lecturers who were always pushing us to succeed such as Professor Afolabi Agboola and such.

**Can you recall one or two unforgettable events from when you were in school?**

I remember going out for demonstrations then. Though one thing that my parents taught me was that if we ever had a reason to demonstrate, I should not stay in front. I should stay at the back so that if there's any reason to escape, I can. There were instances where we'd protest and everyone would go back to their hostels only for us to see Mobile police at night coming to raid the hostel and send everyone out. Pope would be running Helter-skelter. There was a bridge called Odo-Eje then where there were one or two accidents and we would have to come out. There were times we would have to trek all the way to school past thick

forests because of one issue or the other.

**Looking back 40 years later, we have Governor, a SAN and other great people alumni of the school. What kind of emotion does that evoke in you?**

Like I said before, it boils down to the tenacity of purpose, the can-do spirit that has been imbibed in us. It is really gratifying to see. The Governor-elect and I lived in Similoluwa throughout. Most of us are doing very well in our chosen careers. I give glory to God.

**What role have you played in giving back to society?**

To the glory of God, I facilitated the ICT centre in the school which has over 100 computers. The ICT centre under the supervision of the Student Union which is now their Alumni centre was also facilitated by me. I've been involved in one or two other things. I was honoured with an Honorary Doctorate degree for these contributions. Although I have a PhD, that one was of high significance to me because I was recognised out of several thousand students who graduated from the school. I thank the alumni society and the leadership of the school for counting me as worthy of such a great honour.

**What is your advice to the current students of EKSU?**

I advise them that there is no shortcut to success. You have to

play your part. If you try to take shortcuts, you will crash at the end of the day. Do your part, pray to God, be dedicated and be focused and God will definitely smile on you.

So many students these days are looking for easy cash. There is no easy cash anywhere. Whatever you don't work for cannot last but whatever you work for, you will use it judiciously to impact your family and society and God will crown it.

Take the Governor-elect for example, he is not a greenhorn. He started as a PA to Adebayo, then became a Commissioner and then an SSG before reaching this level. He grew through the ranks. The same with me. I was first Research Officer 2, went through all the ranks of public service till the level of Director, Acting DG then where I am today. Also, I would tell them to desist from vices. As my parents used to tell me, "rán tí omo eni tí iwo n se" (remember the son of whom you are).

**Finally, any words for the incoming Governor concerning the school?**

The University should be one of his priorities. He graduated from there so I think he understands some of the challenges the school faces. Being a grassroots person and considering the role that the alumni played in the elections, this is the time to give back to the school. It is whatever impact the Government has that the Alumni can amass in terms of quality education, infrastructure, etc.



**"I ALWAYS LOVE SERVING PEOPLE"**

BIYI FASHOYIN

Biyi Fashoyin was a 1990 graduate of OSUA, he was the PRO of the student union.

**WHY DID YOU JOINED THE STUDENT MOVEMENT UNION?**

I always love serving people so that was why I joined.

**SO, HOW WAS OSUA FOR YOU THEN?**

OSUA was very tough it is not like the one you have now, at that time being a resident was tougher, I lived in Similoluwa which was about 20kilometers from town, for example you go to the school in the morning and you can't come back to the hostel to eat so you are stuck there till you finish your lectures and if it is unfortunate that there's a riot in school that means you have to walk, so most times I walked from school to my house. Let's say you must be out of your room by 5:30am, the school buses will come but unfortunately there will be loads of people waiting, the funny part is that there was only space for few. It was a very difficult & tough situation.

**WHAT WAS THE QUALITY OF ACADEMIC LIKE?**

It was very tough reason being that, most of our lecturers are from Ife, UNILAG and so I think they wanted to drill us more than their own students. The school wanted to be proud of us so the lecturers were in a hurry to impute their best academic qualities in us.

**WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI SINCE YOU**

**LEFT THE SCHOOL?**

Fortunately I didn't join the alumni until about 4years ago and I am a member of EMINENT Persons' Group, the Eminent Persons' Group has made me to relate with alumni and be an interface with students. When there was Covid-19, I was reaching out to all of our members around the world, because I was the one given that assignment to coordinate, we used over 6.5million to reach out to all members all over the world and 2years ago when the new president was appointed I was appointed as the global secretary of eminent persons group.

**WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR**

**THE CURRENT STUDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY?**

My advice to them is to shun cultism and any other vices. I can remember in the university I joined Anti-cultism and I see that most of our student are lured to those things by Peer Pressure. And they should always remember that the brand they carry is global and one of us was made first African director of a university in America and now we have a governor amongst us and last week we have a SAN. I will advise them to build themselves and they should face the reasons they came here.

FotoVisions



“Having passed through the University as a student was a wonderful experience”

## DR OYEWUSI OLUGBENGA EMMANUEL

Oyewusi Olugbenga Emmanuel is from Okemesi-Ekiti. He spent his younger years in Ibadan and Lagos. He received his Primary education at St Jude's Anglican Primary School Aiyeye-Apomu in the present Osun state after which he went to The Apostolic Church Secondary Modern School, Orile-Owu, Osun state for his secondary education. He went on to Obokun GCE, Ilesha for his GCE 'O' Level after which he enrolled at the then Obafemi Awolowo University Ado-Ekiti.

**Can you tell us about how you ended up at the then Obafemi Awolowo University? "Having passed through the University as a student was a wonderful experience"**

In those days, if you attend Modern School, you were automatically being prepared to be a teacher. Most of the time you end up at Teachers' Training College. I was a little bit stubborn back then. I insisted that I would not want to go to Teachers' College-no offence to teachers because today I am a trainer. After I have successfully passed my GCE and JAMB, I ended up going to the then OAU.

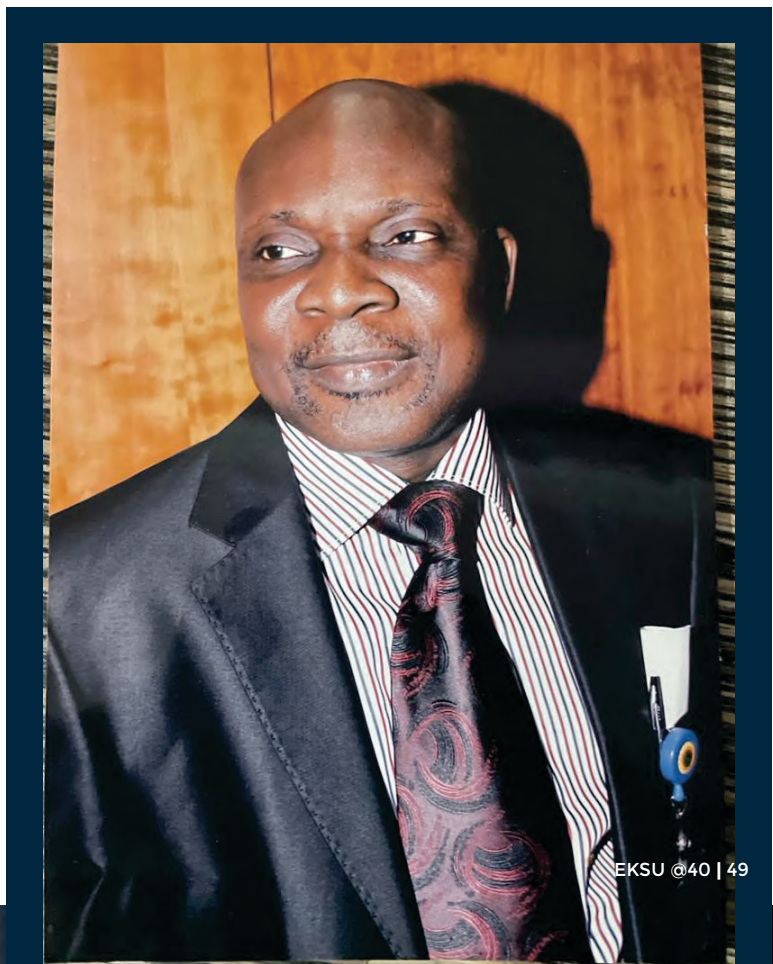
**What was it like when you got admitted into OAU?**

I was among the third set at the University. At that time, we had no structure, we were using a facility at opopo-gbooro for our lectures whilst those in sciences were using Christ School to receive their lectures. I was really scared when I learnt that we had to pay for accommodation. Unfortunately, I did not have money at that time. It was not until later, in my 2nd year, that facilities were built and structure were put in place at Iworoko side. However, we had

notable lecturers such as Professor Kolawole who eventually became the VC of the University after the name has been changed to UNAD. Professor Femi Mimiko, the past VC of Adekunle Ajasin University was also my lecturer in the department of Political Science. I remember notably when I was writing my project on "the socialist approach to socio-economic development of nigeria" some lecturers did not want to supervise me. But Mr Theo Adebawale( of blessed memory) organized "project classes" where he would invite his friends and colleagues from social sciences. Eventually some of them took interest in my project. One of them met me at Ikoyi in Lagos after graduation and commended my project.

**I also recently interviewed Mr Tewe Julius and he told me of some of the memorable moments he had at the University and they were hilarious. Can you recall one or two memorable moments you had at the University?**

After I was admitted, I came to Ekiti to collect my admission letter. On my way back to Ibadan, at Ado garage, I saw a guy and just guessed that he was a student as well. I approached him and we got talking. I told him I was on my way to Lagos but would be stopping by in Ibadan. I got his address and promised to stop by in his house on my way back to Ado-Ekiti. That is Afolabi Eleyinmi. He is now a lecturer at FUTA. I stayed in his house for a whole semester. When I eventually moved to



my Hall, Adeparusi Hall, he followed me. We were so close that people thought we were relations. It was a wonderful experience. Another great memory was starting the Satellite Press Club with friends like Akeem Aponmade who is now a Baristar at law and a guy we called Gowon because he looked like Gowon. I am still in friendship with these fellows. Akeem was my best man when I wedded he was at my son's wedding also which recently took place in July 2022 in Lagos.

**How did you fair after graduation from the University?**

God was really merciful to me. After my degree, I went job hunting and got employed by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) where I worked for about 30 years after which I retired statutorily in 2019. I was the Head (Manager) Administration at the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) Benin- a subsidiary of NNPC. Working in NNPC took me round the country and several places around the world. I started my career in Warri, was posted to NNPC CHQ Abuja and was later transferred to Benin. My experience in administration at NNPC gave me a different view of the process of administration. It taught me that administration in any Organization, Nation or family that is not people-centric is just a waste of time. I did my MBA in Delta State University Abraka. I obtained my M.sc Public Administration in the INSTITUT SUPERIEUR BILINGUE LIBRE DU TOGO. I am an entrepreneur and a human resource consultant. I am the MD/CEO DIVCONNECT FARMS LTD KUJE ABUJA and DIVCONNECT CONSULT LTD Abuja. These are

outfits I structured after statutorily exiting public service to occupy myself. I am currently applying for pursuit of Ph.D Public Administration in Baze University Abuja and two other Universities. I intend to do this in addition to running my businesses to occupy myself with the time retirement from the public service has conferred on me.

**Your University is now 40 years old. Unfortunately, the University is still in an infancy stage. We need strong alumni to move things forward. What is your relationship with the University's Alumni Association?**

Honestly, I have not been as active as I am supposed to be. I was privileged to operate at Federal Level working in Federal corporations and that kept my mind away from the State. However, I am more active in the Alumni Association of my own department for those of us who graduated in 1988. We keep in touch with each other and show up to support any of us who is having any major event. However, I am not too conspicuous or visible in the general Alumni Association.

**What can you say about the University?**

The University Administrators need to up their game. I will explain. A few years ago, I requested my transcript from the School when I wanted to do my MBA. They sent me one which was stamped and sealed. I took it directly to the addressees because I believe that for them to have sealed it, they do not want anyone to open it apart from the people it was meant for. Now that I am preparing for my PhD program, I requested for my transcript again since I do

not have the copy of the previous one. They said it would take up to seven months to get my transcript issued. This is something that should be gotten in a split second, especially since the university is relatively a new one. Things should be computerized so that people can get their transcripts in one or two weeks.

**What is your advice to the current students of EKSU who regret going to the school, thinking that they should have gone to Ibadan, Ife or Lagos?**

I think that omodé lón se wón (they are being childish). I have been privileged to sit on several recruitment panels in NNPC and as a Human Resource person I have realized that recruiters are not looking for the name of your University but what you have to offer. I recently sat on a panel where we had people applying from Universities abroad and all over Nigeria to join the NNPC. Someone came from Adekunle Ajasin University and did so well. People were wondering what school he came from and most did not even recognize the name of the school. So my advice to the students is that they should not worry about such things. The important thing is to know what they are doing and why they are in School and put in as much of themselves so that when they go out, they can showcase what they have. They will be the ones to showcase the University.





**"There should be no dichotomy between Federal and State Universities in Nigeria"**

Professor Abiodun Johnson Olatunji has been at Ekiti State University for over thirty years. He is an alumnus of the Department of Geography and Planning Science, Faculty of the Social Sciences. His research areas in Geography are Remote Sensing, GIS and Environmental Studies.

**PROF. A.J. OLATUNJI**  
Faculty of Social Sciences, EKSU

**C**ongratulation once again on your recent "Alumni Icon Award" in commemoration of EKSU @ 40Thank you.

**The University is now forty in your opinion, is it worth celebrating?**

It is worth celebrating. I can say that I have seen it all in my over 3 decades in the University. For example, I have passed through all the Vice Chancellors of the University. I was a student under late Professor Oladapo, and a staff under others. If I delve into history and evaluate things over the years, I would say it is worth celebrating. In those days, some people would say EKSU was a glorified secondary school, but now you can see a lot of improvements, innovations, infrastructures, Professors and Scholars of international repute as well as astute administrators.

**How would you rate the Vice Chancellors over the years?**

I will just evaluate it this way.

Some of them were very prudent while some has a no-nonsense tolerating administration. They gave everybody their dues without witch-hunting except in time of trials. I remembered there was a time a Scholar wanted to go to an international conference and there were some administrative bureaucracies. The then Vice Chancellor stood up firmly to say 'this man must go to this conference' and that became a reality. One Vice Chancellor also impartially refused his biological child admission due to some obvious reasons.

**Now the staffs of the University are on strike alongside ASUU. If the strike is called off, the Federal Universities ASUU will benefit more. What will be the fate of State Universities?**

I have always wanted to dodge this kind of question. Generally speaking I think we misconceive issues. During my undergraduate days, I remembered many lecturers who came from Minneapolis, USA, India, Britain, Ghana and other Universities in

Nigeria to lecture us here. Our colleagues will also go to other Universities to lecture. We exchange ideas during sabbatical leaves and as External Examiners, for all categories of students from Federal and state universities without discrimination. I have also drawn resources from both Federal and State Owned Universities on several occasions any time I was involved in nationwide research projects. These are the kind of things I grew up to know in the academics over the years.

There should be no dichotomy between Federal and State Universities in Nigeria. The University means universality of knowledge and I wonder why some people are not noticing that.

The TETFund for example is there, and it was as a result of ASUU struggle from both State and Federal Universities. Any State University that is smart enough will even access them before Federal Universities. In addition, all Universities are governed by NUC with the same template

without prejudice to ownership. I wonder why people are now saying that State Universities are not part of them and that we should leave everything to Federal Universities.

Let me also say this, there was once a Governor in Ekiti State (I will not mention his name) who said anything that was approved for Federal Universities he would also give to us and he stood by his words. Though there might be some governors that would not honour that. I even know of some State Universities that were not on strike yet they are paying as much as Federal Universities are paying to their lecturers, and probably even more. A Yoruba adage says “Oju to ba kinle ni irore n so (It is a lowly placed eye that suffers from pimples), ati wipe eni ti a ko ba fe ni ile re njina” (and, we visit ourselves as a matter of social obligation, it is someone you hate whose house will be too far to visit). You find excuses when you do not want to do something. We have the resources if we utilise them judiciously.

**As an alumnus of EKSU, what have been your contributions, especially in your relationship with EKSU alumni?**

I have a wonderful relationship with the EKSU Alumni Association. First of all as an alumnus, you must have interest, you must be willing and you must be committed to everything that has to do with the development of your Alma mater. There was a time I used my position to ginger-up my friend who happened to be an alumnus, to do something for the University. We graduated the same year as the new incoming governor. At that time he was the Acting Director general of NITDA

**That's Dr. Vincent?**

Yes. It is by the grace of God he agreed to do something, and he did it. There are still some alumni like Dr Israel Ovirih, Dr Ayo Abina, whom

we can convince to 'give back' to their Alma mater. They are also honorary awardees of the University. When I became the Director of Advancement and Linkage Programmes I identified over fifty of such opportunities of prospective donors that can assist the University.

There are universities abroad for examples that are mostly run by grants. Here, we rely mostly on government funding. There are lots of things to be considered in looking for grants or donations from people or institutions. Some people think it is just about asking people to donate money. It is more than that. Relationships must be built with philanthropists or donor agencies to convince them for assistance. You may need to visit them up for umpteenth times before you achieve your goal.

To get people to donate to your project, you have to build and maintain a continuous and cordial relationship with them. When good relationships are built over time, they will be more motivated as a friend of the University to contribute to whatever projects you might have embarked upon.

**How has your teaching improved over the years of your lecturing career?**

By the grace of God, I can say that I have access to the prospectus of several Universities all over the world. Whenever I am developing an academic programme, I make sure I compare them with our own system and curricula here without undermining NUC's benchmark (I have participated in drafting over 15 academic programmes for this University). In addition, I have over 152 publications to my credit, successfully conducted/completed 11 research projects and technical reports for various bodies and participated in 20 others. These experiences were

always built into existing teaching processes. In addition, I have served as Acting HOD of my Department, member of senate since 2008, Assistance/Acting Director of Office of Research and Development, successfully chairmanned and drove 3 international conferences and research fair into fruition, member of over 80 University statutory committees since 1992, Director of Advancement and Linkage Programmes and a lot more. These constitute my own contributions to the overall development of the University.

**Finally, how will you rate EKSU as a University?**

In my opinion, EKSU is a great institution. I am not just saying this because I am an alumnus. The quality of our graduates/alumni tells much about the quality of the institution. I know of one alumnus who is a mayor of a county in UK. They are in lofty places and are dotted all over the world's landscape from far away Australia to Alaska. I have an inventory of names and addresses of some of them. I have also had the privilege of being to many universities and compare things. I can boldly say that EKSU is indeed a great institution





**"I am very elated that one of us in the Alumni Association emerged as the Governor of the State!"**

**Tell us about yourself and your educational background.**

My name is Tola Johnson. I started schooling in Lagos, finished my secondary school and then proceeded to the Federal School of Arts and Science, Ondo. I am an indigene of Ondo. I gained admission into the then University of Ife but I lost it because of my seriousness. I found myself at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado-Ekiti and after four years, I completed my program. After University, I enrolled in the Nigerian Army as a Cadet Officer but had to leave due to medical issues so I was forced to go back to NYSC. After NYSC, I started working in Akure as a Marketing and Sales Officer. After doing this for some time, I joined the service of the Central Bank of Nigeria and rose to the rank of Assistant Director. I eventually found myself lecturing and then decided to start a Polytechnic, but it was met with a lot of problems.

**Can you tell us a little about these problems that you encountered?**

Well, first I was fired from my job in the CBN and had a case with the EFCC but thankfully, I was acquitted. During the case with the EFCC, the Polytechnic was disbanded and so after the case, I had to write to the National Board for Technical Education petitioning for the Polytechnic to be reinstated. To the glory of God, the Polytechnic was accredited and by His grace, I am proud to say I am a Proprietor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Polytechnic today.

**How do you feel about having the new Governor be an alumnus of EKSU?**



I was very elated when this man came up and eventually became the Governor-elect. I know that if we have our own homegrown candidate in power, great things will be achieved. When Bode George was in power, the then V.C. had his ear because he was once a student of his, and he went on to do great things. I truly wish the new Governor-elect all the best and I hope he does not disappoint.

**You are referred to as Sanni Abacha by some of your colleagues. How did you come about being called Sanni Abacha?**

Some of my colleagues and I used to organize parades. I would always show up in dark glasses and as a Parade Commander, I would address the crowd. I loved the intonation of our people from the Northern part of the country so I would try to imitate them. While giving my speech, I would sometimes lose myself and begin to recite the coup broadcast of December 1983. Over time, I came to be called Sanni Abacha.

**You have authored many books. Can you tell us a little about your books?**

My very first book was "A Triumph of Faith". I also wrote others like the "Lagos boy", "A Wandering Mind" and several others. I did this alongside part-time lecturing and part-time Postgraduate studies. To the glory of God, I eventually finished my PhD and then became an Associate Professor. I then wrote other books with my knowledge as a Development Financial expert working with the CBN.

**You are involved in a lot of things, so why education?**

Yes, I am. I am involved in farming and I am also one of the first registered producers of packaged water from as far back as 1993. I would say I chose education because of my contacts. I found myself being one of the trainers at CBN training sites. I also discovered I enjoyed lecturing in the External Degree Center in Ibadan. I learnt a lot from the Centre which was not much different from an Institution.

When the Federal Government closed down all the satellite campuses, I switched over to Polytechnics. On the prompting of one of the Rectors of blessed memory, I started my own Polytechnic and the rest is now history.

**"The world is your oyster, you can be anything that you want to be"**

**-Mrs Taiwo Coker**

Mrs Taiwo Coker nee Adeleke Have been in leadership position at Transport for London [TFL] for over 20 years of management experience at the London Underground (LU). And have a growing family business in real estate.

Accounts for multi-million-pound projects, have notably collaborated with the University of Westminster and the Ugandan High Commission on a water sanitation project in Uganda. I believe in international collaborations and development and has worked as a business consultant for organizations in Italy and Taiwan.

"As a Diversity and Inclusion champion, I have served as Vice-chair of Transport for London's Women's Staff Network Group. A philanthropist, in 2020, was recognized by Women of the Future and Lloyds Banking Group as one of the UK's 50 Leading Lights of Kindness and Leadership".

**What emotions does this events of the 40th anniversary evoke in you as an old student?**

Nostalgia, looking back at when I was admitted to the then Ondo State University in 1983 to study English and Literary studies, the journey of that year to graduation made me who I am today and I am ever grateful. I guess looking for transportation to uni campus and so on toughened me to be able to navigate the journey of life. Seen my university mates made me very grateful to God for everyone at the event.

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

Sweet memories, of course attending parties we made sure we still created a social life in the then new university, we were the second set. Transportation then was a major league problem, its hard!

**Any role model for you then?**

Dr Mrs Olatoye and Doctor Rena though I was not in their class, I looked up to them as female achievers in an almost exclusive male work environment in those days.

**I will want you to reminisce way back then,**

**what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

My mum was from the then Ondo state, so anything that would bring us to her area was also a welcomed thing, so when I heard about the newly created university, it was an easy choice to apply.

**What were you known for then?**

My university mate can say more about this, but I think I was known for being heavily involved in social activities beauty pageant and so on.

**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

I find myself working with old students group one way or another, but I am very proud to be part of EKSU endowment fund sponsors where I support the best lecturer demonstrating kindness and leadership. We can never have enough of leaders in that field!

**Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

The world is your oyster, you can be anything that you want to be!



During Graduation



**H**EAD of Special Products and the South-West Regional Director of Capital Express Assurance Limited, Mr Steve Akadiri, 57, also a former Alumni President of Ekiti State University (EKSU) and a graduate of the institution when it was known as Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado-Ekiti, in 1989.

**You are a legend in the alumni; much I have been told about the formation of EKSU's Alumni, and the primordial stages. Please let me hear your version.**

Let us remember that the first set of EKSU left in 1986, and when they left we were still in school. The first President was Mr Steven Akinsigbe; he was a staff of the University at that time, and they were less than a hundred of them that graduated then.

We had only one Alumni Association chapter on campus, and another in Lagos. Those were the two chapters we had.

I was like a bridge across all the generation. I was reaching out to everybody (past students), so that culminated to my setting up an independent group that we called OSUA Collectives. That group was the largest, even larger than the Alumni Association itself.

I was using it to coordinate and to bring back those who were not interested in the Alumni. We were organising social luncheon, so, that got a lot of people interested, and as at that time, Facebook just came out; we were using it to reach out to others.

People started advising me to go to the Alumni and contest. We set up a project, and we brought people; less than six of us, so we went to Ado-Ekiti, (I contested) and I became president in 2009.

Why people think I am important is because I have been a bridge linking up all generations; those after us, and those before us, and those who were our own set. I became very tireless in my quest to have an Alumni Association of our dream. So, when I became president, there were few milestone projects that I initiated; like the endowment fund we are doing today, the alumni park, the alumni building, electrification of our University, the CCTVs were mounted. There were a lot of projects in my tenure.

A couple of these things excited a whole lot of people, but unfortunately, I did not complete my tenure. I was thrown out (due to conflict), but God meant it that way.

Since then, there had been two presidents after me, but by the time it was the turn of Asiwaju Dotun Adetunberu, we were able to resolve our conflicts, and also ruled out a vision for the association; harmonisation and unification.

I later became the crown official leader of the association. We were able to ensure that Dotun set up more chapters, and even those existing chapters that had crisis, we resolved all the crisis, and that is why you are seeing UK and US (Eksu Alumni) chapters as of today. Those were the few things we were able to do.

For someone like me, I have thrown in the towel. I have retired officially from the Alumni Association and I am happy to be seated as a past president and an

elder.

**Going back to your University days, what will you say were the impacts of the University on your career.**

What we call Ekiti State University today that we knew as OSUA, was a unique University on its own. That was a University where you go to practically suffer and then hold yourself stronger and prepare for the outside world. We were there; we laboured to get a degree and there is nowhere today you find a graduate of our University that will not do well unless that person never went to that University because we were taught the spirit of endurance. The University prepared us!

**Now we have an alumnus as a Governor, so what should be our expectation from him?**

Well, when the University was set up in 1982, one of the dreams was that one day the University will produce a Governor and that has come to be.

To the glory of God we have produced the first indigenous home-grown Governor and the only graduate of our University who is now Governor of Ekiti state.

**For those that are currently students of the institution, what is your advise.?**

My advise to the existing students now is for them to imagine that they had a University to develop themselves. The environment should not limit them. You hear of University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, they are not in the city but in the villages as well. The second advise is the fact that they should know the end from the beginning. They should be focused as to how they want to end their journey after school.

Today we see graduates doing Yahoo Yahoo, and we see some doing embarrassing things. That should not be the case. For me, it is about focus, it is about determination. That is the message I have for our current students.



Steve  
Akadiri

**I want to seize this opportunity to say a big thank you to the Alumni committee and its head, Engineer Dipo Bamisaye. He is an intelligent man, a team worker, a negotiator and a builder. It is wonderful to have someone like him on our side.**

## **PROF. BAMITALE OMOLE**

Pro-Chancellor & Chairman, Governing Council, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti.

Professor Bamitale Omole is the immediate past Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Council of Ekiti State University. He was appointed on the 22nd of January, 2019 and has spent four years in office. Before that, he worked at the Obafemi Awolowo University for 35 years where he was appointed as Vice-Chancellor. He is from Oye, Ekiti. He was not new to the University system when he was appointed at EKSU so he brought those experiences, ideas and ideals to EKSU to contribute to the

development of the school. He chaired a great panel made up of people with varied experiences and from across different states; retired permanent secretaries, retired commissioners, politicians, etc.

He is a professor of international relations which he studied in France. He is fluent in French.

### **What were your initial feelings about coming to EKSU following your appointment?**

I was not fazed. I believe that God had prepared me for the job.

Before I become VC in Ife in 2011, I was a two-time

member of the University Governing Council. I contested for Senate

twice and I was successful each

time. In that

position, I

worked with

three Pro

Chancellors;

Professor Kuku,

Dr Olu Alabi

and Prof

Edoma Egba. It

was an

opportunity to

understudy them. I learnt the nitty-gritty of the process so I was prepared. I was not a greenhorn and I was not

perturbed.

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cours

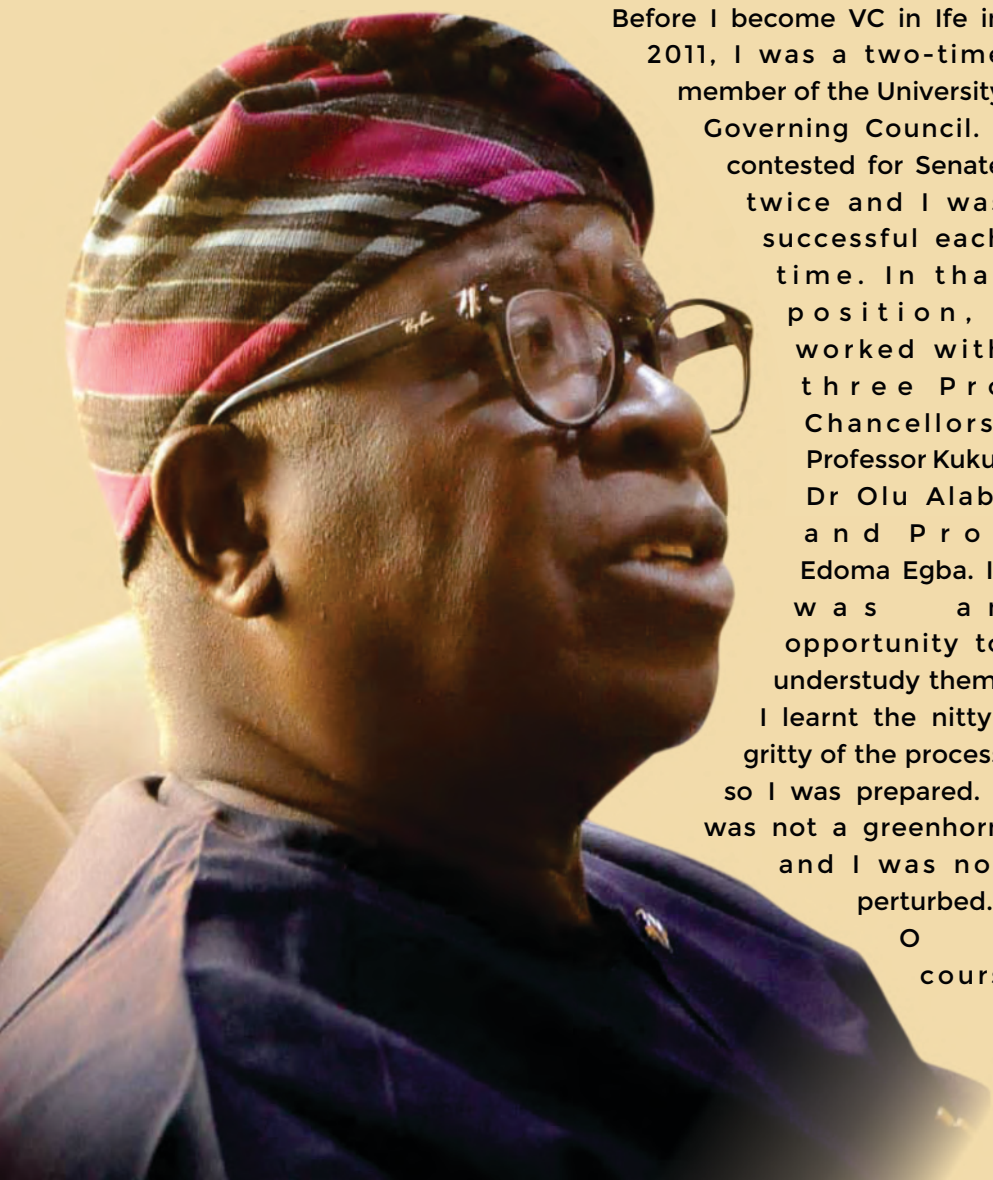
e, when I arrived, I realized that EKSU was different from OAU. Firstly, the structures in Ife are well-built while those in EKSU are still fluid so the first order of business was to build and add to what we met on ground. That was what led to our revision of the laws of the University intending to create a structure that can outlive any individual man.

I must also mention that my appointment as Pro-Chancellor was not my first time at EKSU. I came to EKSU in 1999 for my sabbatical at the Department of Political Science.

### **What are some of your accomplishments?**

One of our major accomplishments was to grant the council the power to reform the laws in accordance with the best practices across tertiary institutions. We sent people out to other Federal and State Universities to see how they were doing things. With the data and statistics gathered, we were able to draft a working plan. This gladdens my heart because I didn't want our only impacts to be measured in terms of building this or that infrastructure. Where there is no substructure, infrastructure will fall. We built a strong substructure.

**How soon will we begin to see the impact of these reforms that your council has**





**instituted?**

It is immediate! Firstly, the Committee systems are now working independently of the office of the Vice Chancellor. Secondly, due process has been instituted for all things. Thirdly, an auditor was brought in to transform the bursary and we are already seeing results.

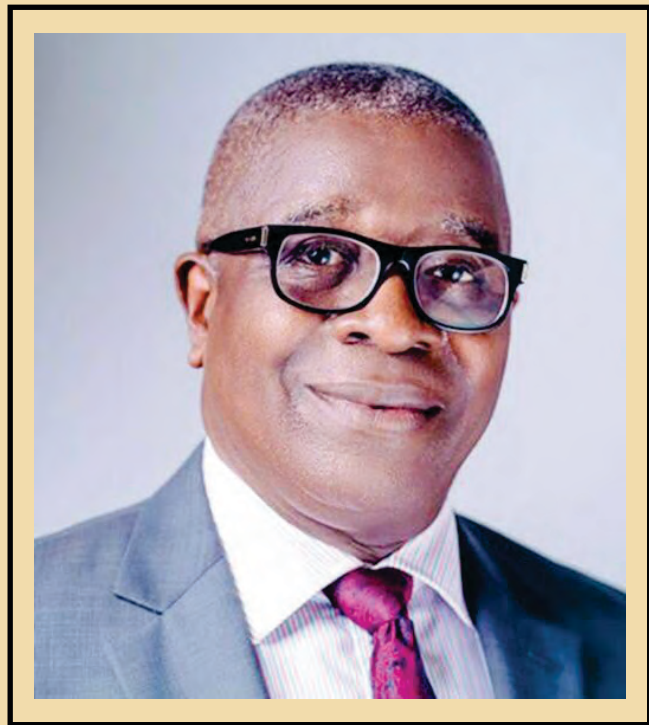
**Let's talk about over-dependence on Government subventions. In other universities like UI, they have ventures that bring in income. Why don't we have that at EKSU?**

One of the things we discussed at the council meeting was weaning ourselves off of our overdependence on the Government. It is doable if we block some leakages, keep the schools open and make other calculated moves.

On the issue of ventures, we do have EKSU ventures such as the printing press, the water company and the block-making factory. I believe the printing press is doing quite well currently. For optimization purposes, it is important to treat these ventures like an individual's business. We need to put round pegs in round holes. This practice of picking a professor from any unrelated faculty to run a venture is unsustainable. However, I commend the present Vice Chancellor, Professor Olanipekun, who has tried to reverse some of these things even if some of these efforts are not always seen.

**Strike has been a major problem over the years. What do you think the Government should do to curb this issue?**

It's not rocket science. We have a government that is not sincere, politicizes everything and does not care about education at all. It goes to the lopsided Federalism we have in place. The sub-federal units should be given the power to run their universities independently. After all, the Government has been



unable to provide them with the necessary funds yet they insist that they shouldn't collect tuition. The strike will continue as long as the government does not envision a new paradigm of autonomy for universities.

**What is your general opinion of EKSU?**

I believe that EKSU is a good brand. There are great people there; from the alumni to the students and staff. However, for that brand to be internationalized and meet up with the high-tech intellectual market of the 21st century, the University will need some peace, stability and certainty in terms of the number of years a student will spend.

**Any last words?**

I want to seize this opportunity to say a big thank you to the Alumni committee and its head, Engineer Dipo Bamiaye. He is an intelligent man, a team worker, a negotiator and a builder. It is wonderful to have someone like him on our side.



*"I would like to be remembered as someone who actually contributed his own quota to the upliftment of the University " -*

**PROF. EDWARD OLANIPEKUN**  
*Vice Chancellor, Ekiti State University*



***You rolled out activities to celebrate the 40th year anniversary of EKSU, is it worth celebrating at all?***

Very well! To God be the glory, forty years ago, the founding fathers conceived the idea of having a multi-campus University and since then, there have been lot of transformation. We thank God that despite the challenges, we are where we are today and regardless of the challenges, I think we have a lot of reasons to roll out the drums and the trumpets to return all the glory and adoration unto God almighty.

***The school has moved up on NUC Ranking table. What have you done differently to achieve this?***

We thank God for that because when I came on board about three years ago, ranking not by NUC now globally, there was nothing to write home about then. The University was 157th among all the Universities in the country as at then. But, to God be the glory, as at the last count, EKSU is now number 13 nationally and second-best State University in Nigeria and I have gotten to know that at the moment we have about 200 universities comprising public - Federal or State and private.

Of course it was just a product of me forming an agenda on what we intend doing to reposition the University in terms of our visibility globally because until now the University website was not really on for 24/7 (sometimes you visit the website, you discover that there are times you will not be able to access any information). But, one of the things I did because you know in this global age, your IT

department or Directorate or Unit should be well funded and given the needed materials to do the needful. I had to ask questions from my people in the Directorate of Information and Communication Technology that what were the things that we needed to put in place to build our own and to God be the glory, we were able to put the infrastructure, equipment and other things they needed in place at that time. And that is the factor that skyrocketed the University from number 157 to number 13 and we also tried to populate our website with profiles, activities and findings of our academic staffs.

***What is the relationship between your administration and the student body?***

Excellent, I am a democrat, an activist and because of my background, I actually know how to relate with my co-comrades because I believe that dialogue is key. Just a while ago, the leadership of NASU came here to jawjaw at least we were able to discuss one or two things. Dialogue is actually my watchword and the key thing.

***Kindly tell us about your activism and being a democrat?***

Thank you very much, I will start from my days as a student at the University of Ibadan. I was the Social and Welfare Minister at the Obafemi Awolowo postgraduate hall that was in 1988/1989 academic session when I was doing my postgraduate program.

Shortly after, there was a fire incident in one of the halls of residence in UI which lead to the relocation of the female students to Obafemi Awolowo

postgraduate hall which now warranted the change of name from Obafemi Awolowo postgraduate hall to Obafemi Awolowo hall and that should be the first hall of residence in any Nigeria University whereby you will have postgraduate and all other students of different genders cohabiting (i.e you have male postgraduate students, male undergraduate students, female postgraduate students and female undergraduate students). Of course we learned to readjust the governance structure. So that was what culminated my election as the President of that hall in 1990 and a female undergraduate was elected as my vice.

After that, as God will have it, I was employed here (the then Ondo State University). I also participated in several activities. But in 2002, my colleagues thought that I should be the one to lead the Academic Staff Union of Universities of UNAB branch and I spent two terms and I left 2006, while still serving as the Branch-Chairman of ASUU here. I was also appointed as the Coordinator of the old Ilorin zone of ASUU (because the zone has been restructured now) and the Universities needed the old zone of ASUU included then University of Ado-Ekiti, Ado-Ekiti, Adekunle Ajasin University (Akungba, Akoko), Ladoko Akintola University of Technology (Ogbomosho), University of Ilorin, Obafemi Awolowo University (Ile-Ife) and the Federal University of Technology (Akure). Those were the six Universities that constituted old Ilorin zone (but there is no Ilorin zone again). I think they have Akure zone and Ibadan zone. They have restructured it because Akungba

is no longer here (which is now either part of Benin zone).

After a while, the leadership of ASUU also at the National level also appointed me as the National Resource Person which I also served my term there but we thank God.

***How would you like to be remembered after your term here?***

My prides is that I started well and I should end well and I would like to be remembered as someone who actually contributed his own quota to the upliftment of the University in all ramifications. There are a lot of things we are trying to put in place and by the grace of God we will reach fruition any moment from now. Like, in terms of revenue we want a situation whereby the University will be able to at least to some extent stand on its own without necessarily waiting for the monthly allocation from government which may not actually be enough to actually meet our financial obligations.

So we are putting a lot of things into place and we believe that the Almighty God will actually support us in that strive.

*The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Edward Olanipekun  
at the 40th anniversary celebration in UK*



## "I AM A PRODUCT OF GRACE" DR IFEOLUWA OLUWOLE

REGISTRAR EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY

**You are a product of this institution now a registrar. How does it feel? What does it mean to you?**

Well to me I see myself as a very lucky person; I have been with the university through almost all its beginning. The only time I was not with the university was when it was Obafemi Awolowo University when it was OSUA, I was a student of the university when it was UNAD, and by the grace of almighty God I am a registrar of Ekiti State University. Now God has been so great that I have been with the university almost all through its life.

So you know have all the story of UNAD at your beck and call so sir could you comment on the contribution of EKSU with the quest of repositioning education especially in Ekiti State.

Well if you look at the establishment of Ekiti State University then Obafemi Awolowo University, the main vision was to

establish that university as a developmental university to meet the needs of the then Ondo State and it has transmitted by the grace of God. It has contributed her quota to national development looking at the quality of human capital that the University has churned out people who are doing great in the society to both in private and public sector within and outside Nigeria. So the university at that time actually justified its existence and by the grace of God, the sitting Governor of Ekiti State now is a product of the University, we have the sitting speaker of House of Assembly in Osun is a product of the university we have so many professors here and there, registrars, as at today the university has produced five sitting registrars in Nigeria universities.

**Since you came into the office, what will you say are your biggest challenges?**

Well there are challenges; you know the world is dynamic, things are changing and therefore we need to also change the ways we do things, we are trying to ensure that the University is in position to be what we can truly call a 21st century University particularly we are trying to maintain the history of Eksu as one of the best in Nigeria not only that, among the best university in the world. By the time I came in we had challenge with the verification of result but now we churn out verification within 72 hours, during the last convocation by the grace of God we were able to produce certificates for our graduates and what we have been able to do also was to ensure that you can get your verification of result anywhere you are in the world within 72 hours once you take appropriate way.

**So what is the true state of EKSU in academic**

**ranking in Nigeria?**

By the grace of God Ekiti State University is number 15 and among the best universities in Nigeria and then the second best university among all universities we were among the best universities.

**Talking about employability, how is the university curriculum empowering self - development among student?**

We have entrepreneurship center and all our students go through that center. At the center, we have about 14 different departments that student can specialize in. The university is looking beyond that, we are having collaborations with industries so that our students can have some industrial knowledge.

**How are you able to achieve all these?**

Well I see myself as a product of the great university, coming in I knew what I wanted to do, I was focused and determined, it is not easy but I must commend the support of the Vice chancellor, it is one thing to be determined and it is another to have support, so the support of the people helped me to be able to achieve those things. Whatever am able to do for EKSU, am doing it for us because am part of it.

**Finally sir, what's your dream for the university?**

Well, I like the university to stand at par with other great universities in Nigeria. A university that will be among the first not only in Nigeria alone but in Africa and among the best in the world that is the university that meet national needs and offers solution to national problem that is where we are going, and we are almost there and I know that we will get there.



Let us start with an introduction sir. Please tell us about yourself.

Professor Oladepo Aina is a retired Professor of Health Physics from the Obafemi Awolowo University. He is an indigene of Ekiti State. He served as Vice Chancellor of the Ekiti State University.

During your time at the University, you were able to do a lot. How were you able to achieve all these?

Well, first, I realized early on that we had a problem with funding, so, with the help of the then Chairman of the Council, Emeritus Professor Akinjide Osuntokun, I set out on aggressive fundraising and we were able to raise a lot of money. I was reflecting after my retirement and calculated about #7.2 billion that we were able to raise over just four years from TETFUND and other sources. The next thing I did was to ensure we had adequate infrastructure on ground. We refurbished the old structures and built modern education buildings. It was a lot of work but we now give all the glory to God.

Do you think you were able to achieve everything you wanted to achieve?

Oh yes. I feel much more fulfilled in my retirement.

What was your relationship with your colleagues then. I mean ASUU, SUG, NASU and so on?

I was able to interact with all of them successfully; very successfully in fact. I actually used to attend NASU meetings once in a while to intimate them of my plans. I used to do that because problems used to arise as a result of misinformation and lack of information. So yeah, I had a good relationship with them.

In your opinion sir, what does it take to be a good Vice Chancellor, especially in this EKSU?

Governance must be all-inclusive. When I

## PROF. OLADEPO AINA

FORMER VC

“Old structures were refurbished and new modern education building were built during my tenure as the Vice Chancellor”

came in, I had no camps so everybody was my staff. I was obliged to see to the welfare of everybody. I also let them know enough about the developments in the School. That way, governance was placed at the doorstep of each staff. I would also make sure to go to some classes to ensure lecturers were punctual and were teaching well. I used to go to the nearby market just to better understand the difficulties of the students. I would compare the way things were done in other Schools and try to improve on ours. I would say being actively involved would make a good VC.

Are you still involved in the matters of the school?

Yes, I'm still very passionate about the school. When the serving VC was appointed, we talked for about one hour with me advising him on the things that made my administration successful, by the grace of God.

After ten years, what changes would you like to see in the School?

I want to see a University that would become very competitive for both students and staff. I want a University that is a proper research University and can compete with other Universities around the world.

Finally, sir, let us talk about University education in Nigeria. What is the way out of the current issues besetting the system?

First of all, I would say funding. We need funding to keep the structures sound and up to date and to pay the salaries of the staff. We also have to be able to define what we are using the funds for. We need to develop plans on how to better improve the system and discover other sources of funding because we can't expect the Federal Government to provide all of it.



***EKSU Alumni  
is my baby***

**PROF. SAMUEL ASAOLU**

**You've been there for a long time, you witness almost all the era and changes can you share your experience with us as a student and as a lecturer?**

I would say to God be the glory for where we are as a university because it is God that prosper, we human being are just trying. When the university took off, to many people it was like a child-play but as God will have it (God says this is a university that will stand), by the grace of God I am one of the pioneering student of this university. The university was established in 1982 during the era of Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Adekunle Ajasin (the then governor of Ondo State). Many activities did not take off till January 1983. As a new establishment taking off, it's a university that doesn't have a structure of its own to start with. We took off from various donated structures. Like the Faculty of Science (which I belong, I was admitted to study chemistry) which took off from Crest CO Boys, the HFCE portion (that was

where Faculty of Science was situated). Also the Faculty of Art and Social Sciences took off at Ajitadidun, Opopogboro. As at then, the number of admitted students to faculty of science was 46, while that of the whole university was about 136. We spent three years precisely before we move to our permanent site. The structure then did by the Pioneer management of the Staff of the university; Professor Oladapo. When we moved down as student I spent one year on this campus. As a chemistry students (definitely, we will have chemistry laboratory), I want to tell you that I was the first student to do experiment in the chemistry laboratory of this university. When we were at final year level, I did practical with some of my other colleagues for them to write the theoretical aspect. The university started growing, the university that started with roughly 136 students, today we will be talking about student population of more than 25,000. Some people felt it was a child-play but the transformation was

interesting. But now that we have many other universities, I will still say that EKSU is the premier university of my own because a university that I can graduate and nurtured a person of my status; I will say that is my premier university. After my first degree that was in year 1986, I went for NYSC at Nigeria Breweries. Before I finish my NYSC, I got my letter of appointment to come as a graduate assistant in this university. Have been with this system for length of time that is why I could be able to say a little about this system. And to God be the glory we have Managements, Staff and students that are working together to see to the progress of the university and that why we are here. Worth of Celebration

**When you resumed here as a student, you resumed to Obafemi Awolowo University, later it became Ondo State University, and now Ekiti State University. Sometimes during Jonathan Era, they wanted to**

**change the name of UNILAG and the old student kick against it, why this changing of name here, is it because the Alumni body is not strong enough?**

I won't say we are not strong enough. It's a battle that was well fought but the fact remains that like a Yoruba adage will say "Ti owo o ba te Eku, a kin bere iku to pa baba eni". Many people were not happy about it; somebody like me did not like the change of name several times. This university has changed name several times; we started with Obafemi Awolowo university, when the Military came in, the changed it to Ondo State University to reflect the ownership of the university. When the Ekiti was created out of Ondo State, the university was changed to University of Ado-Ekiti; that name is a global and wonderful name. Like university of Ibadan, University of Ife (in the old days), University of Lagos, UNIAD is University of Ado-Ekiti; it's always difficult for one to distinguish whether this was a State university or a federal university and it added more value to the university down to what we have presently. But because we did not have the power, that is why we could not make significant effort. If I will say this, the then Governor of Ekiti state; Dr. Kayode Fayemi, I was on governing council then, when he came in, what he thought of was possibly the university to reflect the name of the owner which is Ekiti state (he may have meant well) but to me he would have sampled the opinion of people and possibly let the greater opinion to prevail on the issue. Because if it involves the expenses of changing name or other arrangements, am not sure any responsible university management will want to like it but it is rather too unfortunate that the Alumni association could not mount enough pressure on the state government then to possibly stop the change of name. It may interest you that the then governor of Ekiti state Dr.

UNILAG and when the federal said change the name of this university to Kashimawo Abiola University; he was one of those that seek for legal battle (he was ready to spend as much as possible) to make sure that it was not possible then why this. Worth of Celebration

**You are in sciences sir, science is about researches and discoveries, do we have any symbolic, discoveries, researches here in Ado-Ekiti University?**

Yes! Area of specialization of individuals or researchers would say what type of discovery you have been able to make. For instance, in chemistry, in my own research/field (which is the field of environmental chemistry); we have three segments that made it, we have the Land, Air and Water. But the most important thing is that most of our publications (because before you can move academically from one level to another, definitely you must do research that is significant) are published in reputable international journals. I want to say that my personal articles, publications; copies are being requested globally for application in their own environment to see whether it will work for them. With this, if they call for the reprint of your articles by your colleagues internationally, it means that you have meaningful and breakthrough in your publications. If you are to move from one level to another, you must have breakthrough in your publications else you will perish in academics.. Worth of Celebration

**What is your contribution towards the Alumni?**

Alumni association I will say is my baby; to confirm this, go and read the history of Alumni Association. The National Alumni Association of this university was established in 1988. Just few of us including me came together to we said we must have what we call National Alumni Association. We did not even start from state, we started

that of National in 1988. Myself, SB Akinshipe (Registry, FUTA), Professor Ayan Adeleke (in mathematics department here). Three of us together with some few but myself and Akinshipe and Adeleke financially, we were the three financial members that took of EKSU Alumni in 1988. The three of us contributed N25, we started with EKSU international with N75. When we took off, we decided to have an exco to run the association, at that point SB Akinshipe became the first National Alumni President and then I became the first National Alumni Vice-President of the association. We did not stop there, we were looking for a way to propagate the association and started harvesting some of our members. Like a Yoruba adage will say "Eyan pupo ko lo ma n selu". We were moving on gradually and using our personal money to fund the association. We moved from the headquarters (which was in Ekiti state been the site of the university) to Ondo state to have a chapter there. Am still very close to the Alumni association, presently am still the member of the Board of Trustees of the EKSU Alumni.

***I want to tell you that I was the first student to do experiment in the chemistry laboratory of this university***





**PROFESSOR  
NELSON  
OLABAMIJI**

**P**rofessor Nelson Olabanji Fashina is a Professor at the Department of English, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. He is a pioneer graduate of Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti, now EKSU.

**How do you feel as your alma mater turns 40 years?**

OSUA at 40 evokes a feeling of nostalgia for the formative years of the University. I was one of the pioneer students of the school and I had the privilege of being the first Secretary General of the Students' Union. It is good that we can look back 40 years and give God all the glory. There were lots of political and social challenges that wrestled with the university at the formative years of the University. But by God's grace, we now celebrate the school at 40 in its victory over albatross of problems that would have mid-wived its extinction. What will you say makes a University great?

As a professor, I would say what makes a University great is the quality of teaching, research and public service as the obligation of its scholars and researchers, social amenities, and most importantly, the quality of its graduates. Many

of us who had the opportunity to be in international competitions found that we are the best among the best. And that's a signalling factor that OSUA is great.

**One of the problems affecting**

**University education in Nigeria is incessant strikes. What do you think can put an end to this?**

There will be no end to the strikes until the government invests consciously in the welfare and good take-home salaries of University lecturers. It is not surprising that universities are sold to incessant labour strikes when we have people in power who do not have legitimate certificates. They'll never have modicum of reverence for the value of university education. I think the only solution is to put the right people in power, people who will prioritize education as the bedrock of national development now in the future.

**Talking specifically about EKSU, how do you think the school can get improved?**

It is sad how the government handles education in this country. The universities are the springs of national and global development. As such, govt should prioritize it funding and autonomy for the purpose of a better productivity. Outside the government, the V.C. should also be visionary and be able to engage methods of amplifying revenue generation in aid of our

universities' physical and academic growth and development. Another way is for the Alumni to come together to discuss and initiate growth plans as a way of giving back to their alma mater.

**How involved are you in the Alumni Association sir?**

I remember how much I sacrificed alongside others as a student in those memorable years of our studentship. Nowadays, I make sure to attend some of the branch meetings. In one of the meetings I attended in Lagos, some of us were presented with an award. That singular gave me psychological sense of affiliation, that relieved my painful memory of what I lost to the leadership of students union in my undergraduate days - time, money, risk of missing lectures, and hatred by those who misunderstood our drives and actions that were meant for progress, excellence and integrity. Wow! It is nice to go back in memory of time and space by attending alumni meetings, sometimes, to see fellow classmates and students I have not seen in a long time, including my former students that I taught in my ten years journey as a lecturer in that university between 1988 and 1998, when I exited to the premier University of Ibadan as a Senior Lecturer.

**Finally sir, what advice do you have for those that are currently students of the University?**

Well, I advise them to learn to respond to the dynamics of changes that have happened over the past 40 years and brace themselves to meet up with challenges. They should realize that they are making history and ask themselves what they are contributing to history at every step.



**DR. JADESOLA TAIWO  
BABATOLA**

— REGISTRAR, AJAYI CROWTHER UNIVERSITY, OYO  
FORMER EKSU GLOBAL ALUMNI PRESIDENT

### **Tell us about your personal background and what inspired you to study at EKSU?**

I was born over five decades ago to the late Ado-Ekiti born renowned elder statesman - High Chief Dr. J.E. Babatola, the Olora (1918-2014) who was a Regional Minister in colonial government and first republic and died as the Vice-President of Yoruba Council of Elders and Patron of Ekiti Council of Elders. My late mother was Chief Mrs. M.E. Babatola (1932-1979) who pioneered Montessori private boarding school (defunct Ajitadidun School) after serving as the Headmistress of Nigeria's 1st Private Nursery School - Alafia Institute, Mokola, Ibadan.

I attended Ajitadidun Private School (1972-1980); Ijapo High School, Akure; Christ's School, Ado-Ekiti and Oyo State College of Arts and Science, Ile-Ife (1980-1986). I was at Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti (1986-1990); University of Ibadan (1995-1997) and Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (2011-2019) where I obtained Bachelor of Arts degree in History, Master of Science degree in Political Science/Public Administration and Doctor of Philosophy in History and International Studies. I am a Fellow of Nigerian Institute of Management (Chartered); Chartered Institute of

Administration; Institute of Management Consultants and Institute of Corporate Administration of Nigeria; Member of Association of Nigeria University Professionals Administrators, Association of University Administrators (United Kingdom) and Associate of Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators and Chartered Institute of Personnel Management. I have 32 years working experience in public and private sector. I am married to a fellow alumnae Educator and law graduate with children who are Chartered Accountant, Lawyer and Physiologist

(with two of them as alumnae of the University).

Fate had it for me to attend Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti (now Ekiti State University) because my father at his old age didn't want me to be far away from home since I was the only son of my late mother for him and he also needed my frequent services at home. I applied to study Law at the University as my first degree but got admitted for History because the University failed to get Council of Legal Education accreditation. I was set to obtain a degree in humanities to become a Lawyer, Diplomat, Administrator, Journalist, Broadcaster, Publisher, Writer, Soldier, Police Officer, Archivist, Archeologist or an Educator. I had A1 in History in high school years and got the school prize. This motivated me to study History when Law was denied.

### **How can you describe your experience in EKSU and how it has sharpened your worldview and journey in life, as well as the impact on your to day-to-day activities, especially as the Registrar of Samuel Ajayi Crowther University?**

I joined EKSU as an undergraduate and member of 4th set in the foundation class,

though I was frequent in the student community as high school student when the Mini Campus was operating on my family property at defunct Ajitadidun School, Ado-Ekiti. In the undergraduate years, I was involved in student activism and held leadership positions in several student bodies. I served as Commanding Officer of University Cadet Corps; Editor and Secretary General of Students Historical Society of Nigeria; Deputy Editor of Ripples Press Club; Chairman of Guild of Editors; National Speaker of National Union of Campus Journalists; Branch Chairman and National Vice President, Federation of Ado-Ekiti Students Union; Member, Students Union Revival Committee; Director of Research Strategy in Students Union and a Mobilization Officer of National Association of Nigerian Students. I was prepared to champion and promote civil rights, dignity and well-being of workers and underprivileged, public trust and accountability for good governance in the larger society. As a Career Administrator in EKSU for over two decades and the Registrar of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo since 2021, having served as Registrar in two public institutions, I wanted to be closer to home after observing dangers of long distance travels and working in unsafe environment and waterways where militancy, labour agitations and poor welfare package is rife. I came here to play the required role of a professional administrator and Principal Officer and to emphasize the application of global view in University governance and administration. I believe that any University determined to attain world class status would allow its stakeholders to engage in robust sharing of ideas to enrich the system. We need to often consult, clarify, collaborate, cooperate and conciliate to reduce or eliminate managerial conflicts and crisis of confidence. When the system adopts universal academic tradition, work standard and ethics, and compliance with due process, we can promote best practices, break new grounds and achieve more feats.



**"Whatever else I have become in life, it is just building on the foundation OSUA has laid, because, I will tell you what OSUA did for us made us have the best of everything" - Dr Olajide Abayomi Olufuyi, B.Sc Geology & Applied Geophysics, OSUA (1988), M.Sc & Ph.D Petroleum Geology, UNIPORT (1991)**

**Can we have a background information about Dr Olajide Abayomi Olufuyi?**

My story is very simple. I was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 1964 in Lagos. My folks are from Lagos State. My father was from Ogun State but he was born in Lagos State so we all claim Lagos as our State of origin. I had my primary school education at L.A. Primary School, Olodi Apapa in Lagos and I had my secondary school education in my father's village; Ilusin Grammar School and I passed out in 1981 and got admission into Ondo State University, then, it was called Obafemi Awolowo University in 1983 to study Sociology. I started that course in my first 2 or 3 weeks, I was thinking I would do Sociology but along the line, I had a conversation with a friend of mine who told me Science is the future of the world and that what would I be doing in life with Sociology. Meanwhile, I had wanted to become a lawyer and for the opportunity to become a lawyer, I kept choosing University of Nigeria, Nsuka and JAMB kept "jamming" me (laughs). So, when this man came to

me, I got restless in my spirit. I eventually had to change to remedial science. I went to see Mrs. Faluyi (THATCHER) and that was how I ended up in remedial science. Mrs. Faluyi facilitated my admission. That was how I cut my teeth in Sciences. I did Chemistry and Physics for the first time in my life in Obafemi Awolowo University/Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti. In seven or eight months, I started speaking Science. My first choice of course was Geology & Applied Geophysics or Biochemistry and I got my first choice of course and that was how I started my race as a Geologist

and I graduated with B.Sc Geology & Applied Geophysics in 1988 even though my original set graduated in 1987 because I crossed to remedial science program in my first year. I proceeded to Abuja for the mandatory one-year National Youth service program in 1988 which I completed in 1989 and afterwards came to University of Port Harcourt for my Masters degree in Petroleum Geology between 1989 and 1991 and I got into the Oil & Gas industry and basically, I have done Oil & Gas and so many other things since then.

**For someone who started Sciences when you got to the University, what will you say are the impacts of OSUA on your career?**

It made remarkable impacts on my career. I ventured into sciences by chance and I went on to get a Masters degree in Science and ended up getting a Ph.D in Petroleum Geology and today, I am a member of American Association of Petroleum Geologists, I am a member of Society of Petroleum Engineers worldwide and in Nigeria. If you count the first 1000



captains of our industry, I will fall in somewhere within that category.

**Structurally and architecturally speaking, one cannot compare OSUA with Universities like Ife, Lagos or Ibadan in terms of the aforementioned physical endowments, what do you think one can use as a yardstick to determine the greatness of a University?**

To me, it is the people. When I say it is the people, I mean the quality of resources you put in the place. The type of people - are they poorly or well motivated talking in terms of the lecturers. Infrastructure may come in but I tell you, we did not see infrastructure and our generation of OSUA graduants is ranked among the best in the world. I remember I was in the KEGITES CLUB and others in OSUA. We were the ones that started those groups. If you had gone to UNILAG, you would have fallen into ALPHA, ZIGMA and other clubs but we socialized in our own ways and education was it for us. Those were the days your lecturers will look at you and say you cannot miss 2:1. Lecturers took personal interests. We were not very many and we all knew our lecturers and they also knew us one on one! So, these are the things that distinguished us from those that went to other Universities. So, it is not too much of structures, it is the people. The quality of students you bring in, the way they are motivated and the quality of lecturers and the type of tutelage that you expose them to will bring out the greatness.

**You were at the beginning, what is or are your message(s) to the present class of students as the school clocks 40 years?**

I gave a lecture during my graduate school days at UNIFE to the final year and the graduating students in 1991. I went all the way down from Port Harcourt.

Professor Rahman invited me to Ife to talk to them and I motivated the students by telling them that they were being taught by living legends. If you open any textbook on our discipline, the names you will see are those of the people teaching them at that time and that they should not take that for granted and that happened to us. When I went to UNIPORT, during my Masters degree program, I did Structural Geology which was a very difficult course. I was taught by Professor Rahman in OSUA and I was told that graduating students do not score more than 40% or 50% and that you will only manage to pass the course. It was Dr Okoni of blessed memories. In actual fact, it was very difficult but I got 76%. So, we were focused and it worked for us. So, what I will tell those that are currently in the school now is that they should see the bright light at the end of the tunnel and they must realize that they have a lot of great people that have gone ahead of them. They should take advantage of those opportunities and they should reach out to us and we should reach out to the University and see how we can make it greater.

**Sometime s a g o , d u r i n g P r e s i d e n t G o o d l u c k E b e l e J o n a t h a n ' s a d m i n i s t r a t i o n , t h e r e w a s a n a t t e m p t t o c h a n g e U N I L A G i . e U n i v e r s i t y o f L a g o s t o M . K . O . A b i o l a U n i v e r s i t y w h i c h t h e A l u m n i A s s o c i a t i o n**

**n of that Institution kicked hard against and consequently, the attempt was dropped. Having changed the name of OSUA at different times is already making the Institution lose its identity fast because, in my opinion, the Alumni Association of the school is not proactive enough in that direction. You as a person, how will you rate your relationship with the Association?**

My relationship with the Association is excellent. We worked together in OSUA Connection. When another administration was coming in, I played my role too. I was even the Chairman of one of the committees when the new EXCO was inaugurated. So, I have a very good relationship with the Alumni Association. I will tell you that OSUA gave me the best of everything. In 1984, I met a young lady, Sola Ojuade then and we have been married for 31 years. She read Economics. We graduated together in 1988 and we have been together since 1984 when I met her and God has blessed us with 3 wonderful sons!







**The problem we have mainly is the changing of names, I do not know any other University in Nigeria that beat that record.**

**GANIU SALIU**  
Registrar, University of Ibadan.

Ganiu Oke Saliu attended the Ondo State University now Ekiti State University from 1987 - 1991, served in Niger state and went back to Ado Ekiti to start his working career in 1992 at Open Gate Nigeria LTD, a company that has joint transport ventures with the University as the operation manager between January 1993 and February 1994. He later joined the service of OSUA as an Admin Officer II in 1995 and left as an Admin Officer I in 1999 to Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko. He moved from AAUA to Ondo State University of Science and Technology, Okitipupa in 2009 as Principal Assistant Registrar. He got appointed at the University of Ibadan as deputy registrar in July 2014 and by November 2020 went back to now Olusegun Agagu University of Science and

Technology as a registrar the position he is holding till today. However, he will be resuming at the University of Ibadan on April 11th 2023 as the registrar.

#### **His days in OSUA**

In his words: my days in was actually very interesting, I studied English and Literary Studies and I happened to be the class rep of my class 1987 and till date I still coordinate that class, my mates call me Captain. I was also the President of English and Literary Studies Student Association ELSA 1990/1991. In the social circle, I was a member of Tiata Group where I took part in many stage plays then and in 1989 I became the students' coordinator of the group under the directorship of Prof. Hope Eghagha. My experience as a student in Ado Ekiti was interesting been part of

the pioneer students, a member of the 4th set, makes things very tough for us in those days. The facilities were not there, we hard to make us of what we had but we were blessed with dedicated lecturers and Admin staffs. Starting from registration, Mrs Faluyi who we called Thatcher will screen you even to minutest details. Baba Fajana will tell you that" When you graduate from the University you must be an ambassador of the University so you are trained from the onset to be an ambassador of the university. 'Lecturers like Dr Lozambe, "If I give you a B, if you go to Ife you will get a A". We were trained the hard way just to be the best in life. To God be the glory, many of us are making waves in different fields today..

#### **My level of participation with the Alumni Association.**

I took part in the early days to the extent that in 1997 I was the assistant general Secretary. The problem we have mainly is the changing of names, I do not know any other University in Nigeria that beat that record.. from Obafemi Awolowo to Ondo State University to University of Ado Ekiti and now Ekiti State University. Its difficult to build cohesion under such condition. I think the Alumni has a lot of work to do to bring please together as one knowing fully well that we are brothers and that until we take possession of our University no one will help us to build an institution we will be proud of.. Currently we have part of Alumni tagged OSUA connection, we have EKSU Alumni and UNAD connection. If we do not bring all together as one formidable force, we would not get it.

# DIPO AKINSOLA

Pioneer President  
OSUA Alumni, Lagos Branch

**Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.**

Let me first of all, give glory to God Almighty for His abundant grace upon my life since I left the University, 35 years ago.

I retired from the public service as a Director in September 2022 after a dedicated career both at the private and public sectors. Tracing my career path and how EKSU has contributed to it, might be difficult to quantify in concrete terms. But going through the memory lane, the solid foundation

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where ten (10) different universities were represented in the MSc class and within a very short time, I was elected as the Class Rep by virtue of our exemplary display of leadership qualities. At the end of the program, one of us from OSUA, Kayode Asoga came out the best in the graduating class. In all my working career, OSUA's qualities also manifested which took me from being a Banker to Company Treasurer in an Oil & Gas company to Political Adviser to a former Senate President, H E Senator Ken Nnamani later the Speaker of the House of Representatives, H E Rt Hon Patricia Olubunmi Etteh and finally retiring as a Director from the Federal Character Commission

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

Where do I start from? Was it the off-campus life in Micofab Hostel, trekking at times to the campus on Iworoko road, visiting the university library to source for study materials, meeting with Prof. Ifedayo Oladapo, the VC then (now Late), friends and classmates

quired back in OSUA actually began to show during our graduate school at the Department of Economics, University of Lagos, Akoka

who we still relate till date, my close relationships with some of the lecturers like Late Mr Femi Ojobanikan, Mr Francis Ajayi, Dr Fabayo etc? The experience was wonderful please

**I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

After my HSC at the OSCAS Ile-Ife, I couldn't secure admission to University of Lagos which was my first choice for BSc Economics because I had 7 points in my A-Level results as against the cut off point of 9 or 10 then. My Auntie, Mrs Dele Fasakin (V.C's secretary) got to know about my inability to secure Unilag admission, the rest as they say, is history. I got a Direct Entry admission into the Department of Economics, OSUA

**What were you known for then?**

I was a very Distinguished, sociable and handsome guy then. Loved by many people as I mentioned earlier.

I made very many good friends and relationships, some, we are still in contact till date. Above all, I was the Chartered Secretary of the popular, Rotaract Club of OSUA. My social life didn't give way to my studies then.

**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

Since I left the University, my relationship with it hasn't changed. At the early stage, we started the Alumni Association which dated back to my NYSC



days in order to keep the university flag flying. Glory be to God, I became the Pioneer President of the Alumni Association in Lagos, the position that I held for eight (8) years before handing over to my brother, Gboyega Omoba. I relate with our Global President of the Alumni Association, Engr Dipo Bamişaye regularly on issues affecting the university. I am currently a Member of the Eminent Group of the Alumni.

**Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

Let me be frank and sincere with you at this point. There are too many naughty and rotten issues in the present university system, EKSU inclusive. During our days, there were no cultism, yahoo yahoo and other vices. Everyone was very serious with his or her studies and yet, we still had maximum fun in spite of the harsh economic condition of the university then.

I know very many old graduates of our beloved university who hold top positions in their chosen fields. The present Governor of Ekiti State, H E

Biodun Oyeḃanji is a distinguished alumnus. One of us has just been appointed the Registrar of the famous University of Ibadan.

My candid advise therefore to the present crop of students is to avoid vices in any form. If they heed to this admonition, one day, one of them will be the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Finally, as for me, I will continue to be a good ambassador of our beloved university.

## PRINCE ADEKANMI NURENI HAMMED FOUNDATION



*Find a group of people who challenge & inspire you: Spend a lot of time with them, and it will change our life - Amy Poehler*

# PANH







# OLUSEGUN OMOSEHIN

(Mr Insurance) ( B. SC, M. SC,  
MILD, FIIN, FIOD)

*“What I  
passed through  
in OSUA,  
prepared me  
well, for the  
challenges of  
life”*

I was born in 1967 in a small village in Ondo State, Abealala, Ilaje local Government area. I was born to a family of teachers. My father was a retired headmaster and my mother was also a teacher. I was from a very disciplined background. After my primary and secondary education within the locality, I went to Lagos to stay with an Uncle. I got admission in 1986 to the then Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti now EKSU, to study POLITICAL SCIENCE. In my first and second year, I stayed at Similoluwa hostel and made a couple of good friends like Tayo Ikumapayi, Israel Ovirih, Haruna Olabode, Charles Fatusa, Ifetayo Aiyenomuro, Steve Akadiri and a host of others. OSUA was such a great place and the Education System was so unique. It was not really like other Nigerian Universities at that time as we had to adapt to new things. In my 3rd year I moved to Adebayo, off-campus, and graduated in 1990 with a Second Class Upper in political science. I did my N. Y. S. C at Ikot Epene in Akwa Ibom and after NYSC enrolled for a master's degree in International Law & Diplomacy at the University of Lagos with the mindset of pursuing a career in the Foreign Service. I had an Uncle who had a friend in the Foreign Service at that time, So I thought it was a clear-cut path for me, this was my first lesson in life that "nothing in life is certain". I graduated in the top 3 in my class and really enjoyed the Academics. One of my Professors at UNILAG then even offered to obtain a Ph.D. form for me. I wasn't inclined because I didn't



want to end up teaching like my parents as I believed then that teachers were too strict.

After I completed my master's at UNILAG, the Federal Government then, placed an embargo on recruitment into the Foreign Service and that was the beginning of my sojourn into the insurance world. A friend of mine and classmate at graduate school, Prince Jamiu Saka, encouraged me to join the insurance industry. I joined Crusader Insurance Nigeria Plc in 1993 as a Corporate sales executive. Initially, it was exploratory but after my induction program, I became curious and was determined to know more about insurance business in Nigeria and how to get to the peak of the profession. I started the insurance professional exams and I qualified within 2 sittings, which was quite a record then. I got promoted and subsequently moved to another company after about 3 years in Crusader. I joined Custodian & Allied Insurance Company, a newly formed insurance company that was founded by one of my bosses at Crusader, Mr. Wole Oshin. He brought me on board and I spent about 9 years before moving to another company Admiral Insurance. I utilized the opportunities during my formative years to prepare myself for leadership role in the industry. After I qualified as a Chartered Insurer in 1996, I went back to UNILAG and did a Conversion Course in Economics. I did a postgraduate diploma in Manpower Economics and planning, then applied for MSC Economics. I completed my M. SC in economics in 1999. I started taking leadership training and courses in Management and leadership just to get myself ready. I had a major breakthrough in October 2003 when I was appointed to lead the transformation team of Admiral Insurance Company Limited

as the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer. This was a turning point in my professional career as an insurer. To the glory of God, I led the team that turned around the fortunes of the Company from a 22 years loss-making entity to a profit-based one within the first year. I ran the Company between 2003 to 2007 before a merger with Crusader Insurance Nigeria plc during the 2007 Insurance Consolidation exercise. I left the Crusader Group in March 2007 following the successful merger. In April 2007, I joined AIICO Insurance plc as the MD/CEO of the then general insurance arm of AIICO. It is on record, that I led the transformation agenda of the group in 2007 and set the path to profitability for the company. I left the Company in 2009 and in 2010 joined Mutual Benefits Assurance Plc, a publicly quoted insurance company, and ran the company for 10 years before leaving in December 2019.

In January 2020, I joined Old Mutual Limited, a South African Owned Financial Services Group headquartered in Cape Town, South Africa with offices in Over 14 African Countries and Asia and was appointed as the Managing Director /CEO of its Life Insurance subsidiary in Nigeria, Old Mutual Nigeria Life Assurance Company. A position I still hold till date.

In August 2022, Olusegun Omosehin was elected as the Chairman of the Nigerian Insurers Association (NIA) at its Annual General Meeting for 2 years. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Association and its Governing Council. He is also a

member of the Governing Council of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN). He is the Chairman of the Education Committee of the Council.

Olusegun is a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute (FIIN), a Fellow of the Institute of Loss Adjusters of Nigeria, (FILAN), a Fellow of the Institute of Director's (FIOD), a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Management, and a Member of the Nigerian Society of International law. An avid reader, he is a member of the Ikoyi Club 1938 and Ikeja Golf Club. He loves golf as a recreation.

What I passed through in OSUA, prepared me well, for the challenges of life. At that time we studied under very harsh environment and the rigorous academic work we did to prove to the bigger institutions that we had standards was a solid foundation for me. Other Schools I've been to, were just like "easy rides". I give all the credit to OSUA particularly those lecturers that were determined to bring out the best in us.

## **YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EKSU ALUMNI**

Since I graduated, I have had interactions with some of my schoolmates from time to time but, the pressure of my work didn't allow for or give me time. When OSUA Connection was formed, Adeola Fasuba, through Biyi Fashonyin got me involved. It has helped me to reconnect with my old friends like Steve Akadiri, Israel Ovirih, and so on. It is a great platform and I was invited to the Eminent Persons Group

(EPG). I have been actively involved in the Prize Endowment. I have a Prize award for the best-graduating student in Social Sciences annually. And still hope to do more.

**SOMETIME DURING THE TIME OF PRESIDENT GOODLUCK JONATHAN, THERE WAS AN ISSUE CONCERNING THE CHANGE OF NAME OF UNI LAG TO M. K. O ABIOLA UNIVERSITY AND THE ALUMNI RESISTED.**

They resisted because they were a very strong Alumni association. We weren't strong before, but now I think we are getting stronger. interestingly, I am a member of the UNILAG Alumni because I have about 3 degrees from the university. I know what they are doing there and I think EKSU Alumni also will get better and stronger if the current momentum is sustained. A strong alumni association is required for the development of a University. When you have strong Alumni, you can then stand and fight for what is right for the University. Let the politicians stop playing politics by renaming schools/changing the names of institutions. When I applied for admission, it was Obafemi Awolowo University, when I resumed, it was Ondo State University and after I left, it became UNAD, and today it's EKSU. University of Oxford or Cambridge is how many years old?; yet they haven't changed names. Don't we have Politicians in the UK? I think the association has gotten to the stage where we can be on our own and start to stand for our University. It's encouraging to see how the alumni association is progressing.

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENTS'**

My story should be an inspiration to the young ones especially those from very humble backgrounds like me. Some of the principles that worked for me like having a clear vision of who and what you want to be in the future could be a guide; also Investing in yourself by acquiring needed skills that can prepare you for leadership positions, being resolute and determined and hungry for success, and above all upholding honesty and integrity are elements of what worked for me and which I think the young ones can build on.

*“A strong alumni association is required for the development of a University. When you have strong Alumni, you can then stand and fight for what is right for the University”*



**A**BAYOMI Adeyeri holds a B. S. C degree (Botany) from Ondo State University (1990) and an M. B. A in marketing from the University of Maiduguri (1994). He is a member of the Nigerian Institute of Management as well as the National Institute of Marketing Of Nigeria. He is also a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Credit Administration. He lectured briefly at the University of Maiduguri between 1993 and 1995 before changing his career path to Banking in 1996. He joined Diamond Bank Nigeria in March 1996 and later moved to Standard Trust Bank and Prudent Bank as Customer Service Manager. He joined Ecobank Nigeria Limited in 2004, performing various roles ranging from, Head, Marketing, to Branch Manager, and later Area Manager, All in Delta State. He subsequently moved beyond Delta State to head public Sector South - South and South - East covering eleven states.

The high point of his achievement in the bank, was, when he headed the project team that successfully instituted a sound Management Information System in Ecobank Nigeria in 2013. His achievement with this, earned the team a 4 day all expenses paid trip to the Famous Ecobank headquarters in Lome Togo in 2013. His last role in the bank before he voluntarily retired was as Regional Head, public sector South - South and South - East directorate. He is an honorary Senior Member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria and Eminent Peace Ambassador of the International Association of World Peace Advocate.

As part of giving back to the society, he joined the Rotary Club of Lagos in 2021 and is currently the Chair of Fundraising. He is a member of the prestigious ikoyi Club where he plays golf at his leisure time. ABAYOMI is the author of "Multiple Bold Steps", a book meant to empower the Youths and also help both, employees and entrepreneurs locate their positions in the cycle of life.

#### WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI?

I have not been very active I must say. It's

not been easy running institutions strictly regulated by the Central Bank and SEC My tight schedule has not really permitted me to be active in the Association. In reality you are able to serve with 3 Ts namely Time, Talent and Treasure. As much as one may not be able to commit too much time for now, we should be able to put in more of the other 2Ts. I was in the committee that kick started the Ekiti State Radio Station and there is still much to contribute to this project by us.

#### WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENTS OF EKSU?

I will say, they should remain focused. Focus is: follow One course until successful. If you want to be successful in life, you should be able to take actions to that effect. There are three cycles of life. The first is the learning cycle (1 - 30 yrs), Second is earning cycle (30 - 60 yrs) and the third is relaxation (60 and above). So, they must be able to conclude their own learning circle well if they must achieve relaxation at a desired age.

ABAYOMI Adeyeri is currently the Managing Director of Flobal Financial Services Limited. A finance company licensed and Supervised by the Central Bank of Nigeria. He is happily married to Ibrionke Adeyeri



That degree from OSUA is what am using to edit Essays for students applying to Harvard, Yale and other Ivy leagues schools

Folashade Aladesanmi, MBA



inception of Pro Educators plus, the organisation has made stellar accomplishments including admissions into top tier colleges like Harvard, Yale, Emory, Georgia Tech, Duke, Stanford, Purdue, Clemson, Georgia state, penn slate, Wake forest university, John Hopkins university, Texas A&M, and lots more. Coach Aladesanmi is so passionate about quality education and character. She encourages her students to think always about giving back their communities and develop their leadership skills. Starting early, helps to internalise, the need for benevolence. She is the author of tenacious, Diary of a determined mother. A book on effective teaching, parenting and Coaching.

#### ADO DAYS

OSUA gave me a good foundation. It was tough but It brought the best out of us. A lot of our professors came from established universities and were quite experienced. I was outgoing but not the light of the party.

I will advise the current students of the institution to build a solid foundation, make sure that foundation is a good launching pad. You can go anywhere with it, it's not just about today. That degree I got from OSUA many years ago is what am using to edit Essays for Harvard, Yale, John Hopkins, Emory and lots more.

A worthy Alumnus of our great school.

**C**oach Folashade Aladesanmi, MBA, BA (Eng.), Certified Health Care Administrator, Certified Specialist Educator. An Independent Educational Consultant, Academic Coach and Author of tenacious, Diary of a determined mother. (Available on Amazon) She is a mother of children whose achievements include graduation from Harvard, Duke Medical School and VPENN. Acceptance into Cornell, Emory, Yale, Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt and sorts. Mrs Folashade Aladesanmi

is the founder and principal Consultant of Pro Educators Plus. An academic success organisation based in Georgia. She and her associates prepare students for Ivy league and top tier college admissions. She also assists with College placements and admissions for international Students. The organisation also coaches parents on parental involvement. Mrs Aladesanmi and her associates, make top tier college admissions, a goal for their students through college tours, one on one consultations and since the





# Dr. Ademola Daramola

Dr. Ademola Daramola graduated from Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti with a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry in 1990. He performed the mandatory one year National Youth Service program at Steyr Limited, Bauchi State in 1991 before he got employed by Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, Agbara Industrial Estate, Ogun State between 1992 and 1996. Dr. Daramola became a Medical Representative based in Kaduna State covering the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Kaduna, Sokoto and Niger States from 1993-1996. In 1996, he relocated to United States of America where he obtained a B.Tech degree in IT & Computer Science from Barry University, Miami in 1999. He worked with the State of Florida from 1997-2001. He returned to pharmaceuticals in 2001 at Teva Pharma, California, U.S.A as a Senior Chemist and he left as a Senior Supervisor of Chemistry in 2009. He joined United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) as a Human Drug and Medical Device Investigator in 2010. In 2013, he completed a Masters in Public Health in 2013 and later obtained Doctorate in Global Health in 2016 from Nova SU. He left USFDA in 2018 as an Assistant Director of global operations and joined Cipla Pharma as a Director of Compliance and Sustainability in 2018 where he rose to become the Senior Director, Head of Quality Compliance in 2020. He became the Vice President, Global Head of Quality

Compliance in 2022. He bagged a Top 25 Healthcare Technology Leaders award of Dallas, Texas for 2022. He is the Vice President, Quality Compliance for all of Cipla's businesses across USA, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH ALUMNI

I am a proud member of the school's alumni association. Evidently, the school has produced several great people. I believe that the Alumni is a critical stakeholder group whose experience and expertise should be coveted and utilized for the school's benefit.

## ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

Refuse to limit yourselves. Allow your innate human skills to flourish by thinking outside the box. The world needs thinkers and doers in the fields of Science, Engineering, Aeronautics, Social Sciences, and Medicine etc. You are well-positioned to reach for the skies!



*I was lucky to work under highly competent Home grown Vice Chancellors*

## DR AWOSUSI OMOJOLA

Omojola AWOSUSI was born in 1959. He didn't begin his education at Ekiti but, was no doubt, a part of the success story the University had become. He had his first degree from the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University (O. A. U) incidentally the first name of EKSU. He had his masters degree at the University of Lagos and obtained his PhD at Ekiti state University, Ado Ekiti formerly known as Obafemi Awolowo University. A member of countless professional bodies and a thorough bred professional, himself. He had two terms of 5 years as the registrar at EKSU.

### WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE REGISTRAR?

The chief Administrator of the school, who is responsible for the

day to day administration of the University and by virtue of his position, the secretary to the governing council, secretary to convocation and all other committees of the University. He is the image maker of the University, signs all correspondence that goes out of the University. He is the custodian of records. He keeps the official seal of the University, and he is the one who stands in the dock whenever, the University is taken to court. He is officially the Special Adviser to the Vice Chancellor on application of rules and Administration. He wears two caps when it comes to the governance of the University because he serves as secretary to the council and he is the Chief Administrative Officer.

He is somebody who is versed in whatever he does and this is what I shouldered while I was there.

### YOUR YEARS AS REGISTRAR

I became the registrar on the 18th April 2005. The University was just stabilising as University of Ado Ekiti, It became the University of Ado Ekiti in 1999 after the mass exodus of Ondo State Origins to Adekunle Ajasin University (Akungba Akoko). We all didn't see it coming. There were voids and ripples in sensitive areas in our Administration that were being headed by Ondo State Indigenes. Particularly, Our bursary department in which numbers 1-4 left. In the Registry, we had a couple of people as heads of certain division who left us. Unfortunately, all these were unnecessary. People left with vital information files, manuals, the tools that were needed to function properly and as such, it was difficult for us to be able to pay salaries the first two months after they left. It was so bad that the University had to convert an outright lecturer to become the Acting Bursars there was nobody else in the system remaining who was a Chartered Accountant or had sufficient experience or clout. We had to head hunt someone from the Department of Accounting. By the year 2005, the University was gradually stabilising. It was a time of reforming, reworking, and regrouping, so, rules and regulations were put in place. I was lucky to work under highly competent vice chancellors, the likes of Prof Israel Olatunji Orubuloye and Prof Dipo Kolawole.



## Alumnus Tade Adetoye and Osua at 40

I am ADETOYE OLUTADE FRANCIS; a Retired Comptroller of Customs(NCS), a Public Relations Practitioner, Rights Activist, Peace and Resolution Strategist, Policy Analyst, Playwright, Prolific Author, Evangelist and a Prophet of God. And, indeed, an OSUAist.

About 120 of us pioneered the University, then Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado-Ekiti (OAU), Ondo state in 1982/83 Academic Session with Prof Ifedayo Oladapo, a Word Class Engineer and erstwhile Deputy VC, University of Lagos as Vice Chancellor and Chief G.J.O Adegbite, a celebrated Administrator and former Deputy Registrar, University of Ife.

I came in as an adult student and in fact, a professional but strongly determined to acquire a University education of class and quality. Of faith, I took the risk of an experimental University because of my trust in the People behind the project.

Then, the university was non residential with simple academic buildings unlike the conventional universities. Cynics and critics were won't to refer to it as a "University in the air" or a glorified Secondary at Ajitadidun Nursery School, ADE Ekiti. But we were very proud of it because we knew that the "hood does not make the monk" believing that the human capital and academic materials in that part of the country will do the magic. We were not disappointed!

The University was largely experimental



but the experiment succeeded. The university was unique, modest and novel. It was one of the first State's Universities. It was non residential and promoted mutual love and face to face relationship and interaction. It availed the type of pragmatic and comprehensive education and provided room for the special development of the brain and the brawn. It gave a sort of "the universality of university education". We were unique hence many excelled in the market and in the delivery of the future leadership functions.

The target of the institution was tailored not only to learn your Mathematics, Physics or Law, but you were drilled to have a general or universality of university education of which you can pride yourself in leadership function and survive whatever harsh weather.

I was the first (Pioneer) Student Union's PRO and was also returned for the second tenure because we believed that the University community should be given proper orientation and conscientization to grow and develop. The union was not to be counterproductive or cantankerous but supportive to good ethics and values. It was run to be instrumental to the good and fortune of the University. The union

promoted sound academic prowess, selflessness and love to humanity; high sense of probity, patriotism, dignity of labour and hardwork.

The student activism was scoped to align with the development goals and vision of the University by providing support and occasional wake up call to Management, building mutual understanding between students and the university authority but surely not lacklustre. It succeeded in positively galvanising students efforts and energies to be partner in progress with the Authorities.

Result: The University moved steadily and came to national and international reckoning. For example within the first two years, many of the student leaders were invited for recognition: who is who in the World in Youth Achievement (a bibliography), from University of Cambridge UK, 1984.

Now at 40, we can look back and salute the wisdom of the visioners and founders of the University, Chief Obafemi Awolowo and his UPN government, the crack team of the Academic and Management Staffers, and the responsible and disciplined crop of students. Our interaction with the alma mater has been robust and rewarding. We interface with the school through our mates that are lecturers and Admin chiefs there, and particularly, through the Alumni Association. The days of our own

"chief" then and Evang Steve Akinshipe, the former Students Union Sports Director. The time of Mr Wale Jegede, et al. Besides, we have other groups like the OSUA CONNECTION Platform. Through this effort some of us were given distinguished awards recently.

Recall that On 7th October, 2018 the OSUA CONNECTION LEGACY FOUNDATION organised a Dinner where many old Students, Lecturer's and Admin gurus met and planned well for the University and Awards of Excellence were presented to many.

In conclusion, the foundation for the greatness of the University has been laid in accordance with the clarion CALL from the sage, Chief Jeremiah Obafemi Awolowo during his maiden visit to the institution in 1984 that we should make the University a prominent promontory where the light of intellectualism will shine and illumine the heart of the nation and beyond. Hence, we appeal to the new generations to keep the golden flag flying.







*I will donate my books to the University at the appropriate time. - Sir Ayobola Abiola, FCIB*

I am an Ijesha man. I was born and brought up in Ilesha. I went to Otapete Methodist Primary School Ilesha for my elementary education and Ife City College Ile-Ife for my secondary education. I gained admission to the then Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado Ekiti (later renamed OSUA and now EKSU). I actually wanted to study law at the University of Ife (now OAU) but when the admission was dragging my mum's bossom friend friend and bursar at the then Ife University advised that I should apply to the then OAU Ado Ekiti in 1984 to study economics. I was there as a student between 1984-1988 and our class then, was a very competitive one. It was while in the University that the name change from OAU Ado Ekiti to Ondo State University was effected. Immediately after graduation and youth service (NYSC) one of our visiting professors from Ife-Professor Fabayo took interest in me and encouraged me to enrol for my MSc degree in Economics at OAU Ife which programme I successfully completed in 1990. I have always strived to make the university proud. My first banking experience was at International Merchant Bank Lagos, a subsidiary of First National Bank of Chicago. I was excited to join the bank. I worked there for about three years and became Head of Financial Advisory Unit within the Corporate Finance Group. I had the

responsibility of managing Multilateral Institutions Assisted Projects in Nigeria. One of such successful projects was the Oyo State Infrastructural Development Project which focused on the channelization of Ogunpa River in Ibadan. I left the bank for Merchant Bank of Commerce, which later acquired Standard Trust Bank and subsequently merged with U.B.A. I worked with U.B.A for about 8 years, 1997-2005 in various capacities including as Deputy General Manager and Regional Director. In mid 2005, I joined FCMB as Senior Vice President (SVP). I was invited by the Board of FCMB during the banking industry consolidation era to help with FCMB transformation from a merchant bank to a commercial bank. My stint in FCMB was hugely successful as my Directorate was regarded as the most outstanding based on all known performance metrics at that time. In 2008, I was invited by U.B.A and appointed the Managing Director/CEO of UBA Tanzania, East Africa. I ran UBA Tanzania for four years and earned consecutive outstanding ratings without a single regulatory infractions. I'm a man of strong ethical values and this is reflected in my conduct and professional life. As a chartered banker, I have also been supportive of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria as an examiner and co-author of the Institute's study textbook on 'Lending and Credit Management' for the Institute's professional banking examination being administered across West Africa. I am regarded as a subject matter expert in Lending and Credit Management. Also, I had the opportunity to serve at the federal level when I was appointed Executive Director of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria by President Goodluck Jonathan in 2015 to represent

the South West on the Board of the Bank.

I was a member of the Technical Working Group set up by the Federal Government to prepare the Medium Term National Development Plans (2021- 2025 and 2026-2030) and Agenda 2050, the successor plan to Vision 2020. I was conferred with the chieftancy title of Otunba Tayese of Omu Aran Land in 2005 by His Imperial Majesty Olomu of Omu Aran Land in recognition of my modest role in supporting the Omu Aran indigenes doing businesses in different parts of Nigeria. I'm happily married to Olori Ibiyemi Abiola and blessed with children.

#### **WHAT WERE YOU KNOWN FOR AS A STUDENT IN OSUA?**

Within the class, I was known as Femi, the dark guy in Economics Department, generally regarded by his colleagues as a disciplined and brilliant guy in the midst of other equally brilliant guys who have continued to make our University proud. I was also nicknamed IBL after the International Breweries Limited Football Club because I used to play football on the campus.

#### **WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?**

I am part of the association and also part of the Eminent Persons Groups (EPG)

#### **WHAT'S ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENTS?**

They should take their studies seriously and ensure they are good ambassadors of our University wherever they might find themselves after graduation. Our university's academic integrity is important as we strive towards becoming a global university with a strong academic reputation.

A portrait of Com. Segun Odidi, a middle-aged Black man with a short beard and mustache, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is smiling slightly and has his hands clasped in front of him.

# Com. Segun Odidi

Media Consultant! Politician!!  
Lawyer in Equity

Association worldwide where he contributed in no small measure to the development of the Association and the University.

He was a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National Convention Committee. One of the Federal Government delegation to the world cup in Brazil in 2014

Also served as member of Ondo State Committee on Project monitoring and Commissioning under Governor Olusegun Mimiko.

His quest towards contributing to the growth of Ondo State led him to aspire to be Governor of Ondo state in the 2016 Gubernatorial Election where he stand as the Candidate of Peoples for Democratic Change (PDC) in that election and came 6th among the twenty Eight candidates on INEC List.

He is an activist, a human right crusader, and a socialist that believes in the well being of the society and her people.

He is a chieftain of APC and the Chief Operating officer of Hero Magazine and also Co-coordinator Ondo State Man of the year/Outstanding Personalities Award platform.

He is married to a delectable and virtuous wife, Olubunmi and the marriage is blessed with Children.

Born Five Decades ago to the family of Chief and Mrs R.A.Odidi of Lijofi quarters of Igbotako, Osooro in Okitipupa LGA of Ondo State.

He is an Alumnus of LA Primary sch, Stella Maris College both in Okitipupa and had his tertiary Education at Ondo State University now Ekiti State University where he bagged his first degree in Social Science. (Bsc. Hons) and also at Igbinedion University, Okada, Edo State where he bagged LLB,.( Bachelor of Law)

He is also a holder of diploma in Public Relations.

He was a students Union leader in his days at the University and held various positions of responsibilities

among which include, Chairman, NANS Joint Campus Committee Ondo/ Ekiti Axis and Life Leadership Of NANS.

He was the first Student in then OSUA that Chairman the Students Electoral Committee thereby breaking the jinx of having Lecturers conducting Elections for Students Union body and also Chairman, Human Rights League ( Ondo/ Ekiti axis).

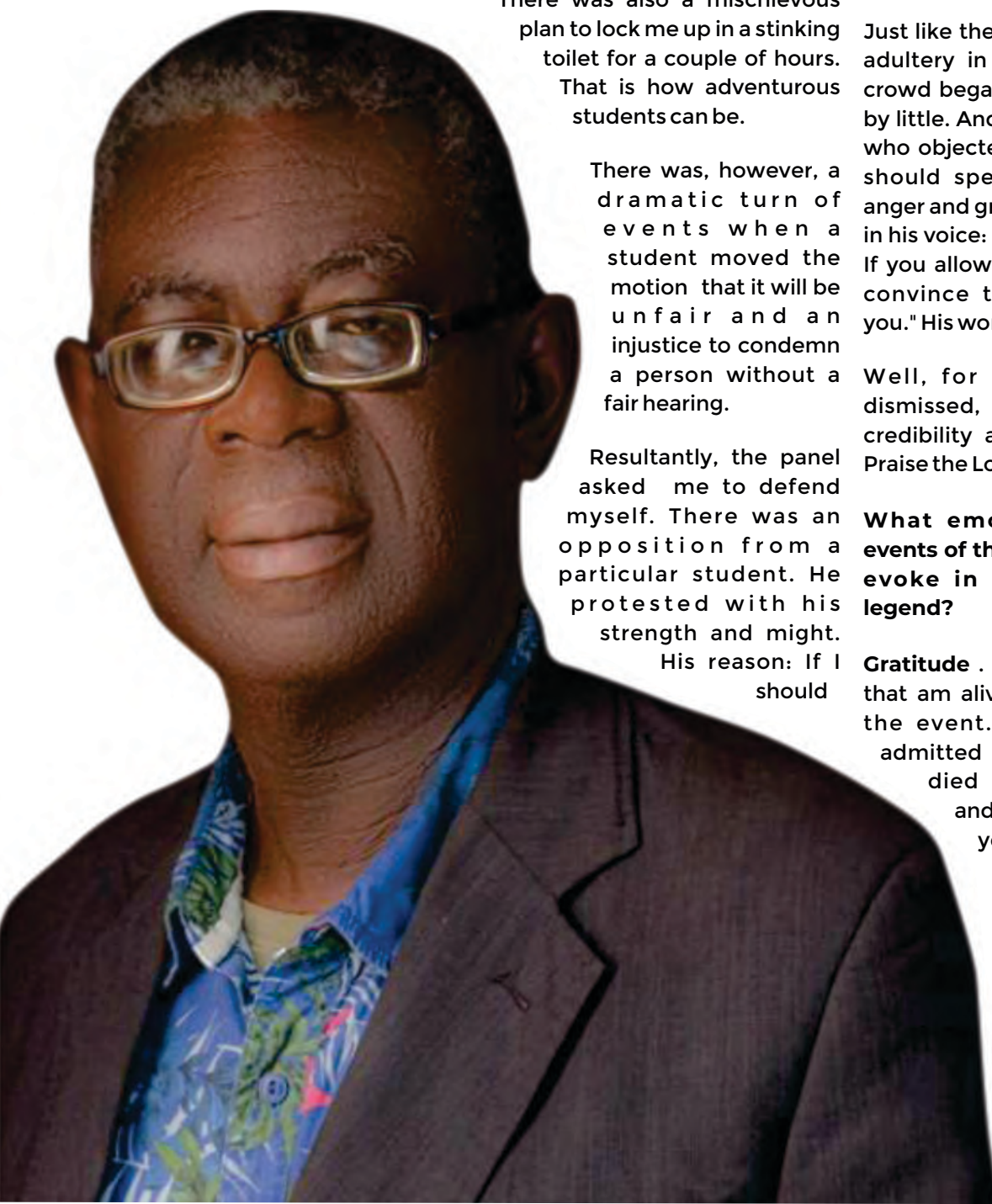
His quest towards the continuous contribution to the growth of his Alma mata led him to serve concurrently for almost seven years till march 2021 as the National Social Secretary and National Secretary of EKSU Alumni



Self education is  
the best education.  
In spite of structures  
and facilities you  
must put in your  
best efforts in  
whatever you are  
doing.

**L**et's trace your career  
path and how EKSU has  
contributed to it.

The school helped me to  
discover, above many things,



## Rev. Tobi Ayo LOTO

Senior / Founding Pastor, Covenant International  
Ministries Inc. Okitipupa, Ondo State Nigeria.  
First SUG President

my public speaking ability.

Today I am an incredible speaker  
and have trained many people  
on Public Speaking.

I will tell you a story:

Oct 1983, I was summoned to  
face a Students' Union tribunal  
with a singular objective of  
finding a way to implicate and  
impeach me from office as  
Students' Union president.  
There was also a mischievous  
plan to lock me up in a stinking  
toilet for a couple of hours.  
That is how adventurous  
students can be.

There was, however, a  
dramatic turn of  
events when a  
student moved the  
motion that it will be  
unfair and an  
injustice to condemn  
a person without a  
fair hearing.

Resultantly, the panel  
asked me to defend  
myself. There was an  
opposition from a  
particular student. He  
protested with his  
strength and might.

His reason: If I  
should

be allowed to talk for five  
minutes, all the allegations will  
be made baseless and  
unreasonable, because of my  
public speaking skills. His  
protest was ignored. I was  
beckoned to speak. Hallelujah!

If my memory can still capture  
the occasion well, my speech  
was so captivating that it was  
punctuated with applause even  
from my accusers.

Just like the woman accused of  
adultery in the holy writ, the  
crowd began to disappear little  
by little. And here came the guy  
who objected to the idea that I  
should speak, shouting with  
anger and great disappointment  
in his voice: "I told you. I knew it.  
If you allow him to talk, he will  
convince the crowd against  
you." His word came to pass.

Well, for me, I was to be  
dismissed, but my game and  
credibility as a leader soared!  
Praise the Lord

**What emotions does this  
events of the 40th anniversary  
evoke in you as an EKSU  
legend?**

**Gratitude** . Am grateful to God  
that am alive today to witness  
the event. Many who were  
admitted into the university  
died before graduation  
and some a couple of  
years after.

To God be the glory.  
More so that the  
university, which  
was called a "  
g l o r i f i e d  
s e c o n d a r y



school" is still standing.

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

The students Union government in my tenure started a residential program for students, with a gorgeous common room . The authorities were amazed because it was not part of the policy of the university. This gave birth to many commercial projects like that around the university. Looking back, I wonder where I got the courage to birth a project like that at a tenderage.

**Any role model for you then?**

People like Femi Falana and Arogudade were fearless motivation for me and other students leaders

**I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

The name Obafemi Awolowo as a symbol of greater attracted me to the university.

**What were you known for then?**

People told me that I was an easygoing, level headed, humble but eloquent personality

**Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

Self education is the best education. In spite of structures and facilities you must put in your best efforts in whatever you are doing.

opportunity to share.

I appreciate all my colleagues at the University especially those who made the students Union government as well as the leadership of the university like Professor Ifedayo Oladapo and the registrar Mr Adegbite. In spite of the agitations they handled us (students) appropriately and with respect and dignity.

*“The students Union government in my tenure started a residential program for students, with a gorgeous common room”*



# MY EKSU - STORY

AN EXCERPTS FROM AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE LEGENDARY TEIWEI JULIUS



## THE VC'S FIRST MEETING WITH THE STUDENTS.

It was announced that the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ifedayo O. Oladapo, a Cambridge University trained Civil Engineer, a Scholar, a Seasoned Administrator, a former Deputy VC Unilag. etc. was billed to meet all the Students.

The Bible says; Jotham became mighty because he prepared himself before the Lord, his God (2Chro.27:6). And so, I prepared myself!

Concluding with an Emphasis on the Students' readiness to work towards the Greatness of our University in absolute terms: while the authority with sober rectitude and proactive brilliance, should LEAD AND SHOW THE WAY; with all the necessary SACRIFICE. The palpable Excitement in the air could only be imagined. The VC observed that: with what he had just seen, heard, and experienced in the very beginning, then our University would surely be unsurpassable by any University in the near future.

And that was the turning point! Shortly after, during a lecture by one Dr. I.O.A. Adelola (one of the pioneering lecturers of Sociology) admonished us thus: "you need a cool-headed president and so let Loto be the President, Tade the PRO and Tiewei the Speaker and you will have a fantastic students Union". And that was how it went!

## THE WONDER OF MY ADMISSION

One bright afternoon, as I was playing the game of draughts (I don't play that game anymore) with a friend while others were watching in my country home, Arogbo in Ese-Odo Local Govt Area of Ondo State; another friend brought a Copy of the defunct Daily Sketch Newspaper, exclaiming in delightful, in my Native tongue (Ijaw), "eh, Julee, bo inere di eh" - meaning; oh Julee (my friends in my Town call me-Julee) come and see your name". Lo and behold, my Name was among those that were offered Admission into the newly created OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI; by the Ondo State Govt, headed by one of the finest and best Governors in the Country, Chief Papa Adekunle Ajasin. I wondered at the beautiful surprise and pondered on the implications of the News, even though I could not exactly fathom who could have done it!

About 30mins before the Meeting with the VC & Mgt, all the Students had settled down. After the VC'S Address, we were asked whether any Student had any question or observation or contribution to make. Everywhere was silent.

Then one very young, slim, sharp and beautiful Girl, of Dept. of Mathematics, with a voice having a deep pleasant sound, named Ronke Familoni (who later became the 3rd VP of the Students Union) was called to the microphone after indicating to say something. Ronke's questions and observations attracted applause and an aura of dignified respectability. In the Ronke Familoni's cause for gaiety and on the template of our University's Motto-"SERVICE AND INTEGRITY"; by the Grace of God and in all modesty: my observations we're laced with penetrating acuity and adorned with some Quotes of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Nelson Mandela, Bertrand Russell to buttress my points and

## VP-RONKE FAMILONI GAVE UNCOMMON LEADERSHIP.

We mobilised effectively within the shortest possible Time, with an Emergency-Congress, Room-to-Room political education, emphasising why such a draconian decision should not be allowed to go through. To me the Heroine and the Doyen was our own young, dynamic, highly cerebral Vice President to Awe: a Lady with steel determination, passionate, dedicated and focused; our own one and only one Ronke Familoni who showed Leadership and absolute Cooperation seamlessly. Ronke developed a steady determination that dared all forces.

On a Sunday evening (and the Exam. was slated to begin on Monday morning, the following day, at the Permanent Site); within a span of about four hours, Congress presided over by our

own Ronke Familoni (Ronke, God bless you ma), some crucial and salient decisions and resolutions had been made and the letters were needed to be delivered urgently particularly the ones for the VC and the Registrar, that late in the night. We had also made some letters to our Colleagues in Unife, U.I., Unilag, to come for Solidarity Rallies etc. The external letters were to be despatched by the Assistant Secretary General of the Awe Exco, one very cool-headed, but highly intelligent and results-oriented young Guy (sorry, I couldn't readily remember his name now). On very early Monday morning, the Day the Exam was purportedly to start, the Asist. Sec. Gen. had left for Ife, Ibadan and Lagos. You could see Sacrifice and Commitment to positive ALUTA.

#### **DIFFICULTY IN DELIVERING VC'S LETTER**

The delivery of the VC's Letter containing our Resolutions, particularly, the aspect of: "NO AWE, NO EXAMS" needed some sense of astuteness and political adroitness. We went to the VC's Quarters in the Students Union bus, as we approached the Gate, I alighted with the original Copy of the VC's letter, while I asked our own Ronke to go and engage the Gate-men at the main Gate with some of our great Students in the bus with her. I quickly found my way to the back gate, the Gate-man who apparently did not know what was happening at the entrance gate, never asked me any question, but just kept on hailing me and repeating, "our president sir". He was chivalrous and I requested him to oblige me by easing myself at the Chalet. He just opened the Gate for me. Nobody ever knew how I entered the Compound and it was my absolute duty to "protect" the interest of the innocent Gate-man and I never told anyone until now. I handed over the Letter to the VC.

#### **NIGERIA POLICE TOOK OVER**

#### **OUR CAMPUS**

I returned to my room around 4am, took my shower and tried to have some rest.

Shortly after, some Students rushed to my room to inform me that the Campus had been flooded with policemen led by the State Police Commissioner with the VC and the Registrar around and some buses lined up to convey the Students that were ready for the Exams to the Permanent Site.

I went to tackle our own ever tolerant, fatherly, vivacious and amiable Registrar, Chief J.G.O. Adegbite and asked him to persuade the VC to withdraw the Police. The VC came to ask the Registrar what was I discussing with him; then faced me and said: - "were you not the one that presided over the Congress & came into my house very late in the night to give me a letter?" The VC, asked the

#### **Registrar not listen to me. POLICE COMMISSIONER TO WITHDRAW HIS MEN**

I swiftly moved towards the Police Commissioner imploring him to withdraw his men and that the Students were ready to go and write the Exams rather than creating a psychological warfare. Thank God he acceded. We asked all the students to move to the Permanent Site. The Education Students got themselves screened and were ready to write the Exams under the supervision of the VC and their Dean. Eventually a riotous situation was created; they ran helter-skelter and the great match began. At the Ajitadidun, the Congress started.

#### **UNIFE FIRST FEMALE PEESIDENT, BIMBO BAMIDELE ADDRESSED THE STUDENTS**

The first ever female President of Unife of Faculty of Law, Bimbo Bamidele: phenomenally excellent in Eloquence and Elocution, exuding vigour, fortitude and happiness, with a striking beauty, was called to address the students. In the din

of interminable acclaim and deafening applause that welcomed her arrival; Lady-President Bimbo Bamidele chose only to see the sunny spoke behind the darkest Pal. With her and other Activists from U.I, UniLag; we went to the Negotiation-Table with the University Authority and the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti. The solidarity messages from many other Universities kept the tempo and the inspiration of our students going; meanwhile by the Standing Order of NANS; that on no Account should Nigerian Students go on the streets as we had always been the Victims of brutality in the hands of the Nigeria Police, which our Students were quite aware of. The 2nd Day, we went to His Royal Majesty, the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti for a feed-back, shortly after another Congress. We met the Registrar; Chief J.G.O. Adegbite (an indigene of Ado-Ekiti) informing the Oba that an order of "SHOOT ON SIGHT" had been given to the Police and that our students were marching into the city as received from Intelligence- Report. We threatened and informed the Kabiyesi that if anything unpalatable should happen to any of our Students; the Registrar, his Subject would dearly pay for it: We rushed to go and meet the Students. There were no mobile phones then.

#### **"SHOOT-ON-SIGHT"- ORDER THAT MADE RONKE CRY**

As we got to the Road and saw from afar, from Fajuyi-Park; the massive, extensive and intensive Crowd of our students marching with solidarity songs towards the Police Headquarters; and seeing the Policemen holding their guns (rifles), coupled with the information of "SHOOT-ON-SIGHT"; order; Ronke (our own Vice-president) burst into tears, sobbing profusely and uncontrollably; facing me (we were both on the front seat with the Driver) and shouting: - "Oh God Help us; Mr President, do



something, Mr President, do something repeatedly". I tried to calm her down to no avail.

#### **VP RONKE FAMILONI: A LADY OF CHARACTER.**

Our own Ronke was one lady with profound passion to achieve set goals and objectives, she would ride the storms, bolstered by a tenacious spirit and mulish resolve to excel and arrive with her dreams intact on pliant Oasis.

That day storm seemed too ferocious for her to contend with but her humanity and humanness and caring heart were surely showcased. What a rare gem of a Vice-president! Ronke may all your dreams become a reality.

#### **OUR GREAT STUDENTS WON; BUT OUR GREAT OAU'S NAME WAS CHANGED TO OSUA.**

Right in front of the Ado-Ekiti Police Headquarters; we met with the students. Somehow, I was on top of the Bus and a megaphone had been provided. I addressed our own God (HIMSELF) assembled uniquely cerebral Students who had so much ethical or ideational depth to Politics and unshakable ideological surefootedness. By the evening of that day; the University was closed down indefinitely. It was during the closure that the powers that be; changed the Name of our great University; from OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI (OAU) to ONDO STATE UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI (OSUA). We were eventually called to resume to write the Exams with Awe, Charles Olajide also writing. The Students Won!

#### **MY LAST MEETING WITH OUR OWN VC; AFTER GRADUATION**

Our own University became so great on a geometrical progression, essentially because we had such a formidable, remarkable and excellent management, headed by a Cambridge trained Civil Engineer, a foremost

Administrator, a Scholar and indeed, an Exemplar of Excellence.

Of course, many a time, we had so many reasons to disagree to agree and engaged severally in constructive deliberations all with a view to making our University to become the best and excellent all-round. I met with my V.C, our own ever blovd VC, the one and only one, Prof. Ifedayo O. Oladapo, the FIRST VICE-CHANCELLOR of our great University, (OAU, ADO-EKITI) during a Book Launch in Lagos, sometime in 2001. The Managing Director of Spectrum Books-Chief Berkhout had earlier invited me to the book Launch while i was the Special Adviser to Governor Adefarati on Commerce & Industry. I prostrated and greeted my VC in the presence of his German wife with two of his friends. The VC was so happy to see me and embraced me. Our own pioneering VC. Prof. Ifedayo Oladapo introduced me to his two friends and to the wife, who of course knew me very well. Prof. Ifedayo Oladapo, then said to me that he was proud of me and wished me to become the President of Nigeria in the nearest future because: HE KNEW I WOULD NOT DISAPPOINT MY VOTERS. In retrospect, I always feel fulfilled.

#### **MY MODELS/INFLUENCERS**

My Model in conceptual terms is in pluralism, apparently because they did and still do influence my life in differently respective ways. But one ever constant and eternal Denominator of them all is the WORD-God Almighty. I must admit with a unique sense of responsibility and with all modesty that i have had a very successful Grace of God upon my life which is given to the single-minded pursuit of Justice, Truth, Integrity and Fear of God.

When in position of Functional Responsibility :two things to do so as to succeed, excel and shine are :(1) Rule or Act in the Fear of God -(2 Sam 23:3&4); I always want to be a person God should

SEEK for:-(John4:24) as i worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. My Relationship with People:- my Guiding Principle has always been:-"Do unto others as you want others to do unto you"-(Matt7:12).

Finally, God's Assurance to me that "He will not leave nor forsake me. (Heb 13:5)-keeps me secured, no matter the Storm. By God's Grace, hardly a day passes by without my studying the WORD of God, usually early in the morning. THANK YOU JESUS.

My Human Models: First my Parents; my Father: Papa Ajube Tiewei Gbodoh: influenced me never to fear or be afraid of anything and to face every challenge frontally and never to quit. My Mother: Mama Ede-ere (Golden Woman) P. Tiewei:- I must not owe anyone, my Mother was into fishing and we never lacked fish in the house. She never borrowed.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo was my Model in Innovative Ideas, Core-Cadre Discipline, Exceptional Leadership-Qualities and doing things with Teutonic Thoroughness of the Germans. Innovation requires a new way of thinking and looking at the World. Innovation comes not from discovering something new, but from putting elements together in a whole new way.

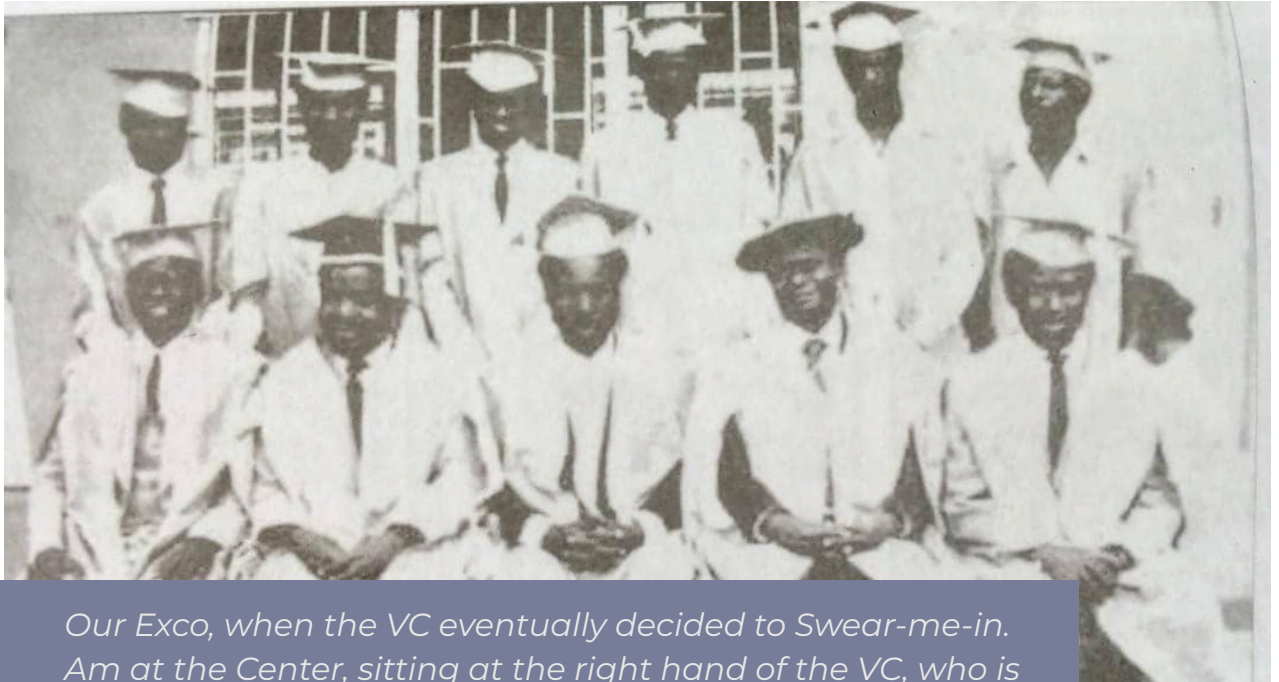
Justice Kayode Eso (JSC) - our own grandpa - as we used to call him was my Model in PROBITY, TRUTHFULNESS and his Zero Tolerance for Corruption. I do Cherish Grandpa's Ideals.

Papa Nelson Mandela - my Model for Principled Commitment to Selfless Service and Justice with Absolute Sense of Altruism.

Pastor E.A. Adeboye - my Model for Simplicity, Humility, and Holiness. Leo Tolstoy says: "There is no Greatness where there is no simplicity, goodness and truth". The Bible says:- "Before Honour is Humility" (Prov. 15:33b). Yet the Bible says, without Holiness one cannot see God-(Heb.12:14b).

# Teiwei Julius

*The second SUG president*



*Our Exco, when the VC eventually decided to Swear-me-in. Am at the Center, sitting at the right hand of the VC, who is with the Academic Hat.*



*My First Visitation to Papa Awo with some of my Exco members. Am at the right hand side of Papa Awo (Tiewei Julius, President).on my right in agbada, (Iwaro Adeniyi, Vice-President), to Papa Awo's left(Ogundana P.S., Director of Finance), (the shortest-Olorunyolemi Deji), and extreem left of Papa Awo, (Akinsipe, Stephen Bulla, Director of Sports).*



*One of our various Aluta-outings. Am the one with the poster: "The future belongs to us".*



*My time at EKSU constituted the days, months, and years that crowned the spirit of activism in me*

## **-CHIEF OLAJIDE AWE**

*The Third Student Union  
President Of EKSU*

**C**hief Olajide Awe is an alumnus and former Student Union President of the then Obafemi Awolowo University, now Ekiti State University. He is from Erijin, Ekiti, and was born and bred in the State. He is a High Chief, Community leader, Political activist, and Farmer.

**Can you tell us what your days at EKSU were like?**

My time at EKSU constituted the days, months, and years that crowned the spirit of activism in me. From the time I concluded my secondary school education and enrolled for my HSCE at Ikare, Akoko, I began following the political trend in the then Ondo state and began participating in politics at a lower level.

When I learnt that the UPN was planning to establish a University for the Ekiti section of the old Ondo State, a number of us at OSCAS, Ikare were interested in being among the first contingents of students.

However, I wanted to finish my HSCE so I ended up missing the first batch of 1980-83.

It was not until 1984 that I enrolled at the School.

I immediately became involved in kick-starting the political engineering of the campus. In my

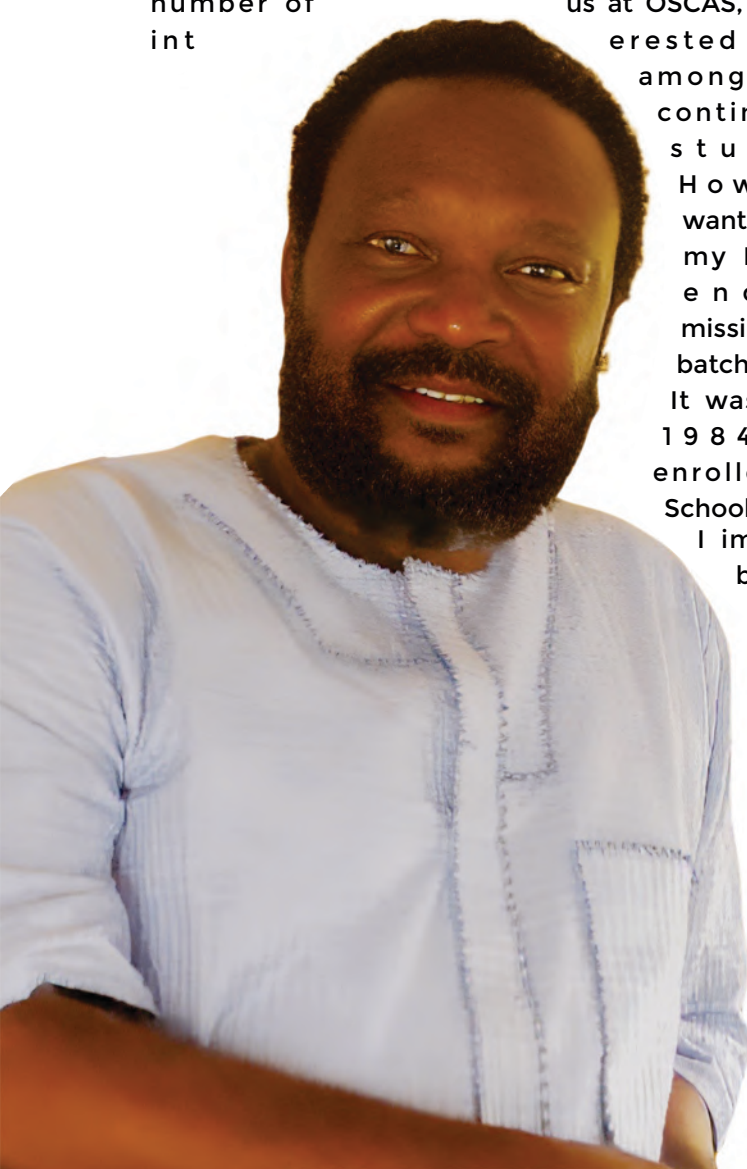
first year in the school, I became a member of the Students' Representative Council. By my second year, I contested for the presidency just after my matriculation.

One of the reasons for my success as President was my closeness to the preceding President, Tegwe Julius. There had been two student leaders before me; the first of whom was Lotto Ayoola, and then Tegwe Julius. I was very close to Chiewe and worked with him extensively in building the foundation of student unionism at the University then I became the third Student Union President.

Among the things we fought for at the time were the inadequacy of classrooms, transportation issues and changing the perception of society as touching the School. At the time, the School was considered to be little more than a glorified secondary school. However, the first set put in their best in academic pursuit, and political and social excellence to change that perception.

**Can you tell us about the popular riot that took place in your school during your tenure?**

(Laughs) You mean 'No-Awe-no-exam'. We'd been fighting a long, heated battle with the authorities over the proposed change of the name of the University. We started as Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU). It was later changed to Ondo State University (OSU) then to TUNAJ and finally to Ekiti State University (EKSU). The government had their way and we retreated although we were not happy deep down inside us. Then, there was the issue of transportation as the University moved



to its permanent site. We sat down with the authorities and decried the huge amount we were being asked to pay for tickets. Eventually, the negotiation broke down as neither party was willing to shift grounds on the matter.

The authorities saw me as a problematic person and in looking for a way to "curb my excesses", I was suspended for a month. This was only a day before my exams. The implication was that I would not be able to sit for the exam and would carry over that course. The students refused to accept this injustice and started protesting on campus stating that if Awe was not allowed to write his exams, then no one would. It was championed by Elder statesmen like Tewe, Ayoola and co. We all resumed after one month was up.

**What kind of emotion does it invoke in you to see your School at 40?**

It was like a dream when we started. People believed that the School would not last but for the spirit of education made Baba Ajasin, the then Ewi of Ado Ekiti; Oba Adesanmi and the Ado community supports that kept the hope alive. It is great to see how the products of the School have excelled through the years and across different fields of human endeavours.

While in school, we excelled at every competition and when we graduated, we were a force to be reckoned with in the labour market. Some of us went abroad and won laurels. Glory be to God!

Thanks to the activities of the first Vice Chancellor, Professor Ifedayo Oladapo, the first registrar, Chief Adegbite, and our first set of lecturers, Professor Mosinde, Professor Ogunba and co., we built a University based on trust.

When I think of those good old years, forty years seems just like yesterday. Some of us entered at the young age of 21, or 22 but looking at us today, I give glory to God.

**What will you like to say to the current crop of EKSU students?**

Like every other student across the various Universities in Nigeria, they are going through a lot of issues that ordinarily should have been of no concern to them. However, I will like to warn them not to be too concerned with worldly affairs. Today, you see these students doing the things that we left for the future in our time.

To student politicians, I implore you to return to the spirit with which we started these student organizations. In our time, we organized conferences, seminars and symposia. We protested whenever we noticed anything that was not going right in the society. Today, student activism has become commercialized. You see student leaders riding heavy vehicles through town and chasing after politicians. It is very disheartening.

I call them to reposition student activism. The University is supposed to be the barometer through which we measure society and the artery through which change flows.

**Unfortunately, the things you fought for then are still here and have even gotten worse. How does it feel to see that?**

During our time, we fought for transportation, water, reconstruction of dilapidated structures, and so on. Yet, these are still the order of the day today. I will like to say that you cannot grow beyond your society. After University, I went into national politics and I can tell you that the same things we were fighting for in the '90s are still obtainable today. It is even worse. Look at our roads and markets. Things are not improving. This is why the University must continue to fight for change.

**The current university system in Nigeria is appalling. As someone who has been in the corridors of power, what do you think the Government can do as a matter of urgency to rectify the situation?**

We need a lot of resuscitation programs. Thankfully, we now have someone who passed through the system as the new Governor-elect. I believe that he will bring a change. We need someone who is politically and economically adept at a time like this to redraw the program to tally with the good intentions of those who established the University. One such intention was self-sufficiency for EKSU. I hope that is something we'll get to see soon.



“I was not called to the bar with my contemporaries in 2002 because of my student activism. The School authorities have issues with me”

Tope Adebayo is a Lawyer, Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. He hails from Igbara-odo in Ekiti South Local Government. He had his primary education at St. John Anglican Primary School, Igbara-odo. He spent the first two years of his secondary education at Community High School, Igbara-odo then proceeded to Annunciation School, Ikere for his JSS 3 through SS3 where he finished in 1991.

After his secondary education, he attended extra-mural classes before getting admitted into the University of Ado-Ekiti to study Law in 1994. He contested for Student Union President and won. He eventually graduated behind the school calendar in 2000 due to incessant strikes and other student-related crises. He was the Best Graduating student of his set; the first Student Union President to achieve that feat.

He proceeded to the Nigerian Law School where he graduated in 2003 after which he got employed with Olanihun Ajayi and Co. from 2004 to December 2005. In 2006, he joined Afe Babalola's law firm until 2008 when he started his own firm, Tope Adebayo & Co (now Tope Adebayo LP). He has also gone into the hospitality business in Lagos. He is married with 5 children; four beautiful daughters and a son.

#### **What prompted you to go into Student Unionism?**

I wanted to show a different type of leadership. Before I became President, it was commonly said that Student Leaders were unserious students. I felt the need to change that narrative. At that time, I was the best student in my class and I was popular for imparting knowledge.

I had a lot of friends who agreed that there was a need for a change of narrative. They wanted someone who the authorities would be unable to tag as an unserious student. They wanted more intellectually-oriented leadership.

My first foray into student unionism was to contest for President. However, I had not been involved in unionism before then so I lost at my first attempt. I recontested again



**BARRISTER TOPE ADEBAYO**  
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT UNION

movement during the Abacha days. We fought for the June 12 actualization and the release of Abiola after Abacha's death.

I was also heavily involved in the struggle for Fasayo and Obisere's reinstatement in Ife. There was a time our Student Union President was arrested by Inuwa Bawa who was the sole administrator of Ekiti State at the time. The student leaders failed to rise up and so the students needed leadership. By the grace of God, I was able to provide the needed leadership. When they saw the way I led them, they responded with confidence in me. When I recontested, it was a no-brainer that I was going to be elected as President.

#### **What were you able to achieve as President?**

Before I came into office, student dues were only used to fund student union activities. Money wasn't used for infrastructural development. I pioneered the idea of using students' dues to do something visible. One such project was the erection of street light poles from Osekita to the School. I also noticed that students had to stand in the sun while waiting to go home so I erected a canopy for them to stand under.

Another accomplishment was that I was able to ensure that the school authorities did not increase fees beyond the capacity of the students. It was a lofty goal but we were able to achieve it. I also

stopped the sale of handouts in the School.

The defence of students' rights was also crucial to me. Our school was put on the map of NANS activities. If anything happened, the students will say 'Tope Adebayo will not take it'. Till tomorrow, you will still find those comrades from other schools who are always happy to see me.

### **What were the implications of your activism?**

I was not called to the bar with my contemporaries in 2002 because of my activism. The School authorities had issues with me so they didn't allow me to go. It was in 2003 that I was eventually called to the bar after I resolved my issues with the School. I was called while I was serving.

Also, the lecturers were not happy with me because I stopped them from taking the little money the students were being given for their sustenance in school. That was the price to pay.

### **Looking back, if given the same opportunity, would you do the same thing again?**

Definitely, I will. I am a man of purpose and I do not do anything that I do not believe in. I counted the cost before going into Student Unionism. I knew that I could be rusticated. However, a man must live for something. Life without purpose is not worth living. If given the opportunity, I would do it again.

I actually contested for the position of Governor under a new political party, APDA but lost to APC. I believe by the grace of God, I will give it a shot again when Biodun Oyebanji's tenure is done.

If you claim to have the best ideas on how to turn your people's fortune around and you refuse to step up, someone else will offer himself to fill that vacuum and that person may be the wrong person. Evil triumphs when good people stand aloof. That is why if given the opportunity, I will still do the same thing though there are certain things I would do differently.

I can recall how interesting Unionism was. Lecturers were afraid of me but I was not afraid of anyone. Not out of pride, but because I had a clear conscience. I knew that I was up to date in my studies so no one could blackmail me with threats to fail me.

### **You were so courageous**

Yes, you need courage. Courage is essential for anything one would do in life.

### **Let us take a look at Ekiti State. What do you think Ekiti state needs at this moment?**

At this moment, it needs a statesman. We need leaders who do not live for today, who think outside the box, who do not mind seeing the results of the steps they take in the next ten years, and who are not in a hurry because for the State to be built, a lot of things must have gone into the foundation. We need statesmen who are ready to lay an enduring foundation for an economically empowered State.

We have the highest and best resources; better than Bayelsa and Rivers. I am not talking about oil resources but human resources. Those resources must be appropriately harnessed. If you ask me, the emergency in Ekiti state is

human capital development.

### **Finally, not all lawyers are as successful as you have been. What is your advice to young lawyers and law students on the ingredients of success or successful practice?**

I am currently writing a book detailing my story. I am writing it so that people can learn from it. My parents were farmers. I used to leave school and go to the farm so there is nothing you want to tell me that I do not know. When I left for Lagos, I did not know anyone there but I knew that the ability to succeed was in-built in me. Yorubas say that 'eni to ba fe se nkan tenikan o se ri, oju e a ri ntenikan o ri ri' (whoever is going to achieve what has never been achieved before will face what no man has ever faced before).

If you want to succeed unconventionally without having a godfather or belonging to a cult, you must find wisdom from above. I tap from wisdom from above, and what is that wisdom:

1. Whatever you are doing, no matter what it is, try as much as possible to be the best at it.
2. You only have one chance to make a good first impression, make it count.
3. Be compassionate and do not take the love of people for granted.
4. Be generous.
5. Life is a product of your choices. Make good choices.
6. Be principled about keeping your promises. When you give your word, stick to it. Let people know that about you.





*The training at EKSU was rigorous but it prepared me for the Challenges of life*

**Bar. Muiyiwa Cole**

*Former SUG President*

to call it then.

So looking back this 40 year, yes there are lots to celebrate and we give God all the glory.

**Education is said to be a store of value. What are the values synonymous with EKSU in your days?**

Wao! what a question. In our days, the value of EKSU took its root from 3 sources: First, the legacy of its founder - Pa Adekunle Ajasin CFR the first civilian governor of the Old Ondo State. Second, the aura of the late sage Chief Obafemi

Awolowo CGFR, SAN whom the University was first named after. Three, the location of the University, Ekiti known for many educational attainments.

These three factors rolled into one, earned the University and indeed its products the value of hardwork, resilience, honesty, integrity and brilliance. These accounts for its products blazing the trail wherever they find themselves.

**Can you share with us some of your challenging experiences in EKSU?**

In my days, the university was quite young and the challenges we faced as students, even the staff was the effects of its location i.e in Ado Ekiti which is not in the thoroughfare of Nigeria and also situated in the outskirts of the town, in far away Iworoko; and the non residential policy, made learning and living very harrowing. But with the never say die (oroku) life that we were indoctrinated, we survived.

**Do you think EKSU@40 is worth celebrating considering the fallen standard of education right now in Nigeria?**

Yes EKSU at 40 is worth celebrating. There might be indices of fallen standard of education in Nigeria, but we can't deny the fact that EKSU in its own modest way has contributed to the development of the nation in the area of education and general human capacity building. I doubt if there is any institution of note or field of human endeavours in Nigeria that you will not find EKSU products holding sway and doing wonderfully well.

Second, EKSU has survived so many onslaught as a result policy somersault borne out of intolerable political behaviour of successive political leaders under various administration which not many of its peers would have survived. For some of us who were admitted there in not too distant period from its establishment and went back some years after graduation to pick another degree, we can confirm that EKSU has really grown and moved up. It is no longer a glorified secondary school that they used

Personally, what could be regarded as challenging experiences to me were not really a challenge because it was a cause I chose deliberately. I can summarize it into two headings: struggle for academic freedom and pro-democracy struggle.

These struggles clashed me and my co-activists with the University management on numbers of times. Facing series panels which were really distractive to academics.

### **What impacts does your training at EKSU had on your career and achievements?**

Take it from the virtues I mentioned earlier. The training in EKSU was rigorous but it prepared me for the challenges of life as it helped build in me a resilient and indomitable but humble spirit. The zero tolerance of our University for cheating in exam and intolerant behaviour among students influences one with the virtues of honesty, integrity and tolerance. Generally you hardly find an EKSU student who is not hardworking, innovative and resourceful.

### **Your advice for current generation of students of EKSU.**

A lot has changed now. I was around in the days of OSUA and I also had a taste of EKSU, so I know it's a whole world of difference. My advice for the current generation of students is to reconnect to the tradition of the University. No doubt, the influence of societal decadence in our ivory tower is ravaging, but I advise that they should always be conscious of the peculiarities of our university environment, the vision of the founders and the ever sensitive spirit of their seniors to any form oppression and of course the pursuit of academic excellence. With these, the society has a glorious place for them.

### **My SUG experience.**

Being a Students' Union president in my days in the university at that time in our nation's history, for me was significant and a defining moment in my life. Over 2 decades down the line, the effects of the position, the role and activities still influence and impact my life on the positive note and I give God all the glory.

You know, it was not only a period of military dictatorship but a post annulment of June 12 1993 presidential election period. So it was an unusual period for Nigerian students generally. And for one to be a student's leader who will not sell out, it was like a suicidal mission.

My primary role then as Student's Union president was to protect the students from any form of oppression, victimisation, extortion, to ensure that academic freedom was guaranteed. To also play an active role in the pro-democracy struggle. You know, our University had a track record in students activism and liberation struggles among the comity of University campuses.

Note that I had been part of the struggle before I got admitted into the University so it was not difficult for me to get support for our struggles on campus.

Not only that, we also assisted the university management to solve problems with government. There was a time in 1996 that our direct intervention led to release and increase in the monthly subvention to the university by Ondo and Ekiti State governments.

### **EKSU Alumni and my role as an Alumni Executive.**

My role as an Executive of Alumni is to work with the

Alumni President and other executive members to enhance the status of the University and also to bring all graduands together under one roof for their socio-economic and political benefits.

It was towards this direction that NEC approved my proposal and the promise made during electioneering to establish the Alumni Legal Aid Committee to assist Alumni attending to any legal issues they may have to deal with.

The standard of our Alumni Association has been raised impressively and commendably too under Asiwaju Dotun Adetuberu and the incumbent President Engr. Dipo Bamişaye is sustaining the tempo and exploring new frontiers. You saw the amazing work the Alumni did with the Endowment Fund during the last Convocation, the first in the life of the University. Our Exchange programme is going to be explosive too. Don't forget the beautiful concept of the Alumni Village.

An Alumnus, His excellency Biodun Oyebanji under this dispensation has assumed the position of first citizen and governor of Ekiti State. The role of the Alumni Associations in achieving this great feat was inspiring. Our members collapsed all political differences and interests to achieve this goal. With an Alumnus as visitor to the university, the glory of the University will soon be fully restored.



## *There was a President*

**D**eji Oso, also known as DEJAVU, was one of the prominent students at the Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti in 2003-2008. He was actively involved in campus politics, eventually becoming President of the Students' Union Government, SUG.

Now, the student activist is a lecturer in the same University molding the next generation. He is also involved with the Alumni Association and he is Chairman of the Ekiti Chapter. In his words "I am passionate about EKSU"

'Deji was born over four decades ago into the Taiwo Oso's family, a prominent member of the Meetanmi dynasty, in the Erunran Compound of Osi-Ekiti. In the 1980s, he attended Auntie Bisi Nur/Pry School in Ikare Akoko and was admitted to Saint/John Mary's Unity Secondary School in Owo to complete his secondary education in 1991. He then attended Ojugbaye Secondary School there after, where he was elected the Social Prefect Boy. In 1999, he gained entry into the University of Benin to pursue a Law, but left because of financial difficulties and activism-related problems. Thereafter, he received a scholarship to study political science at the University of Ado-Ekiti (now Ekiti State University), where he earned a second class (upper divisions) in 2008. Dejavu, as affectionately known to family and friends during his university years when he was a dynamic leader of the UNAD Students' Union, is a member of the Nigerian Institute of Management, the Association of Nigerian Universities Professional Administrators, and the Institute of Strategic Management of Nigeria. Beyond the excellent records listed above, he is a very dedicated and tireless leader whose accomplishments in the fields of human-power development and capacity building have continued to inspire many young people to greatness. At the Ekiti State Chapter of the EKSU Alumni Association, he currently serves as the Chairman. He founded the Crusade for a Better Ekiti State and serves as the Secretary of the Yoruba Youth Assembly. Among other positions he has held in the past include: Former Secretary, South West Nigeria Youth-Leaders Association Former Coordinator, Congress of Ekiti North Youth Organization President, UNAD Students Union President and NANS Senator (2007-2008) Opomulero, as some other fans of his call him, is a recipient of many awards of excellence and honour from very many

## DEJI OSO



reputable students and youth organizations in Nigeria, particularly in Ekiti State. These include: Award of Excellence - Global Leadership of EKSU Alumni Association (2021) Award of Honour: Jagunmolu of Nigerian Students - Federation of Ekiti State Students Union (FESSU: 07-08) Award of Excellence: Best Students' Union President in Nigeria - National Association of Ondo State Students (2007) Youth Development Award - National Association of Ido-Osi Students (2011) Meritorious Award: Nigerian Army Cadet Corps: Unit 001 (2014) Hall of Fame Award: Department of Political Science (2015), to mention a few. Adedeji Odunayo Oso is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His areas of research interest include: International Relations and African Politics, Governance, Migration Management, Gender and Postcolonial Studies. Beyond academic exploration, Opomulero is exposed to being an Essayist and a Youth-leadership Expert.

## EKSU is meant for the strong. -Bar Tosin Ayo

He is fondly called Tosin Ayo and he exudes that innate conviviality but the very brainy and cheery Tosin Ayo, a lecturer at the faculty of law, EKSU, is a repository of knowledge who has attained academic Excellence by sheer hard work.

Tosin Ayo is qualified to practice



law in Nigeria. He is a Legal Practitioner and a Lecturer at the Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, Faculty of Law, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria where he teaches Oil and Gas Law, Environmental Law, Clinical Legal Education and Criminology. He has advised on several power and energy proposals in private legal practice. He underwent his mandatory National Youth Service at the Corporate Services' Department of the Department of Petroleum Resources, Warri, Delta State, Nigeria where his interest in oil and gas law was galvanized and stimulated. He has a deep understanding of Nigerian and International Political Economy.

He holds a LLB (University of Ado-Ekiti), BL (Nigerian Law School, Abuja) and a pioneer LLM (with Commendation)

, having obtained a Distinction Grade in His LL.M Dissertation and emerging with the result of the overall best performance in the Energy Law, LL.M program of

the University of Aberdeen in September 2013. He has attended several national and international conferences including the Offshore Europe, Aberdeen, United Kingdom in September 2013, the Law Theme International conference in Paris, France in May 2013, John H. Jackson International Moot Competition on International Trade Law and WTO Law in Nairobi, Kenya, April, 2019 amongst several others. He is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, the National Association of Law Teachers and the European Energy Institute.

He has published articles in leading academic journals both in Nigeria and internationally. He is equally a Freelance writer with several articles in national dailies and on social media. He is the Team Lead of Castles & Temples. His Ph.D research interest is International Environmental Oil and Gas Law and he is married with children.





## MS WONU ADELADUN

**M**s Wonu Adeladun

**Pre-degree 1986/1987**

**Graduate of Chemistry 1987/1991**

*"Ultimately, we want to be a proactive Alumni Group and a change agent bringing positive influences and developments within our community and to EKSU"-The President, United Kingdom & Ireland Chapter of EKSU Alumni Association.*

It is a great privilege to be an alumnus of EKSU currently because there is so much capacity for stakeholder foundation building and constructive inputs.

In my view, the sun is really shining on EKSU, it is the time to make hay, have all available hands on deck, plug into the talented alumni community and push through the strongest foundation achievable as a collective effort on which others would build in the not too later future.

**What have you been doing since you left OSUA (EKSU)?**

I served for one year on the mandatory NYSC program right after graduating from OSUA back then and I have since been making my living in the United Kingdom. Interestingly, though I read chemistry in OSUA, I switched

lanes and now practice law, governance, professional administration, procurement, and management. Just like with chemicals aligning before we can have good mixtures, effective relationship and organisation building are still the core qualities of my practice to date and I cannot emphasise these without ultimately thinking of OSUA where the strong foundation developed into maturity.

**I will want you to reminisce, what factors informed your choice of OSUA and tell me about your OSUA years?**

My parents picked OSUA (Ondo

State University, Ado Ekiti), now EKSU for me. Our University was in Ondo State back then before the creation of Ekiti State. Chief Michael Adekunle Ajasin was the Ondo State governor at the time of OAU/OSUA's creation in 1982 and my beloved Father, High Chief Bamidele Adeladun, was not only close to him but also very fond of him as a great leader; both proudly being illustrious sons of the great Owo Kingdom too. My parents believed in the OSUA vision so much and enrolled me on the Pre-degree programme right after Secondary School. I became an undergraduate on the Pure and Applied Chemistry degree program in 1987 and graduated in 1991.

I spent my first two years living in Ado Ekiti at the halls of residence known as 'Off Campus' owned by the Olaobas. "Off campus" was a popular place and perhaps the most established students' hall of residence back then. It was a safe place for one leaving home for the first time. My parents were my regular visitors, bringing me top-up groceries and reassurances around the challenges within our OSUA environment including the journey from Ado to Iworoko and back. My Mother, Chief (Mrs) Yinka Adeladun, commuted the Ado roads perhaps as much as I did. I was one of those students that Mum visited, brought food for on campus and even picked up my hand-written thesis to type and return for me to submit and defend.

In those first two years of living off-campus, commuting to campus for lectures was a chore because the roads were in bad shape and suitable vehicles were few, however, we got there most days anyhow. On campus, buildings were still like regular Secondary School classrooms, and we were usually so many in class, but we looked and behaved like undergraduates irrespective of our immediate environment. We had the Faculties of Science, Arts, Social Science and Engineering back then powered by the Admin Building for staff.

Our laboratories were equipped enough for the full degree experience, and we had a computer room where we were introduced to some Information Technology. We had a few food places but there was no night life on campus back then since nobody lived there. Our university was just starting with basic one-storey buildings except for the Omolayo Building which was multi-storey. The graduation hall could not sit everyone back then, only the prize winners and first-class graduates were guaranteed entry while others wore the gowns gladly on University grounds sharing celebratory food and drinks to mostly anyone that would stop to say "congrats". Graduation days were fun days on campus back then. The library was a sizeable one-storey building and campus was very much of a lot of land. I developed so much stamina and resilience from the commutes but eventually relocated to live on campus for my last three years of the five I spent in the Institution. Satellite and Osekita halls of residence were newly built. Activities started picking up on campus gradually before I graduated but social life still mostly happened in Ado which students called 'town' back then.

**The UK Chapter of the Alumni Association put up a spectacular show for the 40th anniversary. Let's talk about the activities of the chapter.**

Yes, our EKSU @40 celebrations were intentionally groundbreaking and well befitting. The Global Alumni President asked our Chapter if we could host delegates from Nigeria to celebrate EKSU@40. Our EKSU Vice Chancellor, Deputy Registrar and Global Alumni President planned to meet our UK & Ireland members, update us on EKSU clocking 40 years having been founded in 1982 and invite us to be closer to our alma mater. It was a relationship building mission for EKSU.

We are a budding chapter, and we fully recognise that we are privileged to be in the UK because we have the benefit of benchmarking our EKSU alumni against Alumni Associations of UK and Ireland Universities and can explore further advancement opportunities for EKSU in our diaspora, drawing from the experiences unique to us as UK & Ireland residents. With these in mind, and with our intentions to continually serve our existing while attracting future members on our alumni Chapter, we were able to structure a win-win weeklong event. Our event got us global visibility like never before, attracted new members into the alumni community, enabled great positive engagements with our Nigeria delegates towards advancing EKSU and very importantly, our members were excited to have brought the event and to have had a reunion.

It was a great week with all activities deliberately planned and delivered towards the vision in mind and we are currently still working on the yields from the week for our Chapter growth and for EKSU's further advancement. We wanted an event that would serve our membership forward, we had our members work on various parts of the planning and delivery and saw industry specialism, expertise, resource, and time given to serving our alumni to ensure the great event that you have described as spectacular. We also wanted to see EKSU more visible to UK & Ireland Institutions for starters and on this, we are seeing rays of light as we press on. The event successfully brought fun and progress to our Chapter. Though grand and great, like any events, we cherish the lessons learnt and aim to improve on future events for the good of us all. For me, seeing EKSU be worldclass and as soon as possible be it in its academics, governance, or the physical campus, is about ensuring that the labours of our



fathers are not in vain and that their dreams are established and exceeded in our generational actions as alumnus. It is also about us the first-generation alumnus rising to the task to work on fully establishing a global Alumni Association that is an Organisation structured for purpose, impact, and relevance to self and to EKSU. Our EKSU@40 events were simply about this vision and as our acts of service to our alumni Chapter and EKSU. Our EKSU@40 events were held from 22nd May, 2022 to 29th May, 2022 and activities included hosting a renowned Wealth, Mindset and Forbes Council Coach at an evening motivational talk followed by a visit to a leading UK University in Scotland where delegates had a tour of the campus and met some of the academic and alumni team for insights and inspirations, alumni interactive panel events with the Global Alumni President and the Vice Chancellor, a very apt Panel event and lecture with a prominent Pro Vice Chancellor of a well-established pacesetter leading UK University in England as keynote speaker alongside our EKSU Vice Chancellor and culminating in a classy Dinner at a top worldclass venue in London. One gladly writes first-hand about our EKSU@40 events and in depth, beyond the joyful glamour that we displayed because it really was a personal and emotion provoking privilege for me to be on the design, structuring, enabling and delivery of the events rather extensively and strategically, bringing much of one's skill set and a lot of resources to the achievement of the outcomes. I really implore our members to please make themselves accessible to our alumni where needs match their expertise and where possible; it can be a rewarding giving back experience.

**EKSU has a large spectrum of old students globally. How have you been able to harness this potential as the UK Chapter President?**

We really don't know how many of us are in the UK & Ireland, but we do know we have many of us outside that are either still observing our Chapter for value or waiting to be approached with invites or simply not keen on being on record as a part of the EKSU Alumni. A few tell us their experiences in Ado were such that they would rather stay out of alumni engagements. Some have told us there is too much politics and not a great use of their time while some simply ignore us. We know that the more of us we have on the active alumni Chapter, the more established we would be for self and for EKSU. We therefore hope to increasingly enhance our inclusion and member engagement activities.

We have so far organised our Chapter into an effective Organisation and collectively, we are making progress. Our Chapter here has a Newsletter, and a non-intrusive member emailing list in addition to the usual social media platforms. We also have a leadership team that is accessible, available and at work to visibly advance our Chapter. Our leadership activities have been increasingly presenting us as an alumni Chapter worth joining particularly as our membership is hassle free. We know that the harvest is plenty because in May 2022, our Vice Chancellor advised that EKSU had graduated about 50,000 people and our Global Alumni President advised that about 1,000 of us were active on the alumni. Our UK & Ireland Chapter started organically in the late 80s / early 90s as our members began to relocate and network one on one between themselves. I remember being supported by alumni when I was a new adult in England including help on securing employment. I captured the essence of having a vibrant and value adding alumni community right from back then and I have always been within the alumni community to advance this essence. Several of our

members from then still meet up within their established private and trusted spaces away from the wider alumni and interestingly, these forms of small groups exist in new ways within our later EKSU years too where we hear of year classes or course mate groups being members of their own trusted small communities where they share mutual social benefits from member support to funding ventures within their departments in EKSU. Within our UK & Ireland Chapter, we increasingly reach out to all and continue to work on effective growth strategies to incorporate small groups in our Chapter while acknowledging their existence and essence.

In the 2000s, some of our members started meeting socially in their homes and our formal Alumni chapter meetings and community consolidation gradually started. With some teething issues and hitches here and there, we have grown and last year August, we had our most modernised and organised elections, member driven, and leading to the inauguration of the current Executive Committee on the presented manifesto which promises to take our Chapter forward on a mantra of 'We are in this together'. Within our active community in the UK & Ireland, we have about 300 of us of which 160 members are now fully verified and registered in our newly established membership process. We remain guided by our mantra. Our UK & Ireland Chapter is focusing on strategies to grow our local Chapter here, but we also recognise that central growth nurtures local growth. We know our members are largely making national and global impacts across the world and it is beneficial to us to bring the 49,000 members in somehow while ensuring new graduates are brought in at the point of graduating. We strongly look to see growth across board including the active on-boarding of fresh graduates into our alumni at every convocation, planting more chapters and intentionally

evangelising to win our members into the community from all platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, networks, word of mouth and personal knowledge. These are some of the strategies we are employing in the UK in addition to having appropriate social events for reunions, but the reality is that we must be in this together to win. Regarding being in this together, we appreciate that many of our illustrious alumni members are EKSUites but not Ekiti State indigenes and we, the non-Ekiti want to be as comfortable on the alumni as all else. We recognise also that many of our members are EKSUites but in other vocations beyond politics and to have them on-board with all they must bring, we the currently active members must make the house conducive for them. We know also that our members are spread across the globe beyond Nigeria which means that we the currently active members would work on us having a welcoming and inclusive community that really has EKSU and the alumni at the centre of it all or we risk ostracising so many benefits that could accrue within our fuller community or to EKSU. In my view, our increasingly openly inclusive EKSU Alumni would build our Global Alumni and EKSU beyond imaginations if only we group ourselves intentionally for such and we sure can. On the UK & Ireland Alumni Chapter, we simply deliberately run an alumni community for all or we may never fully gain the trust, participation and interest of the members within or outside. We have a shared responsibility in relation to the quality of education obtained from EKSU and the eventual calibre of the graduates that ultimately would become a part of us on the Alumni Association. Several of our members are alumni of other Institutions in addition to their other experiences. We want an EKSU Alumni Association that they would find attractive enough to

bring value to from their acquired experiences. There is a lot to do and on-going.

### **Finally, what philosophies are guiding you as a leader?**

Rather than philosophies, mine would be to admonish self and our alumni peers knowing that the EKSU harvest is plenty, and more labourers are needed. Like in any organisation, where labourers are fewer than needed, the few dedicated labourers on the field could be daunted and stretched. The field work may also be deprived of essential inputs due to the limited skills of the available labourers. With EKSU being only 40/41 years old, my take is that our EKSU Alumni would largely benefit at this stage from having more servant leaders to support the work already started. Leaders that would take on roles and drive projects that match with their skills, experiences, abilities, and know-how. Leaders that would serve with dedication, time and to clear objectives tailored through transparency, accountability, and effective work ethics all for the sake of further establishing our global Alumni Association and ultimately supporting the EKSU dream as spearheaded by the Vice Chancellor and the Global Alumni President.

Our alumni members are expectedly busy serving selves and other communities. If EKSU is 40/41 years old, our first sets would gradually now be approaching or taking retirement. Everyone is therefore building own lives, and such could be demanding even without adding EKSU's business. Having said this however, at 41 years old, who would we push EKSU on when there is still so much to do and when we are perhaps well equipped to take up tasks? If we fold our hands now or look away, we are simply leaving EKSU to the next generations and to avoidable limitations. EKSU needs as many of us now as possible to help its full establishment, to support its

governance and administration, to help galvanise funds and oversee structures and infrastructures, to make donations and contributions to it and to help it be better placed for self and for students making it a University of choice to many. EKSU is not yet old enough to be passed to the later generations nor are the later generations yet as equipped as the earlier, all graduates so far have left EKSU in the past 36 years and our numbers are still such that we could harness so many returns for EKSU if we are intentional about doing so.

The hope is that as many talents as possible on the alumni would devote skills, time, and other resources to EKSU as selflessly as possible, with passion. That many more would try to fit EKSU around the day-to-day commitments, to be appointed on committees and when appointed, to make time to attend meetings and participate productively in the tenure of the committees because we each have something to bring to the table that others may not be able to bring. That alumni would do more than just being named on committees; if your name is there, be there too and make a visible difference because you are valued for impact and a good change.

On our alumni as an organisation, it is my view that in these early years, if we do not roll up our sleeves and get to work to create a fully functional global Organisation that can stand the test of time, we would only delay the benefits that should accrue from such and also delay the joys derived from having systems that almost run themselves and still deliver. The success of our alumni cannot be delivered by our core leaders only, just like the success of EKSU may not be delivered by the Ekiti State Government and the EKSU leadership only but with us all in it together as a group responding to calls to serve whether such calls are by invite or by instinct. Serving on our alumni, like any other service, ought to be



meaningful and bring beneficial experience to us as individuals. We can make our alumni service interesting, being proactive as opposed to reacting to past events that may be avoidable if we were more involved. We could easily take for granted the skills and abilities that we each can bring to the table by not showing up on duty when appointed to serve on our alumni committees. Recognising that we have varying talents and allowing the right people deliver in the right functions is also very important for our budding alumni. People describe this as round peg and round hole matching.

As daughter to a Chartered Town Planner and first Chairperson/first Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP), Ondo State Chapter, I learnt a lot from my father about having Master Plans and respecting such. Master Plans work.

Having written about how our alumni could support EKSU, I am of the view that any support to EKSU would work best if in alignment with EKSU's Master or Development Plan and a pre-determined catalogue of projects that EKSU requires. I personally feel that with these in place, and guiding policies, donors and stakeholders would make contributions that would move EKSU forward in the direction of its vision and ensuring quality control. It would be beneficial if projects donated to EKSU are delivered properly and in sync with the envisioned Plans (long, medium and short terms) so that such are not purely donor-led. As a legal, governance and procurement practitioner with sector experience in real estate, I appreciate the importance of due process and compliance. At 41 years of existence, EKSU would have a lot of potentials that make it attractive to investors be it because it has extensive land and needs or because they have funds to spare, they seek recognition or visibility, wish to be generous in giving back, or wish to create

lasting legacies within the University in Ekiti. Irrespective of the reasons, all these are great for EKSU because EKSU and Ekiti benefits ultimately. EKSU's Master Plan would mean that donations align with the EKSU vision and bring win-win to all.

Regarding endowment, the ALUMNI ASSOCIATION has an Endowment Fund which is voluntarily powered by some members and primarily for making awards to graduating best students (and some EKSU staff). This Fund has been commended as it presents soft landing to the best EKSU graduates who would otherwise land in the world of work without such buffers. As the funds primarily leave EKSU and Ado-Ekiti with the recipients when they move on from EKSU, the recipients are indeed privileged graduates that we hope would be harvested into our alumni community and give back to EKSU in future. In any case, we suspect they would continue to make EKSU proud out there with their brilliance and they deserve much support and inspiration. Similarly, EKSU alumni could have funds to support existing students by enhancing or creating hardship funds or bursaries, project funds and student scholarships. Such funds would stay within the EKSU economy while easing some students from hardship and perhaps enabling them to also someday be best performing students for prizes. I recently read that EKSU has had no electricity for 10 years and that the government of Ekiti would be intervening. Alumni could similarly invest in enhancing study life with amenities through projects so that our students would have it easier on campus. Such compassionate actions could grow interests in our alumni from the 49,000 of us out there still and attract potential funders from within our network as well as inspire applications from aspiring students who would seek to enjoy the comforts in EKSU or the prospect of winning an

endowment prize or the hopes of joining our alumni community later to make their own marks.

I am currently appointed by our members in the UK & Ireland, since 4th September 2022, to serve as our Alumni Chapter President alongside our other peers on the Executive Committee. We have a team of 6 of us and together, we facilitate the growth and relevance of our alumni community in the UK & Ireland both for us as members and for EKSU. Our Chapter has a member register and an administration portal in addition to our Newsletter. We also have projects underway to build our website and upgrade our constitution. Our preferred mode of communication as an Organisation is by email and we continue to grow our email list. I liaise with the Global President on our work as I realise the alumni is navigating towards a fully globalised Alumni Association so that we can all run best as the greatest Organisation across board. Ultimately, we want to be a proactive Alumni Group and a change agent bringing positive influences and developments within our community and to EKSU. In concluding, I here again commend the work of our EKSU Vice Chancellor, Professor Edward Olanipekun, as he pushes EKSU ahead through all and as he increasingly recognises our Alumni as a key stakeholder by EKSU. I am personally inspired by his zeal to make EKSU as worldclass as possible. I commend our Alumni Global President also, Engineer Dipo Bamisaye, as he leads and inspires the vast EKSU Alumni and EKSU support work in these early years of EKSU. Well done to Engineer and to everyone on our Alumni advancement / EKSU advancement missions, we are in these together indeed. Best wishes to EKSU, to Ekiti State and to us EKSU Alumni.

# TOLU EGBEYEMI

**M**r. Tolu Egbeyemi M.Sc., CIM (UK), is a seasoned Business Development Expert with vast experience in Management Consultancy, Property Development, Corporate Marketing and Taxation. He is also a Literary Artist, he had his first degree in English and Literary Studies from Ondo State University now Ekiti State University Ado Ekiti where he developed his proficiency in literary works. He later studied Business Management and International Marketing at the prestigious Aberdeen Business School, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland where he deepened his knowledge in Management, Branding, Consumer Perception and New Business Startups as his core competences. He was primarily involved in rebranding top FMCG companies in Scotland in 2008 where he introduced ingenious methodology to researching consumers' perceptions to products, these methodologies are still put to use till this day.

In 2010, he joined Lagos State Internal Revenue as a Senior Revenue Supervisor where he served as a diligent Tax Administrator, a Team Lead in Alausa Tax Division, an Assessment Reviewer and Tax Education & Enlightenment Officer. In 2014, He started private practice when he assumed the position of the Managing Consultant at Cognoscenti Commercial Consults, a consulting firm that was established in 2013. He was the brain behind the growth of the organisation which has metamorphosed into a group of companies today.

Communications Ltd.

Mr. Egbeyemi is the Lead Convener of **INFORM.ORGANISE.PARTICIPATE** Foundation, a socio-political platform created to educate and empower the teeming youth population in Nigeria. The Foundation has helped with charity works for different hospices and also published educational and enlightenment materials for Nigerian youths to keep abreast of politics & policy making in Nigeria. He's also a rallying & influential local political mobiliser in his community in Ekiti State.

Tolu is married to Barrister Yewande and they are blessed with children.





*God has made us instrumental to the rebranding of EKSU Alumni.*

- Tolu Egbeyemi,  
Lagos Chapter Chairman.

Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.

EKSU did contribute to my career and the character I have now. I was going to study Law in another University but unfortunately, Mathematics was made a mandatory requirement for all courses so I had to settle for a closely related course with the intention to change course in the second year. As God would have it, studying in OSUA changed a lot about me and how I see life. I met my life partner. I became more focused. I became a better human resources manager and became bullish with tasks & vision. These sets of skills were not taught in any of our classrooms but within the university community and amongst the students naturally. All these have contributed to who I have become and I thank God for manifesting his love in my life.

**What emotions does this events of the 40th anniversary evoke in you as an old student?**

I look at the level of development EKSU has attained over these past 40 years and I feel so emotional and joyous that it must have been an intentional effort by all stakeholders to make sure the flag is high. I remember in 1999 when the road to the university was deplorable, we could not wear white attires because of the dust. I also remember we struggled with transportation as there were few commercial vehicles to convey students to and from Ado Ekiti. All is now history, so, it reinforced my belief that a journey of a thousand miles starts with a stride.

**Would you like to be more specific about sweet and sour memories?**

Sincerely, I cannot remember any sour memories. Yes, there were times I was not fully bubbling, but there was never a time I was deflated. I remember the relationships with my lecturers, most of them were high handed but I deciphered how to cope as I progressed in my course of study. I only needed to be

more mature & focused. So many good memories.

**Any role model then?**

My Dad has always been my role model.

**I want you to reminisce, way back then, what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

Like I mentioned earlier, it is by providence that I attended EKSU, I was going to attend the same university my elder brother attended but by stroke of luck or otherwise, I found myself in OSUA.

**What were you known for then?**

Well, I really cannot tell how other students appraised me but I think I was and I am still a man's man. I was friend to everyone. I participated in most activities in the university. I played sport (basketball) at my leisure time, I studied with my classmates as needed and also socialised as necessary. I was just an easy going fella.

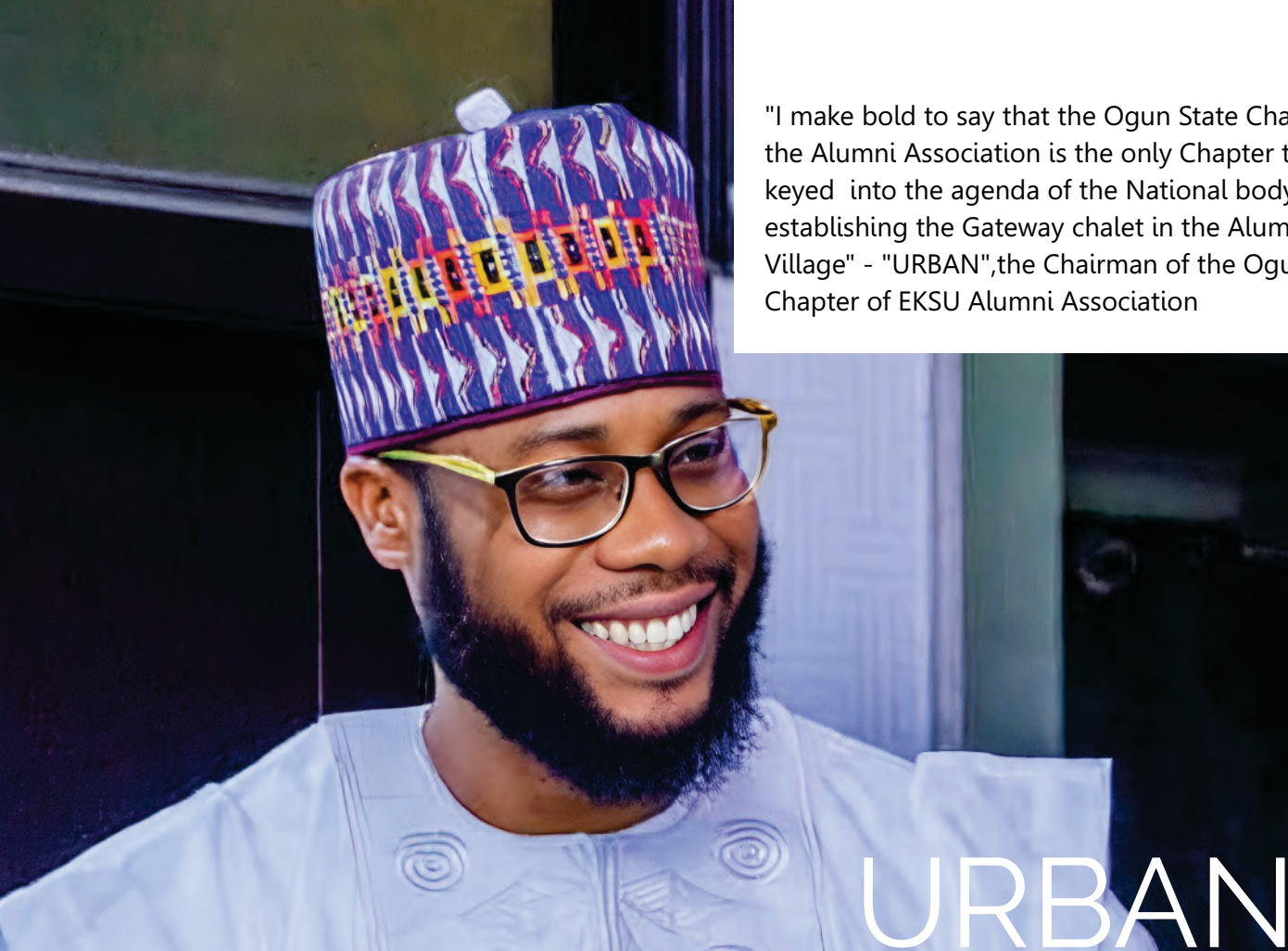
**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

Since I left EKSU, although, I have never left EKSU metaphorically. I have tried as much as possible to rally other students to fraternize more and give back to our alma mater. Coincidentally for me, I have always have an alumnus around me since I left EKSU either as a friend, a flatmate, a colleague or as my wife(smiles). In furtherance, I have organized alumni forums since I finished as a student and even while I was abroad. I and some friends were involved with the UK Alumni Association in 2007/2008. To cap the attachment to EKSU I was elected as the Lagos State Chapter Chairman in 2018. In my capacity as the Chairman, I can only thank God how He has made us instrumental to rebranding EKSU as a veritable brand and repositioning our Alumni Association. In a nutshell, I have never left EKSU since I left EKSU.

**Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

I advise the current students and by extension every Nigerian student to be more disciplined, focused, studious and every of their dreams will come true.





"I make bold to say that the Ogun State Chapter of the Alumni Association is the only Chapter to have keyed into the agenda of the National body in establishing the Gateway chalet in the Alumni Village" - "URBAN", the Chairman of the Ogun State Chapter of EKSU Alumni Association

**How did you come to answer the name "Urban"?**

It was coined by some of my friends from the Social class for reasons best known to them. When I ran for the position of President of the Student Union, I made spirited efforts to rebrand because the whole "Urban" thing did not fit into my radical side and the image I was trying to project but it did not fly so I decided to just keep the name and it has become a trademark.

**Tell us about yourself.**

I was born into a humble home in Ise-Ekiti in Ekiti State some four decades ago. I attended basic preliminary schools and then found myself at the prestigious University of Ado-Ekiti, as it was then called, in the year 2003. I graduated with honours from the Department of Microbiology in the Faculty of Science. Due to my involvement in Student Unionism, my journey at the School was filled with turns, ups and downs. Being the first person from the

Faculty of Science to aspire to that position at the time, I was confronted with a lot of resistances from lecturers and whatnots. But, we were determined to do it because my set was made up of a group of conscious young guys with zeal and radical consciousness to see that the status quo was challenged and ultimately changed. We faced the challenges head on and we pushed through.

**What has your educational and occupational journey been like?**

After graduating from UNAD, I proceeded to the Federal University of Technology where I bagged a Master's degree in Environmental and Industrial Biology. Then I traversed the length and breadth of Asia for additional certifications, particularly in the areas of Human Capital Development and Local Government Administration. I also later proceeded to study for a Masters in Public Administration. That has been my odyssey academically.

Professionally, I was an appointee of the Ekiti State Government between 2010 and 2011 where I served in a minimal capacity. I joined the services of the Federation of Nigeria at NAFDAC over 11 years ago. I rose through the ranks to become the Principal Regulatory Officer.

By the grace of God today, I am now the Chairman of the Ogun State Chapter of the EKSU Alumni Association. That in itself is an achievement that was made possible as a result of our challenging the status quo and perseverance in the face of resistance alongside my comrades, Ashiwaju Dotun Adetuberu who was the National President of the Association at that time.

**I am curious about something. You studied Microbiology but diversified into Public Administration. What prompted that?**

Human nature is diverse and we have to tap into that diversity. Also, we live in a dynamic society that does not allow one to stay stagnant in one field. Studying microbiology in the first instance was not really my thing. In those days, once your



parents identified you as a bright chap, they immediately classified you as a Medical Doctor so that was foisted on me.

Later on, I discovered my essence and realized that Medicine was not for me. However, when I was employed at NAFDAC, I realized that the field was still relevant to my job so that is why I went ahead to further with a Masters in Microbiology. Then I realized that the future I was after went beyond what Microbiology could offer. It had to do with Human Administration, Human Capital Development and all that, so that propelled me to acquire certifications in those fields.

My study into how local government should be run took me to the United Kingdom to understudy the Mayor of London at the time. It is sad to see that the Local Government system in Nigeria has been killed. That is why a lot of things are not working. Things are different in a scientific society where there is structure.

I won't go into this now, but I smell politics in the future... (Laughs well) Hopefully.

### **So you were the President of the 2007/08 set...**

No, I didn't emerge as President in that election. My friend, Deji Oso emerged as President. He was initially running to be my Secretary but later went for the post of President. Of course, that is just politics. His supervisor at that time was the Acting VC while my supervisor was facing off with him in the contest for who would become the Vice Chancellor of the University. That made it complex. Today, he is the Chairman of the Ekiti chapter of the Alumni Association and we are making sway on either side and continue to interact.

### **Let us talk about the Ogun State Chapter of the Alumni Association. What changes have you been able to effect?**

I have established the

confidence of Alumni all over the globe in the Chapter. I brought back trust. I embody, exemplify and wear the badge of change, leadership and effectiveness. The idea behind the creation of any Alumni Association all over the world is to project the image of your Alma mater and advance the cause of the School. It is not a welfarist organization. The idea is to propel activities that will bring about the advancement of the cause of the School.

By the grace of God and the support of my team, we have been able to achieve that.

We did this by propagating the Association. We brought so many people on board. We established programs that will facilitate reunions and networking. I make bold to say that the Ogun State Chapter is the only Chapter to have keyed into the agenda of the National body in establishing the Gateway Chalet in the Alumni Village, as we speak. We are at the roofing level now, I believe. Besides that, since I assumed office, we hold our End of the Year Reunion Party on the second Saturday of December every year. That brings everyone who went through the University back to Abeokuta to network and discuss ways to contribute to the University.

As an individual, I have keyed into the National Body's agenda on Endowment Fund. The Prize endowment is one that I have committed the sum of #500,000 to. It will be given to the Best Graduating Student in Microbiology. So many other people across the globe have also keyed into that initiative.

### **How would you describe EKSU?**

During our time, the University installed a sense of independence in us. It gave us the assurance that nothing is unassailable. That I-can-do-it spirit was imbibed in us as a result of days and nights of struggle, darkness and uncertainty that enveloped the atmosphere. It became the

driving force that has continued to propel us into greatness. They challenged us into believing in ourselves so we gained a competitive advantage over and above our peers anywhere in the world.

I can proudly state that I have been able to stand and challenge my contemporaries anywhere, in whatever field or theatre of operation. I believe that tough times build tough people.

There was a particular morning, we were jumping for the bus from Fajuyi to Campus and the lecturer who was to take us Biochemistry that Saturday morning saw us somewhere around Similoluwa. He overtook the car that was conveying us, got into the lecture hall and shut the door. Then he took a test that same day and said it was his Continuous Assessment. All of that was because he saw me in the vehicle. He was from my home town and knew my inclination towards Student Unionism so he wanted to deal with me.

### **What is your advice to current students of EKSU?**

My advice is that they should continue to look to those of us who have gone before as models and be assured that whatever it is they want to achieve, it is possible. Our own idea of changing the world at that time was to fight to change the status quo. That was our resolution. Now, we are like images hung on the pole. They should look up to us. That is why we have made it our task to take up leadership roles in the Alumni Association. At the Ogun Chapter, we invite all the Youth Corpsers who graduated from EKSU and are posted to Ogun State. We welcome them and integrate them into the family from the beginning. We are very interested in where they get posted and even influence their posting. We also involve them in our decision-making just so they can see that there is more to life.



## BIOGRAPHY OF **CAPT KOLADE ADEWALE AKINOLA**

Capt. Kolade Akinola was born on the 2nd of June, 1968 in Abeokuta, Ogun State. He attended St. Bernadette's Private School, Ibara, Abeokuta for his primary education. He attended Oyemekun Grammar School, Akure, in Ondo State for his secondary education. He had his university education at the then Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti, where he majored in English. He graduated from the university with honours in 1989, and did his NYSC at Uyo in Akwa Ibom State.

In 1994, he got a job with Landover Aviation in Ikeja, Lagos, as a Flight Operations Officer. A job that made him to work around business jets as a ground handling agent. His interest in flying aeroplanes was kindled as he interacted daily with pilots at the airport.

In 1995, he was transferred by the company to Abidjan in Ivory Coast as a Station Manager, to run the company's newly founded foreign operations. In 1996, he was again transferred to Dakar in Senegal, to go start up a new branch of the company, and run it. He worked at the Leopold Sedar Senghor Airport in Dakar for two years on aircraft ground handling duties.

After two years in Dakar, he was transferred to Libreville in Gabon as the Station Manager for the same company. He worked in Libreville for three years and three months, by

which time his desire to fly as a pilot had become overwhelming. He requested to be transferred back to the head office in Lagos in March 2001, from where he started processing his admission into COMAIR AVIATION ACADEMY in Sanford, Central Florida, in the USA to study piloting.

In November 2001, he got admission to the flying school, and by God's special grace, he was able to pay the exorbitant flight training fees. He headed to Florida in the United States in November, 2001 to study Piloting, and graduated the following year with a Commercial Pilot license. He returned to Nigeria in December 2002 and straight away got a job with Overland Airways. In 2004, he joined the defunct Sosoliso Airlines, flying DC-9s and MD-80s until the year 2006, when he joined another start up airline called ARIK Air. He was trained to fly the Boeing 737NG series. He worked at Arik Air for six years, flying interesting routes like the London Heathrow Airport, Johannesburg in South Africa, and of course the entire West and Central Africa. In 2009, Arik Air sent him to the United States of America for his "Command Upgrade" Course, a course that trained him to fly in capacity as the Pilot-in-Command or a Captain. On successful completion of the course, Arik air promoted him from a co-pilot position, to a Captain on the Boeing 737NG aircraft.

In the year 2012, he was finally tired of flying for the airlines and wanted new challenges. He quit Arik Air to join the world of Air Charter Operators. He started flying business jets for charter. He has been flying the Challenger 604 aircraft ever since and still flies the same aircraft to date. The Private jet job brought him in contact with the high and mighty in Nigeria and out of the country. He has at one time or the other, flown all the ex-Presidents of Nigeria alive today, including President Muhammadu Buhari at some point in the past. He has also flown some foreign Heads of State and such other dignitaries. He has trained several pilots on the Challenger 604 aircraft and Presently works for Marietta Management Services Ltd in Lagos, Flying their Challenger 604 aircraft as the Lead Crew.

Captain Akinola is a philanthropist and is married to Chinasa Akinola, a fashion designer.



*Success in life occurs when opportunity meets preparation: Opportunity comes from God but preparation is yours to make - Captain Kolade Akintola First and the only known Alumnus Pilot*

They are blessed with four children.

**You later became a pilot; how did that happened?**

Firstly, let me erase a popular notion. A lot of people believe you have to be a science student before becoming a pilot, and that is not true. Flying a plane is like driving a car; they just teach you how to do it. You don't really have to be a science student.

When I left school after my NYSC, I got a job with Landover Aviation where I worked as a ground staff. Prior to that, I've always been fascinated in flying planes; i also used to think you have to be a science student before flying a plane, so I spoke to a pilot. I sought admission into a flying school, and the rest is history.

**Your school is forty years now; how does it make you feel? What kind of emotion does it invoke in you?**

I'm really proud that the school has come this far. When I think back to the times when we were there, it invokes a mixture of both good and bad memories. I remember the sense of unity and camaraderie among the students those days. We had interesting times and interesting lecturers. Some we adored, some we Feared.

**The school was relatively new then when you entered; how did you get to know about the school?**

Those days, we didn't have private universities like this days, so, the school had a reputation for good academics. They had very good academic standards. And apart from the good academic reputation, I made them my first choice; i stood a very good chance of going in which was what I did.

**What advice do you have for current students of the institution?**

They should understand first that they are part of a great legacy; part of a great institution that has produced presidential candidates, produced a seating state governor, produced diplomats; people in the academia, people excelling in different fields. So they owe it to themselves, to

the institution and their forebearers.

They should understand that success in life occurs when opportunity meets preparation; opportunity comes from God but preparation is theirs to make. They should prepare themselves not just in academics, which of course, is very essential, but also in other vocations. They should develop and learn skills that can further their chances of success in life. They should be focused and have the mentality that there's no mountain too high to climb.



*“I thank God I attended OSUA”*

**Toyin Wemimo  
Niran - Onisile**



**Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.**

I studied sociology at the Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti, and now Ekiti State University. This has helped me in no small measure in my profession as a journalist.

**What emotions does this events of the 40th anniversary evoke in you as an old student?**

The 40th anniversary makes me appreciate God in a great dimension. I was admitted in 1985 for a four year course and I finished in 1989. So, to be alive to witness this occasion, calls for thanksgiving and Celebration. It is really a great grace from God.

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

It was a pleasure and joyful moment for me to graduate when I did. I was indeed grateful to God. The reason has been that the learning environment at the time I was there was a bit tough for comfort. Even though I paid for the school bus, that was meant to convey me to and from school, most times, I walked from Michofab, where I lived to Adehun to be able to join the bus.

**What can you say about the quality of Education you had then?**

My role model and mentor was my maternal grandmother, madam Adetoun Ogunjobi. Even though she did not go through the four walls of

formal educational institutions, she was able to read and speak about 7 Nigeria languages well. She natures me to love and fear God and stand for the truth at all times. May her soul continue to rest in peace.

**I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

I actually did not make the cut-off mark for law at Ife, as desired by my father. He wanted me to be a lawyer. I then approached OSUA for admission, and it granted to me. I thank God I went to OSUA. This is because I was indeed nurtured for my future, which is still helping in my daily endeavour.

**What were you known for then?**

I was a member of the C- Square organisation. The organisation that organised Miss OSUA. I became the president when I got to part 4.

**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

This is quite interesting. I was privileged to coordinate my set (1998) sociology to donate a computer and a generator set to our department.

**Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

The current students of the institution should be focused and aspire for the best at all times.





Mr. Niyi  
Ojuolape

**M**r. Niyi Ojuolape is the **C o u n t r y** Representative of UNFPA in Somalia. Prior to assuming the leadership of the Somalia Country Office, he served in the same capacity in Ghana between 2017 and 2022 with a rich career experience in the management, technical and programming of international development and humanitarian work. Prior to taking on the assignment in Ghana, he served variously for about 7 years at the HQ of UNFPA in New York as the Ag. Chief of Staff, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, and Head of the Secretariat of the Executive Committee.

His responsibilities during that period which entailed providing technical and strategic guidance

to the executive management of the organization also afforded him the opportunity of a deep insight into leadership and organizational management at a global level. Mr. Ojuolape also gained field experience, while on a detail assignment in the Democratic Republic of Congo as acting Deputy Representative of UNFPA.

Before joining UNFPA in 2011, Mr. Ojuolape served the Nigerian Government in different capacities including being Special Assistant to the Minister of Health, and just before then, in the Nigerian National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) as Communications Coordinator and eventually as Chief Programme Officer for Donor Coordination, during which he cut his teeth with all the major agencies in the development sector.

He holds a BSc in Banking and Finance, MSc in Finance and another Master's degree in the Management of International Organizations from Bocconi University, Milan.

He holds a BSc in Banking and Finance, MSc in Finance and another Master's degree in the Management of International Organizations from Bocconi University, Milan.

**Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.**

Upon my graduation from the University in 1990, I went to Lagos and was working with my uncle who was a Chartered Accountant, a Management Consultant, Businessman and many things rolled into one. The experience in EKSU, naturally enabled me to develop life-muscles and practical

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skills that I brought to bear on my responsibilities while working under the wings of my Uncle in the numerous ventures he was engaged in. The right word is Resilience, and a never say die spirit. There was also the essence of versatility and dynamism, which by time in EKSU equipped me with that proved to be essential for my survival, because I went on doing 'this and that' for about twelve (12) years, before eventually getting a formal employment. The formal job also meant that I had to be hardworking, sacrificial and loyal. All these were attributes I had quickly developed in EKSU.

**What emotion does this 40th anniversary event evoke in you as an old student?**

I see so many friends and associates who have gone through EKSU whom I am really proud of. I am so proud of the many colleagues that I see, as I see a good number of peers who have done well. I am super proud and happy to have known and related very well with His Excellency, the Governor of Ekiti State. Looking back to the time in Ado Ekiti, it is quite profound that at the point of 40 years, a product of the school is the one who occupies such a position in the State. When colleagues also see me, they remind me of the good times we shared back in the hostel and on campus.

As an old student, the 40th anniversary of our institution gives me a great deal of pride, or for want of a better word, elation, knowing that I belong to a thriving academic community that has been around for 4 decades. There is a lot to be grateful for given the sheer mass of Human Resources whose capacity has been guilt by the school over the years. They

form part of the solid fiber that the country is made of. Besides, as an old student, it encourages me about the need for longevity and focus to last long and succeed. It is always great for something to be sustainable rather than short lived.

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

Hahaha... obviously, I can't go into all of them because they are just numerous and I cannot really choose any to highlight but of course, let me start with the sour. School wasn't easy. It was tough, and we did not have access to the technology younger generations today have and so the academic journey sometimes painted a bleak picture--so bleak you could easily give up. For example, Transportation to school to take classes and back, was a daily challenge and abnormality that eventually became a normal. On the bright side, I happily recall the many times of laughing and celebrating with different colleagues.

On the sour note, there was a colleague; Folu Adeosun, who passed on quite painfully. I wish I did not have to even talk about it owing to the fact that we belonged to the same Fellowship and we shared a growing up together background from Akure, being also family friends. I recall his passing, and the picture etched in my memory when the news was broken to the Pastor of the Fellowship; Pastor Busola. I recall vividly how she wailed and wept bitterly. It was an intense moment of sorrow. As our leader, she was moved with compassion over the situation, and somehow, I just couldn't forget that day.

Another thing was the fact that I

hoped that I would graduate with a 2:1 but it didn't happen. I know if I had been a bit more 'serious' and worked just a little bit harder, I would have made it, but I was so young and impressionable, and did not have the fortitude required to make it. The real problem for me was the disappointment that it meant for my Dad.

Also, at some point, I was part of a group of students who went into a form of creative entrepreneurship, involving the organizing of entertainment shows. Honestly, though it was exciting, it did not work out and there were quite a few issues. We organized a beauty pageant, but we somehow did not make enough money to pay the bills including the prizes of those who won. They went as far as taking us to court: Student to Student! We had encroached on our school fees, rent and several other available resources, but we couldn't make ends meet. We actually learnt lessons from it which have helped over the years.

It would be remiss not to mention the only subject I failed (carry-over) throughout my 4 years in the University. It was ECO 203, taught by one Dr. Fabayo (Fabro) from Ife who was very nasty to me personally, albeit without any reason. He caught me dozing off in class and he promptly sent me out for one month. I went to beg him after the class, but he didn't even entertain me in any way. In the course of my suspension from the class, I had to miss a Quiz which he set for the class. By the time I came back, I did very well in the second quiz, and thereafter in the exams, but he still made sure to fail me. How did I know? Traditionally, you go to check for your result with the Lecturer, which I did, and he already gave me the figure of what I scored



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before realizing that it was me. When the results were eventually pasted on the notice board, it was recorded for me as a Carry Over, and he had left the school by then, so there was no way to review it. I had to take it the following year, and I passed easily.

**Any role model for you then?**

I won't say I had a particular role model in the school back then. But then, I admired a number of people like Dr. Agbogu, a Political Science lecturer. He would say something like, "After 5 days of indiscriminate bombing, Warsaw, the capital of Poland, saw War!". There was also Prof. J.A.T Ojo, from UNILAG who came to lecture at EKSU just as a way of giving back to his home State. He was very well respected and looked up to, by all and sundry. He also taught well and didn't make life difficult for us.

**I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

I tried getting into UniLag but it did not work out, since I wanted to read Accounting but they wanted to admit me for Actuarial Science, which did not sound fancy or lofty enough to me as a discipline. I then settled and preferred to take the offer in OSUA, to study Banking and Finance. The idea was that by the following year, I would take JAMB again and make it to Unilag. By that time however, I was already in love with and comfortable in my Ado Ekiti. My Father tried to work it out and make me go, I made sure it didn't work out. I am still happy till today for my choice

**What were you known for then?**

I was also the life of the party almost always. I could easily make us crack jokes and make fun of almost anything. So basically, I was known as a cool guy... to be honest. I was very small, being the second youngest in my class. So, on that note actually, I would say, I was pretty unassuming.

I was at Similoluwa Hostel, Simi for short. In the hostel, there were a couple of people I got along with very well. I recall also contesting election as Financial secretary for the Hostel Management Committee which I won by a landslide since I was favoured by quite a significant section of the students.

**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

Regrettably, not much. But I have been in touch with people in the school, especially with alumni groups. It has actually been because I have been out of the country for a little over a decade. Going forward, I plan to be a lot more involved in activities at the school.

**Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

Current students should dream freely, courageously and work passionately towards the realization of their aspirations. They should relish every opportunity the school offers both intellectually and in the wealth of friendships, in other words, networks that can be created and developed for mutual benefits in the future. It is also highly important for students to be

dedicated and loyal. Honestly, I am proud of the school knowing how much progress has been made which I have witnessed.

*“I admired a number of people like Dr. Agbogu, a Political Science lecturer. He would say something like, 'After five days of indiscriminate bombing, Warsaw, the capital of Poland, saw war.'”*

**“OSUA have  
Amazing Human  
Resources”**

**-OLAJIDE  
EHINLANWO**

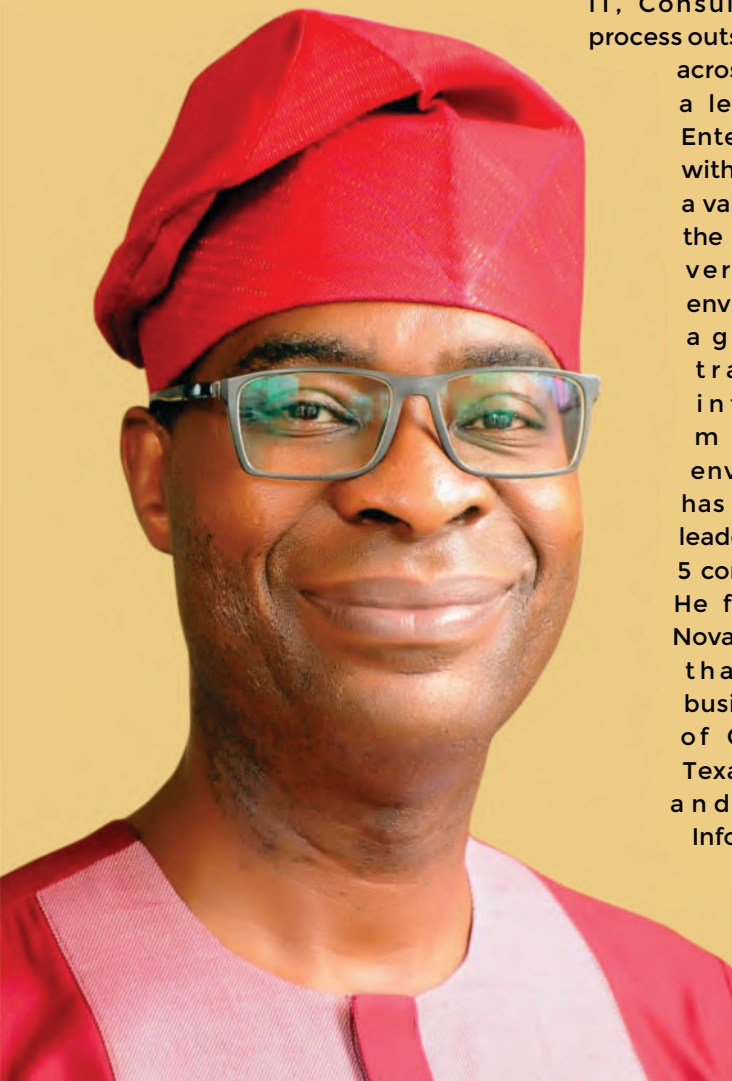
**O**lajide Ehinlanwo is a Senior Regional IT Director leading McKesson Europe's SAP centre of Excellence within McKesson's European Business Applications organisation. McKesson Europe AG is the European headquarters of the global medical sciences and pharmaceutical wholesaler McKesson Corporation headquartered in Texas USA. The European business has operations in 14 countries, an employee base of 39,000 and annual revenues in excess of 20 billion Euros. McKesson is a Fortune 10 Corporation and a global leader in the health science industry. Prior to McKesson, Olajide led as a Global Information System Director, the Information services

Organisation that supported Bombardier transportation's global manufacturing and supply chain. Bombardier Transportation is a part of Bombardier Corporation headquartered in Montreal Canada with an employee base of 74,000 and more than \$18 billion in annual revenues. The transportation business is the global leader in the rail industry with 63 production and engineering sites in 34 countries run by 38,500 employees. Before joining Bombardier, Olajide held several leadership positions with increasing responsibility in Global Consulting Organisations as well as large multinational businesses. For example, Olajide led the Wipro Consulting teams that supported the European integration activities after the \$2.5 billion acquisition of Pringles by Kelloggs. Wipro Technologies is a global consulting organization specializing in provision of IT Services. With more than 110,000 employees deployed in providing IT, Consulting and Business process outsourcing to customers

across the globe. Olajide is a leader specialised in Enterprise Digitalization with a focus on making IT a value adding partner for the business. He is very versatile in creating environments that drive a agile digital transformation in international and multicultural environments. Olajide has worked in multiple leadership roles across all 5 continents in the world. He for example led the Novasoft consulting teams that supported the business transformation of Caltex - Chevron Texaco in New Zealand and was the chief Information Officer (CIO) for Ebro Foods in Germany. Born in Lagos, Nigeria,

Olajide for his Primary School education attended Ladi-Lak Primary School, Lagos and for his Secondary School education at Federal Government College, Ijanikin, also in Lagos and Federal Government College, Odogbolu, Ogun State, Nigeria. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the then Ondo State University now Ekiti State University Ado Ekiti as part of the University's foundation set (Matric No: 82125). After obtaining his Bachelor's degree, Olajide completed the mandatory NYSC program in Rivers State, after which he worked as a Secondary School teacher at Comprehensive High School, Igbobini, Okitipupa, Ondo State. He also worked briefly as a Finance employee with Damafeck in Lagos, Nigeria. Olajide relocated to Germany in the early 1990s. In Germany he joined Eurocard Services, Frankfurt as a Clerical Officer in card claims before proceeding for a Master's degree (MBA) at the prestigious University of Bradford, United Kingdom. In addition to his Bachelor's and Masters degrees, Olajide also holds a Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree from the prestigious University of London, UK along with numerous professional qualifications. He is happily married with two sons aged 26 and 21 respectively. Dominic, his first son is an Investment Banker with Affiliated Managers based out of London, UK and Maurice his second son, is a law student at Germany's University of Heidelberg. In his spare time, Olajide enjoys golfing and is a very avid reader.

In His words "OSUA have an amazing human resources. We have produced many graduates that are competing internationally. We have produced lots that can compete at any level, anywhere in the world. We don't have cause to regret attending OSUA.







Adedayo  
Ladigbolu Abah

**Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.**

My name is Adedayo Ladigbolu Abah. I am a professor and the head of department of Journalism and Mass Communications at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, USA. I am from Oyo town in Oyo State, Nigeria.

**Career path:** After leaving OSUA (it will always be OSUA for people like me) in 1989, I did my NYSC in Abeokuta with a communications firm. During my service, I was a staff writer for a magazine and immediately after service, I stayed in Abeokuta for a bit and worked in Public Relations and

Advertising for another firm. I could do this because my foundation in writing was strong. I had good professors at OSUA. While doing this, I was also working part time as the editorial staff for Methodist News, the quarterly magazine for Methodist Church Nigeria. During my third year at OSUA, we had a huge student protest that led to the shutdown of the University for about three months. In those three months, I applied and was able to enroll at Nigerian Institute of Journalism (NIJ) in Lagos where I took a couple of courses in Advertising and PR. I was blessed to have parents who understood the need for my mind to be constantly engaged so when my

*“We were fortunate to learn from full time titans”*

father realized that the long break from school was driving me nuts, he found the classes at NIJ and paid for me to go to Lagos and take them. During my youth service in Abeokuta, I found time to go back to NIJ and completed an advanced course in PR and Advertising. I left Nigeria in the early 1990s to start a master's degree in Theological Studies at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas. This was mainly inspired by my work with Methodist News. After I completed the degree, I was told by my editor at my part time job in Dallas that I needed to work with secular publications if I plan to make a living in communications. So, I left for another master's degree in Media Studies at Texas Christian (TCU) University in Fort Worth, Texas. It was while at TCU that I got the teaching bug in my system. I was a teaching assistant at TCU, and I thoroughly enjoyed my role that I decided to do it full time. After working at a few jobs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, I started my doctoral program at University of South Carolina, Columbia South Carolina. From Columbia, I got a job at my current university, and I have been here since.

**What emotions does this events of the 40th anniversary evoke in you as an old student?**

The 40th anniversary of EKSU evokes both the feelings of nostalgia and joy. Nostalgic feelings for the memories of all of us—young men and women—at a relatively new university trying to

find our ways and pretending that we knew what we were doing. Joy that the university, despite all its teething problems, persisted and is now a renowned institution.

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

The parties were fun, friendships were made and broken, and the seeds of a lifelong marriages were sown by some. We had fun even though there was not a long line of alums to build traditions for us to follow, we created our own fun and traditions within our circumstances, and we made the best of it. I think most of us from that generation would tell you that transportation created most of our worst sour memories. The busses were always overloaded and were not even running sometimes. Getting from Ado Ekiti to the campus and back daily was a lesson in crisis and uncertainty management. You had to be comfortable with ambiguity in those days. We all managed to get to campus and back but very few people knew for certain each day how that was going to happen. On the other hand, several love connections were made on those rowdy rides back and forth from campus.

**What can you say about the quality of Education you had then?**

Hindsight is always 20/20. Now, I know the education paid off. At the time however, especially when I met with friends from other institutions, I was certain they were getting a better education than I was. Looking back though, we got a good education. Especially for folks in my department and my set, we had professors from other places as adjuncts and visiting professors and that greatly augmented what

we had from the in-house crew. We were also fortunate to learn from full time titans such as Prof. Olagoke (of the Incorruptible Judge fame), Dr. Nwabuwe (of blessed memory), and Prof. Hope Eghagha. Any university, even today, would be happy to boast of having those people on their faculty. I cannot speak to what was going on in other departments, but my department had high quality professors who were motivated and invested in student learning.

**I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

For most of my friends at that time in our lives, EKSU was a second choice. We were mostly Ife and Ibadan rejects (joke). I did not even pick EKSU at all as a choice. My father was transferred to Ifaki-Ekiti as a Bishop of the Methodist Church, and I just followed. I was also offered a course I did not want at both Ife and Ibadan, and I had to make a decision between going back to Federal Government Girls College, Sagamu to complete my second year of A level, or take this opportunity to study my preferred course missing at a nascent university. I ended up taking my chances at EKSU and I am glad I did.

**What were you known for then?**

I was studious, I have always enjoyed learning. But I also partied. I think this was in my second year, but I ran for the presidency of ELSA (English and Literary Studies/Student Association), and I won. I ran with my roommate and best friend, Sarah, as the secretary and we both won. I remember going from dorm to dorm to campaign and debate with opponents. I think this earned me some notoriety. I

was also a member of Tiata Unique, a student organization that presented dance shows, plays, etc. to audiences within and outside the campus. We were under the tutelage of Dr. Hope Eghagha, so we were really very good. It was only a handful of us in Tiata Unique so that earned us some notoriety as well.

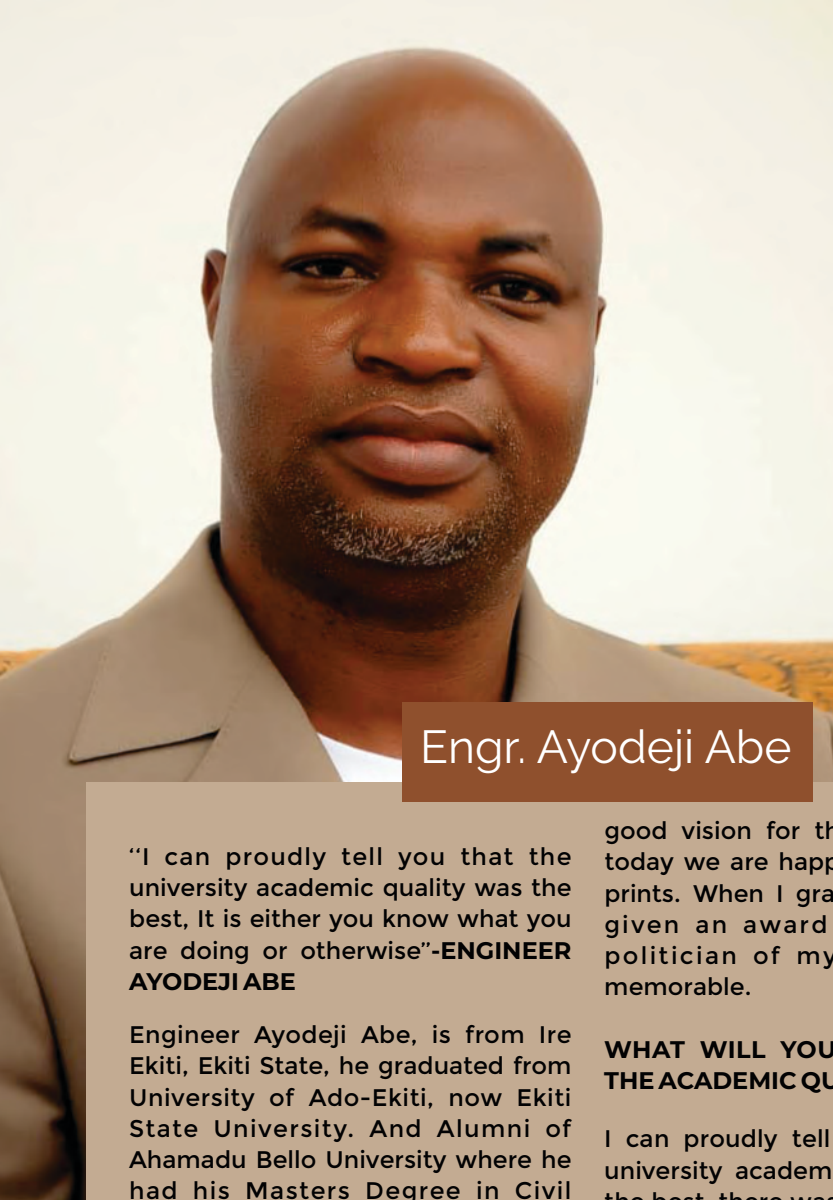
**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

I am part of a network of Alums who have contributed to scholarship funds for our department. I was also part of the group who organized a catered visit to Prof. Olagoke and his wife at his retirement home bearing gifts and our appreciation for all that he instilled in us. I served on the committee to evaluate the potential for EKSU radio station and costs. I have also participated in other alumni initiatives.

**Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

Tough times don't last, tough people do. Hang in there and always do your best, you are building something meant to last a lifetime, YOU! Do not take anything for granted but rather, embrace the opportunities you have, learn a skill or two because there are usually several paths to your destination.





Engr. Ayodeji Abe

“I can proudly tell you that the university academic quality was the best, It is either you know what you are doing or otherwise”-**ENGINEER AYODEJI ABE**

Engineer Ayodeji Abe, is from Ire Ekiti, Ekiti State, he graduated from University of Ado-Ekiti, now Ekiti State University. And Alumni of Ahamadu Bello University where he had his Masters Degree in Civil Structural Engineering. He is the MD/CEO Patmag Engineering Nigeria Limited. CTO Road House.

#### **YOUR DAYS IN UNAD, WHAT WAS IT LIKE?**

It was eventful, it was not like now, no phone, no socia media to distract us, possibly few cyber café in Ado Ekiti to do some of our assignments and check our emails etc. We stated as Students of Ondo State University and we graduated as a student of University of Ado Ekiti. In the evening we go to class to read with our lanterns sometimes with electricity. I participated in the school politics, when Stephen Alayande from U.I was the NANS coordinator Zone D, I elected his Deputy. We had our Election in Ogbomosho, LAUTECH, I was supporting unionism within and beyond UNAD, we combine all that with our academics, we were able to distinguished between school politics and academic excellence, we made academic excellence our priority .My friend from the same town was the University Student

good vision for the school and today we are happy for the foot prints. When I graduated, I was given an award as the best politician of my set. It was memorable.

#### **WHAT WILL YOU SAY ABOUT THE ACADEMIC QUALITY?**

I can proudly tell you that the university academic quality was the best, there was no money for marks, if you pass it was on merit, if you fail you will surely repeat the course not that the lecturers will be bribed, the likes of Professor Aribisala water Engineering, Professor Okunade Highway engineering, Professor Eddy Olanipekun in Chemistry now the University Vice Chancellor Professor SS Asaolu in Chemistry Professor Ayan in Mathematics Dr. Oyediran Geothecnics engineering, Professor Moukolu in physics e .t. c. You dare not try to go near them for anything for marks. They will teach you and expect us to pass. It is either you know what you are doing or otherwise.

#### **WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI?**

It has been cordial, I have been supporting them lately, I don't really like noise, and I don't want to be really noticed. As an

U n i o n President, Kotiola Barnabas, we lived at Government Hostel in a Presidential suite. It was eventful. We graded the road then from Satellite hostel to Osekita junction for students' ease of movement. We had

engineer, I have done some jobs with the university; I have being giving scholarships to the students back home. I have been doing it in our villages. We just don't want to make noise about it.

#### **WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EKSU?**

BAO is one of us, ,his Excellency, Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji is one of us, I have a good relationship with him, I know he has passion for Ekiti development, but beyond BAO, we should all contribute to the development of Ekiti State only BAO cannot do it alone, Gov Adebayo, Gov Fayose Gov Fayemi have all done their bit. We should all see ourselves as stakeholders in Ekiti developments. I have no doubt in my mind that BAO will give Ekiti his best. He is a true son of Ekiti, he has the passion for the school development in academic excellence and in the welfare and growth of the university workers. Fortunately, the current Vice Chancellor has serious passion for the growth of the university and with the ALUMNI, the university Vice Chancellor and the state government. The growth of the university is inevitable. We will keep supporting the Alumni.

#### **WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENT OF THE INSTITUTION KNOWING FULLY WELL THAT EKSU HAS PRODUCED MANY GREAT EVEN WHEN THE CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL WAS WORSE THAN NOW?**

My advice for them is to be resilience and be focused and whatever experience they're passing through is just for a short period of time. The tough times that we had, made us stronger, more confident in the society. Today, the present Governor of the University was once a student of the University. This is an indicative of greater tomorrow. They should pursue academic excellence and shun social vices and cultism.

***“We have very committed leaders; from the University management to the Alumni.”***

**SAM OGUNMUSI**

Mr Sam Ogunmusi graduated from the University of Ado-Ekiti in 1995 after studying English and Literary studies, and he is also a former National Vice President of the Alumni between 2013-'16, during the tenure of the then President, Prof. Matthew Ayeni.

**YOUR YEARS IN ADO-EKITI, WHAT WAS IT LIKE?**

We were part of students that laid a very solid foundation for the University; we passed through a lot during our University days. There are so many experiences: the good, the bad and the ugly, that I shared with

my colleagues.

It was during our time that we named her OROKU, because most times, especially during our exams period, I stayed in town, it is always jam-packed. We will trekked down to the campus to-and-fro, before that road was constructed. It was, then, a road covered with dust. We gave ourselves that nickname of Oroku.

**CAN YOU RECALL ONE OR TWO UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS THEN?**

One of the memorable events that happened when I was in the University was when we were to conduct the Student Union Election. I was part of the Student Union Electoral Committee, It was really a tough task. We had to pass through a lot of pressure. It was really a tough period for us at that time.

The election eventually led to the closure of the school at a point, because we were having a lot of pressure; the students said they want to go ahead with the election; the state government said we cannot go ahead, so it was really a tug-of-war.

By the grace of God, we survived, and that experience gave birth to my going into politics outside the University, I learnt that one has to stand against tyranny for the good of all, which I am practicing now.

**THE UNIVERSITY IS FORTY YEARS NOW; WHAT KIND OF MEMORY DOES IT EVOKE IN YOU?**

It evokes

happiness in me, that in spite of all the challenges the University had then, the University was able to survive all of them, and has become one of the best Universities in the country now. And I will say the number 1 state university in Nigeria, because of the quality. We have very committed leaders; from the University management to the Alumni. I owe them a lot of gratitude.

**WHEN YOU WERE IN SCHOOL, WHAT WERE YOU KNOWN FOR?**

I participated actively in the Students Union activities; I participated in sports, and I was part of the football team that went to NUCA then, at Ile-Ife. It was really a nice experience.

From the activism point of view, I was part of the student leaders, though I was not part of the executives, but I worked very closely with the Union President, Comrade Muyiwa.

**WHAT ADVISE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE PRESENT STUDENTS (UNION) OF THE INSTITUTION?**

They should go to their libraries and look at how the past governments were able to run the affairs of the students; I think it would do them a lot of good.

Then, we were very militant in our approach but very reasonable; I remember one of my friends, Ojo Victor; who is now a politician. He was once a local government chairman, but is now contesting for House of Assembly in Ondo State, from Akoko. The guy was very intelligent; he shook the university system so much that the Vice Chancellor then, was very cautious when talking to Ojo Victor. It was a nice experience. But I believe the University still has the room to improve and go higher.





A portrait of Prince Ilara Idowu, a man with a warm smile, wearing a vibrant purple long-sleeved shirt and a red headwrap with a white geometric pattern. He is seated in a modern, brightly lit office or library space. Behind him are white built-in shelves holding books, a small potted plant, and a framed certificate. The overall atmosphere is professional yet approachable.

## PRINCE ILARA IDOWU

Prince Idowu Ilara is from a Royal family in Igbokoda, Ondo State. He graduated from the then University of Ado Ekiti (UNAD) now Ekiti State University (EKSU) where he bagged a degree in Psychology.

Within the span of his sojourn in the business world, he occupies and holds pivotal stakes in blue chip companies that are of going concerns. He sits on the board of Director at 3way Communications Limited, the Co-Founder of Smart School services in Nigeria and also the MD/CEO of I-Larry Synergy Int'l Limited a Partner to Nigerian Bottling Company, International Breweries Limited and WTES Projects in Nigeria.

### TELL US ABOUT SMART SCHOOL INITIATIVE?

Smart School was founded in 2015 after a series of comprehensive brainstorming sessions with seasoned industry experts like myself.

We sort to provide solutions that

can deepen the penetration of technology to ease, enhance and amplify teaching and learning. We sort to provide a first of its kind educational services that are in tandem with the 21st century best global educational practices and off-course taking into consideration affordability in light of our current economy.

Smart School ensures that Teaching, Learning, Communication and Collaboration are continued outside the four walls of the lecture rooms among students and lecturers alike.

Our solutions also ensures that students and lecturers are exposed to their peers comparatively where they exchange learning experiences, resources and cross fertilize ideas. For instance, we have students taking courses from Ivy League Universities and earning Certifications aside their regular degree programme on Campus and this has in fact increased the employability of

many graduate both domestically and internationally.

Our services at Ekiti State University commenced in 2017 when we deployed the following services:

1. Pervasive Campus Wifi
2. Learning Management Systems
3. School Management Systems
4. E-Library
5. Massive Open Online Courses.

Since the inception of our project to the Eksu community, it has yielded enormous benefits to the institution at large both for the students and lecturers. One notable benefit for the institution is that, it moved up the rankings of schools in Nigeria from what it has always been due to the fact that it is now a tech inclined institution that has married the traditional learning with technological aid which is a first of its kind innovation in public school in Nigeria. I make bold to say this fact and for this the company under my directorship and

myself have received meritorious awards from different quarters, student bodies and even the state government under the Fayemi administration. Apart from the services deployed to the university community as enumerated above, since inception till present, we engage with student leaders of different administration to provide and deliver our corporate social responsibilities to the university community to aid learning process for the students.

The Eksu Smart School initiative has since inception giving students opportunities to work, intern and have their mandatory National Youth Service placement with us for them to have a peep of what the corporate world is and prepares them ahead. I am proud to say that the first set of students that worked with the Eksu Smart School are doing good for themselves and even some are spread across various countries in the world and still give credence to the knowledge, discipline and impact instilled in them while working with us.

With our service, EKSU Lecturers now enjoy free and super fast internet access on campus. We all know the frontiers that can open to all.

In the latest ranking of Universities in Nigeria, EKSU was ranked 3rd from the 45 State Universities currently operating in Nigeria. (We need to delete this sir unless we can include the link or resource to confirm this).

#### **HOW DO YOU DO IN THE ISSUE OF FUNDING?**

Funding as we all may agree, is never enough. Funding is the major challenge most public institutions of higher learning in Nigeria today are facing.

With too many operational expenses they incur, very little

or close to nothing is left for them to venture into capital intensive projects like technology inclusion into learning.

They rely majorly on State and Federal interventions for some of these initiatives which sometime comes in a very limited form.

We as private company have come to solve this problems by entering into Private Public Partnership (PPP) arrangements with host institutions. As part of our obligations, we provide funds to deploy and sustain the projects and services we offer.

#### **FOR SOMEONE THAT GRADUATED FROM EKSU, WILL YOU SAY SMART SCHOOL IS A HIT-SUCCESS IN EKSU?**

As an Alumni myself, I sometime wish the initiative of SMART SCHOOL was available during my time as a student. Honestly, the possibilities from interacting with the services are endless as a student.

The opportunities that abound for students to enhance their studies, seek new skills, interact with peers in other parts of the world is unimaginable.

For the lecturers, they have better exposures, their works can be published seamlessly, they can reach more students from their place of comfort, they can do much more with ease.

Let's not forget the Zero cost for unlimited amount of internet on campus this is almost sounding too good to be true but it is my joy that as an Alumni, I am part of this great initiative at EKSU of today.

This is the dream of most Universities in Nigeria today but it is currently a reality in our

darling EKSU.

For the University itself, the effect of the service is better explained when you examine the rate at which the ranking of EKSU has grown for the better from 2017 when the Smart School services commenced till date.

#### **IS THERE ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR JUST ANYBODY THAT IS NOT A STUDENT TO USE THE CAMPUS WIFI?**

The essence of CAMPUS WIFI is to be available for all on campus be you a student, lecturer, university staff or visitor.

The service for non academic members of the university community like alumnus who have graduated is paid for. The service is highly subsidized for them. For instance, you can get 10GB for 1,200. Token for the services that can be bought from our vending website by visitors to the University: [data.eksusmartschool.com.ng](http://data.eksusmartschool.com.ng)





**Dr Raphael James**

Founder and Director General of CRIMMD - Center for Research, Information and Media Development. CRIMMD is a center that manages information; media and political research; biographical and autobiographical writings; documentations, exhibitions and script editing. A non-political, non-governmental, non-profit making but standard research developmental institution. He also runs the CRIMMD Skill Acquisition Center for Women and he has trained a total 8,200 women free of charge in different vocations. He is also a historic and educative tourist, in Nigeria and he has visited 33 out of 36 states of Nigeria and documented over 500 tourist site. He has also visited several East and West African countries doing his tours.

He is the Publisher of two magazines, 'The African Dame' and 'The National Biographer' magazines. He has written 56 manuscripts and published only 24 books. He is the founder of the richest private Museum of Nigeria History with over 45,000 photos and many artifacts and memorabilia, the

families of 14 African presidents/head of states.

He has received a total of 229 awards for his commendable works to humanity. He was listed in the New Telegraph Newspaper of January 23, 2021 as Nigerian "Top Historian and Record Keeper" according the 'Naija7 Wonders' He was also listed among the 5 enterprising Africans for the last quarter of 2016 by the 'African Enterprise Magazine'; voted "SDLG Africa's Most Reliable Person" 2016. He has also received Appreciations / Commendations Letters, including: October 4, 2007: Lagos State Government Education District VI Appreciation letter for the Development of Education in the District; September 24, 2007: NTA 2 Channel 5 Lagos Commendation letter for encouraging reading habit in the Nigerian Society; October 2005: USA President, Bill Clinton Letter of Appreciation for assisting Katrina victims; February 2000: NYSC Abia State Secretariat

museum is a Partner with the Arab Culture and Arts Network - ACAN. He has donated 56,365 books by end of March 2023, across the nation, since 2008 when he started his books donations to help bring back the reading culture. He also donates to orphanages and gives free motivational speeches to students. He has had the privilege to have met with and interviewed 7 world presidents and in all, he had interactions with

Appreciation Letter for contributions at the "NYSC Millennium Festival of Theatre"; March 17, 1997: Queen Elizabeth of England Commendation Letter on General Aguiyi-Ironsi biography.

His Center, (CRIMMD) built the tallest Christmas book tree in the world standing at 12.2 feet tall, built with 5,073 books. His Center, (CRIMMD) also discovered the designer of the Nigerian Coat of Arms, 60 years after Nigeria's independence - Messrs Beverly Pick and Associated of 118 Charing Cross Road, United Kingdom. As the President of 'The Anti-Smokers' in 1984-1989, he campaigned for the inclusion of the warning on the packets of cigarettes in Nigeria (Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health, that was when the Hon Minister Professor Ransome Kuti nicknamed him the Anti-Smokers. He is a Researcher, he has unravelled so much from the amalgamation of Nigeria story, the Aba women riot, the spot where Gen Aguiyi-Ironsi and Adekunle Fajuyi were killed, the spot the Nigerian flag was first hosted, the designer of the Nigerian Coat of arms and among many others.

He served as faculty Member - of the Emerging Political Leaders Fellowship for 2022 and was invited for a second term in 2023. He is an Associate of the Alimosho Arts Community Initiative. He is a Historian, he specializes in Nigeria history. He is a Journalist, worked with and contributed to over 32 media houses, including a two United Kingdom based magazines and just appointed a Columnist to a USA based magazine.

He is among the Top 100 Tourism Personalities of Nigeria. He is among the Top 100 Social Media Influenza in Nigeria. He was a former Special Assistant

(Research) at the Presidency Abuja. He was a former Media Assistant to Abia State Governor (not a political position). He was an auxiliary member of the Think-Tank group headed by Professor Tekena Nitonye Tamuno, Chairman of the Nigeria @ 100 Committee in 2014. He is the founder of CRIMMD ARCHIVES, hosting Newspapers, magazines and books dating back to 1914 on Nigeria history. He belongs to so many Organisations, Institutions and Associations, including: Nigeria Institute of Public Relation; Nigerian Association of Inventors; Nigeria Institute of International Affairs; Institute of Business Advisers (IBA); African Institute of Entrepreneurship; Read Nigeria Project (RNP); African Institute of Entrepreneurship Development & Management; Association of Nigerian Authors; National Patron. National Union of Campus Journalists; National Patron of the National Association of Polytechnic Student. He is a Rotarian. He has been appointed Ambassador to seven organizations within Nigeria and he is a United Nations Peace Ambassador.

### **Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.**

In my last days in OSUA, my HOD Prof Uguru-Okorie told me that I will be a great researcher, I never believed him, but today, I am among the very best Nigeria has.

### **What emotions does this events of the 40th anniversary evoke in you as an old student?**

It is a time for thanks giving, many of us that we started in OSUA together did not finish with us, those that finish,

***"I did not just school in OSUA, OSUA Schooled me."***

many are gone, but only by His grace, I am here standing. It is thankful to God to be a part of OSUA/EKSU at 40.

### **Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

I did not just school in OSUA, OSUA schooled in me.

### **Any role model for you then?**

I can't think of any.

### **I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

I did not pick OSUA, JAMB gave me admission to OSUA, I visited and registered and paid my school fees only to return to Lagos and UNILAG gave me admission, but I preferred ONDO, it was far.

### **What were you known for then?**

I was in the Psychology department. I lived in Oshekita Hostel on Iworoko road, I lived in room E006 and later moved to room E008. In my 3rd year, I lived adjacent the school clinic at Adebayo, Ado - Ekiti, I later moved to Bashiri. I was very athletic and I use to jog from Oshekita to Opopogboro and back every Saturday morning.

While on campus, I contested for Mr Campus 1987/88 and was 2nd run-up, I held different positions of responsibility. I was secretary general and, later,

president Nigeria Association of Psychology student (NAPS), President of READYHELP Society. I was a reporter for Campus Watch Magazine, Director of Finance Rotract club of OSUA, Special Marshal and Press secretary to the Federal Road Safety Command 2.1 unit Ado-Ekiti. I won a total of 9 awards on campus including the Rotract club "Best Couple" award for two consecutive years with two different ladies. I also won a Leo award.

I also served my NYSC year in the university, probably being the first graduate to return to serve in the university. As youth corper I wrote the first book, history of the university for its first ten years and it was launched by Chief MKO Abiola.

### **Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

I have been a part of the university, in several capacity. Served as President of the OSUA/EKSU Collectives. I donated books worth one million to the university library in May 2014 and again by February 2023, I made yet another donation of 75 top Engineering books to the Engineering Faculty of the University. I received the EKSU Eminent Person Award.

### **Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

EKSU is a brand name that have to be protected and respected. They should do all to protect the name and never be involved in a criminal activities.





## OBA (DR) AJIBADE GBADEGESIN OGUNOYE III

*The olowo of owo, and  
paramount ruler of owo land*

**OGUNOYE III** was Director, Pension / Finance & Administration at the Ondo State Pension Transitional Department in the Office of Head of Service.

In 2016, he was Director, Finance and Administration at the Ministry of Natural Resources before he was reassigned as Director, Finance and Administration, Government House and Protocol Department of the Governor's. Through the gracious approval of the Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, Kabiyesi was appointed as Permanent Secretary, to function in the Government House and Protocol Department of the Governor's Office shortly before he was nominated, selected and enthroned as the 32nd Olowo of Owo Kingdom in August 2019.

Kabiyesi attended several Management and Leadership Seminars, Symposia and Training in his sojourn as a Civil Servant. He has also been decorated with several honours and recognitions for his outstanding contributions to the Civil Service, for Community Development, to the Throne of the Olowo and humanity as a whole.

His Imperial Majesty, Oba (Dr) Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III, the Olowo of Owo, since his ascension to the throne of the ancient kingdom, has proven the fact that he was the best for the exalted throne. He has not only maintained peaceful coexistence of the people within his domain, the unique culture of Owo has been given necessary exposure, and there is steady development in the land.

**H**is Imperial Majesty, Alayeluwa, Oba (Dr) Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III was born on 6th July, 1966. His father, Oba Joseph Adekola Ogunoye II was the Olowo of Owo between 1968-1993, and his mother was Olori Adenike Yeyesa Ogunoye.

Oba Ajibade Ogunoye, attended the famous Government Primary School, Owo. He also attended Owo High School, Owo for his Secondary education, after which he proceeded to the then Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti (Now Ekiti State University), where he bagged Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A Hons.) in Religious Studies.

Prince Ajibade Ogunoye, as he then was, also attended the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko for his Law Degree (LLB Hons.) and Master Degree in Public Administration [MPA]. He was at the Nigerian Law School, Abuja Campus, and subsequently called to the Nigerian Bar. Kabiyesi had earlier completed the Mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) between 1995 and 1996 after his first degree.

**OBA OGUNOYE III** joined the mainstream Ondo State Civil

Service in 2001 after working briefly as a classroom teacher. His work experience and postings took him through various Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government. Between 2001 and 2004, he was at the Ministry of Justice, and the Ondo State Civil Service Commission between 2004 and 2006 as Principal Administrative Officer.

Between 2006 and 2009, Oba Ajibade Ogunoye was an Assistant Director, Finance and Administration in the Ministry of Finance. He was posted as Deputy Director, Establishments in the Office of the Head of Service in 2009, and he later became the Director, Finance and Administration in the Ministry of Transport between 2010 and 2012.

In December 2012, Kabiyesi was posted as Director, Promotion and Transfer in his second duty tour of the Civil Service Commission till

2014. Thereafter, he functioned in the General Administration Department of the Governor's Office, a position he held until 2015 when he became Director, Finance and Administration in the Ministry of Employment and Productivity. In July 2015, **OBA AJIBADE GBADEGESIN**



## Professor (Deacon) Sunday Adejimola Amuseghan

*Lawe II, The Kalasuwe and Paramount  
Ruler of Apoi in Ese-Odo Local  
Government Area, Ondo State.*

I am His Imperial Majesty, Professor (Deacon) Sunday Adejimola Amuseghan, Lawe II, The Kalasuwe and Paramount Ruler of Apoi in Ese-Odo Local Government Area, Ondo State.

### **Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.**

I give glory to God for my life as a Professor who has taught in many higher institutions in Nigeria and overseas. To be specific, I am a Professor of English Language. I started my career as a teacher-researcher at the Ondo State College of Education Ikere-Ekiti in 1992. I left the College in 1994 for Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, where I worked briefly as a lecturer in the Department of English and left for Ondo State University Ado-Ekiti in 1995, where I taught in the Faculty of Education from 1995 to 1999. I left as Lecturer II for the newly established Ondo State University Akungba-Akoko. I rose from

Lecturer II to a full Professor in 2010. I served as Director of General Studies Unit and Center for Entrepreneurship. I also served as HOD briefly before I was elected Dean Faculty of Education and I served for 5 years in that capacity. I was a member of the Governing Council of the university (Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba-Akoko) before I was called upon by my people at my hometown to be the paramount ruler of a confederation of nine major towns and many other villages and settlements in 2018. Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti has contributed to my career because I gained admission to read English /Education in 1984 and obtained my first degree in 1988 there. I also started my career in teaching in the university there too in 1995. It is the bedrock of my university education and my career in teaching up-to-date.

### **What emotion does this event of**

### **40th Anniversary evoke in you as an old student?**

I feel proud of the giant strides of development and growth of the academic programmes, student and staff population, beautiful campus with modern buildings and high quality of graduates turned out since the establishment of the university in 1982. I feel proud and always have a good sense of belonging to my Alma mater (established as Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado Ekiti, 1982), which was changed to Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti in 1995, again changed to University of Ado-Ekiti in 1999 and presently Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti (EKSU). The change of its name four times does not really matter to me. What actually matters is the University and its location in Ado-Ekiti and the quality of academic programmes, which I received that have helped me to become a Professor of international recognition. The university means



the same to me as my Alma mater . The 40th Anniversary of it's establishment is a big story of success to my career and to all the graduates, who are excelling in their careers all over the world. I doff my cap to the founding fathers , particularly Pa Adekunle Ajasin and the then Ondo State Government for their foresight and the great philosophy for the university that has now transformed to a world-class university.

#### **Any role model for you today back then?**

Of course, personalities like Dr Williams Ibukun (Prof.) and Professor Olu Olagoke ( Later, my PhD Supervisor, who wrote "*The Incorruptible Judge*") served as role models for me . In student leadership, Funso Akinyemi (Phonen) , Julius Teweï, Tade Adetoye, Jide Awe and late Bimbo Olofin ( she was my course mate and friend too, later became a Professor).

#### **What factor informed your choice of Ekiti State University then ?**

The first time I did JAMB, I scored 237 and I chose University of Jos to read Law but I was not considered. The second time I did it, I chose University of Ile-Ife but changed to Obafemi Awolowo University , Ado-Ekiti (now EKSU) because I wanted to go to University at all cost, my state university so that I could use the advantage of an indigene to enter University by fire by force and it was about the nearest university to my town , apart from University of Benin, and lastly my JAMB score was 207. I thank God today that the university has produced a Professor like me and a first-class Oba. The educational quality I received, served as the bedrock of what I am in the academic and traditional institution today.

#### **What were you known for during your student?**

I was known for good character, healthy human relationship. That was why I was known and called by my fellow students as "My people ". I moved from class to class, organising tutorials and in the tutorials I happened to be one of the leaders, teaching education or English . I won an Award in one of the English 401 ( New Trends in Syntax) Classes , Professor Olu Olagoke Award, for being the best student of that set who analysed correctly, a complex sentence in 1988. I also made a lot of jokes with my friends.

#### **Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the university?**

After my graduation in 1988, I was admitted at the University of Lagos during 1990-91 Session and completed M.A. English (Faculty of Arts) in record time. Shortly after that, I started my teaching career in 1992 at the College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, and moved to Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo in 1994 . After 6 years of experience in the two higher institutions, I joined the academic workforce of my Alma mater in order to give back my service between 1995 and 1999. I left in 1999 for the newly established Ondo University University, Akungba-Akoko where I became a Professor in 2010 . I always make sure that any assignment given to me at my Alma mater carried it out diligently and professionally . I regularly come to examine master's and PhD candidates on appointment in the Faculties of Education and Arts at EKSU. I have examined more than 25 Masters and PhD candidates in my Alma mater and I have also reviewed some qualified lecturers to become Professors in English and Language Education (English) . In 2021, the EKSU Old Students Association, Ondo State Chapter,

honoured me with " A Distinguished Alumnus Award" . When the current Executive Governor of Ekiti State , Governor Banji , was inaugurated, I was present because of our relationship as alumni of EKSU, together with Doctor (Chief) Soji Ehinlanwo from London.

#### **My message for the current students of this great citadel of learning.**

My sincere message for the fellow undergraduates and postgraduates of EKSU, whether part-time or full-time is to make use of all the opportunities they have to fly the kites of our university, EKSU , in the same sky with students of Harvard , Oxford and Cambridge in learning, character and services . They should join hands with the old students to maintain peace on campus, shun cultism and examination malpractices, dress modestly and avoid social vices. The university was ranked third best state university in Nigeria by webometrics in 2021 but let's make it the best of all the universities in Nigeria and the whole world. They should use the opportunities they have in the university to prepare for their tomorrow by acquiring knowledge, core competencies in ICT, communication skills, critical thinking and social-cultural and moral values. They should embrace entrepreneurial spirit and training education. They should add value to their lives and the university through hard work, creativity and productivity to compete favourably and lead a good life outside the university environment. Yes, you can make it in life without yahoo-plus or money rituals or corrupt practices.



*I think the Alumni Association should invest more in the University*

**HIS ROYAL MAJESTY, OBA  
AYODELE, AYODEJI KUPOLUYI**

*The Amuro of Temidire Ekiti,  
Ikole Local government*

#### **CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR SOJOURN IN OSUA?**

I want to believe that over 60% of us who got admission during my set in OSUA then, had it as our last resort after trying other universities and not gaining admissions. After getting there, you discovered that it was just coping structurally, but academically, we had professional lecturers and the students could compete with students from other universities and these gave us the courage to progress.

#### **YOUR COURSE, YEAR AND SET**

I studied English and literary studies. I got admission in 1987 and graduated in 1991

#### **WHILE THERE, DID YOU KNOW YOU'LL BECOME A KING?**

Though from a Royal family, but even within the family, we are very big. I was not contemplating being a king. When it came, I was not surprised. But while still in school, I was a regular

student.

#### **HOW HAS OSUA IMPACTED YOUR CAREER AND KINGSHIP?**

Education is not just studying. The studies also helped me in my career. I studied journalism, later went into Advertising and specialised in media strategy and

execution.

The type of people you meet in school, the lecturers that impacted into you also determine your future because they are your reference points and some become your friends and you relate with them over years depending on your beliefs and beliefs changes friends.

#### **YOUR SCHOOL IS 40 YEARS, WHAT KIND OF EMOTION DOES**

#### **THIS INVOKE IN YOU?**

School life was interesting. By and large, the school helped in moulding us. It was fun them.

#### **WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI?**

I am not too close with the alumni. I am not an active member due to my position. I only keep in touch through messages on the forum. I see what they do regularly, and support them behind closed doors.

#### **WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENTS OF EKSU?**

Students should strive to make use of the quality and dedication of the lecturers they have. They should also be the best they can. In my opinion, I think the alumni should invest more in the school as there are students who are less privileged that we can give scholarships to based on their academic performance.







## MR. OLAKUNLE OLAYINKA TENIOLA

Manager of Baker Hughes, Onne Plant till 2009. While working at Baker Hughes, Kunle completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Chemical and Petrochemical Engineering from Rivers State University of Science and Tech in 2001. He left Baker Hughes in 2009 to join Hamilton Technologies Limited (an indigenous Drilling Fluids Company) as an Operations Manager. After his two-year stint at Hamilton Technologies Limited, 'Kunle joined Jemmtrek Resources Limited (An Oil Services and Tools Company) in 2011 as the company's General Manager. In February 2020, he was appointed as the Executive Director of Jemmtrek Resources Limited, a position he holds till date.

**M**r. Olakunle Olayinka Teniola was born 51 years ago in Ibadan, Oyo State. He is an indigene of Ara-Ekiti in Ijero Local Government Area of Ekiti State. 'Kunle, as fondly called, is a son of two foremost educationists- Pa and Mrs. R.A Teniola. They both live together in Ado-Ekiti.

'Kunle attended various primary and secondary schools due to the frequent transfer his parents as civil servants. For his primary education, he attended Demonstration Primary School and St Peter's Anglican Primary School both at Efon Alaaye. For his secondary education, he attended Anglican Secondary School Efon Alaaye, Osi Community High School Osi Ekiti, Obalatan Commercial Grammar School Ilupeju Ekiti and Christ's

School Ado Ekiti. In 1993, 'Kunle graduated from Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti (OSUA)–now Ekiti State University–where he bagged a B.Sc Hons degree in Chemistry. While in OSUA, he engaged in student union activities. He was the Chairman of Satellite Hall of Residence.

Upon graduation from OSUA, 'Kunle had his national youth service at the Research and Development Division of NNPC, Port Harcourt, Rivers State where he was awarded the best youth corper of the Division. He worked as a contract staff in the same NNPC R&D till 1997. In the same year, he joined Baker Hughes Company (former Milpark Drilling) as a Trainee Engineer. He rose within the ranks to the position of Fluid Operations Coordinator and also doubled as Acting Base

'Kunle is a member of various professional bodies including the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and has received several awards for his performance in the Oil and Gas industry. He is married to Nkesiola Teniola and together, they are blessed with three wonderful boys.

**Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.**

There is no doubt that OSUA contributed immensely to whatever career level I attained today. I studied Chemistry and graduated with a Second-Class Upper Division. This played a great role in getting a place for my NYSC primary assignment with NNPC R&D Division. I cut my teeth into the Oil and Gas industry through this window. I was the best in the Department back then. I was retained and offered a contract employment for one year with the help of my Manager - Dr Ofodile. I worked in the Analytical Laboratory and this exposed me to a lot of activities within the Oil and Gas Industry. I could get a hands-on based on the course I studied in OSUA. I attended so many courses which further brighten my horizon.

Within that year, based on the experience I was able to garner together, I got an offer with Milpark Nigeria Limited (A Baker Hughes Company) as a Trainee Fluid Laboratory Engineer. I rose up from there to become an Operations Coordinator or call it a Manager before leaving in 2009. From there to Hamilton Technologies and finally to Jemmtex Resources Limited.

**What emotions does this events of the 40th anniversary evoke in you as an old student?**

Well, the 40th anniversary brought about a lot of emotions. I grew up in Ado Ekiti and I knew when OSUA then OAU was founded. Some of the Faculties especially sciences started from Christ's School, I was a student of Christ's School back then. I think they have a n office on a 3-4 story building in front of the current

Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH) which used to be State Hospital. Then getting admission into OSUA with all the attended challenges of a c c o m m o d a t i o n a n d transportation wasn't that easy. There is no way you will not survive anywhere in Nigeria if you passed through OSUA. The hardship was so much but it was surmounted and it paid off today.

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

Hmmm. Was there any sweet moment? Yes, I had some sweet memories especially with friends, course and room mates. You know what, we created activities that made us to enjoy the place and have fun. Football 5-aside, Weekend shows in Eki Cinema at times and the likes. Sour memories like Student Riots, trekking to Campus from town, Meeting up assignment deadlines, attending lectures under harsh conditions. We were more like "Oroku". For someone like me that got involved in Campus Politics (Student Union), I was more of NFA (No Future Ambition) as we were tagged then. But then, we still have to read and meet up.

**Any role model for you then?**

Back then, there some of our lecturers that were role model. This cuts across all the Faculty. Most importantly our Registrar Dr Deji Adegbite, Prof Dipo Kolawole, Prof Olu Agbi of blessed memory. Prof Ifedayo Oladapo, Prof Bodunrin and Mrs Faluyi (Thatcher).

**I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of EKSU?**

Actually, my choice was OAU Ile

Ife to study Medicine. But since I couldn't meet up the cut off mark, the plan was to go into OSUA for one year then cross over to OAU in my second year. But then, I found it difficult to leave my friends and there was a bit of politics going on in the Admin department with the FO - Mr. Olofintila (Not sure if he is now a Chief or a Prof) and the rest. Then Closeness to my parents who resides in Ado Ekiti. My Dad was sick back then and I needed to stay around him as he couldn't drive due to eye issues.

**What were you known for then?**

Laugh. ALUTA! Like I said before, I was more like an NFA. Missed lectures to attend symposium organize by Students Union Government. Travelling to other universities to attend meetings, programs and Student riots. I was actively involved and I have hold of my constituency - Satellite Hostel/Science Department.

**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

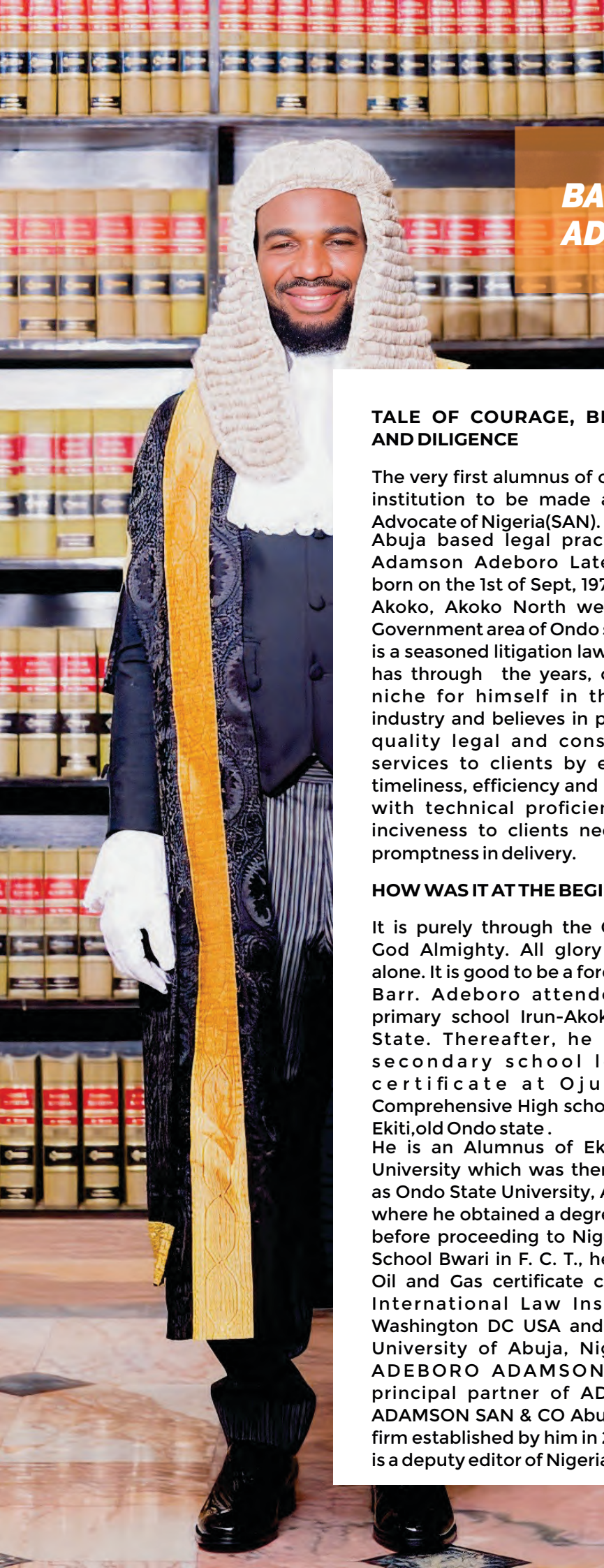
Cordial through the OSUA Connection and recently the EKSU Alumni.

**Finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

They should make good use of the opportunity they have today. They should leave an enduring legacy in whatever position they find themselves. They should be confident that they can compete very well with any other student from any university in the Country even outside Nigeria.

OSUA has produced a lot of great men today. Like the current state Governor, Mr. Abayomi Oyeibanji.





## **BARR. ADEBORO ADAMSON (SAN)**

### **TALE OF COURAGE, BRAVERY AND DILIGENCE**

The very first alumnus of our great institution to be made a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). Abuja based legal practitioner, Adamson Adeboro Lateef was born on the 1st of Sept, 1973 in Irun Akoko, Akoko North west Local Government area of Ondo state. He is a seasoned litigation lawyer who has through the years, carved a niche for himself in the legal industry and believes in providing quality legal and consultancy services to clients by ensuring timeliness, efficiency and research with technical proficiency and inciveness to clients needs and promptness in delivery.

### **HOW WAS IT AT THE BEGINNING**

It is purely through the Grace of God Almighty. All glory to Him alone. It is good to be a fore runner. Barr. Adeboro attended L. A primary school Irun-Akoko Ondo State. Thereafter, he had his secondary school leaving certificate at Ojugbaye Comprehensive High school, Imesi Ekiti, old Ondo state. He is an Alumnus of Ekiti state University which was then known as Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti where he obtained a degree in law before proceeding to Nigeria Law School Bwari in F. C. T., he had an Oil and Gas certificate course in International Law Institute, Washington DC USA and LL.M in University of Abuja, Nigeria. Mr ADEBORO ADAMSON is the principal partner of ADEBORO ADAMSON SAN & CO Abuja, a law firm established by him in 2004. He is a deputy editor of Nigerian

Petroleum and Maritime law Reports, former secretary of independent Petroleum Products importers, Member of Nigeria Bar Association (NBA). Disiplinary panel for Abuja between 2015-2018, Former Legal Adviser of Allied Congress Party of Nigeria (ACPN). He is a member Of International Bar Association (I. B. A), member of education committee of the Nigeria Bar Association, (N.B.A), member of section of Business Law in Nigeria Bar Association. He is an efficient researcher amongst others. A lot of people tried to discourage him in his pursuits thinking he couldn't excel because he has no God father, but here we are today to the Glory of God.

He was one of the pioneer Law Students of Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti and also one of the pioneer Law School Students in the Nigerian law School, Bwari, Abuja and now one of the pioneer digital SANs produced by the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee (LPPC) in 2022.

He believes in the famous words of his teacher and mentor, Prof Akin Oyeboode that "the fact that you trained in a province does not mean you will have provincial mentality"

He is full of thanks to Prof Oyeboode for instilling courage and confidence in all of them who went through him.

### **OSUA DAYS**

"It was full of struggles to succeed and "I thank God and tell you that OSUA is a great university. I attended the school and can attest to the greatness of the University. The ruggedness is a plus for us"



***“EKSU IS LIKE MY FIRST EXPOSURE TO A LOT OF THINGS”***

**AHMAD BAMIGBOLA**

**Tell me about yourself sir.**

My name is Ahmad Bamigbola. I was a student of UNAD, I studied Business Administration. I was there in 1998 and I think I left in 2002.

**WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING AFTER UNAD?**

Am an entrepreneur, I went into trading and I tried to do my masters in marketing in UNILAG but dropped it for trading after all its all money management.

**WHAT WILL YOU SAY ABOUT THE IMPACT OF EKSU ON YOUR CAREER?**

I think I entered the university when it was OSUA, then it's became UNAD at a point in time, now EKSU. I think it's showed me the other side of life because I have always being a Lagos boy, have never witness lot of challenges out of urban areas have visited. EKSU is like my

first exposure to a lot of things. I went to a private school in Lagos, coming to EKSU was a new way of life, It kind of showed me the other way of life different from the Lagos way. I got to meet a lot of people I would say I was not a social person but at Ado I met people from different race, different orientations, some people came to read, some to play, some for their second degree it was a nice experience.

**WHAT ARE THE MEMORABLE THINGS OR EVENTS THAT HAPPENED TO YOU THERE?**

There might not be any specific thing that happened then, When I got back home after I finished my part 1, I got admission into another university then it was like do you want to go and start part 1 again (laughs). Those times the bus drivers will go on strike, there are times we trek to school, I got to mix up with a lot of people I met people with diverse characters

and it's formed who I am today.

**WHAT WERE YOU KNOWN FOR THEN?**

I will say a lot of people would have known me as a quiet guy that wear colorful shirts. A lot of my mates will talk about me as a serious boy. In my mind I know I was not there to show anybody that I am better or worse. I did not have any other thing to do than to read my book basically.

**EKSU IS 40, A LOT OF ACTIVITIES WAS ROLLED OUT TO CELEBRATE THE SCHOOL BUT TO YOU, IS IT WORTH CELEBRATING?**

I think life is, continuous anything you are able to achieve should be celebrated. Recently I saw a video of the school I was like “wow” there's obviously a lots of development going on, I mean we celebrate most especially now that we have a governor now and many other great products of the institution. I am so proud of EKSU.

**WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENTS OF INSTITUTION?**

Nigeria educational system is kind of bad, our students are not ready to endure the rigors of schooling, they want to become Dangote the very day they are out of school, I want them to know that academic life is a journey, it's an opportunity for them to see new things, gain foundational knowledge, I see university as foundational knowledge. It is a good thing to go to the university come out with the best results and try to gain some other knowledge that you will use for your career. They have to pay attention and stay focused.



*OSUA trained me to be a good actor, a humble actor ready for anything*

**H**e is a veteran nollywood actor, director, producer, master of ceremony and social media influencer.

Funsho Adeolu hails from okitipupa in ikale part of Ondo State in Nigeria. He grew up attending several schools in Lagos State. First he attended, lady lak primary school at Ebute Metta, then to Ansar-Ud-Deen College, Isolo, Lagos and Baptist Academy Obanikoro, Lagos for his A-levels. He studied Guidance and Counselling at Ondo State University, Ado - Ekiti, now Ekiti State University (EKSU). He spent many years in the 1980's and 1990's honouring his acting skills. Despite this, he attracted massive attraction in 2001 when he appeared in Oh Father, Oh Daughter, Super Story.

**AT WHAT POINT IN TIME DID THE JOURNEY TO THE MOVIE INDUSTRY START FOR SOME ONE THAT STUDIED GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING?**

I started acting before I went to School, I started A levels when I was in Baptist Academy. In the course of the A levels, I started acting.

**HOW DID YOU GET TO KNOW ABOUT ADO-EKITI UNIVERSITY OR ONDO STATE UNIVERSITY THEN?**

I wanted to study law, for four years I have been writing JAMB all the time, I was not thinking of any Ado-Ekiti, but when when I did my JAMB the 3rd time, my dad asked me to study English and at that time, I was ready to ready to study

anything. My dad was a lecturer so he knew the HOD then that was how I moved to Ado-Ekiti, I was in charge of the theatre unit in Ado-Ekiti then, the drama group led by Dr Hope Egagha

**.WHAT WILL YOU SAY WERE THE IMPACT OF ADO- EKITI (OSUA) ON YOUR CAREER?**

My career is a rugged one, it was a very rugged life, I saw it as a training for me at that time, a major training to be a good actor, a humble actor ready for anything. Guidance and counselling taught me how to understand people very well. It was a perfect training for me all the way.

**ANY MEMORY THAT STAND OUT FOR YOU (SWEET OR SOUR)**

There's a path in School then, anytime am passing through that place, I am always afraid. One day we went to school and on our way back we entered a luxurious bus as usual, when we got to Adebayo, we had to climb a hill, as a Lagos boy, I jumped through the window and I went to my house peacefully and the later I heard that they all got injured.

**WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR A MAN TO SUCCEED IN LIFE**

For a man to succeed in life, he has to be ready for pain, getting success must come with a lot of challenges. He must be able to endure and be prayerful.

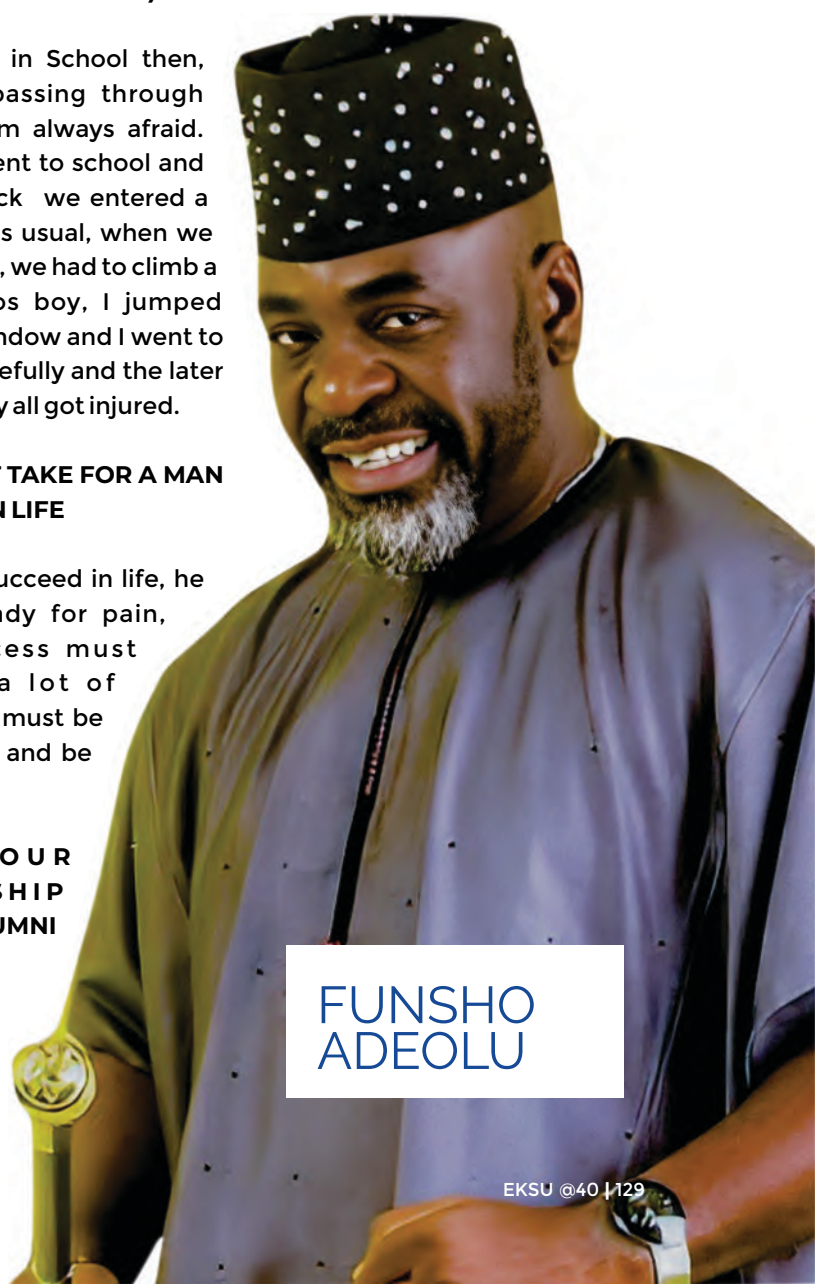
**WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Because of the nature of my job, I am always on set,

if you should rely on me, I will mess up and it is not deliberate, I can be called to act anytime. I am in OSUA connect and we are doing well.

**THE PRESENT STUDENT OF EKSU, THEY WILL LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU, YOU ARE A HERO TO THEM. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THEM?**

I Congratulate them for being a student of that great school, anywhere I meet a student I'm always happy because I part of this school. My advice for them is to keep the light shining and they should make w e t h e old students proud.



**FUNSHO  
ADEOLU**

A portrait of Babaseun Faseru, a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a light-colored suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is standing in front of a blue and purple background with some decorative elements.

## BABASEUN FASERU

**B**abaseun Faseru, who hails from Ijebu Jesa, Osun State in Nigeria, was born into the family of Chief and Chief (Mrs) Ayo Faseru, over 44 years ago. He is the last born of the Ayo Faseru Clan.

A graduate of Accounting from the prestigious University of Ado Ekiti (UNAD) which is called EKSU, Ekiti State University.

Babaseun, the Chairman of Manners and Conducts, which has a subsidiary in film Productions, is a Nigerian filmmaker, awards winning actor, dynamic, intelligent, charmingly good looking, with 17 years experience in stage acting and 12 years experience on screen.

He had his first debut movie appearance in 2012 in the movie Married but Living Single, where he featured with Ace Actors like Joke Silva, Funke Akindele, Benjamin Joseph, Kiki Omelli and hosts of others. A movie directed by Tunde Olaoye.

He had his first award in the industry in 2019, as THE BEST NEW ENGLISH ACTOR in 2019, also in 2021, Babaseun was

awarded the MOST PROMISING ACTOR OF THE YEAR (English) in 2021. Armani, as fondly called by his friends while he was in school, is a voice over artist, professional compere, and TV host with 9 years of

experience. He hosted the FIRST TEACHERS' REALITY TV SHOW in 2019 (15 days) with the OAP Oyare Oche, held at Keffi (Abuja) in Nigeria and Africa, which was transmitted live on Silverbird television station. He hosted the 2ND SEASON OF TEACHERSNAIJA REALITY TV SHOW in 2021, for 20 days held at Abuja and was aired on Trybe TV DSTV 195. Also, the 3rd Season which rounded off in November 2022, where 3 other teachers were made Millionaires. He hosted the Lagos State Runway Fashion Show 2021 put together by Prostreetsnooker in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture Lagos State.

He has also hosted top notch events for multinational companies and national companies..like Ernst and Young Accounting Firm (one of the 4 biggest accounting firms in the world) 2021 and 2022 End of the year party. Amber Residence which has over 15 branches within and outside the shores of Nigeria 2022, Cedar World Exclusive Concept 2019 and 2022. Just to mention a few.

This diligent, fun loving young man speaks Yoruba and English languages fluently. He had his first maiden movie production as a producer/executive producer in 2018 titled PWD (Pumped With Desire, Playing with death). In 2021, he produced 2 movies Ebiti and Dieko, from the stable of Astrocraft Productions.

"Omoosan" (his brand name, which was adopted from the movie Saworoide became his famous name as his stage and brand presence which is completed as "omoosan to n so dundun which means an orange fruit which brings forth sweetness) has featured in a number of movies and TV series amongst which are Battle on Buka Street (Bayo) My Siblings and I (Stanley Aberuagba), Omo Ghetto saga (Pluto), Tinsel, Eve (Mr James) Hustle, Royal Outlaw (Prince Adeoye), Married but Living Single, Battle Within (Kunle), PWD., Naked, Extra Mile (Johnson), Superstory (Donaldo), Choices (Dr Alabi), Jenifas Diary (Soji) Nectar (Tunde), Number One (Gbemi), Corpers Lodge (Corp Japhet), Tomorrow is Now, Shadows, Needles Eyes, Crack in the wall, Back Door just to mention a few.

Babaseun a teacher per excellence as teaching which was his first love, where he got his first major opportunity to impart life, stand and showcase his qualities before hundreds of students in one of the best schools in Ogun State and Nigeria, Peak Lane Schools for 5 years before he went into filmmaking, is very available, prepared and fit to take on any male role in Africa, Europe, that ranges from the late teens to the mid-forties.



A portrait of Oluwasegun Oluata, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark bow tie. He is looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred indoor setting with shelves and decorative items.

# OLUWASEGUN OLUATA

Oluwasegun Oluata is a seasoned tax administrator who has a demonstrated history of work experience in Forensic Accounting, Tax Preparation, Tax Audit and Investigation, Analytical Skills and Payroll review.

He had his first degree in Accounting from the University of Ado Ekiti (formerly Ondo State University and now Ekiti State University) Ekiti State, Nigeria. Sequel to graduating in 2002, he joined the prestigious firm of D.O. Dafinone (Chartered Accountants) as an Audit Trainee.

Having gotten the necessary professional training, he then proceeded to the London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom for a Master's of Science Degree in Computer Systems Auditing.

In 2008, he joined the Lagos Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) where he has continued to work diligently and contributing to the Revenue Growth of Lagos State. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, Nigeria (CITN).

He is married and blessed with children

# INTERVIEW

**Let us trace your career path and how OSUA/UNAD/EKSU has contributed to it**

After I graduated from OSUA/UNAD/EKSU in 2002 with a BSc in Accounting, I joined the firm of D.O. Dafinone (Chartered Accountants); now Crowe Dafinone as an Audit Trainee. Having trained for some years, I proceeded to the United Kingdom for further studies and graduated with Masters of Science Degree in Computer Systems Auditing from London Metropolitan University.

I was back in Nigeria after my studies in the United Kingdom and joined the Lagos Internal Revenue Service in 2008 where I currently work and contribute to the Revenue Growth in Lagos State.

OSUA/UNAD/EKSU has contributed immensely to my career path as it is the University that gave me the opportunity to study Accounting as others offered me other courses that I was not interested in. Growing up as a kid and seeing my dad progress in his career as an accountant, I have always desired to be one.

**What emotions does the events of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary evoke in you as an EKSU legend?**

I will say the events of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OSUA/UNAD/EKSU will surely stir up some memories as I go back in time to the year 1996 when I had to be in OSUA (I had

never been to Ado-Ekiti) prior my admission process to study for a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Accounting.

Though I did some years of my Secondary School education in a Boarding School but University education in Ado Ekiti was a new experience because of the freedom that came with it. Lucky to have had a lot of my friends from Secondary School in Akure, Ondo State also attending same University.

There were some really rough times but the good thing when I look back is that they prepared us for the tough days ahead. As this can be attested to by the successes achieved today by majority of the alumni.

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

I think the sweet memory for me was just the fact that it was a time of total freedom. I was left to make my decisions all by myself and it was a time for me to be baked for the goals I defined for myself.

I remember I enjoyed the late night bus trips from Lagos to Ado Ekiti then. The few days before classwork started then was always fun.

However, the sour memories were the times when the University was shut because of student riots, ASUU strikes etc. The times when it was a challenge to get a vehicle to take you from town to the campus or vice versa, and you had no choice

but to walk the distance.

**Any role model for you then?**

One-time Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Akin Oyeboode.

**I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of OSUA/UNAD/EKSU**

I will say it was a coincidence and it turned out to be the only University that could offer me Accounting as a course.

**What were you known for then?**

Just one who was calm, interacted well if I wanted to, studied well and able to share knowledge etc.

**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

I am a member of the Lagos Chapter of the Alumni and have access to information disseminated by the Global body. Hoping to contribute more to the growth of the alumni group.

**Q: finally, what message do you have for current students of this great citadel of learning?**

For the current students, they need to identify their core purpose and continue to strive towards achieving it. I am sure they have better opportunities than we did during our times of study at the University. They must never relent.





# PROFILE

## Prince Adekanmi Nureni Hammed

Prince Adekanmi Nureni Hammed, Also the Chairman of Prince Adekanmi Nureni Hammed Foundation.

Graduate of University of Ado- Ekiti now Eksu 2008 Set, President of Business Administration and Management 2008 set. Currently living in the United Kingdom London.

Currently occupy the position of Inventory and procurement Manager for the Group of Companies in the UK.

*Ekiti made me what I am today*

*We were over 1000 in my department and I had the opportunity to be the President of the department.*

## **Prince Nureni Hammed**

Adekanmi Nureni Hammed is a graduate of the University of Ado Ekiti. He was the President of his department in 2008. After graduation, he went to the United Kingdom to study Executive Management in Business Administration. Since then, he has worked with a group of companies as their General Procurement Officer.

### **How did studying at UNAD impact you as a person?**

I learnt most of the things I'm practicing today at UNAD. Even though I may not have gotten practical learning, the theoretical knowledge I acquired there is what I've been able to apply in managing the organizations I work with. This is why I hold Ekiti State in high esteem even though I am originally from Ile-Ife. There is no way I will talk about my history and not mention Ekiti State.

### **Let's talk about your years in the University. What were they like?**

I entered the Obafemi Awolowo University in 2000 and graduated from the University of Ado Ekiti in 2004. However, I can say that I was one of the people who enjoyed UNAD the most. I became the Course Rep in 2004 then contested for the position of the Assistant General Secretary of the department. After that, I became the Auditor

General and then the President of my department. We were over 1000 students in the department. I don't think any set has ever produced as many students since then. We are the most populous set in the history of Ekiti State University and I had the opportunity to head all those people.

### **You were known as Omo T.K.O. what is the story behind that name? And did it influence all those positions you were able to attain?**

That is one of the things I hoped to talk about. As I'm talking to you, I named my son TKO. That shows how much I hold him in high esteem. I met T.K.O Aluko in 2004. TKO was a very popular person. Everybody knew TKO. He was a lecturer, a mentor and a father. I was very close to him and that is how I got the name.

I must say that I didn't really value the lessons T.K.O was passing across to us when we were in school; not until I got to the UK. He used to say that everything we were learning and how he was criticizing us then would make us stand out when we got out into the larger world. That turned out to be true.

Let me tell you a personal story. I found my first position as a Procurement Manager in the UK very difficult because whites never want a black to be their boss. Whether you're a citizen or not, you get to a certain point in life where they refuse to let you climb higher. I would remember the things I learnt at UNAD: that people management is one of the keys to business administration.

When I was managing a faculty of 1000 people, there were several confraternities, but I was able to manage them having the confidence that T.K.O had my back. I remember that on the day of our final exams, I called them all together to my house at 5am and pleaded with them to let peace reign. I had to manage everybody. I was able to bring that knowledge

and tenacity to my work as well. It is all thanks to T.K.O. That is why I always say that I haven't done anything until I've inaugurated a T.K.O building at the University. It was also one of the T.K.O boys, Otunba Bayo Olokada, that prepared every single document that I needed to travel to the UK at the time.

### **Lastly, what is your advice to current students of the school?**

I spoke to the current Head of the Department of Business Administration a few months ago and I told him to try as much as possible to make sure that no life of a single student is destroyed. Lecturers should be dedicated to helping their students; not saying things like "I'll make sure you don't graduate" as we used to have in the old days.

To the students, I say that the ability to deal with individuals, to identify individual characters, is what makes you a good manager. I also want them to be serious with their education and to identify the key areas where they can be useful. Back then, Fasuba used to be really brilliant and I would say to him that he would become an academic while I would go into business so that whenever I have any issues in practice, I could go to him for advice on the theoretical aspect. Identify your own strong suit and work on it. Finally, I appeal to them to stay away from cultism.





*The quality of education was quite progressive, although, it was laced with plenty of rigour and stress, but I bet, for any student who is ready to learn, you can get a lot from UNAD*

**Bolanle Olubunmi  
née Adu (Amazon)**

My name is Suyi Aluko, Bolanle Olubunmi née Adu. known then as Amazon during my SUG days, I hail from Ado-Ekiti, I graduated from University of Ado-Ekiti in the year, 2005. My first degree was in Geology, and during my undergraduate days I was the Vice President of the Student Union Government, before one thing led to another and I became the acting President of SUG.

I hold a Masters degree in Business Administration, and I currently work with a financial institution, I am happily married and blessed with three lovely kids.

**Let's trace your career path and how EKSU has contributed to it.**

Well, during our time it was referred to as UNAD, for me, UNAD served as the bedrock upon which my career success is built. Although, I studied Geology as my first degree like I said earlier, but my alma-mata is a builder that makes you versatile.

If anyone had told me I will end up in a financial institution, I would have doubted it, but you see, the drilling and rigour we went through in UNAD went a long way in shaping and sharpening my mind to become who I am today.

I am doing something that's totally out of the scope of what I studied in school, but the fact that UNAD doesn't only teach academics but life, makes it possible for me to meet up with the demand of my career as a banker, and I am finding fulfilment in it.

**What emotions does this events of the 40th anniversary evoke in you as an EKSU legend?**

Well, the 40th anniversary of my Alma-Mata only speaks of an institution that has committed herself to building, and modeling lives for the past 40th years, and I think it is worth celebrating.

**Would you like to be more specific about the sweet and sour memories?**

Sweet and sour? Well, life is generally not a bed of roses, it is full of highs and lows, and my sojourn on the camps of UNAD was in that same pattern. There were several sweet and horrible experiences, but you know time is a great healer, and I guess time has truly healed me of those personal horrible experiences.

However, the common sour experience I had was the incessant fights, protests, and strikes during our time. This dastardly act elongated our sessions.

**I will want you to reminisce way back then on the quality of education you had at EKSU.**

The quality of education was quite progressive, although, it was laced with plenty of rigour and stress, but I bet, for any student who is ready to learn, you can get a lot from UNAD, in fact, you will be able to face your

contemporaries from other institutions with zero fear. Take for an instance, my work has availed me the opportunity to work with other professionals who graduated from known schools, the known in quote. However, this little girl from UNAD, I mean Eksu, a state own university could meaningful engage and contribute where folks from Unilag, Oxford, and the likes are.

We have the products of EKSU spanning from the days of OSUA, to UNAD in different organizations. Take for an instance, the Governor of our dear state is a graduate of OSUA, I am a graduate of UNAD and we have retinue of professionals who are Alumnus of this great citadel in different sphere of influence.

**What were you known for then?**

Lol, well, I was actually known for bravery, many see me as a man in woman skin. Like I told you my Mum are strong influence on me so, I am a strong proponent too, but I think hardworking is more pronounced for me.

**Since you left EKSU, what has been your relationship with the school?**

My relationship with the school? Well, it hasn't really been what I wanted due to the nature of my work, but I can always improve more by being an active member of the alumni and contribute my quota to the development of the citadel of learning when need arises. Take for an instance, I had to squeeze the time to respond to this interview. At this stage for me, it is work O clock. However, I still did my second degree in same Eksu, so, I can even say I am Eksuite tokantokan. Lol!

A portrait of Akeem Oseni, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a colorful patterned tie. The background is a blurred cityscape. The name 'AKEEM OSENI' is written in large, bold, white capital letters in the top right corner, with a yellow horizontal bar underlining the name.

# AKEEM OSENI

Mr Akeem Olusola Oseni obtained a Bachelor of Science in Geology UNAD, and an MBA in Marketing at the University of Lagos (Unilag).

Thereafter, he proceeded to Middlesex University, London, where he bagged a MSc in Shipping and Logistics.

Mr Akeem started his career as one of the pioneer staff at MSC Shipping company Nig. Ltd: a world leading container shipping company with her head office in Geneva, Switzerland.

He is the Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O) of Prebykym Global Nig. Ltd, as well as a supply chain management and logistics expert and also a shipping consultant; the Chairman of Meliora Industries Ltd: an Agro Allied processing company, that processes Palm Kernel Oil and Feedmill for Poultry, Piggery and Cattle Ranch.

He is also the Vice Chairman of De Appeal Mega Integrated Ltd.





Akeem Oseni started his schooling in Ado Ekiti; he moved to Oyo town, Ile-Ife, and then back to Ado Ekiti.

A true breed and indigene of Ado Ekiti, Oseni's drive to succeed academically made him reject Polytechnic admission; he had to wait for 12 more months before being admitted into OSUA to study Geology.

"I always believe that I am a University material and if I push just a little more, I will get there; it was the best decision of my life, probably after choosing my lovely wife"

Akeem obtained a Masters Degree in Marketing from the University of Lagos, and he is also a member of Nigeria Institute of Shipping.

#### **IMPACTS OF EKSU ON HIS CAREER**

"Unlike other Universities, everyone that passes through the school is toughened in the sense that you learn to do a lot of things by yourself; (although) lots of things were not in place then, so it was a survival of the fittest".

He described the experience then, as a gathering of the good, the bad and the ugly"

That (institution) helped me to understand life better; It was a unique university, unlike others.

"Now when we gather together, especially in Lagos here, and you see how well lots of Alumni are faring well at their careers, you will understand the impacts of this great institution"

#### **What kind of Memory did you take away**

#### **from EKSU?"**

Sincerely, I really enjoyed my 6 years in Ado Ekiti; i still cherish those years; I made lots of friends across all Strata, and I relate very well with everyone (till date). There is no gathering of EKSU Alumnus in Lagos or anywhere that i do not feel at home.

"EKSU gave me a platform to grow, and to develop myself; it put me on my toes and at the same time, kept me humble"

#### **"My reflections about EKSU @ 40?"**

The University was like 20 years when we left and now they have many amenities that weren't available then.

"They used to call us glorified Secondary School, but I've always known the potentials are there. EKSU have a large expanse of land running from the infamous Odo Eje to Iworoko Ekiti. I commend the State government, the Vice Chancellor: past and present, and principal officers of the University for preserving the legacy of the founder.

"And to the current students, whatever you are seeing today is incomparable to a glorious future, (only) if you remain committed to your studies.

"EKSU was where I nurtured and developed relationship that has turned to lifelong friendship."





***Celebrating an  
Iconic Institution @40***

***Happy memories of the past and  
bright hope for the future***



**▶ Adedayo  
Ladigbolu Abah**

*Professor and Head  
Department of Journalism & Mass  
Communications, Washington & Lee University*



*STUDYING IN UNAD  
PROVIDED ME WITH  
ALL THE BASIC  
KNOWLEDGE TO FACE  
THE WORLD*

**HASSAN MUSA**

**R**EALTOR CLOTHIER  
PHILANTHROPIST

**IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT  
DIFFERENTIATE UNAD  
FROM OTHER  
UNIVERSITIES?**

Before I got admitted to UNAD, for someone that has been to University of Lagos,

University of Benin, University of Ibadan, I had an opinion of how a university should be but UNAD was a peculiar institution: from transportation to lecture theatre, Hostels but give it to the Ado-Ekiti indigenes they are so accommodating.

My assessment is that UNAD has a well packaged academic programmes, good number of welltrained academics of international repute and a high level of discipline among the students. At first, it was a bit difficult studying in Ado-Ekiti and adapting to the new environment and the system took a little time. Schooling in UNAD provided me with all basic knowledge required to face the world.

**YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH  
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?**

Well am staying at United Kingdom and I understand that there is an Alumni branch here that is very vibrant. I think the 40th anniversary created awareness to some of us of the opportunity to join and contribute our quota towards the development of our Alma Mata.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR  
FUTURE?**

My life ambition is to serve humanity to the best of my ability. You can achieve what you want to achieve in the world no matter your back ground. Whatever you do be it sports, academics, arts or entertainment, Do not be timid always be respectful and be grateful, God will help you to shape your life.

**MY ADO YEARS**

His description of UNAD was that of an institution where sound training and quality education were foremost, noting that they taught students to be self-independent and to overcome challenges. 'I remembered how I had to find means for me and my friends to get food, am always attracted to the needies, maybe probably because I had a humble beginning too. UNAD was so good to me, I was able to form a strong bond with great men and women, the bond that is still very strong today" Although we had so many challenges, we were happy despite the challenges and experienced much thrilled overcoming them. At first it was a bit difficult adapting to the environment but at the end things took shape. Studying in UNAD provided me with all the basic knowledge required to face the world.



# *The University was one of the first set of Universities in Nigeria that experimented a non-residential-Institution system*

**-BAMIDELE AGBEDE**

Head of Service Ekiti State

## **Background**

My name is Bamidele Agbede, I attended St. Paul Anglican Primary School, Osi-Ekiti and also attended An-sarudeen High school, Ire-Ekiti between 1976 and 1981. I later attended Omolorogbo, Grammar School, Akure between 1982 and 1983. Immediately, I got admitted to the then Obafemi Awolowo University in 1983 when the University was established in 1982. Thereafter, I went for the compulsory one-year National Youth Service Corps program in the then Bendel State (now Edo state) where I served in Agenebude as a School teacher between 1987 and 1988. Two weeks after my National Youth Service, I joined the then National Electoral Commission (NEC).

## **University Days**

As a second set of a University, our own University was new then, the whole atmosphere and environment was very strange. Incidentally, the school was sited in Ado-Ekiti which was more or less like a rural community. Then, after 3'O clock in the afternoon, you may not be able to get a vehicle to Akure. Interestingly, the entire environment was serene, secured and electricity supply was not a problem (for the first three months, I had no cause to use my lantern and there was no rechargeable lamp then); actually, there was constant electricity supply, pipe borne water was another advantage because it was regular. Where I was living along Adebayo, we had water supply almost on daily basis (it was only a day that they do not supply water from Water Corporation). So, life was quite

interesting and imagine all of us from different background, families, coming together to converge in a rural setting, in an off-campus atmosphere where we were living in different places. It was quite an interesting time. I stayed in a hostel that was referred to as Green House. It was a very powerful house where we had a lot of eminent personalities who lived with us there. For instance, former Alumni Chairman/President of EKSU, Dr. Wale Jegede, Hon Nelson Omotayo who was a one-time member of Parliament in Ekiti State House of Assembly, Charles Olomu (of blessed memory) and a guy we called (Benzema) Mr Kumapayi, one of the leading officials in Federal Road Safety Commission Nigeria today and quite a lot of others. We had a very good upbringing and an enjoyable environment to stay during the inception of the school in 1983/1984.

## **Events that stood out then**

Quite a lot. You know almost everything that we did then was at foundational level. Imagine setting up what we refer today as Peace Corp which was Cadet then, established by a guy who just left Central Bank of Nigeria and founded a Polytechnic now; Otunba Tola Johnson. He was my very good friend and an Ibadan based guy. We read the same course and we were always together. He established this security network and we used to call him Abacha.

Apart from that, we started Student Unionism and that was when we had Chief Jide Awe who is now a prominent politician; a former chairman of APC and one of the leading members behind

former Governor Kayode Fayemi. He later became President of the Student Union Government.

I can remember vividly when we wanted to have an exam in the School and the Military Administrator in collaboration with the School authority decided we should move to the permanent site from Ajitadidun (a very small environment that served as the temporary site). When they asked us to move to the permanent site, we revolted and said: no, we were not going. This led to the suspension of our Student Union President. Consequently, we had a lot of crises in our hands. Commodore Otiko (the then Military Administrator of Ondo State) insisted that we had to move out but we remained adamant and as young as we were then, we confronted the Military Administrator. We also composed a popular song then:

Give us Awe /2x  
Give us Awe OAU  
Without Awe, No exam o  
No exam o for this year.

We succeeded and they brought him back and quite reluctantly, we relocated and moved to the permanent site where we wrote our exam. Life was interesting then. We were encouraged to move to the permanent site but we fought because there was no means of transportation. We asked the authority that "if you want us to move to the permanent site, how do we transport ourselves?" The School authority said we should go and buy bicycle which was strange to us. We insisted that we were not going to do that. But, we thank God, the rest is history today.



## Forty Years celebration

Sure, you can imagine an Institution that sprang up from nowhere (a non-residential institution for that matter). I mean one of the first set of Universities in Nigeria that experimented a non-residential institution system. The School can confidently boast today of having produced prominent Nigerians in different spheres. I remember having Senator Banji Akintoye as my lecturer in 1983. He taught me History and the likes of Professor Ishola Olomola, Professor Kola Omosini from the University of Ife as well as other accomplished lecturers from the University. They all came as pioneer lecturers for the new university.

The current Vice Chancellor is a product of the University and to the glory of God. I am a product of the University. The former Head of Service of this state, Dr. Gbenga Faseluka was my mate. In the civil service of Ekiti today, one can count at least five to six Permanent Secretaries who are products of the University (Mr Babatunde Alokun, Mr James Owolabi, Mr Olusesan Alabi et c. are products of the University).

### Your level of involvement with Alumni

I am a member; one of the founding members but to be honest with you, I have not been very active but right now. I have decided to create time to attend their functions and to be very active in whatever they do.

### Word of Advice

My advice to the students particularly of EKSU is to see themselves as leaders of tomorrow and they should distinguish themselves in whatever area they may find themselves. Look at us, like I told you, we schooled then when there was nothing, for some of us that our lecturers used to come from the University of Ife, they



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the time from the campus to the town because of scarcity of vehicles but honestly look at us now compared to students who have the opportunities and facilities. Some of them live on Campus while some live in Iworoko. There is now better means of transportation. In fact, some of them are mobile! I do not expect them to be distracted. I expect them to be focused and to refocus themselves on the education attainment they are supposed to get from the Institution. They should forget about ephemeral things. There is time for everything. We were there then and we never thought we could be where we are today but all to the glory of God.

There was a time I attended one picnic in United Kingdom. I was on holiday and I accompanied some of my friends (EKSU members of Alumni Association, UK Chapter) to the picnic. It was so interesting and amazing seeing all our guys doing great in the world and I am not talking of Ekiti but Nigeria. The immediate past Chairman Internal Revenue Service, Ekiti State, Muiyiwa Ogunmilade was my mate. Quite a lot of them I can mention and to cap it all, you can imagine a School founded in 1982, today in Ekiti State, our incumbent Governor, Mr Abayomi Oyebanji

is a product of Ekiti State University, the Head of Service, also a product of the University not having to mention a good number of us that he may likely bring into his cabinet. The CPS to the Governor is equally a product of the University and a lot of others.

To me, if they are present would have arrived on Thursday, they would teach us on Friday and Saturday because some of them came all the way from Ife to give us support. After lectures on Friday or Saturday, we would trek most of the time from the campus to the town because of scarcity of vehicles but honestly look at us now compared to students who have the opportunities and facilities. Some of them live on Campus while some live in Iworoko. There is now better means of transportation. In fact, some of them are mobile! I do not expect them to be distracted. I expect them to be focused and to refocus themselves on the education attainment they are supposed to get from the Institution. They should forget about ephemeral things. There is time for everything. We were there then and we never thought we could be where we are today but all to the glory of God.

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To me, if they are patient and see themselves as leaders of tomorrow, they have to focus and refocus their attention on their academics and forget about every other thing. There is time for everything. You can be a millionaire today, you may not be able to be proud of it tomorrow.

I am proud of what I am today because I started from a very humble beginning. I can beat my chest that we started in this manner, graduated up to this level and made my marks in the Electoral Commission before crossing to the State civil service and to the glory of God today, among my peers, I am the no. 1 Civil servant of Ekiti, a product of EKSU. I attended EKSU 1983 to 1987, came out with B.A History (Honors). Mark my words, not B.A History because there is difference between B.A History and B.A History (Honors).

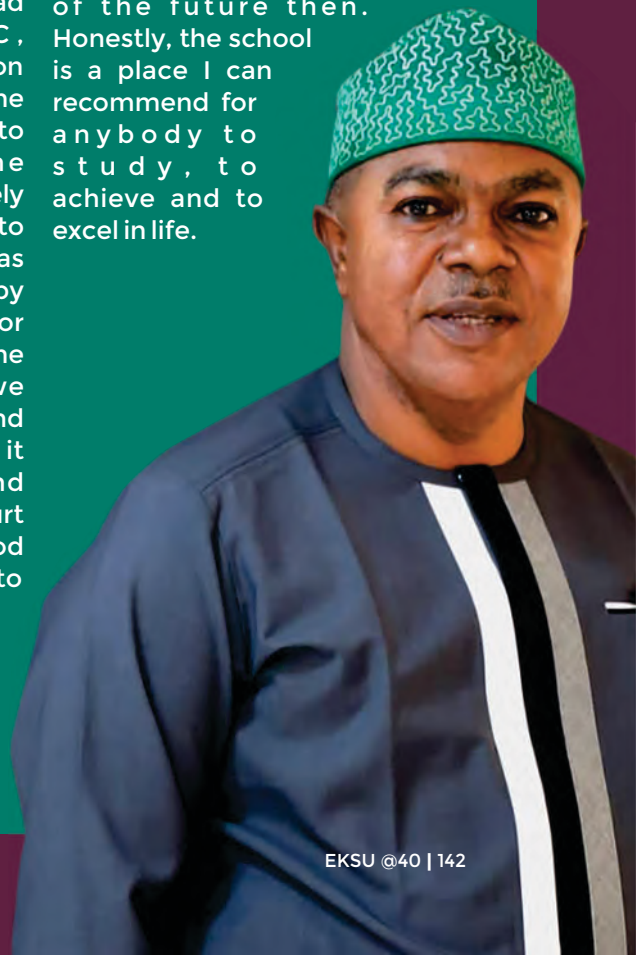
I was at first, at INEC, I later came back. By the time I came back to Ekiti State when it was created in 1996, I was the Head of operations, INEC, representing the Commission in court cases. Hence, I felt the need to go back to school to study Law to enable me discharge my duties effectively and efficiently. I came back to EKSU and I studied Law, I was fortunate again to be taught by Great Nigerians like Professor Akin Oyeboode who is one of the leading legal luminaries we have in International Law and Jurisprudence and look at it today, I am a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. To the glory of God we are doing our bit and best to the Civil Service of Ekiti State.

To me, the future is bright for almost all the students that

are there if only they can be focused, if only they can take the decision that they have to wait for their time; there is time for everything in life.

Look at our Governor, Mr Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji, he started too from a very humble beginning, he went there (EKSU), graduated there and now he is the governor of Ekiti State, Tomorrow, who knows he may be the President of this country. We were very fortunate then to be trained by the best brains that anyone can be proud of in this country. Our first Vice Chancellor, Professor Ifedayo Oladapo was telling us then, "you guys are making history". We never believed it. We are always complaining, no vehicle to take us to school, he told us, "go and buy motorcycle, go and buy bicycle, in the UK, they used to take bicycle to school". It was strange to us, how can you tell me to go and ride bicycle to the school but today it will interest you if I close from office now, I have my own bicycle at home that I ride in my street as a form of exercise. I never knew they were training me for the things of the future then.

Honestly, the school is a place I can recommend for anybody to study, to achieve and to excel in life.





*"As the first Secretary General of the Alumni Association, what I am today was borne from my experience at the then Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado Ekiti"- Ayodeji Olofintila, the first Chief of KEGITES CLUB, now a born again Christian.*

**Firstly, let us talk about you.**

My name is Ayodeji Olofintila. I am from Ora Ekiti. I started my Primary School Education in Imesi Ile, Osun State. I did not finish there. I had to continue in St. John Anglican Primary School, Ido Ekiti. From there, I went to Ekiti Parapo College, Ido Ekiti and I finished in 1978. Afterwards, I did not go straight into the University. I went to St John Mary's Teachers' College, Owo in the late 1970s, taught in Methodist High School, Owo for a couple of years and from there, went to Obafemi Awolowo University Ado-Ekiti, as one of the first set of students there. Why I chose OAU? The main reason was to pioneer and create our own legacy, be trail-bracer, experience new things, face the reality of life as it were then etc. The School was later renamed OSUA; ONDO STATE UNIVERSITY, ADO EKITI. The main reason is the inventive and the creative aspects of it, to be able to realize ourselves i.e., self-realization. We were the first set as I said. While I was there, as one of the pioneering students of History. I was able to put together a socio-cultural group which was fully established and when I got to the 400level, I became the leader of the group. Other students joined as time went on, affording me the opportunity and the ability to create, to blaze the trail and to leave a legacy. The group was named KEGITES. I was the first Chief, now a born again Christian!

I am married to my beautiful wife; Oluwakemi Olofintila and we are blessed with 3 children - 2 boys and a girl!

**How did you feel the first time you entered the gate of OAU, Ado Ekiti?**

One of the first things that came to my mind was how I was going to contribute my quota to the establishment, processes and procedures as a student and be able to maximize the utilization of facilities on ground. As at then, I believed that was the place to be. There was no structure, all the buildings you are seeing there now were not

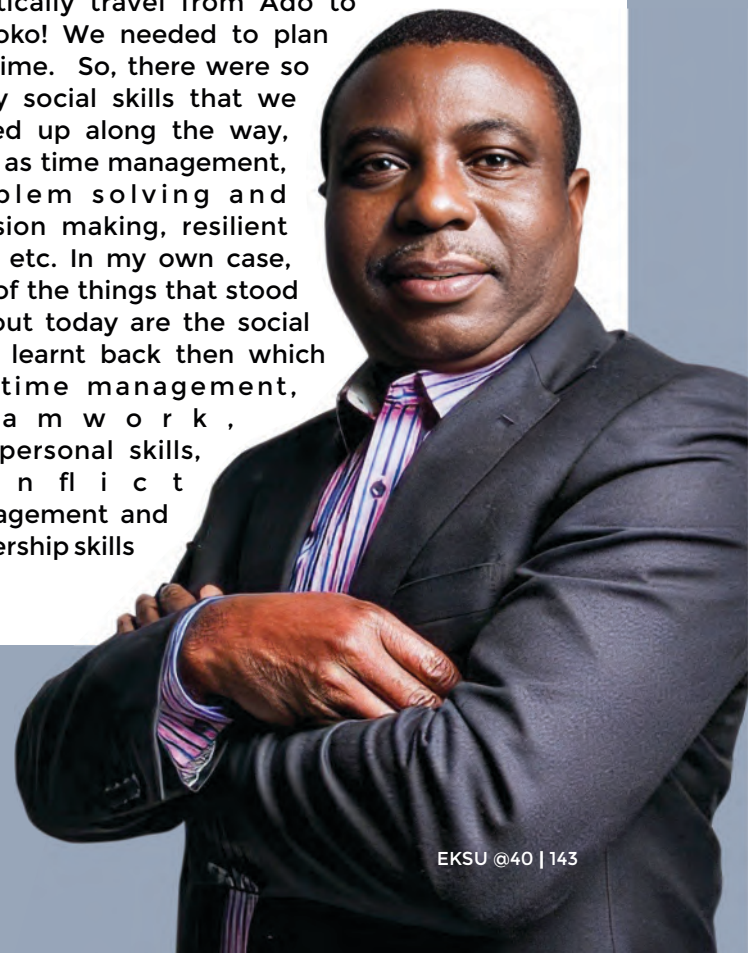
there. It was like a wilderness where we needed to create our own processes and activities. We interacted with other Universities, Polytechnics etc.

**In your own opinion, what differentiates EKSU from other Universities?**

I want to look at it from the holistic approach. Firstly, the ability to experience

real life situations. It builds one up. In such a situation, we had to fend for ourselves. No hostels, no school buses and we started on a humble note. Imagine the Ajitadidun Nursery and Primary School experience then. That was where we had our lectures then, that was where we had fun playing football and all other activities you can think of in a university. Faculty of Arts was at Ajitadidun while Faculty of Sciences was in Christ School. One of the things that stood it out was the ability to and the opportunity to learn new skills while we were there because we were not spoon-fed. We had to go to classes earlier and took public transport to Iworoko Ekiti when the Campus was moved there. It gave us a real-life experience. If you are in a University like University of Ibadan, University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University, you will be living in the hall of residence and all you needed is to walk to the lecture rooms unlike in our own case where we had to practically travel from Ado to Iworoko! We needed to plan our time. So, there were so many social skills that we picked up along the way, such as time management, problem solving and decision making, resilient skills etc. In my own case, one of the things that stood me out today are the social skills learnt back then which are time management, team work, interpersonal skills, conflict management and leadership skills

**AYODEJI  
OLOFINTILA**



as the leader of KEGITES CLUB then! As at that time, that was the only socio-cultural group then and as I am talking to you, there are many people that were members of the group then that are now in different walks of human endeavours all over the world. In that process, I was tutored by life experiences on time management, leadership skills, interpersonal skills etc. Those are the things that have already brushed on me while in the University. When I left the University in 1986, I came back as one of the pioneering administrators. I was employed as an Administrative Officer by the then Registrar (Chief J.G.O. Adegbite). I finished in 1986 and I went for the mandatory National Youth Service, came back in 1987 and started working in the then Ondo State University as an Admin Officer. I was also one of the founding members of the Alumni Association. I was the first Secretary General while Mr Bula Akinsipe was the President. I was in Ado working till 1994 as I became the Faculty of Engineering Officer in 1990. From there, I came to Lagos in 1994 where I had a brief stint with Ikoyi Baptist Church as their Admin Manager and by 2000, I went into Banking (United Bank for Africa Plc) as a Manager and I left in 2006 before I travelled to the United Kingdom.

***Will you like to talk about your present project?***

Like I told you, one of the things that I learnt in Ado Ekiti kind of determined my disposition towards life because we experienced life in the true sense of the word. Life practically stared us in the face. We studied within the Community, lived in the community, had our social activities there and interacted

with members of the local community also. It was not as if we were outside, and this gave me a sense of responsibility and the opportunity to always give back to the society/community. I hate seeing people suffering. Even when in Ado, there were many people with one challenge or the other especially as the Students' Affairs Officer. I had to use my office to assist students in one way or the other. So, when I moved to the UK in 2006, the first thing that struck my mind was the cultural differences. There were a lot of things young people in the UK take for granted that were hitherto of importance to us back home. I then started a charity organization called VISION 2020 LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (GLOBAL VISION INITIATIVE-now in the global space) with people of like minds. We started with young people, creating opportunities for them, encouraging them and motivating them to maximize their potentials to the fullest level. I organized several training programs, workshops, and seminars. We did a lot of socio-sporting activities and also fed the homeless in the community.

***If you are doing this much in the UK, do you not think that your alma mater should enjoy such as well?***

That is one of the things we are looking forward to doing, impacting on our root(EKSU) and I am working to see that this comes to fruition soonest. However, when you want to do such things, you will be required to have a lot of resources to put such in place, however as soon as the opportunity presents itself I will surely action it, as it is really on my mind and it is what I would love to do for my alma mater and my community.

***Let us talk about the Alumni Association of which you were the first Secretary General . Is the Alumni Association as it is today the type you dreamt of at***

***inception?***

You know things are not static. It is like you are asking me if the University of today is what I dreamt of? I would have told you it is better we stay where we were! No!!!! We are dynamic human beings, so, one of the things that I quite appreciate is that human beings are dynamic, and the dynamism is what is playing out now. When you have different groups of people, there is bound to be development. In some cases, there will be areas where there will be clashes and disagreements. This moves the administration forward. What I will say is that the Alumni Association is growing and it will continue to grow, although, there are still so many things to be done.

***So, what advice do you have for them?***

Selfless service! That is the difference between where we are here in the UK and where we are in Nigeria. Here, when you assume the role of a leader, it is a process of servanthood and not to be seen that you have arrived.

Another thing is that they should replicate themselves and that is one of the things that I am going to do in my project because one of the things I am pushing to do is to leave a legacy and if you start out to leave a legacy, your processes and achievements never die. So, I will advise that they should develop leaders like themselves. They should delegate and trust people to do things and to follow them up. Do not try to do everything by yourself. After 10 years that I have established this project here in the UK (2020), now the organization is in the global space with partners in Nigeria, Ghana, Canada, USA, Pakistan and we are looking at Rwanda, Gambia, Uganda, Kenya etc., so, we changed the name from VISION 2020 LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE to GLOBAL VISION INITIATIVE in 2020.





### **Tell me about yourself**

Am Mrs. Olabisi Akindele (Nee Awopetu) I was a student of OSUA. I am the third set in 1984 and I graduated in the year 1988. I studied English and literary studies.

### **TELL US ABOUT YOUR YEARS IN OSUA**

It was hectic because we were just like the bulldozers, then the first year was tough and at the same time interesting. The second semester we move to the site where the school is now and the experience was wonderful; thank God I was part of the people that started the university so to say it was something that was tough we really suffered because it wasn't

easy. I remember there was a time there was a riot we had to trek from that campus to town we were to have an examination and when we are almost late to the examination, we had to join the people that were walking, we walked a long distance that I have never walked before and by the time I was able to even see a bus it was late already.

### **WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF OSUA ON YOUR CAREER?**

It's really prepared me. It's made me ready to face any type of challenge, it has really helped me.

### **IS EKSU AT 40 WORTH CELEBRATING?**

I think it is worth celebrating. It is God that has actually helped that

university, it is worth celebrating in so many ways because during our own days people there says it is a glorified institution. Even I know of friends that we attended the same secondary school and they said the university name is local but by the time she attempted Jamb and went to great lfe, so now she's still using the local name (laughs) but really in Ekiti State, God has helped us. There's hardly a ministry you get to that you will not find old students, we are all over not only in Ekiti State alone, even abroad we are there. We have so many of them that we are not ashamed to associate with them.

### **WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENT OF EKSU?**

I want to tell them to be focused I know they are still going through a lot and there's no point of going through a lot without being focused; the parents then suffered to make things better for us so if you go to that type of school you have to be very serious, am not saying you should not enjoy and the rest, you must be very focused because that's the only thing you can hold on to, we didn't have any social life then. One of my course mates Yetunde Kafi was once Miss OSUA a particular year that was one of the major social activities I was involved in. Also, I want to appeal to them to shun cultism and not to be involved in drug issues and drug addiction and once they do that they will go places. In Ekiti State our governor is from EKSU we have the head of service from EKSU. The lectures were failing us thank God for lecturers from other states they encouraged us but some of us went to other universities for their masters and they really performed well.

“LOCAL GOVERNMENT” I implore the University education system to inculcate skill acquisition and entrepreneurship into their curriculum to reduce the search for the less available white collar jobs...I also call on the Alumni to come back to the School and give back to it for having helped to shape us all. ”



# Olusesan Alabi

## **Tell us about yourself.**

My name is Olusesan Alabi. I am a graduate of OSUA. I was admitted into Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado Ekiti and graduated from Ondo State University. Now, I am an alumnus of Ekiti State University.

## **What was your experience in the School like?**

I was in the second set of the school. Just like any pioneering experience, it was hectic. We started up classes in Ajitadidun Nursery/Primary School owned by the Late Babalola. We had our campus there and offices scattered across all of Ado. Our library was in the current Federal Ministry of Works building opposite the State Hospital. Faculty of Sciences had their classes in Christ School and our



Admin office was at Aremu Building.

We did not really have a campus but it was fun. We had several hostels scattered around as well. We called some places poultry and some we called zoo. It was later on that we got Similoluwa. I remember that we had a cafeteria that we called 2 by 2 because the tables could only accommodate two people at a time.

Two years after our entrance, we moved to our main campus. It was like heaven. For the first time, we had everything in the same spot; offices, the Vice Chancellor's office, classrooms, laboratories and the library. Although, transportation issue was very chaotic. We had only four buses to transport us to the School and we had to pay #250 for transportation for the whole session.

### **What was the quality of education like at that time?**

The academic excellence could not be faulted. We had committed lectures. Most departments were staffed from either Ibadan or Ife, majorly from Ife. For instance, most of my lecturers were from Ife such as Professor Banji Akintoye who is now a Yoruba leader and Professor Adediran. We also had our own lecturers from here such as Professor Akintoye.

### **What was the relationship like between students?**

We were not many so we knew each other and several of us still have links till today. If it were these days when we have WhatsApp and all, we would not have lost contacts with any of our people.

We were also closely linked with Ife. For my department at least, whatever we had to do, we linked up with Ife. We

borrowed our matriculation gowns from Ife. Our Unionism was also at par with Ife. When we had issues, before the end of the day, the Ife people would be at the School.

I remember when Jide Awe, our SU President was suspended for two weeks during exam period. Wole Soyinka was supposed to come for a lecturer but he sent someone to deliver it. A few minutes into the lecture, a letter came from the admin stating that the lecture should be suspended. We insisted that the lecture must hold and it did. The admin kept quiet until the day of the exam when they decided to suspend Awe. They did not just suspend him quietly, they came with printed notices for all students to see. We gathered all the notices together and burnt them. We said that if he was not going to write the exam, then none of us would. Within an hour, the President of SU Ife was already with us.

### **There was a song you sang at the protest then. Can you still remember it?**

I cannot remember all of it but I know it had "Give us Awe, Give us Awe". Till today, when I see Awe, I still say "No Awe, No exam. Awe must write exam simultaneously."

At that time whenever we were bored, we will just organize a protest and they will shut down the School for two weeks (Laughs). By the time we come back, we were all rich. But even with all that, we never lost a semester, talk less of a session. We graduated in four years.

Thank God, the School is now advanced. They have a College of Medicine, Law, Management Sciences and all. It is a large School now.

### **Tell us about an experience**

### **you will never forget.**

One experience I would not forget is when we moved to campus. Our bill jumped from under #100 to almost #400. When I gave the bill to my father, he did not say anything. I was wondering 'what was wrong with this Baba'.

The day before resumption, I went to meet him to tell him I was going the following day. He said, 'no problem, I am going to Ado too'. So as I was packing up, he was packing up too. When we got to Ado, I thought he was going to our home town but he followed me to the house where I was living then he said he wanted to get to our School. When we got there, he asked where he could see the details of the fee. I took him to the notice board. He looked at it and sighed then followed me back home where he then counted my fees and pocket money and handed them to me. He reacted that way because the gap was too wide. But in just 40 years, look at what they are now paying. Look at the strength of our Naira, but that is a story for another day.

### **What is your advice for the current students of the School?**

I advise them to be focused and disciplined. Also, it will be good if they can add some handwork to their studies. My heart bleeds when people graduate and they do not know anything to do other than apply for jobs that are not even readily available. But if they have skills they can work with to earn them a living while looking for a white-collar job, that will be good.

I also call on the alumni to come back to the School and give back to the society that helped shape us.

## Tell us about your days in EKSU.

It is good to remember the good old days. As one the Pioneering students of the school, we did not enjoy the luxury of life like other students in the Federal Universities. Nonetheless, we were determined to excel and even perform better than them. We were not pushed over in academics and sports.

My time at the school was full of fond memories. We were 18 in my department (Geography) and we related very well. I can remember vividly that those of us in the faculties of Social Science and Art used the structures meant for students of Ajitadidun Nursery and Primary School for the takeoff. The faculty of Science used the facilities of Christ School while our Health Center was in Adebayo Estate opposite BOVAS filing station, Ado Ekiti. The institution rented a two-story building opposite the current Ekiti State Teaching Hospital as Library. We started moving in phases to the permanent site in my third year i.e 1986. Kudos should be given to our lecturers then because they gave us free rides to the school in their private and official vehicles. The community especially the Ebiraland people around Adebayo/Mojere market were very friendly and hospitable. I also recall that the first Vice Chancellor of the institution- the late Professor Oladapo invited us (1987 graduating students) to a dinner party at his residence in the GRA and we had a nice time with him. The memory lingers on till today.

## What made you decide to go to the then Obafemi Awolowo University?

Is purely a peer influence. I was given admission to study Economics and Statistics at the University of Benin but my friends of Ekiti extraction persuaded me to change my choice of institution to Obafemi Awolowo University Ado Ekiti. Hence, I jettisoned the Benin admission and came back home.

*The present crop of students should take their studies seriously and avoid shady deals that can mar their futures- "hard work pays*

**-James Adeniyi Owolabi**

Permanent Permanent Secretary of the General Administration Department, Governor's Office, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

I thank God that the innocent decision was God's divine and I give glory to God.

## What was the quality of education like then?

Unlike now that we are in a digital era, we depended so much on lecture notes, group study, and library materials. The lecturers were so dedicated and we had regular tutorial classes which helped us a lot.

## EKSU is now 40. Do you think the School is worth celebrating?

Oh yes, it is worth celebrating! When you go through the achievements of the School especially looking at where we started from, you will agree with me that it is worth celebrating. I give kudos to the past and present management of the Institution for a job well done. The school has witnessed great transformation in terms of academic and physical development. There are many beautiful and gigantic edifices in the school unlike when we started. It is good to mention too that the institution has

produced great men and women in different fields. Professor William Adebayo, the head of Geography Department is one of my coursemates. Ditto Professor Isaac Adefila of FUTA. My other mates in the school that I can remember offhand are- Barrister Dele Agbede- current Ekiti State Head of service, Dr. Gbenga Faseluka- retired Ekiti State Head of Service, Pastor Olusesan Alabi- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning. The university has produced a host of other serving and retired Permanent Secretaries, General Managers and Executive Secretaries.

The school has grown beyond one's expectations and I pray it will continue to grow.

## What is your advice for current students of the School?

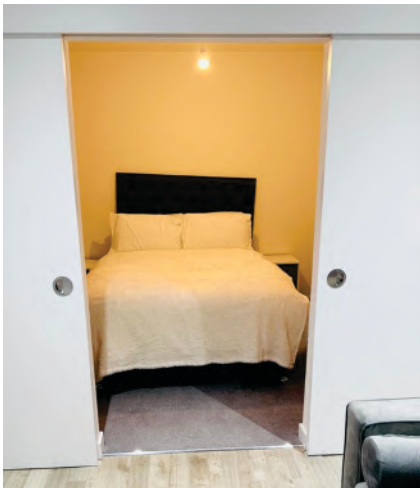
My advice is that they should take their studies seriously. There are so many things that have polluted the world now, especially the get-rich-quick syndrome. They should focus on their studies so that they can be good citizens of our great Country.







# RIIO HARZZANO - HOMES -



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Foluso  
Ajayi

**E**KSU AT 40 REPRESENTS GROWTH AND EXCITEMENT.

Foluso Ajayi studied Banking and Finance at Ondo State University, OSUA now EKSU. He is working with Mobil.

He is married to a fellow Osuaite who is the MD of Hedges and Smith Limited.

**EKSU IS 40, WHAT KIND OF EMOTION DOES IT EVOKE IN YOU?**

It is the only institution I have witnessed so far that I can say something about. Everywhere you go to you find a deterioration in all their infrastructures and what I find interesting is that, you go there and you find development. So using Nigeria context, you see the age of the institutions and some elements of disappointment but that is not the case of EKSU, you see that development in the institution, the alumni is getting stronger and people are having more interest in the school. So in summary, EKSU at 40 represent growth and excitement with more alumni members showing interest.

**TAKE ME BACK TO YOUR DAYS**

**IN OSUA WHAT ARE THE MEMORIES LIKE?**

I remember my first time in that school I told my mum that I don't like it there but she said she is going to send me to the North. It was really nice, I spent one year on campus before I moved to town, sometimes we trekked to school it was socially down but that created bond in the sense that you do not have too much activities so you had to socialize amongst yourselves so it created bond. It was a great experience.

**CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT ONE OR TWO INCIDENCES YOU CAN NEVER FORGET THAT HAPPENED TO YOU IN EKSU?**

One thing that I will take from my experience then, it was during military era, there was 'Operation Strip' and students were arrested; they were just packing boys, brutalizing them and I knew like three or four of them. I will never forget that incident. There are sometimes you find yourself in situations but you feel that's the end of you or there's no coming out of this which I feel this is what the

boys felt at that time but they were now laughing over it. Anytime I find myself in challenging situations I tell God to give me an opportunity to look back and laugh. That is one key advice I do give people.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL?**

I still contact friends, am the vice chairman of Lagos Chapter, we tried to bring in friends, fellow alumni's in corporate industry. We are trying to bring them in to add value to us. Lagos chapter in particular, we patronize each other's businesses and add value to each other's personal businesses.

**WHAT WILL BE YOUR ADVICE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENT OF THE SCHOOL?**

Well it is important to pursue your dreams, it is also important to know what you will do to achieve your dreams. Unfortunately the moral standards right now is much lower unlike then, we lay emphasizes on work but now just make your money anyhow and because of that nobody is talking about what you should not do to achieve your dream if it is fraud, betrayal etc. There are legal ways of achieving ones dream, nothing is impossible if you aim for the moon and you did not get there at least you get to the skies.







**"I WILL LIKE THE UNIVERSITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TECHNOLOGY" \_TITILOPE GBADAMOSI ADEBAYO**

Titilope Gbadamosi Adebayo, consultant to the Honorable minister of Youths and Sports on research also the Special Assistant to the former governor of Oyo State Chief Abiola Ajimobi of blessed memory.

**YOUR DAYS AT EKSU/UNAD**

We started with UNAD and I think a few months after the name was changed to EKSU

**YOUR REFLECTION ABOUT THE SCHOOL**

Sincerely, I think a lot must have changed about the school from the time I attended and graduated. I graduated in the year 2011, I served in 2012, good

school of course, it came with all of the challenges of tertiary education and it is a school that gave so much that its help me to become who I am today a I really appreciate the impact of the school on me though its domiciled in Ekiti State, it is a school that opened doors for everyone from any part of the country.

**CAN YOU RECOLLECT ANY THING THAT HAPPENED THEN, YOU'RE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT IN SCHOOL**

I recollect quite a number of things when I was in school as a student of EKSU, I did not really take part in school politics but because I found myself in the political circle I worked so hard to make positive contributions. I had a couple of people that are active they were part of everything that was happening

in the school then. That is on the political side, on the educational side for me I recall vividly an event, we had to write an examination and because of the No nonsense policy of the school the questions were changed again and again just to make sure that anyone that will graduate really deserves to.

**WHAT CAN YOU ABOUT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION**

I would say that the quality of education I had in EKSU, in terms of other universities in Nigeria, I went to U.I too, there was nothing different apart from structural differences. Lecturers put in their best even the non-teaching staffs. I recall that the non-teaching staffs were very helpful they are the type of people you go to for assistance.

**WHAT WILL YOU LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT THE SCHOOL?**

I love the school, its more than 10years now so I think a lot would have changed. I will like a university that is taking advantage of technology. Technology has come to stay and it will help us especially in terms of transcripts, certificates and documentations of the students. Students should be able to find course form online, I remember when I was there you have to see the lecturers everyday but with technology studentship will be better and also technology will make them read ahead of class, the work of the lecturers is reduced that way.

**WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?**

I don't really have a relationship with the Alumni but I have a group that we talk together with my friends I belong to quiet a number of group online I think on face book and other platforms.

# BODE OLOFINMUAGUN

FORMER STUDENT AND NOW THE HEAD,  
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION &  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS (EKSU)

## Background Information

*Let us get to know you sir and some background information about yourself.*

My name is Bode Olofinmuagun, the Head, Directorate of Information & Corporate Affairs of Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti. I was born in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. I started my primary school education at Ido-Ekiti. I went to Warri (the present Delta state) to continue my primary school education. I was there till primary five. I later came back home to complete my primary school education at St. John primary school, Ido-Ekiti in 1979.

From there I went to Oganganmodu Grammar School, Ido-Ekiti. I was there till 1984. When I left Oganganmodu Grammar School in 1984, I was engaged in farming activities to support my late father. In January, 1986, I was made a freelance correspondent at the then Ondo State Radio-vision Corporation, Akure. I was gathering news, writing stories and news for the Corporation and I did that till 1988.

In August 1988, the then Ero Local Government, Ido-Ekiti employed me as a Clerical Officer. I was promoted to Senior Clerical Officer before I left in February, 1992. That was when I got admission to the then Ondo State University for the 1991/1992 academic session.

I came here (Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti) to read English & Education. When I was in 200 level (2nd semester), I was made the Editor-in-Chief of 'Campus Tell Magazine'. I graduated very late because it was during the military government (there were strike actions i.e. ASUU strikes and student'



*“When we talk about visibility, EKSU is more visible unlike before and also, the scope of academic content is more enlarged, facilities we now have on ground are far better too - Bode Olofinmuagun, former student and now the Head, Directorate of Information & Corporate Affairs (EKSU)”*

protests which prolonged our stay). I eventually graduated in March, 1997 whereas we were supposed to graduate in 1995.

After my graduation, I went for the NYSC and was posted to Nassarawa state (which was just created then). I was posted to a town called Keana where I was a secondary school teacher. I left there after my service and came back to Ekiti State. Initially I did not want to work in Ekiti. I went to Lagos searching for job but when the job was not forthcoming, I had to come back to the Local Government

where I left because they gave me the opportunity of study leave without pay.

When I got there, I was employed as Higher Executive Officer. In year 2000, I was appointed Information Officer and in year 2001, I was posted to Ikere Local Government where I stayed for eight months before I was posted to Emure local government where I spent four years as an Information Officer.

It was at Emure Local Government that I sat for an



## Okunjoye Olusola Lawrence

Okunjoye Olusola Lawrence is an '87 graduate of Psychology from OSUA. He is an entrepreneur in the manufacturing of paint and other accessories for house decoration.

### How did you get admission to the University?

I got admitted by providence in 1983. I had sought admission for about three to four years at OAU, UI and other such Universities. After staying at home with nobody to assist us with admission, my father advised me to try Ondo State University. I had never heard of it but I was so tired of staying at home so I started the application process. I got my admission that same day on the premise that I am from Ondo state and I had fulfilled the JAMB requirements. I secured admission and we started lectures.

### What was it like at that time?

Those of us in Social Sciences, Arts and Education were staying at Adebayo. There were two blocks of two classrooms

each. I remember in 100 level, we were running Faculty courses together so it was not too convenient. Imagine 150 students in a class designed for 40 students with some hanging by the windows and doors and those at the back who we called NFA disturbing the class.

All the same, it was fun. By my third year, the main campus project was completed. That was in '85 when we moved to Umoroko. It was a very harrowing experience as well. I remember the library then was not conducive. There were books there all right, but there were few seats so a lot of us would read standing. You had to come early to secure a seat.

Later on, I joined the Kegites club. In between classes, we would go to the shrine, drink and beat drums. It was quite an experience and I really thank God for allowing me to have such experiences.

Let me tell you a funny story. When we were doing registrations upon getting admitted, one man came around. He was an Ekiti man. He had sought admission for so many years. We were all in the queue. When it got to his turn, the man presented his certificate and the next thing we heard is "your certificate has expired, sir". That was the first time I got to know that a WAEC certificate expires after 7 years.

### What about the relationship among the students?

I was a Psychology major and we were just 9 in our class so we were very close. In my set, we were just about 470 students across all departments so it was a closely-knitted school. We all knew ourselves.

Since there were only 9 of us, there was no way you could skip class and your lecturer would not know. 6 of us ended up graduating with a second class lower, one with a pass and 2 had re-sits. Yet, I remember a time when we went to Nigerian Psychology Association and there was a quiz. Out of all the Universities, we came first. People were wondering how we, who they called a glorified Secondary School, could deliver such results.

We were focused. We had very few social activities like Miss OSUA but it was not too vibrant as it is now. We did not have too many distractions.

### How would you say your experiences at OSUA impacted you?

It is all the tough things we went through that made us stronger. It made us go all out in our endeavours. Many of us ventured into academics and the business world and even those of us who are self-employed are now employers of labour. Right now, I have about 20 people working on my staff.

### What advice do you have for the current students of the School?

The advice I would give my children is the advice I will give them. We laid a good foundation for that school and they should try to live up to it. They should shun cultism. During our time, there was nothing like cultism. We would attend our classes, read till night and sleep. I was made to understand that in a report, EKSU was recorded as one of the top 3 schools involved in cultism in the South West. It was disheartening. The children should live and imbibe the efforts we put into making the school the way it is now.

*SOLA EKS" Having to pass through the School was a wonderful experience, I have God to thank for that*



**Research output**  
***Talking about Research outputs, how does the University generate funds for Research works?***

Thanks for that, I want to give kudos to TETFUND (Tertiary Education Trust Fund). In terms of Research works, the agency has been very helpful. TETFUND has been sponsoring our Academic and Non-Teaching staff on ratio 70:30 respectively (i.e 70 for Academic staff and 30 for the Non-Teaching.

TETFUND have been sponsoring our academic staff to various programmes. Even, those that would want to go for PhD, training, conferences, workshops are not left out.

**Your work as the PRO**  
***Let us talk about your work as the PRO, what are you doing differently and what are your projections for this Directorate?***

Thank God. Ever since I was seconded to this Directorate, I could say that there has been remarkable improvement in terms of the visibility of the University.

For instance, before now, there was no social media, we now have much presence on the social media and even in the traditional media. Whenever there are activities here, we ensure full coverage. After the full coverage, we make use of the traditional media (the print and electronic media) to help us to project the activities of the university.

Apart from that, we use to produce periodical bulletins from this Directorate which we do circulate across all the

Universities in Nigeria. We distribute even among government circle in Ekiti state and to all other agencies.

On our social media, we are trying to be more active on Twitter, Facebook, various Whatsapp platforms to disseminate information and this has made us more visible.

**Relationship with Students**  
***How about the relationship of your Directorate with the students?***

It has been a cordial relationship. For example, when we have any information we want to pass across to the students, I ensure the circulation of such information to them through various means. For example, the Student Union, various press clubs on campus, association of campus journalists and so on. We make use of them for the dissemination of the information to the students. After they have gotten it, they normally call me to confirm the authenticity of the information if it is genuine or not. From then, they have always been relying on any information from this Directorate.

**Word of Advice**  
***Finally, you have been a student here and now working here, what advice do you have for the upcoming students?***

My advice to them is that they should be more serious with their academic activities. During our time, we did not have the distractions that are in place now. For example, this is the era of social media (where they have different gadgets. During our own time, we were not exposed to this and we were very studious.

Secondly, the attitude of our students these days in terms of Get-Rich-Quick Syndrome is very rampant. Back in those days, it was not like that, what we were trying to do then was that we wanted to be successful in our academic activities and we made the best use of our time.

After I graduated from the University, I acquired some other degrees. I went to the International Institute of Journalism, where I had a Post-graduate Diploma in Journalism. I came back to this University where I obtained a Master of Public Administration. I did not stop there, I also enrolled for Master of Arts in English language and completed it.

They should take their academics more seriously than before and avoid all forms of distractions on the social media and various platform or the Get-Rich-Quick Syndrome. The use of vehicles by students these days was not like that during our days, it is good for them to be mobile but they should not place too much emphasis on the acquisition of wealth.!



examination conducted by ASCON (Administrative Staff College of Nigeria). I passed all the stages and was thus converted to the post of Administrative Officer. By virtue of that conversion, I was posted to Ijero Local Government and worked there for six months before I posted to Efon Local Government. I was at Efon Local Government for another two years.

It was at Efon Local Government that I responded to the advert of the then University of Education, Ikere Ekiti known as TUNEDIK which was just established. Owing to my success in the series of interviews, I was appointed as Administrative Officer 1. The government of Dr John Kayode Fayemi was inaugurated on 16th October, 2010. His government saw the need to merge the three Universities, so the Universities including TUNEDIK were merged to become Ekiti State University. That was how I found myself here in Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti.

When I got here, my first duty post was the Registrar's Office. I was there till May, 2016 before I got posted to the General Administration Department as the Head of the Department. From that General Admin (I was there for six months), I was posted to Personnel briefly. (I worked there for few months) From there, I was posted to Office of Research and Development as the Administrative Secretary of the Office. I was there for one year and few months and from there I was posted to College of Medicine (at Faculty of Basic Medical science) where I worked as the Faculty Officer. I was there till February, 2019.

On February 14, 2019, I got another letter of secondment to the Directorate of Information

and Corporate Affairs following the retirement of the former Director, Mr. Ajibade Olubunmi. I was seconded to this directorate as the head. I have since been working in the Directorate of Information and Corporate Affairs since I resumed precisely on 18th February, 2019.

**OSUA and EKSU**  
***Sir, OSUA since 1992 and EKSU 2022, can you compare?***

Quoting the Seven-Up advertisement, "The difference is clear". During our time at Ondo State University, we had few buildings. In fact, all the areas we were using then were trekkable but are hardly trekkable now.

For example, if you want to go from College of Medicine to the Faculty of Engineering, you have to look for means of transportation but during OSUA days, you could trek to anywhere. We thank God that a lot of development has taken place and there has been a lot of transformation between the then Ondo State University and Ekiti State University, in terms of infrastructural development, buildings, and other facilities. The facilities we have now are far better than what we had then.

**Students' Commitment**  
***In what way will you compare students' commitment now to what obtained then?***

I will say that in terms of students' commitment, during our time we were very studious in our academic activities compared to now.

During our time, there was no internet connectivities, handsets and other I.T gadgets. We went to the library to do our assignments and we took our education very seriously then. But when we compare it to

nowadays, our students go to the internet to read and do their assignment, hardly will you see any student in the library now. But during our time, we were struggling to go to the library to do our assignments but we cannot compare that time to the present situation.

**Rate the University**  
***In Nigeria today, there are great Universities, how will you rate this University?***

Thank God for the present leadership of Ekiti State University. Before the present administration of Professor Edward Olanipekun came on board, the University was rated one hundred and forty something among all the Universities (Federal, States and Private) in Nigeria, but with our recent ranking, Ekiti State University is ranked 2nd Best State University and the 14th best in Nigeria.

**Things Different**  
***What are the things that are now different from the way it was back then?***

When we talk about visibility, EKSU is more visible unlike before. Also, the Academic content has improved considerably. The academic content is now higher than before. Infrastructure vis-a-vis the basic facilities, services and installations needed for the proper functioning of a University are now in place. On the visibility of the school on the Net, the Directorate of ICT is doing well. The Directorate of Information and Corporate Affairs is doing well too to project all the activities of the University to the outside world.

All these are the indices used to rank EKSU. Also the quality of the lecturers/Professors (as per the quality of their research outputs) put together were used to rank our University.



**M**rs Folasade Helen Olusegun Nee Olaofe.  
Social Welfare Director, EKSU Alumni Association.

**What have you been doing since you left EKSU?**

Have always been working as a business person even as a student and presently am a civil servant and equally into business.

**I will want you to reminisce way back then, what factors informed your choice of OSUA?**

I didn't attend OSUA but UNAD and I finished under ESKU. I had already finished my OND in 1997 but I was told it will be highly profitable if I can get my BSC, although I felt I couldn't but God on my side I was able to start a degree program and I finished it.

**You are the third lady elected to serve at the global body of EKSU Alumni Association( Please correct me if am wrong). What are you doing to encourage women participation in the Association?**

Yes, I will say you are right, Alumni politics is very interesting and I will plead with women to make themselves available for it.

**What Advice do you have for current students of EKSU?**

I will plead with them to endure the stress and finish with good grades because first degree is very important in our society, although most of this generation are very brilliant with the way they passed their waec and jamb once, they should be

focused and not imitate anyone.5.Is EKSU at 40 worth celebrating? It Worth celebrating because the school has produced many great men and women and still producing.

**Let's talk about the activities of the present global executives.**

I want to sincerely commend the president of the association Engineer Dipo Bamisaye for the great job he has been doing silently, he is a man with vision and mission and a silent achiever who doesn't like noise or bragging, when he came on board he met alot of jobs that needed attention and he has performed excellently well in those areas, I will also want to sing his praise for the great job going on presently in the Alumni village which anybody can visit to testify to and I can assure you by God's grace it will be completed this year.He has facilitated alot of goods things that can be of benefits to the University and the association, which are too numerous to mention and he is still doing it and I pray Alumni association will continue to witness someone like him and his predecessor Dr Oludotun Adetunberu who are so passionate about the progress of the University and the association.I want to also appreciate all the past presidents who have equally sacrificed for the growth of the University and the association I wish them the best of every moment.

**Finally, what philosophies are guiding you as a leader?**

While you are going up lift others too.



radically from different perspectives. The contents of what we teach now and what we were taught then has changed. The demands of the world are increasing. Now we are being driven by information and technology.

At that time, there were no cellphones. We had to go to the library to read our books, unlike now where we can just sit in our homes and download anything, but that made us know much more. Talking about the knowledge depth of the now and then, we were deeper, because we had to read classical things. We had to read things that had occurred a long time ago, which led us to where we were then and what we are now.

We were also desirous to excel. The lecturer that taught us literature from 300 level to 400 level used to tell us that, there is nothing we were going to write in literature that has not been written before, so we should not be expecting that we were going to make first class, and that (continuous statement) also motivated us, because we wanted to be better than they were, but the material available to us was so limited, but we drove ourselves very hard.

Then, we were free with our lecturers. They were willing to be challenged. They were willing for us to be the best we could be, so each time we drive our students today, we try to make them understand why we are doing those things. But these days, our students are not willing to sacrifice themselves. They want to be spoon-fed, because again, why they are so distracted, like they are in a hurry to arrive. I do not blame them. That is the world in which we are living now. Putting all these together, the distraction they have now, we never had then; distractions propelled by economy, distraction propelled by social pressure, distraction caused by the desire to suddenly be

themselves. If you look at all of these pressures, they put a lot of tremendous pressures on them, so, that changed the world from what it was during our time and what it is now.

**WHEN THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS WAS CHANGED TO MOSHOOD ABIOLA UNIVERSITY, ALL THE STUDENTS KICKED AGAINST IT, BUT THE NAME OF EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN CHANGED FOUR TIMES NOW AND NOTHING WAS DONE BY THE STUDENTS. IS IT BECAUSE THE ALUMNI ARE NOT VIBRANT? ALSO, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCHOOL SINCE YOU LEFT?**

Well, I had a privilege of going back there to lecture. I started my teaching career from the University as a lecturer before I left. When I was a lecturer then, I also tried to sustain the standard of academic excellence that we had when we were students. I tried to also maintain discipline, but apart from that, I have not really done anything until the last 2 to 3 years when the OSUA connection came up and tried to bring all of us back. I belong to one or two committees that are working in the OSUA connection and we are trying to see how we can address all forms of abuse. We are trying to put a paper together, working with the University and management to ensure that our students will not suffer in silence, because we know what the world is like now. We are happy about the alumni, and we know the alumni will play a major role in the evolution of the University.

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENTS ESPECIALLY ON THE STANDARD OF THE UNIVERSITY?**

My message for them is this. They are the future of that University. If they do not take their academic work very seriously, they will not

be contributing anything towards the development of the University. We are talking about 40 years ago, we are talking about where we are globally. If Banji had not done well in his calling, he would not have been the current Governor of the State.

One of the things that stood us out is the content of the education we received complimented by our own drive to ensure we were not left behind. So those who are there now should not allow themselves to be distracted, they should not compare their infrastructure now that is changing with what is happening in other Universities. It is not the structure that makes a man, it is what you get out of that structure.

We are here today and we are proud to say we are from that source. They should work very hard by take their calling very seriously. They should also not compromise their future by being careless, because in the University, nobody mentors you, you are on your own. So, they must remember that whatever they do now, they are preparing themselves for the future and if they are not laying a solid foundation now, they will not be able to build any structure. So, I expect them to face their academic works squarely, seriously, and then they should be very careful about who they are in terms of character; character makes a man.



*"What we had in Ado-Ekiti was more than education. The education was very sound and qualitative, and we were also trained in the art of living and surviving,, - Akeem Aponmade*

**Let us start with an introduction.**

My name is Akeem Olaniyi Aponmade. I was born in 1965. After a year at Lagos College of Education, I moved to Ondo State University, the then Obafemi Awolowo University. I was admitted to study Political Science. I graduated in 1988 and I was there between '84 and '88.

**What was your experience like at Ado-Ekiti?**

It was a wonderful experience. I always say that the people of Ado-Ekiti are very accommodating. Over time I developed an emotional attachment to the place. If an Ekiti man needs something from me, I will gladly do it. The relationship I built with my classmates and colleagues is one I really cherish. We became like family.

**What would you say about the University's quality of education?**

What we had in Ado-Ekiti was more than education. The education was very sound and qualitative, and we were also trained in the art of living and surviving. The number of successful graduates from the University says enough about the quality of education we received. If you did well in School, there is no place you'll find yourself and not succeed.

**The school is now forty. How does that make you feel?**

It is amazing to look back and realize that it has been about 33 years since I graduated from the school. Sometimes, I regret that I could not make a 2,1 but then I remember that I found my wife in School and that makes me happier such that I don't regret not making my desired grade. I am grateful that I had the privilege of passing through this great Institution.

**What is your relationship with the Alumni Association?**

I don't have any formal relationship with the Association since it was established, I can say I have been involved in a lot of its activities.

**Finally, what advice do you have for the current students of the Institution?**

Students need to realize that hard work truly pays. No matter how hard it seems to get, they must persevere regardless. They must know what they want, be focused and not allow themselves to be swayed by the crowd.





*“As students then,  
we were desirous  
to excel,”*

Professor Clement Olusegun O. Kolawole is an alumnus of Ekiti State University; a lecturer in the University of Ibadan and also the Departmental Head of Arts and Social Sciences Education.

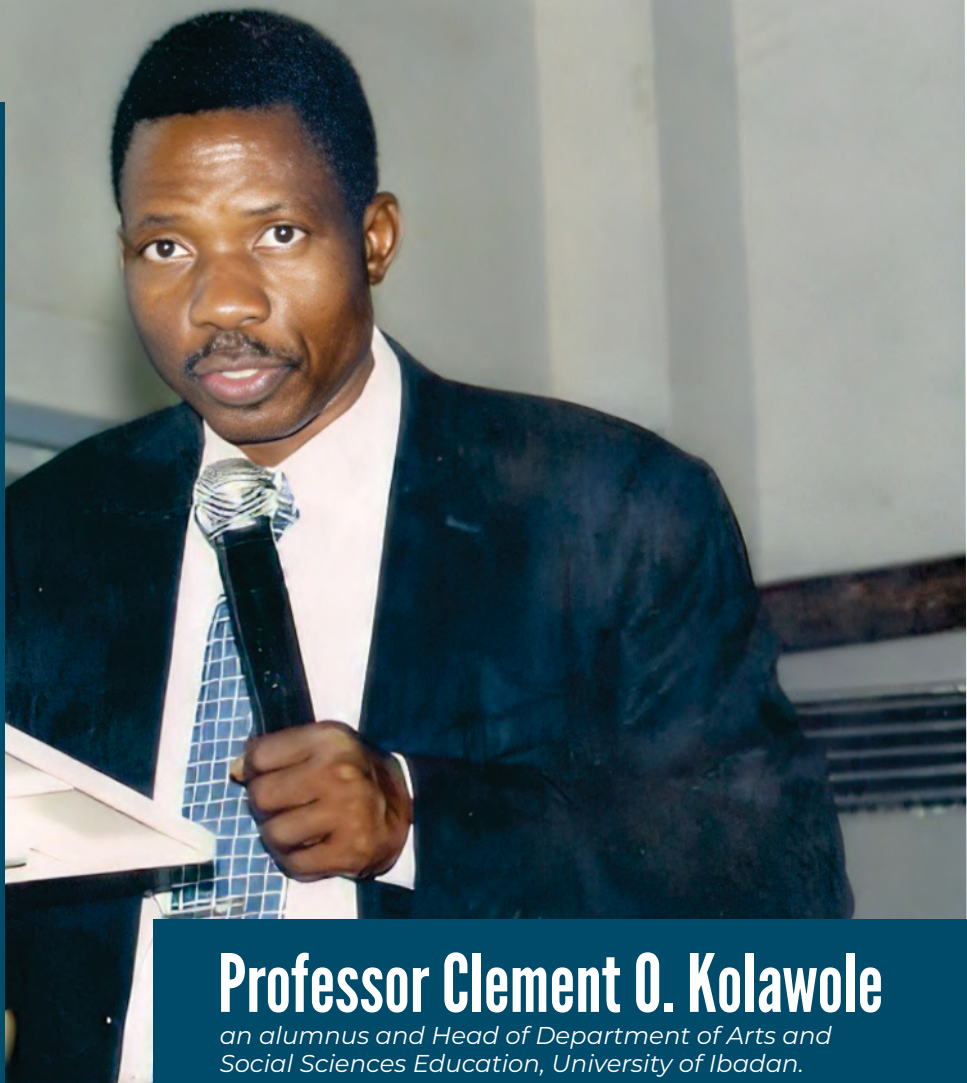
In this exclusive interview, Prof. Kolawole expressed his profound gratitude to the institution for its academic standards which has been the major force behind his success and career as a lecturer.

**YOUR SCHOOL, EKSU, IS FORTY. WHAT KIND OF EMOTION DOES IT EVOKE IN YOU?**

I am particularly very delighted to be associated with a University like that. You see each time I tell my student that it is an opportunity to go to school; an opportunity to have people who think on behalf of others, and plan for others.

I want to thank those who founded Ondo State University, then, Obafemi Awolowo University, later, Ondo State University, and subsequently, University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD) and now EKSU.

I remember the University was founded by Pa Adekunle Ajasin, and the Dean of my faculty then, used to remind us that what informed the establishment of the school, was providing University education in a depressed economy. That was the philosophy. The idea was that they needed to produce manpower for the State, for the country and globally, because, the idea is that if you produce students that are sound in knowledge and character, they could exist anywhere in the world and shine, so our curriculum was so designed in a way that they gave us adequate exposure; first in our core-discipline, and in our elective courses.



## Professor Clement O. Kolawole

*an alumnus and Head of Department of Arts and Social Sciences Education, University of Ibadan.*

We took courses that were compulsory; courses the B.A students were taking, all of us in Education also took. The variation was just a matter of choice. I am as sound as somebody that has a B.A. That was the kind of curriculum and Institution we attended. The infrastructure then was not really big but we had experts who were excellent; who were on top of their game; who took their teaching calling as something that was sacred. I cannot remember any lecturer that missed his or her classes. Our lectures went on well. We had the best that prepare us for today, so, it was not too difficult for me after the U-core.

I was posted to the Department of English, Ogun State University as a corper, and I was teaching up to 400 level substantive courses; apart from also assisting some lecturers that were on ground. Also, when I finished, it was not difficult to get a job as a teacher.

From there, I came here (University of Ibadan) for my first Masters Degree, which was also not difficult because the University (EKSU) had prepared us well in character and in knowledge, and that has helped me to be here, so I am proud to be associated with such a University.

**YOU ARE A LECTURER TODAY. LET US TALK ABOUT THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION THEN AND NOW.**

# P R O F I L E

## DR FALIL AYO ABINA

*He was an influential Student Leader and one of the founders of the popular student Magazine 'the campus watch', where he later became the Editor in Chief.*

Ayo was admitted to the Ondo State University (now University of Ado Ekiti) in 1986 to study sociology and graduated in 1990. It was a fresh experience coming down from Lagos where he had completed his ordinary and advanced level studies. He was an influential student leader and one of the founders of the popular student magazine 'the campus watch', where he later became the editor in chief.

He graduated in 1990, and since then, keeps very fond memories of the school, all the life experiences it offered and the lifelong friends he made.

Ayo is the founder and Chairman of AAC S, an international management consulting firm set out to 'disrupt, create and lead' AAC S consults and espouse public policy positions especially through its Fortnightly business nugget ( AAC S Fortnightly), which is a popular guide for government, Organisations and individuals.

Dr Abina has over 25 years' experience rising through the ranks of key Nigerian banks from a Trainee Officer to the level of an Executive Director. He has worked across Public Sector, Commercial Banking, Treasury, Strategy & Reengineering, and is an acclaimed leader of many groundbreaking teams in the

finance and banking sector.

Ayo has served on the boards of trustees of Lagos State Security Trust Fund, Oyo State Security trust fund, and was chairman of Cocoa Products Limited (CPIL - Ile Oluji), one of Nigeria's largest Cocoa processing and exporting companies.

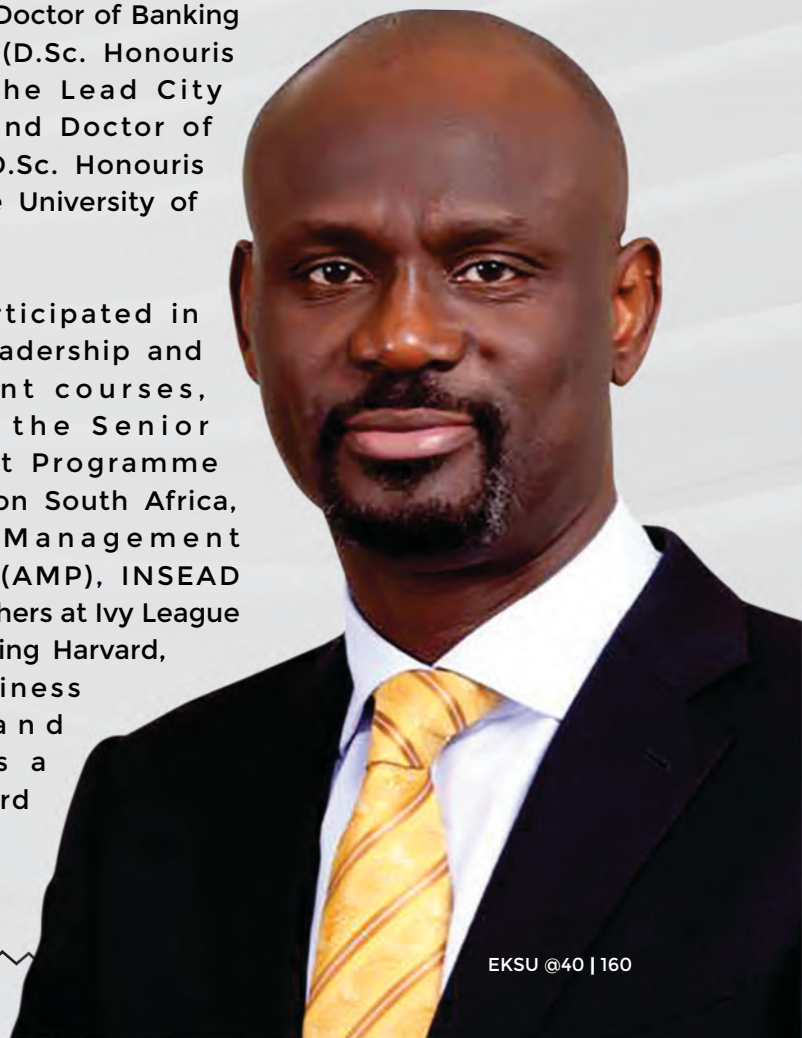
Ayo has a post graduate diploma in banking & finance from the Univ. of Ibadan and attended the Ambrose Alli Univ., Ekpoma, where he earned an MBA in Management and Finance. He was awarded Doctor of Banking and Finance (D.Sc. Honouris Causa) by the Lead City University, and Doctor of Economics (D.Sc. Honouris Causa) by the University of Ado Ekiti.

Ayo has participated in numerous leadership and management courses, including; the Senior Management Programme (SMP), Sandton South Africa, Advanced Management Programme (AMP), INSEAD France, and others at Ivy League schools including Harvard, London Business School, and M.I.T. He is a multiple award winner and

public speaker.

Ayo , led a team interested in tourism , events , hospitality and entertainment to establish the premier Luxury lifestyle destination resort - 'The Lekki Coliseum ' in Lagos. And he presently sits on its board as Chairman

He is a senior member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (Hcib), a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) and a Fellow, Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC).





*"EKSU has made great impact in my life"*

**PASTOR DR  
PETER AJAYI**

**P**astor (Dr) Peter Oludele Ajayi, a compassionate educationist was born into the family of Late High Chief Michael Ajayi and Madam Felicia Ajayi. He shared his experience as a student of OSUA and aftermath;

I came into the then Ondo State University in the year 1985 and I spent three years because I came in as somebody who has undergone NCE. I graduated from College of Education Ikere Ekiti in the year 1981. When we came in, the Student Population were not as much as what we have in today's EKSU. I discovered that over the years the University has progressed, and it has made great impact in my life. When I graduated, I founded my company PETOA Nigeria Limited which I registered even when I was still in the School in the year 1987. Immediately I graduated from the University, I ventured into printing because it is the profession I love so much. After a while, I decided to establish PETAO Nur/Pry School. Now I have 5 Schools, I have been a publisher in Ekiti State. I can proudly tell you that I have the biggest printing house in Ekiti State.

**YOUR FRIENDS AND EXPERIENCE?**

I have friends that ventured into academics and they have become Professors likes of Professor Ayeni in Education and the Late Professor Mrs Odu

and so on. I was able to obtain my Bachelor of Arts and Masters in Theology and some other ministries. I am now a Pastor in Deeper Life Bible Church.

**WHAT ARE THE THINGS YOU THINK THE UNIVERSITY NEEDS AT 40?**

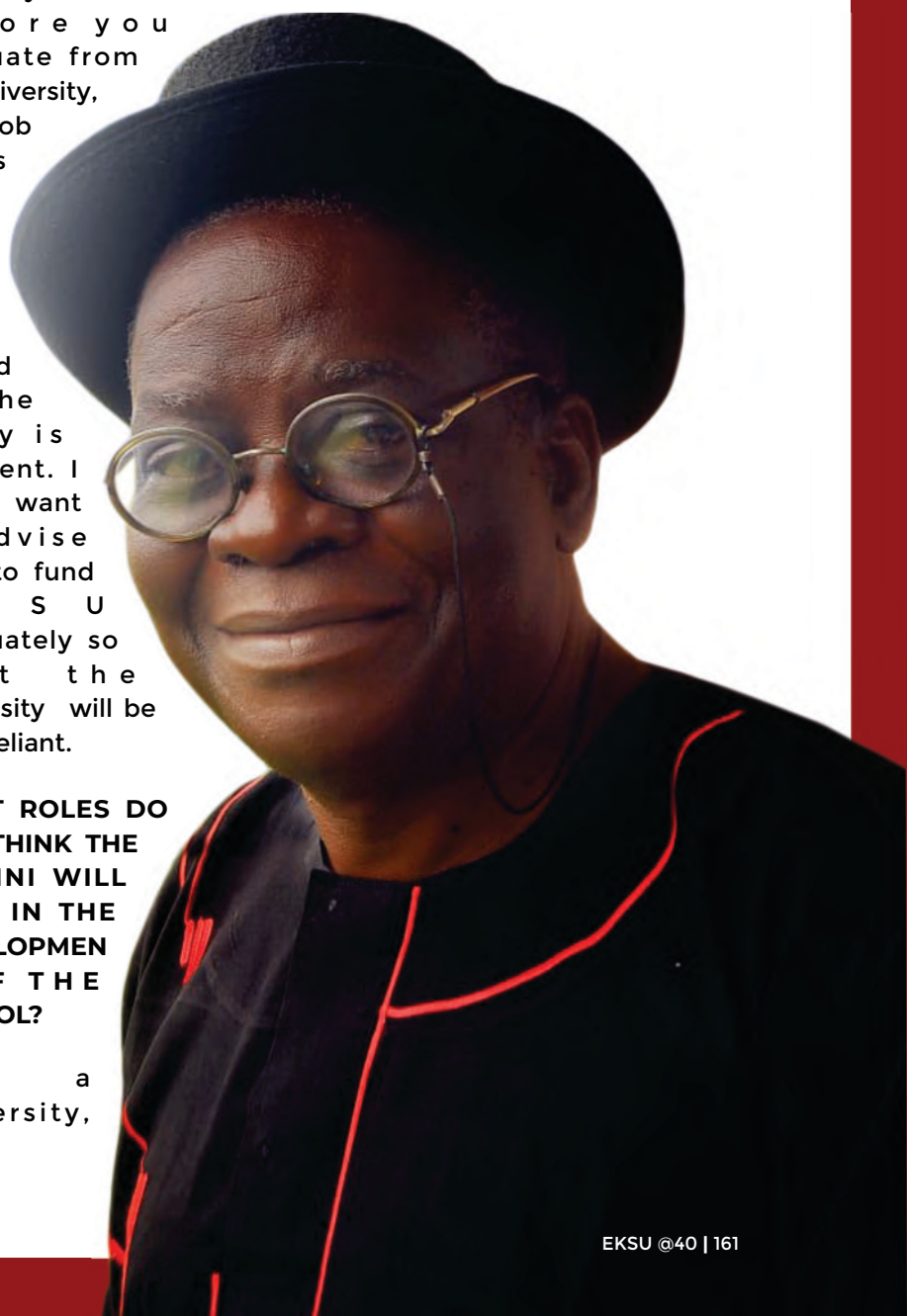
After I left the University, I was chosen to represent the Alumni I served for the period of two years, looking at what has transpired between the 2nd set, the major problem in the University is associated with the situation of the Country. During our time, we did not have any problem with strike, employment i.e.

before you graduate from the university, your job is waiting for you but nowadays the story is different. I would want to advise BAO to fund EKSU adequately so that the University will be self-reliant.

**WHAT ROLES DO YOU THINK THE ALUMNI WILL TAKE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL?**

In a University,

the Alumni of the school are responsible for the growth of the School. BAO cannot do it alone, he needs advising committee for the University. The Alumni association is meant to stabilize things. The Alumni is standing as a middle man between the management and BAO. The executives of the Alumni should collect monthly dues from us so that we can sponsor the growth of the School.





"What you will become is just in you"- **Olusola Olakunle**

**Medupin**, 2003 graduate of Economics and the CEO of **ENISH RESTAURANT & LOUNGE/BAR INTERNATIONAL**; the biggest Nigerian restaurant outside Nigeria in three different continents.

#### What were your days in UNAD like?

It was a normal school life and it was interesting and okay. I studied Economics and I finished in 2003. As a matter of fact, Ado Ekiti was not my first choice of University. It was University of Ilorin. Accidentally, I found myself in UNAD. When my dad told me he had someone in Ado who could assist with my admission processes, I did not put my mind there. The person was in the Vice Chancellor's office then. I later gave the person my credentials and because the hand of God was in the circumstances, I made it through the processes and I was the only one that got admitted through him. He said my parents must have been prayer warriors for it to have been only

me that got admitted through him and for a course like Economics that was very competitive then. So, that was how I started from 200 level because I came through 'A' level.

#### What will you say were your take away from Ado Ekiti?

I have been in business all my life. I was the first student with personal computer apart from the Vice Chancellor, so, I started Email business in 2001. Everything started in my room. When I got admission, I got accommodation in Omolayo Hostel where I had the computer and everything needed to kickstart that business cafe right there in my room.

I got my first car when I was 17 years of age. I was doing dog

business then. So, by the time I got admitted into the University, I was having two cars. My parents, my grandparents and my great grandparents were all into restaurant business and as such, I grew up in a business environment. So, when I came to the United Kingdom, I did my Masters in Banking and Securities. After I finished, nothing was fitting in and I wondered concerning what I would do. It was the restaurant business that readily came into my mind that had been what I had been doing all my life. Restaurant business is not that easy. It is a very tough one. You know, you open for customers to come in. It takes all your life. And, from my past experiences, I could not forget the trauma involved. I refused to yield to the message that was dropped in my mind. So, initially, I kicked against the idea of establishing a restaurant, but, as time went on and there was no alternative, I succumbed to the pressure and in 2013, I opened the very first restaurant in London.



**When did you get a break in the business?**

I worked 7 days a week. It was not so easy. By 2015, I was already getting my bearing right but it was not that we were making money as such. I went to a friend's event and that was where I got to know the power of social media.

Now, I work in the business part of the business; I no longer work in the kitchen.

**The UK chapter of EKSU's Alumni Association seems to be the most vibrant. What role are you playing there?**

I do not have a definite role there. Just that I attended one of their meetings that was held in one of my restaurants and they were just talking about me and the restaurant and I said within myself that these people wanted to know me and I said I would pick the bill and I told them that I am also one of them. They were amazed.

**How will you describe UNAD?**

I enjoyed every day I spent in that school but when you discover that Omolayo Hostel has been run down (although that is Nigeria for you) and the name of the school gets changed over time, it does not give one that sense of belonging because to explain to people that OSUA, UNAD & EKSU mean the same University unlike when you say U.I, everyone readily understands that you are referring to University of Ibadan. Even, OSUA was formally Obafemi Awolowo University. Even, right now, when I hear EKSU, I do not like to relate with it as it does not strike my mind that it is the same UNAD that I attended.

I want to tell you today that the Alumni Association is working assiduously on that aspect. We are the only people that can raise the bar of the school; the only people that can picture the school in the right light and

also, the only people that can defend the University, after all, it was the Alumni Association of University of Lagos that fought against the idea of changing the name of that Institution to M.K.O. ABIOLA UNIVERSITY by former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and the Association was successful in opposing just that.

**Lastly, what is your parting note for the present league of students of the Institution?**

Well, they should understand that the Institution one attended does not actually determine who one becomes in life. What you will become is just in you!!







Nigerian cuisines in a cosy environment presenting that home-away-from-home experience in it's state-of-the-art restaurant. This comes after stamping its seal of quality in the UK with 6 world class restaurants especially to cater for Nigerians who often travel to Dubai for businesses, leisures, holidays, shoppings, marriages/honeymoon and other social engagements.

The first Dubai **ENISH RESTAURANT & LOUNGE/BAR** is located at H Hotel, on 1, Sheik Zayed Road while the second \$3m branch is at the Palms Jumeirah with various night themes for each day such as Ladies Night, Flux Saturdays, Afro Drip, African Night, Afro Beat Night et.c have attracted top musicians like Davido, Tiwa Savage, Burna Boy, Stefflon Don, Kiss Daniel, Yemi Alade, Adekunle Gold, Simi, Whizkid, Peruzzi, DJ Cuppy and others.

The U.S branch is at Kapri Ultra Lounge, Houston, Texas.

The restaurant which is fast gaining global acceptance is also planning on opening another branch in China or India in the nearest future.







# ENISH

## RESTAURANT & LOUNGE/ BAR INTERNATIONAL

**Olushola Olakunle Medupin**, the owner of **ENISH RESTAURANT & LOUNGE/BAR INTERNATIONAL**, the best Nigerian restaurant in London hails from Kogi State, Nigeria.

He was born into a family of restaurateurs as from his great grandparents, grandparents down to his parents were into food businesses. According to him, from the age of 6, he started having regular visits to the restaurants after school hours and on weekends excluding Sundays. He started cooking simple meals from the age of 7 and by 8, he had started pounding yam.

**ENISH** as a business name was coined from the combination of his name (SHOLA) and that of his wife ENIOLA.

**ENISH** has so far remained the biggest Nigerian restaurant outside Nigeria located in 3 different continents - America, Middle East and Europe with nine outlets.

There are plans in the pipeline for the establishment of **ENISH** in Nigeria with a staggering minimum fund of U.S \$2million.

Medupin calls himself a lone ranger as he does not partner with any investor to do business. In his words, "I have been in business all my life and what you will become is just in you".

Among Nigerian celebrities that have patronized **ENISH** in London are Davido, Tiwa Savage, Stella Damascus, 9ice, RuggedMan, Burna Boy, Teni, Nathaniel Bassey, Ok Ogbonna, Dakore Egbuson-Akande, Basket Mouth, Simi, DJ Cuppy, Anthony Joshua, Kelechi Ihenacho, Wilfred Ndidi, Bisi Olatilo, Dino Melaye, Orji Uzor Kalu, Omoyele Sowore, Femi Otedola, Rauf Aregbesola, Prince Segun Oniru, Terry Ways (Ghanaian actress), Juliet Ibrahim amongst others.

**ENISH** branches in London, UK are located in Lewisham, Brixton, Ilford Essex, Finchley Road, Camberwell and Croydon.

The restaurant has also taken Dubai by storm, offering excellent services with sumptuous



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**POLAND**

**BULGARIA**

**RUSSIA**

**BELARUS**

**SPAIN**

**CANADA**

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EKSU @40 | 166



# AARON T. AARON

Gospel Artist | Coach |  
Business Analyst

**A**aron T. Aaron, born in Lagos, has masters in Business Management. Like every other OSUAITE of his generation experienced the famous "Orokuism", the first hand experience of tough educational system that was particular to OSUA because of her non residential campus system.

A John Maxwell certified life coach, Aaron started leading choristers at his parents church.

For him, it is time for Alumnus to start supporting the school with our resources.

Aaron's desire for EKSU is to be remembered as a citadel of knowledge, a cradle that carried and supported him when he was being formed and the Potter's hand that moulded him to what he is today.





## OSUA toughened me DADA MARGARET WURAOLA

The second daughter of eight children. She hails from Igbara Odo, Ekiti. She attended '8' primary schools in Ekiti old sokoto state, Idanre and Igbara oke. She also attended '4' secondary schools. She had her Higher School Certificate (H.S.C) at oyemakun grammer school akure. She had her first degree in English language Education and second degree in public administration from Ondo State University now EKSU. She had her masters in Education Administration from University of Lagos and masters of Education from University of Nottingham U.K courtesy of a commonwealth scholarship. She was conferred with an honorary P.H.D in guidance and counseling 2019. She taught with the

Lagos state ministry of Education for 24 years until 2018 when she retired voluntarily to join her husband on the mission field in the Philippines. She is an ordained pastor of the redeemed christian church of God. She has Authored 3 books

### HOW DID YOU GET TO OSUA?

I sat for WAEC four times for my o'levels and eventually had what I needed. I sat for JAMB and got an admission into OSUA to the glory of God.

### YOUR OSUA YEARS

I studied English Education in the

University from 1988-1992.

### YOUR EXPERIENCE AT OSUA

During the screening exercise, unfortunately for me, my name was written as Ire, M. Wuraola and the abbreviation became an issue. For almost a month, those who got late admissions, got screened before me. It was a trying moment but an interesting one.

### WHAT IMPACT DID OSUA HAVE ON YOUR CAREER?

OSUA toughened me. I became tough and strong both physically and emotionally. I am a strong person and I don't give up easily.

### THE SCHOOL IS 40 YEARS NOW. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE CURRENT STUDENTS?

They should be very serious and shun cultism and all distractive medium. We were serious and have what to show for it. They should face their studies and work for honourable academics marks. We did not have the privilege they have now in terms of facilities and infrastructure, so they should not misuse the opportunities they have now. They should be contentedly morally.



way out; I am very sure and happy they did a very good job, which has been forwarded to the vice chancellor, and i'm also very sure the paper has been Approved.

During the strike, we placed on the Alumni association platform over 4,000 transcripts already processed that people are yet to collect, so we are trying to let the whole people know that EKSU is a university you can get admission into and be rest assured that all your papers and everything that has to do with your academic records are safe.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI?**

Cordial! Perfect! One of the relationships was that (sometime ago), at our alumni center there, we sat down and we believed we had good products, and we have graduated a lot of people that are doing well in their various fields and professions, and that the next governor of Ekiti State should be a member from our alumni association. Eventually, the thing materialized; today, the governor-elect is a product of EKSU, and even a former staff of this university, so the (our) relationship is so cordial.

Alumni holds the university, and as a matter of fact, their contribution towards the development of the university is very encouraging.

#### **WILL YOU SAY YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS AS CHAIRMAN OF SSANU?**

The goal of everybody who is aspiring to lead is to ensure that the welfare of staff and members are not compromised; we're getting there. And when you have a kind of a chemistry of relationships between the union, the management, and your congress, you're good to go.

There is a sharp distinction between the way they play unionism in the past and now; this time around, you have to ensure you open your brain.

Before I got to this table; before I became chairman of SSANU, I started my agitation by ensuring that I obtain an MSc form, in peace and security studies; that opened and broadened my mental capacity; my faculty of reasoning. I developed that faculty of reasoning in such a way to ensure that i put dynamism into unionism; in such a way that everybody will benefit.

We must first remember, that before I got to the position of chairman, I was, and I'm still a staff of the university.

It is when the center can hold; that when there is peace and industrial harmony in the university, we can now negotiate on how to improve on the staffs welfare, but in the moment of turbulence, we won't be able to do that.

There must be peace in the land. We must have enabling environment in the university; where there is no student, there is no University; we must ensure that we are local parenting to those students; we must ensure we maintain a stable academic calendar; we must ensure there is no gap (in respect of information) between the management and the union; we must ensure that the interest of our congress even matters.

#### **IN SOME UNIVERSITIES, THERE'S ALWAYS FRICTION BETWEEN SSANU AND ASUU, SO WHAT IS THE SITUATION HERE?**

I am telling you sincerely, if a needle is trying to come In-between SSANU and ASUU, we're going to crush it; our relationship is so cordial, and that is why there is no battle we fought that we won't win and achieve our goal; we are one. All unions in this university are one.

*“The goal of everybody who is aspiring to lead is to ensure that the welfare of staff and members are not compromised”*







## Mr Aguda Temidayo Azeez

is a staff of Ekiti State University (EKSU); a faculty of multi-disciplinary studies officer. He is also a union leader and the chairman of Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities (SSANU), Ekiti State University branch.

He bagged his first, second and third degrees in the institute; making him a proud alumnus

### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NASU and SSANU?**

Mainly, SSANU is a university-based union, while part of members of NASU are university staffs; some work in secondary schools. They are kind of amalgamation of various institutions apart from university.

We have NASSU in Polytechnics; we have NASSU in college of educations, even in secondary schools. The difference between SSANU and NASSU is that all member of SSANU are senior staffs and are university-based staffs.

### **SSANU IS ALMOST AS OLD AS THE UNIVERSITY (EKSU), SO HOW DOES IT FEEL? YOU BEING THE CHAIRMAN WHEN EKSU IS FORTY?**

I feel good; the university is forty and SSANU is also forty; we're all forty; I feel elated. EKSU is the second best state university; before now, we used to be number 16, but now we're the second best state university in Nigeria.

### **FROM INVESTIGATIONS, EKSU IS STILL HAVING CHALLENGES WITH TRANSCRIPTS, AND THAT FALLS UNDER YOUR UNION (SSANU), SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?**

We're trying to ensure we put an end to that kind of problem. Before now, we use to process transcript manually; using papers, but this time around, university has graduated beyond that level.

In the recent year, whenever they are presenting your results, they are presenting your results both in hard and soft copy; the essence of that soft copy is to inform you that the process is being digitalised, and as a matter of fact, you can sit down on your table, click a button and get a result of the whole set.

Do you know what? When they want to process a transcript, they use detailed results not summary on results. (Because) everything is already in our system, and anytime you make a request that probably you want to further your education within or outside the country, within 48hrs, you get your transcript; it is a matter of applying and ensure the process is done according, then you get your transcript. But you know, in the year past, when the issue of digital has never come into place, then, you go look at those people, and the major challenges we had then was, staffs leaving the university for another; there are some documents that were lost in transit. It takes a very long time before the university can recover.

Some people (academic & non-teaching staffs) left with their documents, so to retrieve those documents contributed to the kind of challenges confronting the production of transcripts, but we're getting over it.

The vice chancellor constituted a committee to look into this, and to recommend to the university on the



# Dotun Saseyi

MR Dotun Saseyi is currently the General Manager of Petals 102.3Fm Radio station, Ibadan. As a journalist, Mr Dotun worked with African Newspapers of Nigeria plc (Nigerian Tribune), Galaxy Television Ibadan and as the director of programmes in Television Continental (TVC)

He bagged his first degree at the then Ondo State University (OSUA), now Ekiti State University (EKSU), where he studied English and Literary Studies; he is a proud product and alumnus of the institution.

## **WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF OSUA or EKSU ON YOUR CAREER ?**

Well, it was OSUA when we were there; I know it has been transformed, but I believe the same academic spirit is still there. The impact on my career would be quite profound; I read English and Literary studies.

The lecturers did a lot (for us) in those years of OSUA; they did a lot, and don't forget that the standards were quite high then. They imported the standards from other big institutions then, so some of them would simply drive down and we will have extended lectures. They were fantastic lecturers; they left a very powerful footprint on people's careers. It is that kind of impression that I have till now on the impact; what the standard is now, I don't know, but then, we competed quite well in those formative years with other top universities, and we were doing well in those competitions

## **CAN YOU RECOLLECT SOME INCIDENCES BACK THEN, THAT ARE UNFORGETTABLE TO YOU ?**

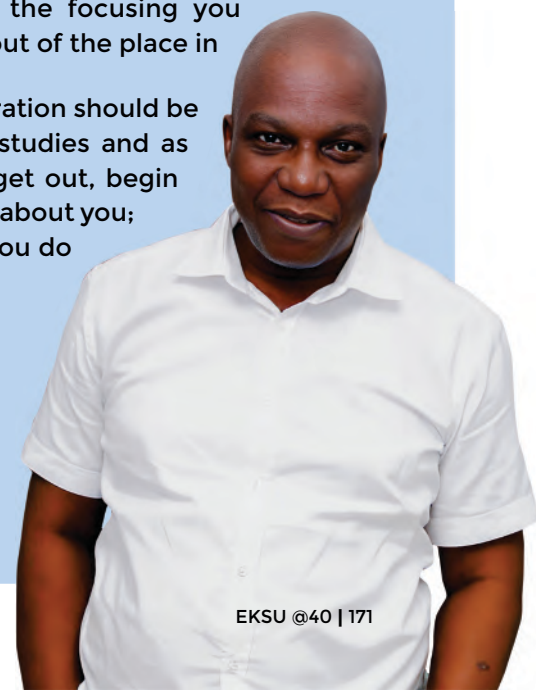
The school didn't encourage social activities so much because of the way we were; we were scattered all over the place, but those lasting memories or incidents were the activities of cultists. It was just like everybody resolved to rout them, because they were raping our girls, and, just a menace on everybody, so some of those guys (male students) got up one Saturday morning and decided to be picking them one-by-one; although some of them managed to escape, but after that event, everywhere in the school became calm, so, that is one unforgettable event for me.

The other would be the SAP riot, which I also participated; some of our friends were arrested, but we escaped. That (riot) is one event which started opening our consciousness to what is called Nigeria, because it is very easy to be born in this country; to die in this country several years after and not understand Nigeria; we at some point, our consciousness got opened to what Nigeria meant, and it gave us some tools to work with going into our different lives.

## **WHAT ADVISE DO YOU HAVE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS OF THE INSTITUTION ?**

Sincerely I don't know if I could advise them; I don't know what they're going through right now; I don't know their current challenges; I'm sure it is not like the challenges of my days; they are not going to be chasing buses like we used to chase buses, so I'll first want to be aware of their challenges to be conversant with what they are facing on daily basis, otherwise, I'll just be giving general advise like; don't do drugs; focus, because you need to focus; tertiary institutions these days is more tedious; it is worse than it used to be, so you need all the focusing you need, to get out of the place in good time.

Your concentration should be first on your studies and as soon as you get out, begin to think more about you; what would you do for yourself.



a lot of students to maximise opportunities, so even when some students that were born, bred and buttered from different homes

come to the school, they became different things because they learn how to live in the tougher environment; they learn how to use opportunities to actualize whatever they want in their lives. The school actually imparted in my life and I'm grateful to the visioneers; Chief Obafemi Awolowo, his team and Late Chief Adekunle Ajasin too, who summoned much courage to establish a citadel of learning for the people of Ondo State. I am grateful to God that the university gave me the settings I needed in life; University knowledge is actually a universal knowledge, so they imparted to my life that I began to read a lot of philosophies, diverse books that actually imparted me and refined me for life, so I thank God that the foundation has been solid, and I equally give glory to God for the life and time of all the lecturers as at that time; they were dedicated to their duties, and they were the best among equals that any institution can get as at that time.

#### WHAT IS INEN? WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Okay, INEN is an acronym for Institute of Economics of Nigeria; the dream actually started in the year 1986, when I was a third year student of Economics at the then Ondo State University, now Ekiti State University, while I was an undergraduate and as a student of economics, I was still nursing to be a chartered accountant, and that the moment I become a chartered accountant, I'm coasting to become the managing director of any bank in Nigeria when I get a job in the banking sector. So I asked myself how do I go about it because

most of the core courses in accounting, I'm doing it under economics, so I decided to take a course in ICMA; Institute of Cost and Management Accountancy; I applied to ICMA in London, they sent forms to me, but because we were poor students, there was no money to be running University education and start writing foreign professional exams at the same time, so I said as soon as I start my NYSC, I will save money for my ICMA, but shortly before that time, there was SAP; Social Adjustment Programme that made foreign exchange to be skyrocketed in such a way that nobody can even dare having exchange rate for foreign or international examination, so I decided to take ICAN and at the same time, I was noticing that most of the things they were doing in ICAN, I had done it in economics, and there was no professional umbrella for economics.

As fate would have it, sometimes in 2002, I met with a guy in Akure; we got talking and I told him I've been nursing about a professional body of economics for so many year, (I involved some professionals) including Prof. Ogunleye; my then lecturer from my department in Ekiti State University, so we all met in Kaduna and we came about the association.

We started the institute in the year 2002 and by the grace of God, I brought in my colleagues to be part of the vision. Although it took us a long time before we got to where we are today, because there were lots of challenges. It took us about 6 years before we got INEN registered, incorporated properly, and we also got the accreditation of the federal ministry of education through the Minister of Education who

invited us for a meeting.

Thereafter, we took our bill to the National Assembly, infact, the bill has been there (National Assembly) since 2004, but the Senate insisted that the institute must be incorporated legally as a legal entity and have the accreditation before we can come to the National Assembly, because that is the law and rules of the National Assembly. After all that, finally the bill has been passed; we're now waiting for the approval of the president, so that all Nigerians who study Economics can now fall in line proper.

These are the plans we have for INEN and I thank God for helping me; I've been travelling around Nigeria for the past 20 years without having 1 week of leave; I thank God for the grace of protection, provisions and sustenance over the years.

*“The school taught a lot of students to endure; the school taught a lot of students to maximise opportunities, so even when some students that were born, bred and buttered from different homes come to the school, they became different things because they learn how to live in the tougher environment”*



# DR OLUTOKI STEVEN AFOLABI

Dr Olutoki Steven Afolabi hails from Owo local government, Ondo State; his primary education were at Saint Francis Catholic primary school, Owo, between 1967-'74; in 1978, he gained admission into the Secondary School and finished in 1983; he is an Economist and an alumnus of the then Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti, which is now Ekiti State University, EKSU.

## **HOW DID YOU FIRST GET IN CONTACT WITH OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, BECAUSE IT WAS A NEW SCHOOL THEN?**

Actually, I was in lagos when I sat for Jamb, and my first choice was University of Benin. While I was writing jamb, I fill in to study accountancy, after that, I never even bothered to go to University of Benin to check my name on the noticeboard whether I was taken or not, but I knew I performed well. Shortly after that, there was a newspaper publication that Ondo State University needed students who have done well, so a brother of mine who graduated from the University of Ife advised me to apply; one of my half brothers in Akure applied on my behalf; lo-and-behold, I was taken and my name was published in the national newspaper.

Everyone (around me) was happy that I have been admitted to study Economics in the university, so I went to Ado-Ekiti to do my registration and prepare for matriculation.

## **WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN ADO-EKITI, THEN?**

Well, almost every student that came to Ado-Ekiti then, took it with joy for being pioneer students of a new university; it was very thrilling and very exciting, although we started in a primary school at Ajitadidun side, we never knew we were even in a primary school environment, because most of our lecturers were old lecturers from various institutions around the world; they were capable and they were giving us the best; the knowledge they were impacting into us is not in any way lesser that what others were getting in other institutions.

By the time we moved out of Ajitadidun to Iworoko; the new campus; the permanent site, the management did a good job by giving us the best textbooks in the library; we were having the best, so we saw ourselves good and we were happy about it.

## **WHAT WILL YOU SAY ARE THE IMPACTS OF OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, OR OSUA ON YOUR CAREER?**

I thank God Almighty that I did not go ahead to study or to major in accountancy, 'cause I later discovered that Economics is the queen of social sciences, so most of the core courses in accountancy were being studied under economics; it was from economics that accountancy was fashioned out; we studied so much more about banking and financed under economics, and we (also) studied marketing.

The impact of the University in my life and in my career can never be overestimated, cause i am glad that I was part of the pioneer students of that University, which imparted me in training and even in endurance, because many times, people will go from Ado-Ekiti to Iworoko and infact, I personally, I lived in the town, Ado-Ekiti, so we go on daily basis.

The school taught a lot of students to endure; the school taught





# PROFILE

Ademola Adeyemi is the Chief Business Officer of Premium Trust Bank. By training, Mr Adeyemi is a Banker, who over the years had acquired various experiences and qualifications in Banking sector across divisions thus making him one of the few who have combined training and experience to excel in their chosen endeavors. This reflects the practical experiences the seasoned Banker has brought to bear both in his professional and private life, proving his worth as accomplishing the essence of a proficient guru

**A**demola Adeyemi, a native of Awo Ekiti in Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government area of Ekiti State was born over 50 years ago.

Mr Adeyemi is a dynamic and accomplished senior executive and business leader with unique professional experience, cutting across the core divisions of the banking and finance industry, such as: Operations, Internal Control & Compliance, Financial Control and Planning, Credit and Marketing/Relationship Management, Branch ,Regional and Executive Management , he has had the opportunity to work in more than 25 states across the country in different roles.

He is currently the Chief Business Officer (Lagos and South West Directorate) of Premium Trust Bank Limited.

He holds an Executive Masters' degree in Business Administration (EMBA) from the Metropolitan School of Business Management, United Kingdom and a BSc. in Banking and Finance from Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti. He is a Senior Member, Chartered Institute of Bankers Nigeria (HCIB) and has undertaken several professional courses within and

outside Nigeria such as Harvard Business School(HBS) Lagos Business School, Wharton Executive Education , London School of Economics (LSE) amongst others .

Aside his professional engagements, he is a committed and dedicated family man. He loves sports, music, and intellectual discussions.

A philanthropist per excellence.



ADEMOLA  
**ADEYEMI**



***As an attestation to the fact that EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY formerly ONDO STATE UNIVERSITY can boast of great sons and daughters that have carved niches for themselves in all areas of human endeavours as products turned out within the four decades of its existence, we present the much inspiring and wholesomely all encompassing profile of the Commander, Lagos State RAPID RESPOND SQUAD***

## **-CSP SAHEED OLAYINKA EGBEYEMI**

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN; A WELL SEASONED SECURITY GURU.

CSP Saheed Olayinka Omokuleyin Aremu Egbeyemi, the Commander, Rapid Response Squad (RRS), and erstwhile Chairman, Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences (Enforcement Unit & Taskforce), was born on August 4th in the early 70's in Agege, Lagos State.

He started his educational career in 1976 at Kaps Day Nursery and Primary school, Capital Road, Agege and African Church Central Primary school, Oniwaya Road, Agege for his Primary school leaving certificate before proceeding to Anwar- Ul- Islam College, (formerly Ahmadiya College) between 1985-1991. He gained a provisional admission into the then Ondo State University (now Ekiti State University), Ado Ekiti to study Philosophy and he also obtained Masters degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Lagos State University (LASU). He did his National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Ikono Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State between 1999-2000.

He began his career in the Nigeria Police in Aguda Police Station, Surulere, Lagos for his one year compulsory attachment, where he spent only 3 months and at Elere Police Station, Agege, where he later became Officer-in-charge of the Anti Robbery squad. He was the Crime Officer at Alausa Divisional Police station, Deputy Police PRO, Lagos State command, P.A., and later Officer-in-charge, DC Secretariat, State CID, Panti, Yaba, Lagos, Staff Officer to Inspector General of Police, IGP Mike Okoro at Force Headquarters, Abuja, Unit Commander, MOPOL 20, Ikeja Lagos, ADC to Governor Ibikunle

Amosun (FCA, CON), and Area Crime Officer at Area G, Ogba in 2014.

He worked as DPO, Mosafejo Police Station, Oshodi, DPO, Aguda Police Station, Surulere, Lagos, DPO Ilupeju Police Division and DPO, Sango-ota Police Station in Ogun State. He was appointed as the Chairman of Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences Enforcement Unit (Task Force) by the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr Akinkunmi Ambode on March 10, 2016. On 29th of May, 2019 CSP Olayinka Egbeyemi was re-appointed as the Chairman, Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences Enforcement Unit (Task Force) by the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Olushola Sanwo-Olu. CSP Egbeyemi having performed creditably well as Chairman, Lagos State ESOE UNIT Taskforce was appointed by Mr Babajide Olushola Sanwo Olu in December 11th, 2020 as Commander, Lagos State Rapid Response Squad (RRS).

He attended several courses, both in Nigeria and Overseas. This includes Peace Support Operation and Anti-Terrorist Courses at the prestigious Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Unit (COESPU) in Italy; Combat craft operation at Gwaoza, Borno state; Leadership and Citizenship Training at Shere hills, Jos, Plateau State, VIP protection and Aide-de-camp (ADC), Induction course at Police Staff College, Jos, Plateau State in July, 2011 among others.

He also participated in Ad-hoc duties like Joint Task Force (JTF) with the military in Potiskum, Yobe and Kano States,

engaging the insurgents in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

A member of International Association of Chiefs of Police and attended the IACP conferences in Philadelphia, Florida, Chicago and San Diego in California 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively in the United States of America.

CSP Egbeyemi also participated in South-West Regional Security Management course (SWRSMC) put together by Nigeria Defense Academy (NDA) and Office of the Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Security and Intelligence. He obtained a Diploma in National Security at Galilee International Management Institute, Israel in December, 2018.

He is a prolific writer, poet and Security Strategist

who also enjoys imparting Knowledge about African Heritage, Culture and Values. He is happily married and blessed with children.



# OPE ALLEN

(PMI, MIEEE, MNIM, M.Sc, PHF)



**O**pe Allen was born over 40yrs ago to the family Late Elder Allen Alebiosu. He had his early Education at Emmanuel Anglican Primary School (1983- 1988) and Christ School Ado-Ekiti (1989 -1994) before proceeding to study Geology at the University of Ado-Ekiti (Now known as EKSU). He graduated from UNAD in 2001 and completed his National Youth Service 2002 in EketAkwa Ibom State. Mr Allen then proceeded to Coventry University, West Midlands. United Kingdom to Study Network Computing and graduated in 2009 with Merit. Mr Ope Allen Started his professional career in Odua Telecoms, Ibadan in 2004 as a Network Executive, before moving to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technologies in 2005 where he rose to become a Network Manager before proceeding for his

master studies in UK. He returned to Nigeria as the Head of Network Infrastructure and Administration in Suburban Telecoms Limited in 2010. He is currently the Head of Technical Operations and Network Operations Centre in Globacom Enterprise Business. An ICT Expert, Public Commentator, Political Strategist, Motivational Speaker, Business Consultant and astute gentleman with a desire for organising and giving back to the society. He is currently the President Elect of Rotary Club of Lekki Golden, The President of Coventry University Alumni Association (NigeriaChapter), President of Christ School Alumni Association 89/94 set and the Secretary of EKSU Alumni.

**What was your first impression of the school?**

As someone who lived at Ado, I wondered at the time if my parents wanted me there to be monitoring me. But looking at the first two days at Ajasin Hostel, I felt at home. It was like a small community. I made a friend and walked to school. The issues about transportation weren't there for me because my hostel was close to the university.

**What was UNAD like for you?**

I have no regrets. It was a wonderful experience. I love the way we come together as a community. I don't know how other school alumni operate but for us, it is seamless. Perhaps it's the bond of Odo-Eje, walking on an untarred road for 10-20 kilometres covered in dust that bound us together. It has been special; what we've been able to





*Perhaps it's the bond of Odo-Eje that bound us together. It has been special.*

**OPEYEMI ALLEN ALEBIOSU**  
ICT EXPERT

achieve and what we will still achieve.

**What can you say about the quality of education at that time?**

Geology was one of the most difficult courses at the University at that time. But we had some crazy lecturers; not in the sense of wickedness, but in that when they're teaching you, they really want you to learn. Their aim was never to fail anyone.

The quality of education was of high standards. We had lecturers like Dr Ojo, Prof Oyinloye, Dr Adebayo and co who didn't allow any laziness.

**With the current quality of education, do you think EKSU at 40 is worth celebrating?**

Yes, it is worth celebrating. If you look back on where we were in 1997 when I got in, and where they are now in terms of infrastructure, you will see that it is worth celebrating. There are still so many things we've not done which are in the plans such as the Alumni village. Looking at where we're coming

from and where we're going and that for the first time in history we have a Governor-elect who passed through the school, we expect him to prioritize the school's needs.

**At a time, there was a proposition to change the name of UNILAG to Moshood Abiola University but the Alumni kicked against the renaming and quashed that plan. However, Ekiti State University has passed through three to four names so far. Do you think that the alumni of EKSU are not strong enough? If not, what do you think we can do to strengthen the alumni society?**

Well, we are still a relatively young school so the alumni are not as strong as these other older schools. We've had different alumni presidents ranging from the active ones to the very quiet ones and the stable to the unstable. But over the past 8 years, we've had the likes of Steve Akadiri who was very instrumental in getting me involved in the activities of the Union, Kunle Ajayi and Dr

Adetuberu who was a unifying factor for OSUA connection, UNAD and EKSU.

Right now we have Bamisaye who is a very unique man who works more silently than his predecessor. He is working hard as well to get us to a place where we are strong.

**On a final note, what name did they call you in school?**

\*Laughs They called me Nino Brown.

**Why?**

There was a movie that came out that year called Kneejack city and Diran Akinlami, one funny Ibadan guy, asked me what nickname he should call me. I told him I don't like nicknames. He said my hair looks like Nino Brown's, a community strong man with ties to everyone from drug Lords to good people. They started calling me Nino Brown. Of course, over time, people naturally came up with their own variations such as Nino Cassa Blanca.





## CHIEF MRS KEMI ADEDAPPO AISIDA Iyalaja of Ondo State

my life positively.

### HOW DID YOU FIND YOURSELF IN ADO AMONG ALL THE UNIVERSITIES THEN?

I came from Port Harcourt, I wrote JAMB in Port Harcourt and my first choice was UNIPORT to read law, and I was told that there's law in ONDO STATE UNIVERSITY and luckily I am from Ondo State, he said if you are not given admission in UNIPORT just move to OSUA. My late mother was a friend to Prof Mrs Olutoye so we communicated. When I got to Ado, it was like coming to prison, because coming from Port Harcourt to Ado Ekiti, the first week was like in hell but along the line when we started moving/mixing together, it was a very quiet place compared to Port Harcourt.

### WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE TO THE CURRENT STUDENTS OF EKSU?

My advice to them is to make use of the area because the serene area of Ekiti is an added advantage. There's little or no distraction in Ado except now that technology has taken over the world.

### WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

I am a member of OSUA CONNECTION although have not been active. I am a member of the Alumni association although in Ondo State we started an association, Mr Odojin was the coordinator.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR ADO DAYS?

My Ado Experience was fantastic, I was at an hostel along iwo iroko road when I entered, it was a private hostel. I shared my room with Dayo Ladigbolu then now Prof. Mrs Aba and Sarah Emurotu. I was in the same flat with Lara Akinbola, Ajumobi, Olakasumu, Funke Babalola and some other ladies. We had a nice time. We had School Bus then that takes us to School. My course mates that we were very close then were Jaye Oreoluwa then Prof. Babatola now, we were few ladies in my course myself and Stella. We had a nice time. Our social life was perfect. We normally had Miss OSUA, we go to Eki Cinema off Campus, I was a member of Exclusive Club while I was in School.

### WHAT WERE YOU KNOWN FOR?

I was a quiet person. I was known as Kemi Olotu, that lady that normally put straight face on but then people that knew me well then was Ola Kasumu although she was on her way out when we got in, then Lola Adekunle ( She's in U.K now), Fumi Edo, the guy I was close with then were Dotun Adegoke, Akinjisola Ige ( He owns a very big hotel now in Ondo State), Niyi Oyejola.

### WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF OSUA ON YOUR CAREER?

OSUA had a very Strong impact on my career. We came from different parts of Nigeria and we related very well. So when, I started my business, I could relate very well with my customers from any part of the country. Fortunately, when I went for my NYSC in Benue State and building from my experience from Ado, it made it easy for me and impacted





# PROFILE

**ALEGBELEYE EMMANUEL  
OLUWASEUN** *fCMgr*

Alegbeleye Emmanuel Oluwaseun is the MD/CEO of Royal Emeraldz Technical services and Emmalex consults Ltd in United Kingdom. He is a Business expert currently consulting for various firms across the globe.

He had a bachelor's degree in geology from University of Ado Ekiti, Master's Degree holder in Oil and Gas Engineering from Concepts University in the U.K, Master's Degree in Business Administration from University of Northampton, United Kingdom. Certificate in Entrepreneurship from Bocconi University, Milano, Italy, Certificate in virtual communication from University of Toronto, Canada, Certificate in creative thinking from imperial college, London

He also possesses various certificates in safety from Occupational safety and health academy, Oregon, U.S.A

During his academic pursuit, in 2006, he was elected as the President of Nigerian Mining and Geoscience Society, UNAD Chapter.





**IT WAS A  
WONDERFUL  
EXPERIENCE FOR ME**

Alegbeleye Emmanuel *fCMgr* is a Business Consultant for different firms and organizations. He is a Public Speaker and the CEO of Royal Emeralds Technical Services situated in Nigeria and Emmanuel's Consult situated in the United Kingdom. He resides in the United Kingdom.

#### **What was your experience like at EKSU?**

I was admitted into the Geology Department of UNAD in 2002 and graduated in 2007 due to incessant strikes and other factors. I was opportuned to serve at the departmental level as the President of the Geology department 2006/2007, at the faculty level as Assistant Welfare Director and at the Student's Union level as a member of different committees during Tobi Adeoye's regime.

It was a wonderful experience for me. All the things I learnt then are what I have been building on. I got into my maturity stage at the University. In fact, the friends I made then are still my friend up till today. I was telling my wife that the way I studied at UNAD, if I had put in that level of seriousness and dedication into my other programs in the UK and across other nations, I would have emerged as the best in the class.

#### **I interviewed a number of your class mates and noticed that quite a number of them share that same sentiment. What would you say is responsible for that?**

I would say that what was responsible for that was that my first two years in UNAD, I lived at Omolayo hostel which was the largest private hostel in West Africa at the time and my lifestyle was from the hostel to class to the library and fellowship. Out of 24 hours in a day, I spent almost ten hours reading. At the end of the day, I would still have grades like C. My wife says that maybe I just didn't know how to answer questions. By the grace of God, she is also a graduate of Geology from the University of Ado-Ekiti. She was the best graduating

student during her own time.  
**I do not have to ask you what you gained from the University anymore. You gained a wife.**

Laughs. That is true. Funny enough, I knew her in the University days but we were not close. It was after some years that I met her at a wedding and the story began.

#### **EKSU is now 40 years old. What kind of emotions does that stir up in you?**

Recently we had our 40-year anniversary celebration in the United Kingdom. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Olanipekun who happened to be my Chem 101 lecturer then, was also in attendance. The Global President, Engineer Dipo Bamisaye, was also in attendance.

By the grace of God, I was part of the Alumni Executive Organizing committee as a member of the preceding Executive Council and it was a huge success. It was broadcast on Channels and across some other media channels. A lot of people came from Scotland, Northern Island and even Nigeria; one of which was Seyi Idowu, an old classmate. It was a great moment. I saw people I had not seen in at least 20 years.

#### **What advice do you have for the current students of EKSU who may be looking down on the school?**

They should not look down on the school. I have been opportune to do a course at the University of Toronto, University of North Hampton, and so on, but UNAD was the foundation that made that possible. My advice to them is that they are building a foundation at this time. The foundation matters a lot. I am very rugged now because I have built a strong foundation. They should face their studies.

Also, they should respect their lecturers. I still spoke with Professor Ademilua, one of my old lecturers, recently. I still keep in touch with him because our lecturers then had something good to offer to the world and were interested in our success. I have some friends who are currently lecturers at EKSU such as Barrister Tosin Ayo, Tayo Fasuan and Teniola Babalola. They are people to be reckoned with in their field. They have something to offer so the students should be ready to learn.

I also want to say that connection is very important. I made some very good connections while at Ado-Ekiti and I can tell you, I am still enjoying them. I do not have any friends from any of the other schools where I studied. All my friends are friends I made from EKSU. This is the time to make connections that matter.





# GOKE EGUNJOBI

Goke Egunjobi is the Founder-CEO, Paper Craft-I-impact product Services Ltd; a Thermal paper rolls Manufacturing Plant & Digital Payment Solutions company in Lagos Nigeria with a turnover of about \$200,000.00 in the first year of birth. A seasoned Digital payment professional with vast experience across technology solutions and products development, financial planning, project management, Sales and Business Development and high level people management skills and with wide economic ideas.

## **Academic & Work Experience**

He started his career as the Debit Card Product Manager, First City Monument Bank in Nigeria after his postgraduate degree from University of Bedfordshire.

Business School Luton in 2004. Having developed the Debit Card product, He was head hunted to BankPHB to develop the Virtual Digital Channels for BankPHB and was promoted the Head, Digital Virtual-Channels of BankPHB. He spent some time too in Stanbic IBTC as the Manager, Self-Service Digital Channels before taking up a role as General Manager, Product & Sales of iPartners (a Cisco Gold Partner), Senior Account Manager for Resourcery Plc where he acquired enormous experience in building and selling IT/E-business solution businesses. He left Resourcery for Enterprise Bank where he led as the Head E-Channels & Mobile Money for Enterprise Bank Plc, spearheading the development of Digital electronic channels as alternative channels for delivery

of banking services through ATM, PoS, Mobile, Internet Banking. Lastly as Country Representative of Security, Software & Solutions-Mumbai-India, a digital fintech and thermal paper consumables company for digital payment devices e.g ( ATM, POS, and Retail payment channels).

He has a **B.Sc** Computer Science from University of Ado Ekiti-Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria and **M.Sc** E-Business Management from the Luton Business School, England. He has acquired quite a number of experience before he went back to build up a Digital Payment solutions & Consumable manufacturing company to impact into the e-business digital payment sphere by providing lasting solutions

that would deliver efficiency in IT/E-business digital products and it's enabling consumables needed as transactional receipts for Digital payment Channels. Goke is a well-rounded business professional with technical background and vast business management skills e-g: Product and Project Management, Cisco Sales Expert with commercial acumen, P&L management, Presently finished an **Executive MBA** in the Prestigious Lagos Business School and bagged the **"Entrepreneur Award of the Year for the set: EMBA 22, 2019 with Distinctions in Marketing, International Business management, Strategy, Organisation Behaviour, and Strategy in Emerging Markets and his final year Project which eventually turned to Life implemented Thermal paper Business with clients spread in Nigeria & West Africa."**

*Attending EKSU taught me to be steadfast and thorough in everything am doing*

*-Goke Egunjobi*

Goke Ogunjobi is the CEO/Founder of Paper Craft-Impact product Services Ltd and the CEO-Proprietor of Victoria Manhattan Hall, a state of art students accomodation Hostel situated in FUOYE, Oye Ekiti. He is an indigene of Ekiti. He bagged a BSC in Computer Science from the University of Ado Ekiti now EKSU. He also has a Masters in Electronics Business from the University of Bedfordshire Business School-Luton, UK. He is an alumnus of the Lagos Business School from which he obtained an Executive Masters in Business Administration with an Entrepreneur Excellence Award.

Before his entrepreneurship voyage, Mr Goke worked as a banker. He decided to start a venture through which he could help humanity, provide employment for the less-privileged and support the digital banking space which used to be his core competence career.

**What was the impact of attending UNAD on your career?**

There is no doubt that 'home' is the best place to be. I was privileged to go through my entire early education at Ekiti; not just my University days. Kudos to my Dad- Sir Lawrence Egunjobi, my most adored adviser and planner of my early-childhood Education, a major foundation in chasing my life goals and God's designed path and destiny. I schooled at St. Joseph's Nursery Primary Catholic School, Bishop Court-Ado Ekiti, the only Private Primary Boarding School at the time. After that, I attended St Peter's Unity Secondary School Akure. Having gone through a remedial course, I was admitted into UNAD.

The remedial course allowed me to identify where my career path lay. I was good at the sciences so I was asked to go for Chemistry but knowing that a digital age lay ahead of me, I made a choice to go to Computer sciences.

Attending UNAD taught me to be steadfast and thorough in everything I did. It was still an up-and-coming University at the time and there were few infrastructure to aid our learning but it was also good because we could live within our means and adapt for survival. We had to figure out our accommodation and transportation by ourselves.

I remember in those days, Ejo-Owu drove the biggest bus for the school. You had to either be there early enough to be at the front of the queue or be agile enough to get on the bus. Failure to get on the bus meant that you had to walk a number of kilometers. At the time, it seemed like it







was a punishment but all of these attributes came together to give me adaptability and the ability to cope under pressure.

**What were you known for in school?**

I was quite introverted in school although I had friends and met people. I was also known to travel overseas for vacation a couple of times so my mates saw me as, 'Goke that goes to London'. I was known to be studious in class while also taking in a bit of the social part of the University.

**What is your advice to the current students of EKSU and the University?**

My advice to the students is that the world is evolving. It takes more than just being within the four walls of the University to achieve your goals in the real world. So, as much as you're taking in the lectures, also try to network. That is one area I feel we didn't do so well in during my time.

To the school, I advise them to teach business and entrepreneurial skills to students irrespective of their discipline.

**Finally, can you give a word for the Alumni?**

I am grateful to the Organizing

committee; the board of the alumni. They are doing fantastically well. Some people are made to organize, some to propel and some to finance. They have done a good job of putting the right pegs in the right holes. They have also done a good job of bringing us together and giving everyone a sense of belonging.

I also want to say that I am proud of us for producing a Governor; the new Governor of Ekiti State. I am a proud patriot.

**“** *The world is evolving. It takes more than being within the four walls of a university to achieve your goals in the real world.* **”**

*I am one of those who doesn't let Campus love to end at the University gate*

## OJO VICTOR LLB



At the back are Bishop, Author, Apalowo, Fss.  
Front are Ojo Victor in suit, Kehinde Anthonia, and one other



From right are Muiyiwa Cole, Apalowo Rasak,  
Ojo Victor wearing tie

### Introduction

I am Hon. Ojo Victor ( LL.b, B L), a native of Ipesi-Akoko in Ondo State. Born in the year 1965, married with Children.

### Impacts of EKSU on My career

I have been Councillor, SA to Gov and LG Chairman. My participation in Students' Unionism has contributed immensely to achieving these.

### EKSU @ 40

Sincerely and with a sense of nostalgia towards the University I imagine that our Orokun Varsity turning 40 years old. I am happy that I am part of it.

### Memories

I was a prominent Student Union leader as a student. I grew to be NANS VP, at that my story as a student knew both bitter and sweet experiences. I will leave that to when there will be space for the story to be told. But it is noteworthy to say here that I am one of those that did not allow Campus love to end at the University gate as my wife now was my girl friend then in the University. Mrs Kehinde Anthonia Ojo-Victor is also a 1997 set of the University.

### Why EKSU?

I needed to study Law and I was not offered admission in University in the Schl of first choice. It was at that very time that Faculty of Law was established in EKSU and I saw the advertisement in one of the newspapers inviting applicants so I applied and got admission.

### Relationship with the Alumni Association

Close relationship. I am an active member of the Alumni association here in Akure.

**My message to the current students of the School is simple. They should be more studious and focused in their academics and also create time to learn some vocations.**



# AKOMOLAFE BENJAMEN

*Who championed the establishment of Ado branch of Sterling Bank*

Akomolafe Benjamin was born in Ire Ekiti in 1980. He went through all his preliminary education in Ekiti. He obtained his B.A Honours in Linguistics from the University of Ilorin in 2003 after which he was employed at Pacific Bank. He moved to Oceanic Bank in 2007 where he worked for 14 years before moving to Sterling Bank. He started the Sterling Bank branch in Ado, Ekiti and became the Manager.

Akomolafe Benjamin wanted to choose a part to differentiate himself from other bankers so he went after his passion for academic excellence. While working in the bank, he got his MBA (2008-2010), and MA (2014-project pending) and started studying law in 2015 from which he recently graduated with a 4.0 CGPA.

**You have combined so many things. That could not have been easy. What motivates you?**

It is the desire to liberate my people that pushes me to be my best. My close ones know that I try to leave a mark on everyone who comes in contact with me. If it were for what I would eat alone, I wouldn't have bothered. I am a proper Ekiti man. I don't eat spaghetti, rice and such. What I eat is Eba, Amala, Okra and such. So I don't need too much money to eat. But it is the passion to have an impact on the lives of people around me that pushes me to struggle to achieve more.

Of course, it is God that crowns every struggle. Even amid my banking career and educational endeavours, I started a business and God has grown it to over #1.5 billion in revenue. I have been able to help the people around me financially. That is the drive.

**What is your advice for those just coming up, especially students of EKSU?**

Young people tend not to take advice anymore. Young people get into fraud and you see them wearing clothes and driving cars that

even you cannot use. You go to EKSU these days and the volume of cars on the premises amazes you. There is hardly anything to tell people like that.

My only advice is that

they must try as

m u c h a s

possible not

to ply this

p a t h o f

destruction

. We will

continue to

do our best

to lay down

a g o o d

example for

those who are

willing to learn

from us.

***I am a proper Ekiti man and I have been able to help people around me financially***



## PROFILE

# ADEBAYO ADEDOSU

*President, Founder, and CEO*

Ade Adedosu is the President, Founder, and CEO, Jago Solutions International Inc., a Software/Applications Development, Project Management, Business Process Re-engineering, Sales, Supply, Procurement, Warehousing, Logistics, Security Services, and Training, with well over 20yrs of creating niches with a win-win philosophy both for Jago Solutions' clientele and Jago itself. His education cum Bachelor of Arts degree and a Certificate in Electronic Data Processing and Certified Scrum Product Owner certification have combined to shape his career and optimum service delivery focus. Ade, started his career at FedEx has a Business Development Coordinator where he helped in building the clientele base of the company with sound customer retention policy. With his extensive IT training, Ade worked as a Business Analyst at Rogers Communications Inc. (Canada) one of the major telecoms outfits in Canada, Solutions Analyst at IronData (Canada) a software development company focused on licensing permits, Senior IT Consultant; Government of Canada, Senior IT Consultant; Manitoba Public Insurance, Senior IT Consultant at IBM, Senior IT Consultant: Office of the Superintendent for Financial Institutions, Senior IT Consultant, Govt of Ontario. His wide range of IT exposure gives him the right balance to navigate through the ever-changing IT world thereby adding value to clients' businesses. He is a result-oriented individual, driven by value-creation, quality, and excellent service delivery.

Ade's vision is to ensure that Jago Solutions International Inc., becomes the leading provider of unique IT, management, and general consulting services through a combination of sector needs assessment and evolving technologies, miniaturization, and affordability.

Ade is a career mentor, life coach, public speaker, fellow of the Institute of Finance for Non-Finance Executive, member of the International Institute of Business Analysis, Junior Chamber International





Adebayo Adedosu is an alumnus of the old Ondo State University. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Arts, Department of Religious studies. He studied between the years 1991 and 1997 as a result of different ASUU strikes and the June 12 Crisis. He is currently based in Canada and is the President/Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Jago Solutions International, a software and application development, Project management, supply, procurement, warehousing and trading company with well over 25 years of experience.

**What happened after OSUA. Obviously, you didn't learn all these at OSUA. How did you get into that field?**

As we used to say in those days, there is one course you need to pass as a student of OSUA, it is Òròkú-ism. There is no way you could carry the course over. I can proudly say that I overwhelmingly passed Òròku 101 and 404. From day one, it was a struggle. I lived in town, at Adebayo, a place called Bush Estate which is after Microfab, that is off Oríre Hospital. Transportation was a major issue back then. Alhaji was our famous bus driver then. He drove a long luxury bus. His famous conductor was one notorious Taye. Ado-Ekiti was backward in those days. You had no choice but for Òròku, that survival instinct, to envelope you. There were times when we would block the road and keep the bus from going past Ajitadidun which was our bus stop. Still, the bus couldn't take us all. People had to hang from the windows. There was a day when two people held my hand from inside while I dangled outside. Then there was Odò-Eje, a narrow bridge that could only accommodate one vehicle at a time. We called it "Odò jéwó èsè" because once we got there, you would immediately start to confess your sins and ask God for forgiveness. That was the kind of environment we studied in and that trained me to survive and succeed wherever I find myself. That is the platform that has propelled me to the trajectory I am on today.

**What was the quality of education like at that time?**

OSUA had a very high standard of education. But I would say this, some of those lecturers were not exposed to anything beyond the then Ondo State so there was this primitive way of doing things that were very concerning at that time. Also, we all knew that exploitations were going on and we could not do anything about it. The standard of education is also dependent on the quality of funding. Ondo and Ado Ekiti put together were two poor States. In the real

sense, they could not afford a University, but, we had some philanthropists like Omolayo who did so much for the University.

**What were you known for in school?**

I was a Student Union activist. I was involved in it from my very first day at the University. I remember that on my matriculation day, no one knew I was a Jambite because I was in the company of stallites and we taking off caps from the Jambites. They did not know I was one of them until they started seeing me in class. At first, they even thought I just carried over those courses.

In part one, we had a very serious, brutal student unrest that almost took my life and that of a comrade. My department took note of my activist spirit from part 1. By the second semester, I faced the Senate because we were having issues with the Vice Chancellor then, Professor Peter Bodunrin. He was DVC in UI then came over to Ado-Ekiti as VC.

By Part 2, I ran for Secretary-general of the Student Union. We had the likes of Kekemeke, Sparrow, Bode, and so on. What made me pack up and step back a little was that I realized that there were impositions in the Student Union politics with the School authorities bankrolling a candidate's campaign. The same thing can be seen in Nigeria today.

**You mentioned that your years of studies were protracted as a result of ASUU strikes. The same thing is still happening today...**

That's right. People need to understand that ASUU is never fighting for the students. They are only fighting for themselves and the students are hurt in the process.

**What is your relationship with the Alumni Association?**

I have not been involved with the Alumni. I don't even know if there is an Association. I know that some of my classmates formed a group but I have not been too involved because I cannot see any developmental plans. I believe we all need to go back to the School and see what we can do to develop it. I have done that a few times at my secondary school alma mater. We need to do that for the University as well.





***"My advice to the students now is that while they should be focused in their academics, they should not also forget to be resilient as well" - Seun Ariyo, an Alumnus in diaspora (finished 1989 set)***

***Who is Seun Ariyo?***

I am a family man; married with 2 children. I am a Christian and I love God. I graduated from OSUA. I did Pure & Applied Chemistry and I finished in 1989. Although, I came in 1983 through pre-degree program. I am a professional; I am a Nurse now.

***Can you recall how things were back then?***

In those days, there were scanty buildings on ground then. I spent only two years in the main campus. Most of our lectures were received in Christ School. The only thing that was a little bit stressful was the journey. I lived at Adeparusi Hostel in first two years and I think I later lived at Omolayo Building/Osekita Hostel I can not remember vividly, but definitely I remembered that I moved to the village called Aba Igbira. We rented a 3-bedroom flat there with some other guys. I lived there for maybe one or two years. There was another houses that was a complete

building down that road and not far from Ago Igbira . It was a hostel. So, the journey to the campus was the toughest task. One had to make up one's mind that whenever one goes to the campus in the morning, there is no way you can go back home to rest for few hours for the next lecture. So, you have to wait in between lectures and, the library was not yet equipped fully. We occupied ourselves with reading and spending time in the laboratory as there was no or fewer social activities on the campus. Above all, it was all fun! I am a Mental Health Nurse now and I do not even work a day with my degree in Pure & Applied Chemistry. When I left University, I worked with one of the Finance Banks in Nigeria before the economic meltdown that affected and consequently collapsed the banks before I travelled abroad. I look at what the University has made me become and looking at the job I am doing now; Mental Health Practitioner. It is more or less about resilience i.e. how you can manage your situation, how we

handle stress, relate to others, and make choices, vis-a-vis tough times. I think those days in OSUA have taught me a lot. Those days, we had lecturers coming from University of Ife, University of Ibadan and some of them were indigenes of Ekiti, so they would have stayed with their families and they would arrange lectures for 7am at the weekend and sometimes they scheduled lectures late Fridays. Transportation was a big problem, I remember that sometime I had to enter into public transport because the university transport which we paid for would have filled up before getting to where I lived, so sometime we had to walk about 10-15 opposite direction to catch up the bus and it was not a guarantee. As students, you had to be there for lectures because the lectures come once in a week and we were very few in class around twenty or less in Chemistry class, so the lectures know who are not in lectures. I do not know about other courses but for mine, they come once in a week and we



had a longer lecture hour. You had to prepare yourself both mentally and physically to be able to survive the day. So, all these have really helped me to be able to withstand tough times because what I was facing when I came to the United Kingdom needed serious time management on my part.

I never attended any boarding school all my life, so my being in OSUA helped me in healthy interactions with different people from different backgrounds and it was also the first time that I would leave home which gave me the sense of self-independence for the very first time. So, OSUA taught me general management of resources and time. That was when having to forecast and budget within your resources came useful to me. If one wastes all one's money on frivolous things, the impacts and the consequences will be surely felt. It was an interesting time in short!!

***Can you recall any bitter or sweet experience?***

Oh!! I will start with the bitter one although not bitter in the true sense of the word. It was during registration. It was very stressful. The administrative office was somewhere in town, the lecture rooms were in Christ School. We had to go to a place like a secondary school, I think part of the classroom were for lecture for the Arts departments. You had to walk from the admin office to Christ School for lectures and back to my hostel. It was very tough for us then especially in the first two years. I also remember a time that there was a riot, it thinks it was national university student riot. It was so terrible. I was in a hostel not far from Christ School I think it was Omolayo building. They came to gather all of us in solidarity to the riot. Also, there were very risky adventures in which we had to hang on those buses going to

Iworoko where we had to pass through a narrow bridge while the driver would be speeding as if hell had been let loose. Only God that saved us. When I was in year one, I served as the assistant Secretary General for Science students we were still receiving lectures at Christ School then. There was a bit of politics, it was fun then.

***What were you known for then?***

I was a quiet person. I hid under the covers of others!!!

***In your opinion, what differentiates OSUA from other Institutions?***

Academically, what I will say is that, for myself, the lecturers were too tough especially in the Sciences. I think it was because they were trying to set a standard. When I was doing my final year project, the lecturer gave me same topic/research that one of his student at University of Ife or Ibadan that was studying for his Master/Ph.D, the only difference was that we were not using the same elements to carry out the experiments- Research. They were pushing us through something extraordinary, the lecturers really gave us a very sound foundation but very tough. Their marking schemes were so strict. I will say we were overstretched. Even, on Saturday mornings, lectures were held between 7am and 10am followed by a short break to be followed by other lectures. It was an advantage for some and it was also a disadvantage for others because if one misses a lecture, that meant one has missed a lot for the week, no reference would be made concerning the previous topics taught.

***Let us talk about the present day!!! OSUA is 40years old and we have an Alumnus that is the Governor of Ekiti State. What advice do you have for the***

***present league of students in EKSU?***

The number one thing is that they should be focused. As I mentioned earlier, resilience is very key. I noticed that nowadays, information is available here and there. They should know what they are doing, back then, there was nobody to advise us. We were just using our discretions as per academics. I told you I had one extra year which I was supposed not to have. I had to do some elective courses (outside chemistry) which were not really part of my course, someone should have advised me on the right courses to take alongside my main course of study. I think in those days you have to pass all your courses that you enrolled whether compulsory or non-compulsory (electives) courses, I don't know now.

***Lastly, let us talk about the Alumni Association in EKSU. What role do you think the Association can play as per the development of the School and what role have you been playing as an Alumnus?***

I only joined two years ago. I attended the 40th anniversary dinner that we had so as for me to be able to meet some of my old colleagues which I was fortunate to achieve. It was a nice time indeed. I am looking forward to support and advisory roles. I left the University in 1989 and after convocation in 1990, I have not been there and that is one of the things the Association can organize especially for its members in diaspora.

## WE WILL NOT FORGET YOU



**B**arr. Kole Ajayi redirected the activities of the Association, he initiated a new constitution that gave a mandate of single tenure of three years , he brought the Association to lime light and introduced Abuja Chapter, Osun State Chapter, with Dr A detunberu . He also established Ondo State Chapter, Oyo State Chapter.

Kole Ajayi's administration built the first Alumni Centre owned by the Association and this was reported at the Conference of Alumni Association Southwest when OSUA now EKSU was commended for being the first Alumni Association to have its own building among Nigeria Universities, others were occupying rented apartment provided by their various Universities.

Barr. Kole Ajayi conducted election that produced Dr Wale Jegede .



**P**rof Bimbo Odu née Olofin was the first female Alumni Professor from Eksu. She was the first female leader of the students representative Council she emerged such in 1985 after the then Student Union leader Mr now Chief Jide Awe was suspended as an aftermath of a serious student demonstration .Bimbo it was who organised the election that led to the emergence of Yomi Gidado as the 3rd democratically elected SUG President between 1988 and 89. Gidado came after Tiewei Julius and Jide Awe



**O**layinka Oyinlade Onipede was born on 5th May, 1969. Her father was Chief Abraham Olanrewaju Onipede and her mother was Marian Oyeladun Onipede. She is from Ayedun Ekiti. Olayinka Oyinlade Onipede attended St Peters Demonstration Primary school, Akure. She also attended FGCC, Calabar and FGC, Idoani for her secondary education, after which she proceeded to the then Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti where she obtained bachelor of science (B.Sc Hons) in Chemistry, in 1992. She then proceeded for her one year mandatory youth service NYSC between 1993 and 1994. She obtained a masters degree in Business Administration from Kensington University, Glendale ,California in 1997. She joined the service of Wema Bank Plc in 1998 and worked in various capacities until September 2011. She attended several management and leadership training as a banker.

She was a recipient of OSUA Connection Legacy Foundation.



Adebiyi Adesuyi is a banker, a business coach, and a development consultant. He was born in Ilesa, Osun State on April 20, 1965 to the late Mr. Oluyemi Adesuyi and Mrs. Grace Adesuyi of Ile-Oluji.

He is married to Mrs. Folasade Adesuyi nee Oladele. His wife is a Director in the Civil Service of Osun State. Both of them are blessed with two sons, Ademayowa and Adebanjo.

## EDUCATION

He attended Ebenezer African Church Primary School, Ago-Taylor, Ibadan from 1971 to 1976. He had his secondary education at Gboluji Grammar School, Ile-Oluji from 1976 to 1981; and Federal School of Arts and Science, Victoria Isl

and, Lagos from 1981 to 1982. He studied Banking and Finance in Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti (now Ekiti State University) from 1985 to 1989 where he obtained his BSc degree (Second Class Upper Division). He did his postgraduate programme in Delta State University, Abraka from 1999 to 2000 where he obtained MBA degree (special focus on Marketing).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

He worked as a Budget Control Officer in Industrial Training Fund, Kano during his NYSC programme from 1990 to 1991. He was employed in Oceanic Bank International Plc in January 1992 and worked in the Bank till December 2009. While in Oceanic Bank, he worked in Operations, Control, Retail Banking and Corporate Banking Departments of the Bank. At various times, he managed Daleko Branch, Festac Branch and Ojo Cantonment Branch of the Bank. His professional services in the Bank also offered him the opportunities to manage medium and large scale clients in oil and gas, telecommunications, import and export, manufacturing and service sectors. He left the Bank in 2009 and began to run his own business.

Today, he is the Managing Director of Wealthgate Advisors (a consulting firm). He is also the Executive Chairman of Wealthgate Global Investments Limited.

Adebiyi is a quintessential professional who is always willing to contribute to the progress of our

society.

## My OSUA story

I studied Banking and Finance in the University. The curriculum was rich and it prepared me for a successful career in the banking industry. Our lecturers were brilliant and caring. I must mention the late Professor Joshua Ade Ojo who got the defunct Owena Bank to create and fund a professorial chair for Banking and Finance in the University.

Although Professor Ojo was a lecturer at University of Lagos at the time. He used his influence to get other good lecturers for our department. He also taught me and my coursemates, being the pioneer students of Banking and Finance, for four academic sessions from 1985 when we were admitted to 1989 when we graduated. He always came from the University of Lagos to teach us every other weekend. He was the father of Banking and Finance in the University.

His immeasurable services led OSUA BFN '89 to create Professor Joshua Ade Ojo's Prize for the best student in Banking and Finance in the University with N50,000 cash award. The endowment fund was created in 2021.

I am the Chairman of OSUA BFN '89. It is the Alumni Association of those of us who were the pioneer graduates of Banking and Finance Department in 1989. We have been using the Association to give back to the University. We will continue to do so.

**ADEBIYI  
ADESUYI**

BANKER | BUSINESS COACH  
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

*"We need to find interesting and constructive ways to find the spotlight for the School to bring necessary focus"*

**-Dolapo Adesigbin, B.sc Philosophy (OSUA)**



#### **TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF**

I started school very early in life. I went for 'A' levels roughly for a year before I got admission into OSUA. I studied Philosophy. I actually wanted to study Law, I did not make the cut-off mark for Law and I remember an uncle who was a Legal Practitioner at that time advised me saying "look, If a University offers you Philosophy take it, as a Lawyer, when we come in contact with colleagues with degrees in Philosophy we find them extremely effective in the law court with the way they conduct themselves". He encouraged me

to go and study Philosophy. Although I did not pursue the legal career but having a first degree in Philosophy has been immense in my ability to challenge things and understand arguments on diverse subjects. Philosophy has been really very useful for me. After OSUA, I came abroad I wanted to play in the stock market and the first thing I did was to register to be trained as a qualified Security and Future

Derivatives Representative (SFDR) that is a qualification that allows you to operate within the financial sector particularly derivatives, shares and other financial instruments. I went from that into IT. I also did a Post Graduate Diploma in Information System Management and lots of Certification courses in different Information Technologies.

#### **WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN OSUA BACK IN THE DAYS?**

I think we were blessed but we

did not realize it at that point because we compared it with other Universities, which is all we knew at that time. We were going to an off campus University, having to face the challenges of transportation, finding your own accommodation, negotiating with landlords and all the other challenges of an off campus system, which was not the norms in Nigeria at that time. I think it is such a blessing because we had responsibility from early on to operate from within societies because we lived among the people who were hosting the University. It gave us the opportunity to live amongst the people and socialize in their midst. For those who were not from the environment, we learnt the culture and the language. We were leaving home for the first time, transplanted into another community where we became part of the community. Ekiti State has a reputation for valuing academics and I think that Ekiti sons and daughters who were Lecturers in other Universities across Nigeria who felt they had to give something back to the State came back to teach at the University. We got a lot of good lecturers. In my Department, we had a lot of visiting lecturers, we did not lack quality education. A lot of Ekiti sons and daughters came back home. So, we had the benefit of that impartation on our education and it was immense. We got the best.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LIKE?**



***“I have always  
been Blessed”***



**ADEBIYI OLUWASEUN**  
Pastor, Christ Embassy

ADEBIYI, Oluwaseun Adetola Jordan, is an accomplished Clinical Audit Consultant with practical research experience in the food, health and social care industry in the United Kingdom National Health Service,(NHS) spanning over 20 years.

He attended The Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti, where he obtained a B.Sc degree in Sociology and Anthropology in 1998. He had other degree in Project Planning and Management 2011 and a Masters in Criminology from the Buckinghamshire New University High Wycombe in 2013 respectively.

His working career started when he joined the National Population Commission in 1989, as part of the pioneer Vital Registration Officers deployed to change the way birth and death records was collected,

recorded and archived.

He was part of the cartographic demarcation and enumeration of the population of Nigeria during the 1990 pre-census. In 1991 during the census he led the delegation of statisticians, chief Facilitators to Benue state as the Lagos State coordinating contingent lead. In 1999 he was deployed to the Government House Security and Protocol.

In 2001, He proceeded to the United Kingdom for further studies and he went on to start his own firm specialising in security and researches into foods and gems all this during his studies.

He joined the department of works as Employment Adviser for people with Disabilities and during this period he was able to help the organizations get in roads and cut barriers for disabled people to get into main stream

employment using the then newly enacted

disability act benefits for employers who eterto would not employ people with disabilities due to structural building barriers but he was able to raise funds for organizations who were willing to support the disable people.

He started his research into the food and agriculture when he attended the BAME programme organised by the NHS on the difficulties people within the BAME go through in getting the right food for BAME diabetic patients.

One of his food research in partnership with Jolamy foods is the Avarah flour formally called PUPURU - Cassava flour. Presently selling on the high end stores in United Kingdom as organic product from Nigeria.

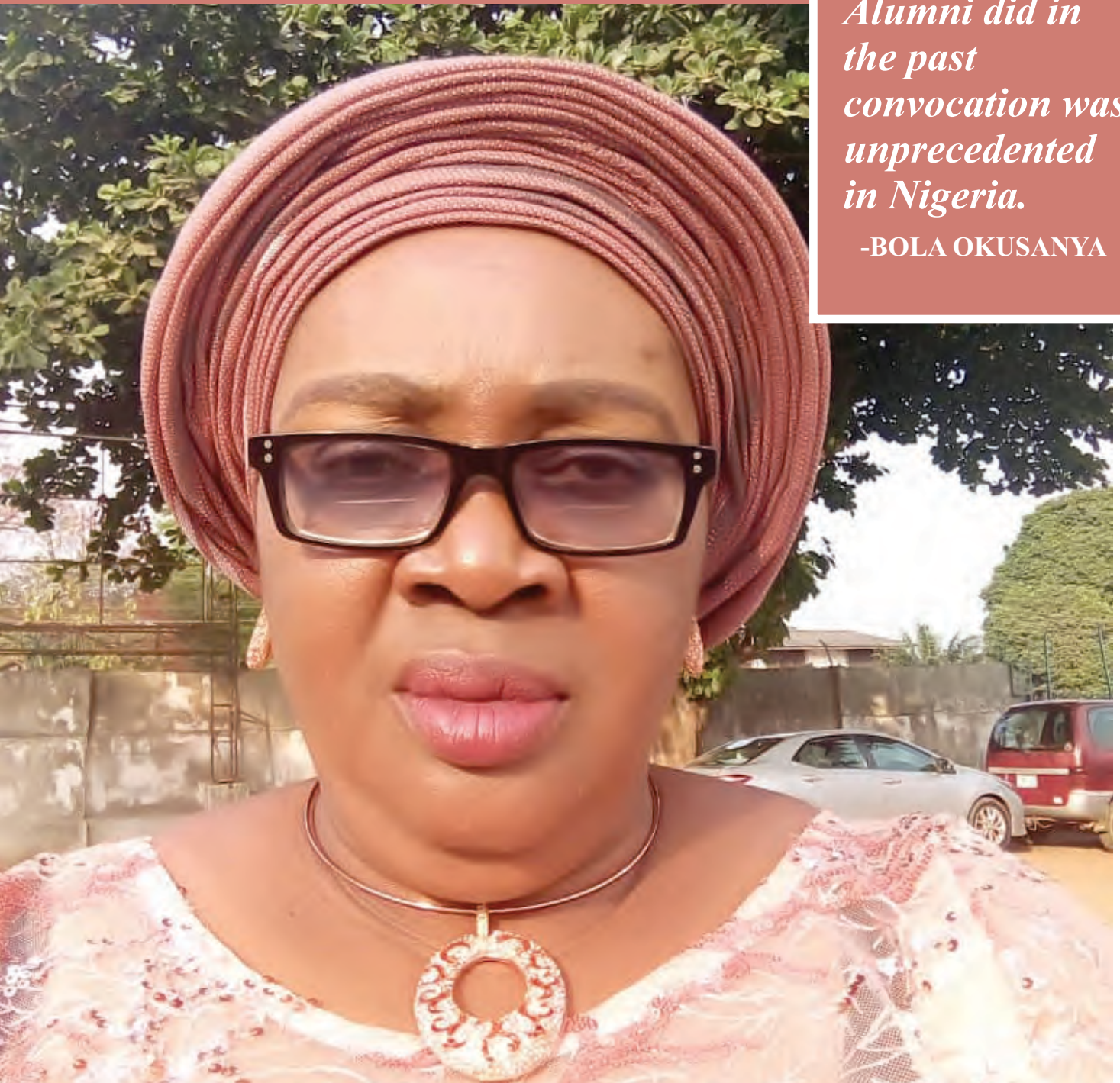
He is passionate about farming for export and has his farms are in Egua in Ogun State,(rice farm) Saaki in Oyo state (Maize and Soya bean silo) and Kubuwa in Abuja (cattleranch)

He was a member of the Caretaker Committee of the United Kingdom/Ireland Alumni association of the Ekiti State University.

Presently, Tola is leading his expatriate partners on the rejuvenation of the abandoned state Feed Mill for export in Afao Ekiti.

*What EKSU Alumni did in the past convocation was unprecedented in Nigeria.*

**-BOLA OKUSANYA**



**B**ola Okusanya is a passionate Alumna, always at the forefront of Alumni activities.

Born in Ondo town on 2nd March 1967 and had her education in Ondo, it was easy for her to choose to study at the then Ondo State University.

She worked on a lot of ground breaking medical experiments with renowned practitioners in the course of her job as a fellow medical laboratory Scientist.

On the Alumni I got actively involved with the Alumni Association during the time of Bar Kola Ajayi but before then I have been with OSUA Connection.

What we are doing in EKSU Alumni is unprecedented in Nigeria, during the last Convocation we have out prize money in millions and this has come to stay.



When we started the ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, initially I was involved to a very great extent and eventually I drifted as a result of few personal factors. I was only recently reacquainted through a friend of mine who noticed he hadn't seen me on the Alumni Association Platforms. Having only just reconnected with the ALUMNI COMMUNITY and I intend to be fully engaged.

### **WHAT IS YOUR KIND OF POLITICS?**

My story is a complicated one. When I left Nigeria in 1997, I was an Economic migrant and not a Political one. The reasons why I left were basically economic and everything I knew about Nigeria just made me break down in tears. At a point I got challenged by my wife who asked me, "All these tears that you shed, what have they changed about Nigeria". One holiday, I came back to Nigeria and in the course of the visit, I saw a couple of women gathered on the street. I walked up to them to find out what the problem was. I was shocked to find out that a heavily pregnant homeless woman who slept on the patio of a flat next door just delivered a baby boy. This really made me sad. On my trip back to the UK, the taxi man who took me to the Airport was having a conversation that an election was scheduled in Lagos State in a few months' time and I decided I am going to be part of the election. So I came back, dropped my bag and prepared. When I came, I began analysis of the political environment in my constituency. In 2011, I contested for the first time as a Local Council Chairman. I was the PDP flagbearer for Onigbongbo LCDA. I also

contested in 2015 and in 2019. In 2023, I decided to abstain from politics.

### **HOW CAN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MAKE THE SCHOOL BETTER?**

If we compare the name change to the UNILAG situation then we will miss what strikes as a fundamental difference between both scenarios so it is just like comparing apples to oranges. In the case of UNILAG, Lagos has not changed its name and so they could resist changing that name. With OSUA, there is Ekiti State creation from Ondo State. The name change to Ekiti State University is inevitable. One thing we need to do is to celebrate ourselves more. I do not think we celebrate ourselves enough, although it is rich coming from a person who only just reconnected with the Alumni about a month ago. There are so many of us who have gone to do immense things. We are extremely successful in the things we have laid our hands upon in public and private sectors. And, when you engage and see some of the things we are doing, you begin to ask yourself some rhetorical questions. We do not put ourselves out there enough, we must attract the spotlight, the light will not find us, we must attract the light. We need to find interesting ways to find and beam the spotlight on our school, which will in turn bring the necessary focus of government to the school and make it an attractive environment for the public sector to also invest their money in research sponsorships and different other areas. It will also encourage students to make the University their 1<sup>st</sup> choice.

### **FINALLY, WHAT IS YOUR**

### **ADVICE FOR THE CURRENT CLASSES OF STUDENTS?**

My advice to them is to keep focusing on the things that matter. Make sure you are majoring in the major and stay away from the minor things. Focus on your Education. Focus on being the best you can be. You have a lot of people; great men and women that have gone ahead of you. They should just give it their best, it might be tough. EKSU builds you and prepares you for tomorrow, just focus on major things and leave the minor things.



A portrait of Oribamise Tosin, a young woman with her hair in braids, wearing a red and gold patterned shawl over a grey top. She is resting her chin on her hand and looking towards the camera.

# ORIBAMISE TOSIN

Oribamise Tosin Esther born November 27, 2001 is an Nigeria Table Tennis Player who hails from Ire-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

Oribamise has been said to be a revelation to Nigeria and Africa Table Tennis after her Amazing Performance in the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, UK and At the African Championship Earlier this Year in Nairobi, Kenya.

She started Playing Table Tennis at the Age of 5. Oribamise is believed to be the Perfect Replacement for Funke Oshonaike, Cecilia Akpan and Edem Offiong as they will soon retire from the Sports.

She is a Graduate of Human and Kinetics and Health Education from Ekiti State University (EKSU) and Has A lot Of National, Continental and World Medals to her Name.

## WHAT LED YOU INTO TABLE TENNIS?

There was this day ,I was in primary school, there was this tournament that was supposed to be held ( Primary Pupils in Ekiti State), for Ado local government then, they didn't have any primary school pupil that could play table tennis. So the state coach as at then came to Emmanuel Cathedral, fortunately he came to my school and I was one of the pupils that he picked that day, a mini table tennis board was brought to my school just to see the pupils who had natural knowledge of the game without teaching at all. After doing that, he picked myself and three other pupils. He gave us a week training before the tournament and to God's glory, I came second in the competition and that is how it all started.

## THERE'S NO STANDARD FACILITY FOR TABLE TENNIS IN ADO EKITI, SO HOW DID YOU DEVELOP YOURSELF?

All I can say is that it has been the grace of God and the determination of my coach.

## YOUR DAYS IN OSUA COMBINING STUDYING WITH TENNIS?



I just have to acknowledge God, The Vice Chancellor of the school, Sport Director and my lecturers were all in support of me.

I can say their massive support encouraged me although it was not easy because during my first and second year in school, I was never around. I could remember a particular semester that I was not in school. I just thank God for the preferences I received in terms of attendance and then assignment. All thanks to Prof Bandele the vice chancellor then. My focus was just on the exams, I thank God for my course mates, they always send me the hand outs and lesson notes.

#### **YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDENTS?**

I had a very good relationship with most of my mates because I am a very free person and I know that am going to need them one way or the other. I have a cordial

relationship with my course mates up till date.

#### **HOW WILL YOU DESCRIBE EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY?**

Ekiti State University is not just an institution to me it is an avenue that got things for me while in school. Looking at my mates that we are actually into the same career then combining academics, all they do is complaining. The four years I spent in Ado Ekiti was just like me been in a support system. I had a wonderful experience in the school. University of Ekiti State gave me the best support of my life.

#### **WAS THERE ANY PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT?**

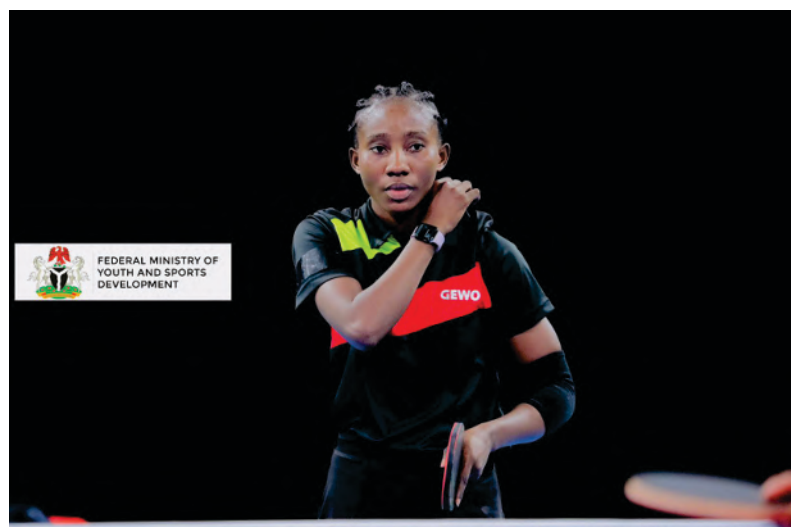
Yes, to be honest in terms of attendance and then assignment. In terms of Examination, there's no preferential treatment

#### **WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR GIRLS WHO ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP THEMSELVES BOTH ACADEMIC WISE AND SPORTS**

To start with you have to be closer to God because without God nothing is possible. There are so much stigma when a girl is going into sport unlike the guys. Up till date most parents are still skeptical about their female kids going into sports. Secondly, you have to be disciplined because without discipline you can't do anything. Once you have discipline you have to be determined. Determination makes things fall in place. Determination and discipline is a very good combination for any young child who wants to be great.

#### **WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCCESS IN SPORTS,**

**TALENT OR HARD WORK** I will say both. As a matter of fact I think hard work.



# JUDE BABATUNDE SUNDAY ONYUIKE



## CAREER PATH, ACADEMICS IN OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY

I started with OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY later it became OSUA, then UNAD and now EKSU. My current career path and my sojourn to read English and literary studies where I begged my bachelor of arts in OSUA in 1986 being the first set. Today, I practice as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, I do solicitorship and advocacy, I thank God for the opportunity to have read English In OSUA under very capable hands. I remember several wonderful lecturers such as Dr babalola, prof ashaolu the Great English men of UI and so many. I thank God for the great impactation, it's a thing of joy today complementing my professional and coming out brilliant on everything I lay my hands upon. With my background in English, I confess that many judges were amazed

even in the English class of OSUA, I came out beautiful too.

## PERIOD IN OSUA

My period in OSUA no doubt has greatly impacted on what I am today, In everywhere I go to, since English have being the means of communication all over Nigeria, the tool I acquired which is English has helped me pulled through and it got me the best popular land light. In 1987, I went to Ogun State for NYSC, and I was appointed Student public relations ( Corpers media officer) under the camp PRO and I won the NYSC award right at the camp. Governor Raji Rasaki gave me the honor and said after my NYSC, I should resume to OGTV to start casting news as a result of my brilliant performance.

Right there on the field, when the Governor announced it, I turned down the offer and was shocked and amazed. I told him that if I start working in OGTV, I will lose the interest to become a lawyer and the Governor reasoned with me and said "if there's anything you need in Ogun State just come to the Governor's house" but God was there for me and I didn't have any reason to go back to him (Governor). That's where the brilliance impacted in me by OSUA took me. Kudos to OSUA.

## EMOTIONS OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The 40th anniversary is a thing of great delight. There's a humorous reflection now as I look back on how time has fled. It shows God in His Infinite Wisdom and an imagination of how day and night moves to become 40 years. I thank God for the production of the University. I went on to the University of Ibadan to do my Second Degree in Civil law, After that I went to University of Lagos to do my masters on International law and diplomacy. I was a Scholar. I

went into NGO world during Prisoners Rehabilitation and welfare power where I was a volunteer and rose to become the head of Rehabilitation Support And Care Unit. I have travelled to Kenya, UK, Scotland, I deliver lectures in presenting Nigeria here and there it's been wonderful.

## SWEET MEMORIES OF OSUA

OSUA has come to stay. By the Special Grace of God, I've not broken strings with them, I remain part of the Ola oba family of the campus. They practically adopt as their son. The ola oba family practically adopted us.

I dived into politics, I became the first president of Students Union Government and historical set of Nigeria PRO, 1st chair man of Ola Oba Hostel, president of Cardinal Settings. All of our colleagues and all juniors we are at good place and it is a great and sweet memory to behold.

## SOUR MEMORIES

We had classmates who fought for Human Rights not like these days when students voice are not heard. Then, we had conversed with the government and we had the consequences ( Days of Grade Radicalism). My role model was Prof R. O Faloye our great Margaret Tacha. I can never forget her bending principles. You can't pass through Tacha Administration In Ado Ekiti and come out the same. Mummy Ola oba is a great role model of what a working passionate mother should be. Dr Ashaola a complete English Man, He's from ikere Ekiti, He was my H. O. D. Dr Babalola they are my role model for they impacted on me greatly.

My name is Jude Babatunde Sunday Onyuike. I was part of the first set, 1982 to 1986, I read English and literary studies, I have Bachelors of Arts and have added other degrees including law.



EKSU @40 Gala  
at The O2 Intercontinental  
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