



THE CITADEL

A Great Ife Alumni Association DFW Magazine

Vol. 6 Edition 1, Jan. 2026



Throw Back!



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THE CITADEL

Volume 6 Edition 1, January 2026

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THE CITADEL is a Great Iife Alumni Association, Dallas Branch Magazine. Available @ <https://dfw.greatifealumni.org>
 EDITORIAL BOARD: **Dolapo Ajayi** (Publisher); **Tiwa Ehiametalor** (Editor-in-Chief); **Mr Ayokunle Kolawole** (PRO GIAA);
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Special Five-year Commemorative Edition



students through our Dallas Scholars Initiative, a testament to our collective generosity and commitment to educational excellence. We then launched a structured mentorship program for our Dallas Scholars, creating meaningful connections that will shape their academic and professional journeys. Additionally, we provided a free online learning platform to both our members and Dallas Scholars, opening doors to continuous growth and development.

Our spirit of service shone brightly through our community outreach to Minnie's Food Pantry and Feed My Starving Children, and our joyful family events in March and June that strengthened the bonds we share. We reaffirmed our commitment to our alma mater by pledging support for the renovation of Mozambique Hall. We also celebrated the remarkable achievements of several Dallas Scholars whose academic excellence continues to make us proud and validate our commitment to this awesome initiative.

Today, I am especially honored to present this special commemorative edition marking five years of *The Citadel*. For half a decade, this publication has been our voice, our chronicle, and our connection to one another. It has informed, inspired, and united us across distances. To every contributor who has shared their stories, every advertiser who has supported our vision, and every member of our editorial committee and chairpersons who have labored with dedication and creativity over these five years, thank you. Your commitment has made *The Citadel* the exceptional publication it is today.

The year 2026 has already begun on a triumphant note with the successful 3rd Dallas Scholars Awards ceremony held on January 22nd at Oduduwa

Greeeeat Ife !!

AS WE WELCOME THE DAWN OF 2026, I extend my warmest wishes to every member of the Great Ife Alumni Association and your families for a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. May this year bring abundant blessings, continued

success, and renewed strength to pursue our shared vision of excellence and service.

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with profound gratitude for what we accomplished together. We began the year with a historic milestone, awarding scholarships to 104 deserving



For half a decade, this publication has been our voice, our chronicle, and our connection to one another. It has informed, inspired, and united us across distances.”

Hall. The energy, pride, and celebration that filled that hall remind us of the transformative impact we continue to make in the lives of our scholars and their families.

As we embark on this new year, I issue a clarion call to every member: now is the time to stand up and be counted. Our association thrives because of your active participation. I urge you to attend our meetings, volunteer to serve on our various committees, and most importantly, fulfill your financial commitment by paying your annual membership dues. These contributions, of time, talent, and treasure, are not mere obligations; they are investments in our collective future and the legacy we are building together.

As you turn the pages of this special keepsake edition, I invite you to celebrate with us, celebrate five years of stories, five years of growth, and five years of the Great Ife spirit. Here's to many more years of excellence, unity, and service.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless the Great Ife Alumni Association, Dallas Branch!

Warm regards,

Dolapo Ajayi

President, Great Ife Alumni Association
Dallas-Fort Worth Branch, USA

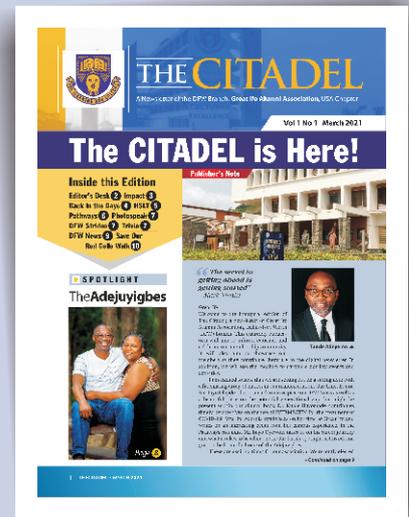
EVENTS RECAP

The 'Citadel' Is Here!

WHEN THE IDEA FOR A newsletter was conceived by the executive management of the Great Ife Alumni Association, DFW Branch, USA, a major consideration was that it should reflect the excellence that our Alma Mater is noted for. It was also decided that the newsletter should not lose sight of the “Learning and Culture” that Great Ife is noted for.

With these marching orders, an editorial team was constituted to chart and map out a sustainable and progressive action plan for birthing a publication that will be relevant to everyone who encounters it, have a global appeal, be informative, educative, and entertaining. It was such a herculean task for a team that had no professional journalist in its midst but driven by a sense of mission to conquer uncharted territory.

Today, we present to you the outcome of several weeks of research, networking, meetings, and jostling. From the process of choosing a title to the preliminary designs for the layout and getting volunteers to write articles and securing adverts, it has been one



heck of a jolly ride. The beauty of this accomplishment is in the fact that if the idea can be conceived, it can be achieved. There was never any doubt that we can do it.

As we launch “The Citadel” today, we are hopeful that we are contributing our quota from the Dallas-Fort Worth Branch of the Great Ife Alumni Association to the world of publishing with the hope that we shall be able to enrich information flow in a manner that is pleasant to our readers and the world, generally. Have a good read!

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Its The Dawn of A New Season As **TheCitadel** Glides Forward



WELCOME TO THIS commemorative edition of **The Citadel**. I consider it a great privilege to be saddled with the task of being the Editor-in-Chief of this unique and prestigious publication. I have come to realize that the task of coordinating an astute editorial team is more than a child's play. From sourcing materials for publication to beating deadlines, while managing my own personal and professional lives, is what has made this task daunting. However, I believe that with the support of the editorial team, we will continue to excel in our output.

From the last quarter of 2025, when Mr. Tayo Olajide stepped down as Editor-in-Chief, to this moment in time, it has been an intensive process of learning the rudiments of publishing a world class journal. Guided and assisted by the other editors, the tangent of the learning curve has not been so steep. The Citadel has always been about connection—sharing stories that celebrate our DFW GIAA Alumni Association, our history, starting from the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, and the paths our graduates and current students are

forging around the world.

Being a real estate broker, entrepreneur, mother and wife, I bring integrity, and strategic insight to every to The Citadel. I hold a degree in Estate Management from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, graduating in 2001, and further strengthened my business leadership skills by earning an MBA from the University of Houston–Victoria in 2024. My academic foundation, combined with years of hands-on experience, will enable me to navigate the dynamics of serving as Editor-in-Chief of The Citadel.

The Citadel began from humble beginnings. The newsletter is now recognized as the flagship of excellent journalism in the Great Ife Alumni Association worldwide. It was even mooted by the USA chapter for The Citadel to become the official newsletter of the chapter. That consideration was flatly rejected by the DFW branch. It can only be hoped that The Citadel will continue to strive for excellence in informing, educating, and entertaining our wide readership. I am looking forward to serving in this role, shedding light on the collective efforts of this alumni association, brainstorming with my team to improve how we can ensure that 'The Citadel' is well recognized, and our message is passed across to all alumni and students.

*Tiwa Ehiamentalor,
Editor-in-Chief*



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Bridging the Generational Divide: One Alumni Association!

“Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it” - George Orwell

GREAT IFE, Africa's foremost Ivory Tower and most beautiful university campus, is where learning and culture are the enduring pillars and the grappling irons that have bound generations of Alumni together. The Great Ife Alumni Association branches, worldwide, are shining examples of the bonds that get formed through the portals of our Alma Mater. Its unique and sonorous anthem, when sung, unites, lifts the soul, and often is the rallying battle cry against oppression and social injustice.

However, despite all the commonalities that bind and unite the Alumni, it is observed that one generation class is most often in charge of the association's affairs, while the other generational classes usually take the back seat. There has to be a bridge connecting all generations. I guess that this must be one of the primary purposes of the Association. If we can all agree that each generation has something important to bring to the table - a fantastic idea, a project, or an activity, then the bridge is half-built. Bridging this generational divide can be achieved through a collective and conscious effort where every alumnus takes this as an essential task.

With the great strides that had been achieved in the Dallas-Fort Worth



branch to bridge this divide, the year 2020 nearly upset the apple cart. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic forced us all back to our homes and reduced our interactions to the Zoom platform. As a result of the pandemic, our Alumni Association's ever-cheerful meetings defaulted to Zoom meetings. So, the lavish variety of home-cooked meals, choice drinks, colorful music, and the after-meeting networking disappeared from the agenda. Thankfully, the pandemic has shown us how connected the world is,

and we are all eager to get back to interpersonal, physical interactions.

One positive outcome from the Zoom meetings is that the association has leveraged the platform to further reduce the generational gap. Hopefully, we shall continue in this spirit of oneness when we resume our physical meetings.

Tayo Olajide, Editor-in-Chief ,
The Citadel, March 2021



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Balancing Personal and Work Life

By **John Oluwagbemiga**

SUCCESS IN LIFE CANNOT BE unidirectional. It must be all-inclusive. Essentially, success in life must factor in the professional and personal front if it is to be comprehensively determined. A person can achieve success on both the professional and personal fronts when that person knows how to maintain a good balance between personal and professional life. Sadly, many people have their success skewed in one direction or the other.

A critical step in achieving a balance between both personal and professional life is true analysis of one's life. A person should rise above self-delusion and deceit in the process of self-analysis. It is required that all strengths, weaknesses, opportunities should be acknowledged. With this process completed, all the work and personal activities should be listed. Care must be taken not to overlook or neglect any.

It is not required at this stage that one should be methodical. Rather, all the details should be listed in the random order that they are being remembered until the memory is exhausted. Thereafter, all the personal and professional activities should be rearranged in order of priority and importance. A Priority Matrix can be deployed in this evaluation. Simply

“A critical step in achieving a balance between both personal and professional life is true analysis of one's life. A person should rise above self-delusion & deceit in the process of self-analysis



divide a square into four smaller squares. Name each square in this order – Important, Necessary, Important and Necessary, Not Important and Not Necessary.

Upon completion of this exercise, a person will be able to recognize where

energy and attention should be deployed. Eventually, such a person will become more balanced, concentrated, and dependable. The person will also be able to allocate resources judiciously in pursuit of both professional and personal goals. Most importantly, the person will have a positive feeling of achievement and encouragement.

When a person is balanced, he is better able to connect with others. Such a person becomes more discerning and his empathy level is increased. The person is also able to control his impulses and can understand the emotions of other people. Long story short, the person will be better organized in thoughts, words, and actions. It will also be possible to measure outputs and set goals.

When a person understands what is important between the professional and personal life, he can portray himself to other people as being capable of managing himself as well as other people. This is one of the defining factors in advancing professionally and personally. High self-esteem and happiness can be noticed in the life of anyone that can balance the professional and personal fronts. It is critical for everyone to understand what is important and necessary in every sphere of life.

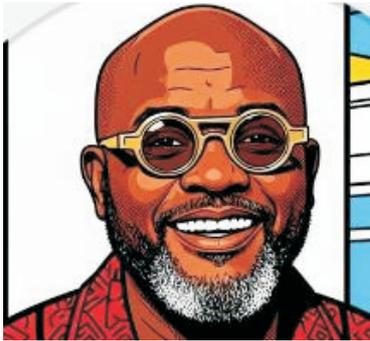
BIRTHDAYS

A Key event at every monthly meeting is the birthday celebration of members within that meeting month. This is usually coordinated by the Membership Committee and the Office of the

Welfare Secretary, **Mrs Vera Edebiri**. Birthdays for registered members, on the registration portal of the Association's web-site, are always announced on the WhatsApp platform, and collec-

tively celebrated at the monthly meetings. For October, November, December 2025 and January 2026, the usual celebrations were held. Celebrants for this quarter are shown below.

OCTOBER CELEBRANTS



Mr. Taiwo Igbinyemi



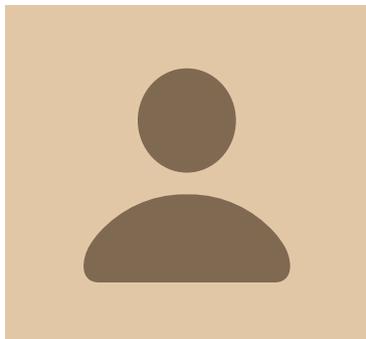
Mrs. Mary Omiyale



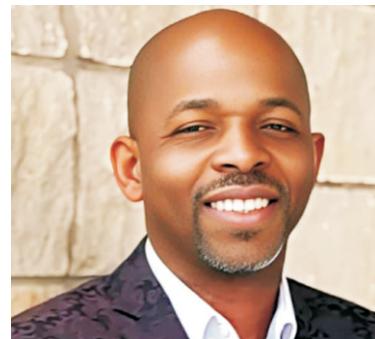
Mr. Olusegun Abolaji



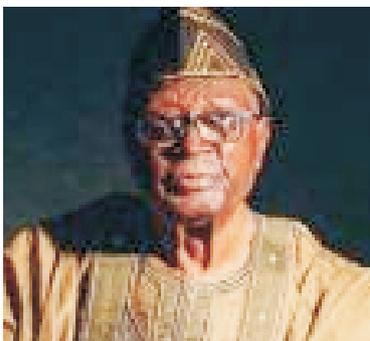
Mr. Ayokunle Ayowole-Obi



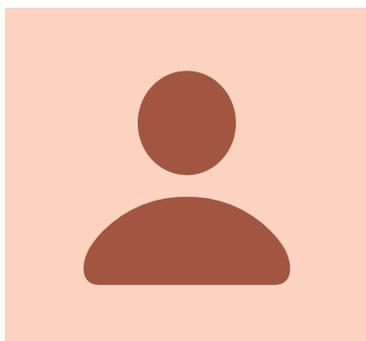
Mr. Otiotoakeke Akinola



Mr. Oluwaleye Oluwatula



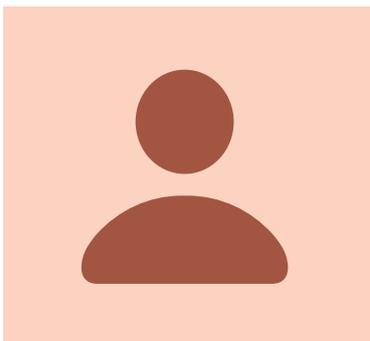
Mr. Dapo Lawrence Ajayi



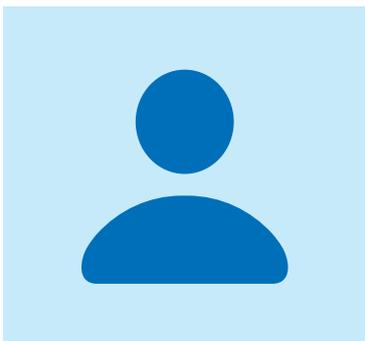
Mr. Ibrahim Ayilara

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER CELEBRANTS



Mrs. Joko Ogunsemi



Mr. Yemi Oteyowo



Ms. Clara Iyere



Mr. Oluwaseun Olanipekun



Mr. Olabintan Tolulope



Mrs. Abimbolola Olumuyiwa



Mrs. Grace Ketefe



Prof. Olanrewaju Awotona



Mr. Segun Adetola

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER CELEBRANTS



Mrs. Modupe Uwe-Sweet



Mr. John Oluwagbemiga



Mr. Omololu Omitiju



Mr. Akinwonuola Awujoola



Mrs. Oluwatosin Adewumi



Dr. Ibidunni Ukegbu



Ms. Abosede Thompson



Mr. Emmanuel Mordi



Mrs. Ife Adesola



Mr. Rotimi Jaiyesimi



Dr. Funke Jinadu



Mrs. Abiodun Adesemoye



Mrs. Vera Edebiri



Mrs. Ugo Olutunla



Dr. Dapo Afolabi

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY CELEBRANTS



Mr. Seun **Banjoko**



Mrs. Lade **Solarin**



Mr. Shola **Bolomope**



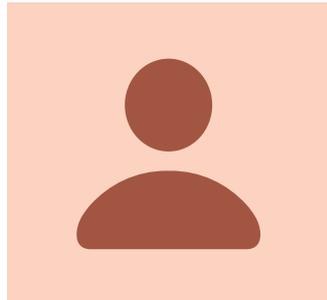
Mrs. Busayo Seyi **Adeyemo**



Mr. Oyewale **Oguntuyi**



Mr. Yinka **Oshe**



Mr. Kayode **Olumiyiwa**



Mr. Olanrewaju **Olarotimi**



Mr. Adekunle **Segun**



Mr. Tosan **Aduayi**



Mrs. Florence **Olumodimu**



Mrs. Oluyomi **Nwokeji**



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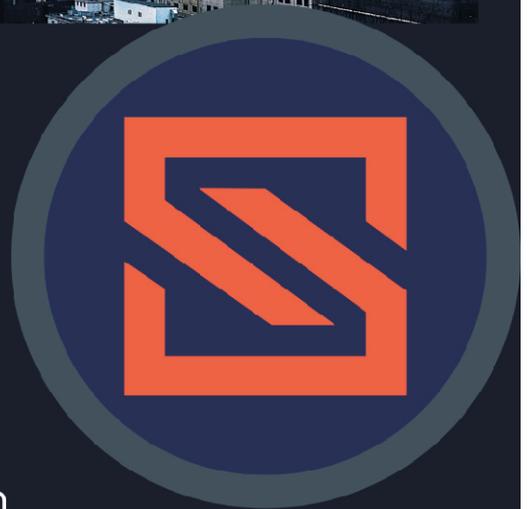
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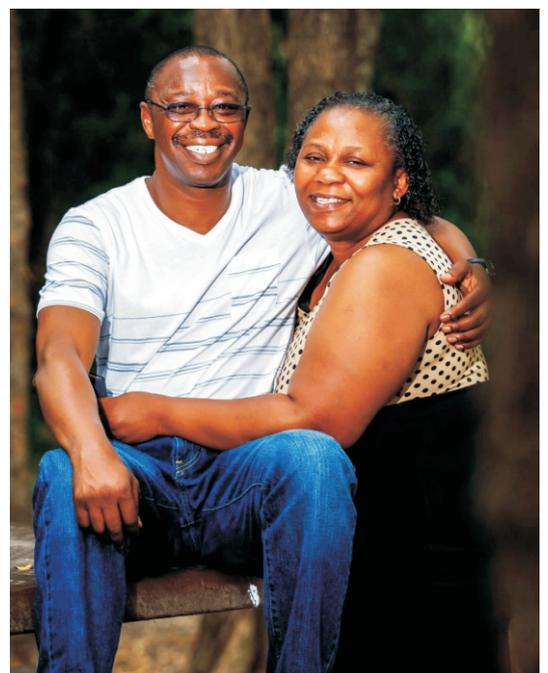
TOKS and BUNMI ADEJUYIGBE are both alumni of the University of Ife (B.Sc Computer Sciences with Economics). Both work as Consultants in the IT Sector.

They met in 1985, got married in 1990 and are blessed with 2 awesome kids – A son (Oluwademilade – Lives and works in the movie industry in California) and a daughter (Temiloluwa – Medical Student).

The family moved to the Metroplex from the UK in 1996 and have lived in Plano since 1998.

The family enjoys traveling (Locally and Internationally), reading, board games and volunteering and participating in Alumni organized activities.

Toks loves Golf but will readily admit he spends more times in the woods than on the fairway.





My Journey So Far

- Ibidolapo Ajayi



My name is Ibidolapo Ajayi, the third of five children in the family of Emmanuel and Cecilia Ajayi (both of blessed memory). I attended Sacred Heart Primary School, Oke Ayo, and African Church Grammar School, Apata, Ibadan, for my secondary education. In 1983, I secured admission to the University of Ife to study Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences. I undertook my NYSC in Bauchi State with the Central Bank of Nigeria and

moved to the United Kingdom in November 1989, where I met my darling wife two years later. We are blessed with five wonderful children (three boys and two girls).

My beautiful wife is a Texas-licensed Real Estate Agent with over 15 years experience and an Adjunct Professor at Dallas Christian College. My oldest son is an NFL player who won the Super Bowl with the Philadelphia Eagles in

2018. My second son is a graduate of Sports Management from Liberty University in Virginia and an aspiring professional football player. My first daughter is a sophomore at the University of North Texas, studying Public Health, and plans to be a medical doctor. My third son, a Senior at Liberty High School Frisco, loves world history and playing football. My second daughter and last born is a sophomore at Liberty High School Frisco and a track athlete who enjoys playing soccer.

I relocated to the USA in 2000. We moved to Plano in 2001 and have lived here ever since. In 2012, I co-founded a mobile phone company, SOLO Phone, with a friend and served as the Managing Director until the end of my tenure in December 2015. I ventured into the entertainment space and started working on a feature film produced in 2017, released in Nigeria and Ghana in 2019, and North America and Europe in 2021. I presently serve as the President of The Movement Pro Pictures USA, founded in May 2020, and a registered member of the Dallas Producers Association.

What led to your choice of OAU as your Institution of Higher Learning? I chose OAU because of the prestige and profile of the school and graduated in 1987 with a B.Sc. in Economics.

What role has OAU played in becoming who you are today? OAU gave me the foundation to be the versatile, determined, creative, analytical, and free-thinking person I am today. The school also injected me with the “aluta”



PERSONALITY SPOTLIGHT



spirit.

What motivates you? I am motivated by the desire to leave the world a better place than I met it. I am doing my little bit to make changes in people's lives and helping where there is a need and leaving a good legacy.

What are you passionate about and why? I am passionate about telling African stories to the global audience through the media of TV and Film. I believe the world craves authentic African stories. My goal is to work with creatives across Africa and the diaspora in making this a reality.

What were your favorite memories/experiences as a student of OAU? In my first year as a student, I became Social Secretary of Angola Hall. I also played soccer for the Faculty of Social Sciences. I have fond memories of time spent at the SUB, the social and cultural events at Oduduwa hall like the *Tudmont Show*, Mr. Campus and film screening, and the campus magazines like *The Cobra*. Trips to *Old Buka* were soon overtaken by visits to the *New Buka* complex with their upscale competing menus. My memories will be incomplete without mentioning two of my lecturers; the swashbuckling and brilliant Rwandan, Pierre Mutambuka and the *Ekiti* hard man, *MacFabro Fabayo*. Those two showed us pepper in their courses!!



How do you see the Alumni body impacting our Alma Mater? The Alumni body, both local and international, can be the catalyst to restoring the glory and prestige of our great Alma Mater. We can impact in some specific areas by providing scholarships, mentoring, and providing employment opportunities to deserving students and graduates. Contributing to infrastructure projects is another way the Alumni body can impact our Alma Mater, an example being the Angola Hall fencing project being undertaken by the DFW Chapter (Texas).

What changes would you like to see in our Alma Mater in the next five years? I would love to see OAU regain a semblance of what once was Africa's most beautiful campus coupled with great strides in our academic prowess. This will hopefully lead to a situation where the best student applicants across Nigeria and the continent are gaining admission to our alma mater rather

than private universities. An ideal situation will be where the school becomes semi-autonomous with less dependence on the Federal government for funds. I believe this can be achieved via endowments common in colleges in the United States. The OAU brand must be carefully restored back to its glory days.

Tell us a few things that someone will be surprised to know about you. Growing up, I was infatuated with Indian films, and would often sneak out of boarding house to go watch films at KS Cinema, Odeon, Scala, Rex Cinema. Made my first TV appearance on NTA Ibadan in a quiz show called *Fastest and Best*; I was a Sports Analyst on Galaxy TV in Nigeria from 2006 - 2010. I moonlighted as a Licensed FIFA Match and Players' Agent in the early 2000s. I was a member of the choir and played drums at my former church in London in the 90s, and currently a Political Analyst on TVC in Nigeria.

What do you do when you are not working? I am an avid sports fan and a long-suffering Arsenal fan from my years living in North London. I enjoy watching sports (Soccer, American Football, and Basketball). I love watching movies, reading, and listening to music, discussing US politics and hanging out with family and friends.

Ibidolapo Ajayi, Sept. 10, 2021



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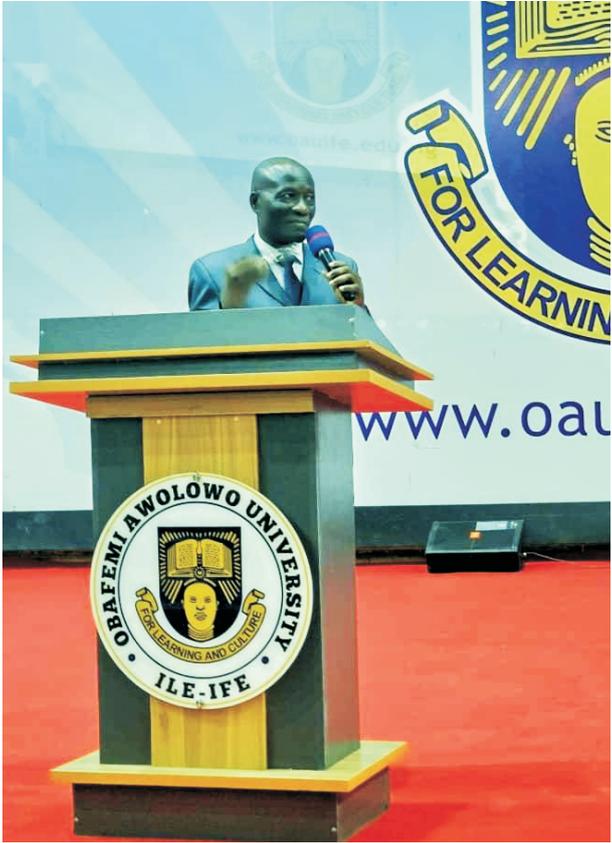
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SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY







OAU alumni branch awards N20.8m scholarships

THE Great Iife Alumni Association, Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Branch, has awarded 104 scholarships worth N20.8 million to outstanding students of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife.

The association held its third Dallas Scholars Award Ceremony at the Oduduwa Hall.

President of the DFW Branch, Mr. Dolapo Ajayi, during a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adebayo Bamire, said the initiative was designed to reward academic excellence and ease the financial burden on deserving students.

Each beneficiary received N200,000 as a non-refundable monetary grant aimed at supporting essential needs such as tuition and accommodation, thereby allowing students to focus fully on their studies.

"This scholarship is not a loan. It is our way of supporting students who have demonstrated excellence and resilience, so they are not distracted by financial challenges," Ajayi said.

He explained that the Dallas Scholars Initiative began in 2024 with 52 awardees, expanded to 104 beneficiaries in 2025, and has been sustained at the same level in 2026.

He noted that the programme is structured to support students throughout their academic stay, provided they continue to meet the required criteria.

admitted into the programme following the graduation of some earlier beneficiaries.

He further disclosed that the selection process is handled solely by the association's Scholarship Award Team Leaders, including Mrs. Buni Adejuyigbe, Head of Internet, and Mr. Tokunbo Adejuyigbe, Head of the Planning Committee.

He noted that the committee operates independently of the university administration.

"We receive thousands of applications every year. Applicants submit a statement of purpose, academic records including CGPA, a résumé, and other supporting documents.

"The process is rigorous, competitive, and objective, and we even leverage technology, including AI, to ensure fairness," Ajayi added.

Acting Director of the Ad-

vancement Office, OAU, Dr. Adeduntan Segun-Olasanmi, described the initiative as a reflection of the alumni's enduring commitment to their alma mater.

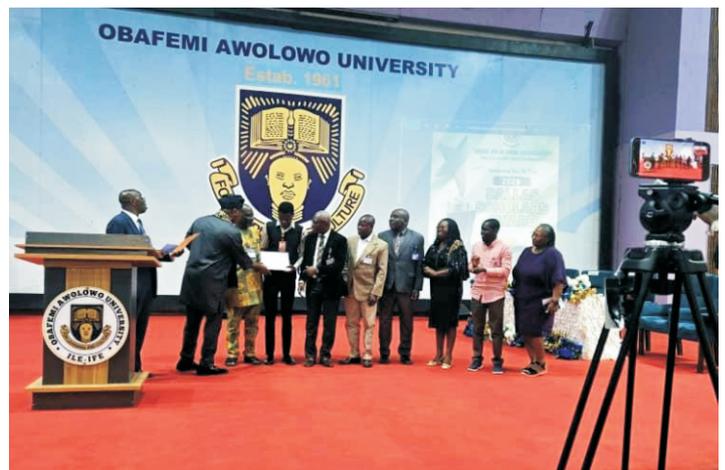
She revealed that with the latest awards, the Dallas-Fort Worth Branch has now funded 260 scholarships within three years, representing an investment of nearly N50 million in student development.

"These alumni have needs of their own, yet they continue to give back. This scholarship has transformed the lives of many beneficiaries. Several scholars have graduated at the top of their classes, won departmental and faculty awards, and even secured international research collaborations," she said.

She praised the consistency of the initiative, noting that the university remains grateful for the sustained support.



Source: **The Nation**, Wednesday, January 28th, 2026





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5. Flexibility and Adaptability

Emotionally intelligent individuals are better at adapting to changes and handling uncertainty. They are more open to new ideas and different ways of working, which enhances the team's ability to adapt to evolving challenges and seize opportunities.

6. Positive Work Environment

High Emotional Intelligence contributes to a positive and inclusive work environment. When team members are attuned to each other's emotions and can manage their own effectively, it creates a supportive atmosphere where everyone feels valued and motivated to contribute their best.

7. Effective Leadership

Leaders with high emotional

intelligence are more attuned to their team's needs and can provide the necessary guidance and support. They inspire and motivate their team members, leading to improved morale and higher productivity.

8. Reduced Stress

Emotional Intelligence helps individuals manage stress and pressure. Team members who can handle their emotions in high-pressure situations are less likely to become overwhelmed, leading to better decision-making and improved teamwork.

9. Collaborative Problem Solving.

Emotional Intelligence enables team members to approach problem-solving collaboratively. They can leverage each other's strengths

and viewpoints, leading to more innovative and effective solutions.

10. Increased Employee Engagement.

When team members feel understood, supported, and valued, their overall engagement and job satisfaction increases. Engaged employees are more likely to invest their time and energy into their work, leading to higher productivity levels.

In essence, Emotional Intelligence fosters a more cohesive, respectful, and harmonious team dynamic. It empowers individuals to navigate challenges, communicate effectively, and work together towards shared objectives, ultimately boosting productivity and collaboration within the team.

Trivia & Jokes

By John Oluwagbemiga

1. A college physics professor was explaining a particularly complicated concept to his class one day when a pre-med student interrupted him.

"Why do we have to learn this stuff?" the student asked.

"To save lives," replied the professor.

The student thought for a moment and then asked, *"So how does physics save lives?"*

The professor stared at the student for a while without saying a word. Finally, he said, *"Physics saves lives because it keeps certain people out of*

medical school."

2. A college student was proudly showing off his new apartment to his friends one night after an evening out drinking.

One of them asked him, *"What's the big brass gong and hammer for?"*

"That's the talking clock," the student replied.

His friend was confused and asked, *"How does it work?"*

The student said, *"Watch..."* and then proceeded to give the gong an ear-shattering pound with the hammer.

Suddenly someone screamed from the other side of the wall, *"Knock it off will you, it's two o'clock in the morning!"*

3. A linguistics professor was lecturing to his English class one day.

"In English," he said, *"A double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language where a double positive can form a negative."*

A voice from the back of the room said, *"Yeah, right."*

Define Your Career Vision & Set Goals

“When I began my career in Information Technology back in the 1990s in Lagos, Nigeria, I envisioned becoming a world-class technologist—solving problems with cutting-edge innovation”

I still remember interviewing for a role at a promising new company, a start-up formed by four of Nigeria's leading banks. During the interview, I was asked a pointed question: “What are your career aspirations?” My answer was simple: “The opportunity to get into the bits and bytes of technology.” At the time, “IT” in Nigeria meant something very different from what it does today. Innovative solution development was rare. My interviewer understood my vision and concluded that the role I was interviewing for wasn't the right fit. But then he said something surprising—he promised to contact me if he ever came across a position that matched my aspirations.

Early in my career, I learned not only to think about my career vision, but also to write it down. And I made it a habit to revisit it annually—to clarify, refine, and align it with my growth and decision-making. That practice has anchored my journey for over three decades. Here are five ways a clear career vision has helped me—and how it can guide you:

1. Clarity of Purpose

Creating a personal vision allows you

to define success on your own terms. It helps you set a clear objective, guiding your choices and insulating you from

the pressures of external expectations. It's the difference between drifting with the tide and being the architect,



engineer, and builder of your own career.

For example, one of my long-held aspirations was to earn a doctorate. I was drawn to the idea of mastering a field and contributing to knowledge. After completing my bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering, it seemed logical to pursue a PhD in the same area. But I realized doing so would not advance the career vision I had already defined. Instead, I chose a different field – Information Security – that aligned with my broader purpose – one that helped me grow and contribute meaningfully to the world around me. That decision still gives me deep satisfaction.

2. Guides Career Decision-Making

A question I often get from young professionals entering the IT field is: “What’s the best area to specialize in?” My answer is always: “It depends.” I then engage them in conversation to uncover their deeper interests.

Once you have a sense of what success and fulfillment mean to you, decisions like which jobs to pursue, which certifications to earn, or which advanced degrees to take become clearer. A strong career vision shapes your personal brand—it helps the right opportunities find you.

In my case, a year after that initial interview, I ran into the same interviewer on a street in Lagos. He told me how hard he had searched for me—he now had the perfect role. I was invited to interview with the CEO (one of the sharpest minds I’ve worked with), and soon after, I joined the start-up as Head of Technology. It was one of the first companies to introduce smart-card payment technology to Nigeria. The job was challenging and innovative—it felt like home. But the “world-class” part of my vision was still miss-

ing. That piece of the puzzle would eventually lead me to Canada and then to the United States, where I finally began living the vision I had imagined years earlier.

3. Sharpens Focus and Sustains Motivation. One common mistake when setting a vision is anchoring it to trends or fads. Trends fade. You don’t want your life’s direction to become obsolete because it’s tied to something transient.

For instance, had I set a goal to be a “mini-computer expert”—a relevant role in the '90s—it would hold no value today. Similarly, today’s hot fields, like Cloud Computing or even AI, may evolve or be replaced. Instead, your vision should be conceptual, rooted in who you authentically are and designed to remain meaningful over time. You may then set goals to drive your vision. Your goals – both long-term (career milestones, etc.) and short-term (certifications, degrees, jobs, roles, etc.) help make your vision tangible.

When I arrived in Canada, I adjusted my goals to suit the new environment. Like many immigrants, I had to rebuild my career. I set new goals around certifications and education—my vision didn’t change, but my path did. My first job in the U.S. gave me a taste of a world-class tech environment. By the time I landed my second role, I knew I had arrived at the place I had envisioned decades earlier.

4. Promotes Growth and Development. A compelling vision inspires lifelong learning and skill-building. It encourages you to regularly assess where you are and engage in “future-back” planning: imagining your future and working backwards to create a roadmap of the skills and experiences you need.

Unlike goals, a vision isn’t necessarily meant to be fully “achieved.” It’s meant to stretch you. Even after 30 years, I’m still working toward my career vision. I recently reevaluated it and identified new areas for personal growth. Unsurprisingly, I’ve been immersing myself in AI—specifically in the fascinating field of Agentic AI.

5. Increases Career Satisfaction

When your work aligns with your values, strengths, and passions, your career becomes more than a job—it becomes a source of fulfillment.

My background in Electrical Engineering made me love building things. I thrive in design meetings, conceptualizing and architecting solutions. Even when I focused on cybersecurity, I gravitated toward the architectural side rather than operations. I draw immense satisfaction from creating something and watching it work in the real world. The more I’ve engaged in solving problems and delivering results, the more fulfilled I have become.

In Conclusion. A personal career vision is like a compass—it keeps you aligned with your goals and helps you build a career that is not just successful, but deeply meaningful. Careers are marathons, not sprints. A clear vision gives direction, resilience, and purpose throughout all the twists and turns of your journey.

As an immigrant in America, you may need to rebuild or refocus. But know this: you’re in one of the best environments for pursuing your career aspirations. Opportunities abound—you simply need a clear vision to guide you toward them.

*Tunde Adeyemo, PhD, Southlake, TX.
Dr. Tunde Adeyemo is the immediate past president of GLAA, DFW Branch*



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New Normal for Air Travel

Nowadays, traveling by air is very rough, tough, expensive, and no longer fun. Thankfully though, the mode is still very safe. The cost of aviation fuel, and all attendant costs in relation to air travel, have become astronomically high that no one is willing to travel anywhere if it is not necessary. Cancellations of flights are at all time high, and it is not native to any region in the world, or any airline currently. With cancellations come airlines' staff time outs. Most flights are over-booked, airlines have staff shortages, and there does not seem to be an end to these problems anytime soon.

The after effect of the COVID-19

pandemic on the labor force, especially in some disciplines and professions, is so debilitating, leading to poor and sometimes unfulfilled promises by airlines for flights already paid for. During the pandemic, most people in highly stressful jobs used the lockdown period to improve or acquire totally different skills. They are now working jobs that reduce their stress levels, either at home or at other organizations, even at a (sometimes) reduced salary and benefits.

Flight attendants, pilots, as well as air traffic controllers are not exempt from a stressful job or work environment. Some of them have moved to much less stressful disciplines and skilled

jobs, such as information technology, and any profession that allows them to work from home. The system is not as quick as turning up replacements for these experienced folks. This explains the shortages of staff at the airline industry to some extent, which may also include retirements, attrition, and just loss of appetite for a customer fronting and facing jobs.

Some solutions I can proffer to make travel a little stressful and more seamless are highlighted below.

1. Drive

If your travel by air is such that driving the same distance by road is no more than 4 hours, and it is safe, then



it is a good option to drive, and enjoy that time to meditate, see the country and (if traveling with family and friends) bond with your people.

2. Use Airline Apps

Airline apps allow you to do all the same things you can do with the airline staff at the counter. You will get all the notices from cancellations, gate change, flight time changes and all even before the staff at the counter know. I can re-book and change my flight on my handheld devices much faster than waiting in a long line at the airline counter to get relief for a small opportunity.

3. Brand and Partner

Choose an airline that is easy for

you at your port of departure, to board and fly as well as disembark. For example, if you live in Dallas, Texas, American Airlines has its Hub here. It makes more sense to fly American more. If you live in Houston Texas, United has its Hub in Houston. Same logic applies to Atlanta and Delta, London and BA. etc. So, choose one airline, be loyal to them and sign up for their loyalty programs as these accumulated miles have benefits you can get with the airlines to make your travel easy.

4. Fly Earlier

Fly a whole day earlier. If need be, get to your destination earlier, check in to your hotel, enjoy, sip wine, see the city and have fun. If your flight

gets canceled, at least you will have many options to choose from including driving, if necessary to get to where you need to be.

5. First Flight of the Day

Always try to book the first flight of the day. These flights are often never canceled except in extreme weather cases. It may mean setting your alarm for 3:00 am but the inconvenience of sleeping two to three hours less compared to missing your flight is incomparable.

6. Trip Insurance

It may be wise to spend that small amount of money to secure your trip and get your refund.

7. Long Layovers

Please ensure to book connecting flights with long layovers to accommodate any flight rescheduling for later times. It is no longer practical to book a layover or transit time of one hour or less and up to two hours may be pushing it. Work with anything three hours and over.

8. Buy from Airline Website

Flights might be full and overbooked sometime, and should that happen, the airline will take care of folks that booked from them first before they attend to people who booked from a 3rd party, e.g. Cheapoair, Kayak, etc. Buy from delta.com, aa.com, united.com, etc.

Please review these points and add yours as well to ensure that you have a smooth and seamless travel during these tough, rough seasons. Safe Travels everyone and enjoy.

Thank you.

From the recent flying experiences of:
Dr Kunle Tometi, Pharm D.



The Dallas' Real Estate Opportunity

DUE TO MANY FACTORS, the real estate market in the DFW area is currently very fluid. The Dallas housing market has been surging after recovery from the effects of the pandemic since July 2020.

Demand for single-family homes has risen, but supply has failed to catch up. According to Texas Realtors, in the second quarter of 2021, the inventory of homes (active listings) declined by 47.7% compared to last year's same quarter. The median price of houses rose by 22.4 percent to \$349,381. The total closed sales recorded in 2021 Q2 were 30,745, up 16.2% from 2020 Q2. The average days on the market

(DOM) fell by 25 days, confirming that demand for housing is still robust.

According to the Dallas Regional Chamber, there are 102 significant corporations considering headquarters relocation or expansion to North Texas. This is an appreciable number more than before the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing recession when there were 80 prospects in the pipeline. Reduced operating costs, lower cost of living, and lower taxes are some of the biggest attractions for companies moving their headquarters to Dallas. The pro-business climate with no corporate or personal income tax, the central location, the large

DFW International Airport, the state's accessible talent pool, and the quality of life it offers are some of the attractions to Dallas. The business-friendly environment in Texas is not just about taxes.

Commercial Real Estate: Challenges.

Commercial real estate investors predict up to a 10% fall in property value due to the coronavirus pandemic, but prices are expected to recover by 2022. According to a survey of 325 directors and investors, 39% expected commercial real estate assets to fall between 5% to 10% in value in 2020, while nearly 31% expected a fall of 10% or more due to the pandemic. Some property types perform better than others based on the supply and demand in the asset's specific location. But even on a macro level, some sectors perform better than others. It is crucial to know how to identify the asset types that are most profitable or offer the most significant opportunity in the current economy.

When proper due diligence and market research are performed, real estate investing is always an intelligent choice. In my opinion, there is a great demand for real estate in the DFW area due to many factors highlighted above. In real estate, time is always of the essence.

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