

CROSSROADS

AMERICA HAS VOTED



SECRETARY KERRY VISITS ABUJA

July 23 & 24, 2016



Secretary Kerry Shakes Hands With Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari at the Presidential Villa in Abuja



Young women in STEM show Secretary Kerry their projects following a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Abuja



Secretary Kerry meets with a group of young women who have been empowered, or are empowering others through Education



Secretary Kerry is made welcome by the Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister, Geoffrey Onyeama



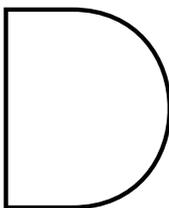
Secretary Kerry Addresses staff of the U.S. Embassy and their family members



Secretary Kerry Poses for a Photo with the U.S. Marine Security Guard Detachment in Abuja, Nigeria



W. Stuart Symington
U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria



ear CROSSROADS Readers,

Thank you very much for the warm welcome Nigerians have given my wife, Susan, and me. We are

delighted to be here and especially grateful to have arrived now, with an opportunity to build on the legacy of your successes over the past years. From strengthening the Nigerian polity, to stopping Ebola, to fighting terror and helping victims, your response together with your partners has been remarkable.

We are deeply grateful to be one of those partners. I am thankful to every Nigerian who has worked to forge between our nations and our peoples enduring ties strengthened by shared principles and common interests. There is no tighter bond.

The World is at a Crossroads, and I am convinced that Nigeria will help ensure we move forward together. I am privileged to be in your country and look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

In this issue, we shine the spotlight on the recent American Presidential election. As the process of transitioning from one Administration to another unfolds, the United States will remain your strong friend and committed partner. We will add

new chapters to our long history of working with Nigeria to support democracy, justice, and civil rights, health and education, peace and security, and economic growth and development. Our partnership to advance our common interests will continue.

This issue highlights some of the activities we are working on with Nigerians. For example, the United States Agency for International Development is engaged in providing humanitarian assistance to families in the Northeast displaced by the violence of Boko Haram.

In addition, we are supporting Nigerian government officials and members of civil society in their fight against corruption. Inside this issue, you will see how we are working with members of the judiciary and with clerics across Nigeria on their anti-corruption efforts.

I hope that you enjoy this publication as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

W. Stuart Symington

CROSSROADS

is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Nigeria

EDITORIAL TEAM

- Aruna Amirthanayagam
(Counselor for Public Affairs)
- Darcy Zotter
(Public Affairs Officer, Lagos)
- Russell Brooks
(Press Attaché)
- Sani Mohammed
- Olaoluwa Aworinde
(Editors)

Address all correspondence to:

The Editor, Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy
Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive, Central
Business Area, Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: (09) 461-4000. Fax: 09-461-4305

LAGOS OFFICE:

U.S. Consulate General, Public Affairs
2, Walter Carington Crescent, Lagos
Tel.: +234-703-150-4867/2444

E-mail: crossroads@state.gov

Website: nigeria.usembassy.gov

Follow us on:



In This Issue...

Vol. 22 No. 1



A Special Introduction
Pg 4



Awaiting a Plentiful Harvest
Pg 6



2016 American Elections
Pg 10



Legendary Nigerian-Americans
Pg 13



The Legacy of American Schooling
Pg 14



American Spaces and the Youth
Pg 16



Tributes
Pg 18



Opportunities
Pg 20

Introduction



On September 28, 2016, **W. Stuart Symington** was confirmed by the United States Senate as the next **U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria**.

Most recently, Ambassador W. Stuart Symington served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Africa and African Security Affairs. He also served as U.S. Special Representative for the Central African Republic from 2014 to 2015. From 2011-2014, Symington was the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander, North American Aerospace Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command, working with foreign partners and U.S. government departments and agencies to defend against threats to national and regional security. From 2008-2011 he was U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda, helping to increase regional security cooperation and accelerate improvements in health care. And from 2006-2008, Symington served as Ambassador to Djibouti, leading Embassy efforts to advance regional economic integration, defuse humanitarian crises, and promote democratic development.

He was raised in Missouri, earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University, and a Juris Doctorate from Columbia University. He clerked for the Chief Judge

of the Eastern District of Missouri, then litigated and practiced corporate law in New York, London, Paris, and St. Joseph, Missouri, before becoming a Foreign Service Officer in 1986. After beginning his diplomatic career tracking protests and politics in Honduras, he moved to Spain and worked on economic issues before serving as the Ambassador's aide during Desert Shield and Storm. At the State Department, he worked for the Under Secretary for Political Affairs on Latin American and African issues, backing up as his aide for Bosnia. During a year-long Pearson Fellowship, he served on the staff of Congressman Ike Skelton studying U.S. military joint operations and education. He later traveled to Sudan and North Korea on teams negotiating to free American captives before finishing the year as an aide to the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations. As a political officer in Ecuador, Symington forged ties to the political opposition, indigenous leaders, military commanders, and other government and private sector leaders.

From 2001-2003, Symington served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Niger, West Africa, and as Chargé d'affaires, a.i., dealing with military mutinies, terrorist threats, and civil unrest. He mounted an outreach effort to Muslim leaders, fostered anti-terrorism cooperation, and buttressed Niger's democracy with a key food security program. He then returned to the State Department as the Deputy Director of West African Affairs in the Africa Bureau, working on the Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Initiative, humanitarian and development issues, and challenges to security and democratic stability.

From October 2004 to February 2005, Symington worked for Ambassador Negroponte in Iraq on the election process and political issues, managing pre-election political reporting from around the country and visiting reporting officers in six of our ten regional offices during the run-up to the election. Symington also worked at the National Defense University's Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, studying and teaching how America's diplomats and warriors can cooperate best to advance U.S. interests abroad.

Join us in welcoming Ambassador Symington to Nigeria as he continues the legacy of a symbiotic partnership between the United States of America and Nigeria and working together to achieve common goals.



David J. Young has been serving as the **Deputy Chief of Mission**, U.S. Embassy Abuja, Nigeria since August 2016.

Mr. Young previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia (2013-2016).

A Foreign Service Officer for 26 years, Mr. Young was Deputy Director of the Office of the U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan and he served as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission in Khartoum, Sudan. Prior to this, he was Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and

Human Rights; a Pearson Fellow in the House of Representatives; Public Affairs Officer at Embassy Guatemala; and Director of the Office of International Religious Freedom. Mr. Young graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He received a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Arts in international relations from Boston University.

Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, he and his wife Diane Weisz Young have two children, Paul and Sarah. He is a fanatic of the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals and loves his hometown KC barbeque.



Aruna Amirthanayagam is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. He assumed the position of **Counselor for Public Affairs** at the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria

in September 2016. His last posting was at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Virginia where he served as a Senior Advisor in the School for Professional and Area Studies.

Aruna grew up in Sri Lanka and Britain before moving to the U.S. in 1975 when his father joined the East-West Center in Hawaii. Aruna has a BA with distinction in international relations from Stanford University and an MBA in finance and international business from Cornell University.

After several years in the private sector with Bank of America and IBM, he joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1990. He served as an economic officer in Haiti, the Philippines, and India as well as a Deputy Director for Mexican Affairs at the Office of the

United States Trade Representative (USTR). From 2000 Aruna worked in Public Affairs as the Cultural Attaché in Ethiopia, as Desk Officer for West Africa in Washington, as the Cultural Attaché in Kenya and the Counselor for Public Affairs in Singapore. He was then posted to Bolivia where he served initially as Counselor for Public Affairs, as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and then as Chargé d'Affaires. His last overseas posting was as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy to the Eastern Caribbean based in Barbados.

Aruna's wife, Vathani, is a former USAID officer who focuses on health and human rights issues. They have a son and a daughter in college in the U.S. Aruna enjoys sports as well as music and travel.



Russell Kenneth Brooks joined the U.S. Mission, Nigeria in August,

2016 as the **Information Officer and Mission Spokesperson**.

His responsibilities include organizing press engagements for Mission personnel; drafting press guidance, press releases and statements; liaising with domestic and international media; and the supervision of the Information Section of the U.S. Mission. Brooks also provides media advice to Front Office and Mission personnel and serves as Acting CPAO as required.

Russell Brooks joined the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer in 2004 and before coming to Nigeria, he has worked in Honduras, Peru, Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire and Washington, DC.

Before joining the Foreign Service, Brooks was a writer and producer with ABC Sports in New York City. He began his broadcasting career as a producer at WNYC/TV, also in New York.

He earned a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science (International Concentration) from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters in International Relations and International Business from Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

Russell is married to Michele with two children and enjoys reading, sports, watching movies, and listening to music.

Sowing Seeds for Recovery

in Northeast Nigeria

By Zack Taylor



Fufore farmers receive free seed crops and foodstuff from American University of Nigeria's Adamawa Peace Initiative/USAID

GOMBI, Nigeria

Aisha M. was home with her husband and children the day they heard that that Boko Haram was coming. The family left the village that same day, taking only what they could carry.

"We managed to escape to the mountains," Aisha recalled later.

"But many of my relatives who didn't leave soon enough were killed."

Three years later, Gombi and communities like it in northern Adamawa state remain devastated. All that's left of Aisha's house is a charred heap of collapsed concrete and corrugated tin. Any food is long gone. Farm fields are strewn with debris. Home for thousands of families is little more than space

on the floor of a host neighbor's house.

"All of us in Guyaku [district] are farmers," Aisha said. "It has not been easy for us since we returned without any supplies or equipment. We didn't have anything to do."

To be sure, the protracted Boko Haram uprising has substantially restricted food access for most households across the region.

Diminishing community support, poor harvests, inflation, and reduced incomes all continue to limit food access.

Many households who could not plant crops this year will continue to have difficulties meeting basic food needs and will remain in crisis or at a high state of food insecurity through 2017, according to the worldwide famine early warning system, FEWS NET. While the security situation has improved, there is a danger of famine following three missed growing seasons.

Over the course of this past June, the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, responded to the looming crisis by donating 160 metric tons of seeds to 6,000 households in the northeastern Nigerian states of Borno and Adamawa, where Gombi is situated. The donation will not only contribute to food security in the region but to the livelihoods of the farming community.

The seeds are helping more than 60,000 internally displaced people in the region begin to rebuild their lives. The donation included a wide variety of seeds to meet different nutrition needs, such as maize, sorghum, millet, groundnut and cowpea. For many of those who received them, the seeds are already visible sprouting from the newly prepared soil.

"These seeds are helping me start my life again," said Garba A., who left his home in Madagali and still lives in the nearby town of Fufore, also in Adamawa state. "Though we were hungry we did not eat them. At the end of the day we will all benefit by planting and growing food again."

Partners, including state and local government and the American University of Nigeria's Adamawa Peace Initiative (AUN-API) helped ensure the distribution went smoothly by assembling a committee of local partners like the Christian Association, the Muslim Council, the Youth Council, women leaders, and the citizen militias. With this broad community involvement, there was confidence the seeds were distributed to those most in need and who had the land and capacity to use them.

To ensure seeds are actually planted and not cooked or sold for food as a result of food scarcity, AUN-API through its fund raising efforts distributed food parcels to help support recipient families while they plant and await harvest.

Fufore district representative Malam Aminu Jaro said the committee did the work of parceling out land to the beneficiaries, providing technical assistance for the planting, ensuring the seeds did not end up in the market for sale.

"The farmers have also received food assistance," Jaro said. "This will ensure the seeds all get planted."

With local partners and government agencies, the distribution is one example of USAID's active role in the transition from humanitarian relief to development assistance in this conflict-ravaged region. USAID support for humanitarian, transitional and longer-term development in the Lake Chad Basin totals \$318 million as of mid-August.

Despite the numerous challenges that remain, USAID/Nigeria Mission Director Michael Harvey said reintroduction of agriculture, the region's traditional economic driver, should go a long way toward returning the communities to normalcy and food security.

"These efforts are literally sowing the seeds for recovery for the people who have been hit so hard by the Boko Haram insurgency," Harvey said.

USAID is the leading development agency of the U.S. government active in more than 100 countries around the world. USAID provides approximately \$500 million annually in support to Nigeria annually in the areas of Health, Economic Growth and the Environment, Education, and Good Governance.



STRENGTHENING NIGERIAN CYBERSECURITY LAW ENFORCEMENT

By Susan Dauda



Some workshop participants, facilitators and embassy officials after the workshop on Cybersecurity

On the 25th of July, 2016, former U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Maria Brewer opened the West Africa Cyber Initiative Bilateral Workshop in Abuja with a call to the participants to network and strengthen the bonds between the Nigerian and U.S. law enforcement communities.

The workshop was convened to build the capacity of Nigerian law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, legislators, and policy makers in the implementation of Nigeria's cybercrime law. This workshop was a collaboration between the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Justice, the U.S. State Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security.

During her remarks, Mrs. Brewer said, "While the digital age presents boundless opportunities, it also presents many new challenges to law enforcement. In 2015 alone, high profile cybercrimes included a breach of a major health insurance company's IT system, hacking the U.S. Office of Personnel Management system, and an unprecedented cyberattack on the Ukrainian power grid. These cyber-attacks led to the theft of millions of customers' account information, 22 million personnel files, and power cuts to hundreds of thousands of customers."

She added that the transnational nature of cybercrime dictates not just the passage of substantive laws and the development of investigative tools but also demands increased international cooperation. The former Charge

d'Affaires commended Nigeria for accomplishing the first and most important of these steps by passing the cybercrime act of 2015 which also incorporated recommendations from the United States and the United Kingdom.

Fifty investigators and prosecutors were trained during the first week to strengthen cybercrime first responder and digital evidence skills, while also reviewing international cooperation, cybersecurity strategies and civil liberty issues.

In the second week, U.S. government officials trained 40 judges and 10 legislators/policy makers on legal procedures and digital evidence, while addressing cybersecurity campaigns, Internet governance, and countering violent extremism..

TACKLING CORRUPTION BY WAY OF RELIGION

U.S. Special Representative to Muslim Communities (SRMC) Shaarik Zafar marked his first trip to sub-Saharan Africa in October with a visit to the ancient city of Kano. His visit included a workshop which supported the anti-corruption commitment of northern religious leaders and served as a sequel to a similar event hosted in Lagos with support from U.S. Mission Nigeria in January. The workshop attracted the participation of Muslim and Christian leaders from across the region. The Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Research and Training (Mambayya House) hosted under the theme: The Role of Religious Leaders in Combatting Corruption in Nigeria. The workshop increased awareness among those gathered of the unique role religious leaders have

in curbing corruption and holding officials accountable. Participants were exposed to tools and strategies for budget tracking and transparency to aid in anti-graft efforts. They also identified corruption as a driving force behind violent extremism and discussed ways to address both damaging practices within their communities. At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants established a Northern Region Anti-Corruption Committee with religious representatives from across different geopolitical zones who will offer follow-on workshops for other community and religious leaders.

SRMC Zafar was honored to be received by both His Royal Highness, the Emir of Kano, and His Excellency Governor Ganduje. The Emir graciously provided the Embassy delegation with some rich insights into the traditions of his Emirate. His Highness was delighted to hear of the Special Representative's anti-corruption work and his engagement with religious leaders. His Highness' ability to draw from both his government and religious service provided SRMC Zafar with a comprehensive introduction to many of the issues facing Nigeria. Following the courtesy visit at the palace, SRMC Zafar traveled to Government House to meet

Governor Ganduje who received him warmly. The Governor shared words of support for President Buhari's anti-corruption agenda and detailed his establishment of an anti-corruption commission to champion the cause at the state level.

The cultural richness of Kano was on full display for SRMC Zafar as he visited the dye-pits of Kofar Mata, the Gidan Makama Museum, and the Kano State Bureau of Culture and History. He enjoyed a musical presentation at Gidan Dan Hausa of the traditional shantu and kalangu art forms and contributed to the commercial history of Kano by purchasing indigo dyed items to take back to Washington for his family.

SRMC Zafar ended his visit by participating in a TechCamp for youth and community leaders organized by the popular television station Arewa24. From Facebook to Snapchat and social media in between, trainers shared with participants strategies to build successful online followings and to get their message out across platforms. SRMC underscored the power of social media as a communication tool and its importance in promoting messages of peace, tolerance, and shared prosperity.



Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion Worldwide and Anglican Archbishop of the province of Kaduna listens while Dr Bashir Isyaku speaks



Special Rep to Muslim Communities, Shaarik H Zafar introduces himself to workshop participants while Amy Lilis of the Office of Religion and Global Affairs, US Dept of State, looks on

AMERICA HAS VOTED!



*President-Elect
Donald Trump*

And so Americans have voted. As President Obama said to the American people on November 8th

“Regardless of which side you were on in the election, regardless of whether your candidate won or lost, the sun will come up in the morning.” Oh yes, the sun did come up in the morning on November 9th. The election is now over and the results are well known, Mr. Donald Trump is the President-Elect. Whether Americans feel elated and hopeful about the results, or depressed and scared about what is going to happen over the next four years, what matters is the integrity of an enduring democratic process. The next step is the smooth and successful transition of power, a strong foundation of America’s democracy, aptly demonstrated by Secretary Hillary Clinton, President-elect Donald Trump, and President Barack Obama in their post-election remarks. The following are excerpts of their remarks:



Secretary Hillary Clinton

Secretary Hillary Clinton:

Last night I congratulated Donald Trump and offered to work with him on behalf of our country.

I hope that he will be a successful president for all Americans. This is not the outcome we wanted or we worked so hard for, and I'm sorry that we did not win this election for the values we share and the vision we hold for our country.

But I feel pride and gratitude for this wonderful campaign that we built together. This vast, diverse, creative, unruly, energized campaign. You represent the best of America, and being your candidate has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

I know how disappointed you feel, because I feel it too. And so do tens of millions of Americans who invested their hopes and dreams in this effort. This is painful, and it will be for a long time. But I want you to remember this.

Our campaign was never about one person, or even one election. It was about the country we love and building an America that is hopeful, inclusive, and big-hearted.

We have seen that our nation is more deeply divided than we thought. But I still believe in America, and I always will. And if you do, then we must accept this result and then look to the future. Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead. Our constitutional democracy enshrines the peaceful transfer of power.

We don't just respect that. We cherish it. It also enshrines

the rule of law; the principle we are all equal in rights and dignity; freedom of worship and expression. We respect and cherish these values, too, and we must defend them.

Let me add: Our constitutional democracy demands our participation, not just every four years, but all the time. So let's do all we can to keep advancing the causes and values we all hold dear. Making our economy work for everyone, not just those at the top, protecting our country and protecting our planet. And breaking down all the barriers that hold any American back from achieving their dreams.

My friends, let us have faith in each other, let us not grow weary and lose heart, for there are more seasons to come and there is more work to do.

President-Elect Donald Trump:

I've just received a call from Secretary Clinton. She congratulated us — it's about us — on our victory. And I congratulated her and her family on a very, very hard-fought campaign. She fought very hard.

Hillary has worked very long and very hard over a long period of time and we owe her a major debt of gratitude for her service to our country. I mean that very sincerely.

Now it's time for America to bind the wounds of division. We have to get together. To all Republicans and Democrats and Independents across this nation, I say it is time for us to come together as one united people. It's time.

I pledge to every citizen of our land that I will be president for all Americans. And this is so important to me.

President Barack Obama:

I had a chance to talk to President-elect Trump last night -- about 3:30 in the morning, I think it was -- to congratulate him on winning the election. And I had a chance to invite him to come to the White House tomorrow to talk about making sure that there is a successful transition between our presidencies.

Now, it is no secret that the President-elect and I have some pretty significant differences. But remember, eight years ago, President Bush and I had some pretty significant differences. But President Bush's team could not have been more professional or more gracious in making sure we had a smooth transition so that we could hit the ground running. And one thing you realize quickly in this job is that the presidency, and the vice presidency, is bigger than any of us.

Now, everybody is sad when their side loses an election. But the day after, we have to remember that we're actually all on one team. This is an intramural scrimmage. We're not Democrats first. We're not Republicans first. We are Americans first. We're patriots first. We all want what's best for this country. That's what I heard in Mr. Trump's remarks last night. That's what I heard when I spoke to him directly. And I was heartened



by that. That's what the country needs -- a sense of unity; a sense of inclusion; a respect for our institutions, our way of life, rule of law; and a respect for each other. I hope that he maintains that spirit throughout this transition, and I certainly hope that's how his presidency has a chance to begin.

That's the way politics works sometimes. We try really hard to persuade people that we're right. And then people vote. And then if we lose, we learn from our mistakes, we do some reflection, we lick our wounds, we brush ourselves off, we get back in the

arena. We go at it. We try even harder the next time.

The point, though, is, is that we all go forward, with a presumption of good faith in our fellow citizens -- because that presumption of good faith is essential to a vibrant and functioning democracy. That's how this country has moved forward for 240 years. It's how we've pushed boundaries and promoted freedom around the world. That's how we've expanded the rights of our founding to reach all of our citizens. It's how we have come this far.

And that's why I'm confident that this incredible journey that we're on as Americans will go on. And I am looking forward to doing everything that I can to make sure that the next President is successful in that. I have said before, I think of this job as being a relay runner -- you take the baton, you run your best race, and hopefully, by the time you hand it off you're a little further ahead, you've made a little progress. And I can say that we've done that, and I want to make sure that handoff is well-executed, because ultimately we're all on the same team.

U.S. ELECTION NIGHT WATCH IN ABUJA

The U.S. Embassy in Abuja marked Election Night with an event combining entertainment and enlightenment on the U.S. electoral process.

Collaborating with the U.S. Exchange Alumni Association and select broadcast media the event attracted more than 400 diverse Nigerian leaders from government, religious organizations, students, and civil society for the event which began at 8 pm on November 8 and ended at 8 am on November 9. The Deputy Chief of Mission, David Young, delivered remarks at the beginning and end of the program, acknowledging Nigerians' deep interest in the U.S. elections. Newly-arrived Ambassador W. Stuart Symington also paid a visit to demonstrate his support. The all-night event in Abuja's Yar'Adua Center

featured food and music, a mock debate between alumni portraying the candidates, and a virtual program with Prof. Thomas Schaller and former Meet the Press producer Betsy Fischer Martin. There was also comedy, and a contest that tested Nigerians knowledge of American history and elections.

Two major Nigerian television networks, Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and Africa Independent Television (AIT), as well as three radio stations, Radio Nigeria, WE 106.3 FM and Cool/Wazobia FM broadcast the entire event live. All of them featured interviews with American officers explaining the U.S. electoral process.



Alumni who portrayed both candidates in a mock debate pose with a cutout of Donald Trump



Guests are educated on how the Electoral College system works



Deputy Chief of Mission, David Young, presents remarks at the US Election Watch 2016



A guest poses with a cutout of Hillary Clinton



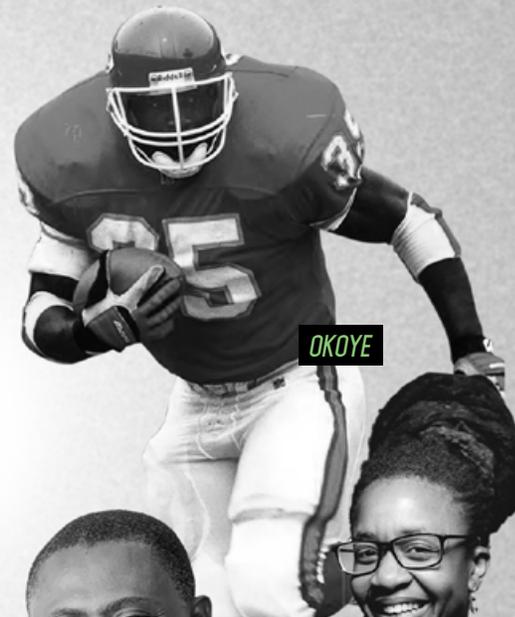
Members of the press provide coverage all night



OLAJUWON

AS NAIJA DEY DO AM FOR U.S.A.

by Patrick Cunningham



OKOYE



CHIMAMANDA



TEJU COLE



OMALU



NNEDI

As the ties between our two countries strengthen, Nigeria and its most valuable export, its people, continue to make a huge impact in America. Indeed, Naija style has become an essential thread in the American fabric, and the epicenters of Nigerian immigration—Houston, New York, and Atlanta, to name a few—have benefitted greatly from their influence.

Perhaps the story most indicative of Nigeria's impact is the work of one of the most famous Nigerian Americans, Bennet Omalu, the forensic pathologist portrayed by Will Smith in the film *Concussion*. His research on chronic traumatic encephalopathy in the NFL has led to dramatic rule changes designed to protect the players, and has increased public consciousness about the effects of head trauma. As anyone who has seen the movie knows, it was Dr. Omalu's integrity and perseverance in the face of intense pressure that brought about this change. Indeed, his life's work may end up saving the lives of America's greatest sports heroes, our NFL football players.

And, speaking of pro football players, who can forget Pro Bowler Christian Okoye, the "Nigerian Nightmare"? True to his name, his speed, size, and pure athletic ability caused defenders to tremble with fear whenever he touched the football. He retired as the all-time leading rusher for the Kansas City Chiefs, having amassed an impressive 4,897 yards in his six years with the Chiefs. Of course, we cannot talk about Nigerian athletes without highlighting celebrated basketball player Hakeem Olajuwon. This unbelievably skilled Lagosian and NBA Hall-of-Famer caused me frequent heartburn as he scored effortlessly against my beloved Phoenix Suns. He could out maneuver any defender with his signature move the "Dream Shake". His footwork—something that he attributes to his days playing soccer in Lagos—is considered the best ever for an NBA center. His accolades are legendary and include, among many others, an Olympic gold medal, two NBA championship rings, and multiple MVP awards.

Nigeria's influence is not limited

to science and sports, however, its influence in the arts is also enormous. Nigerian writers, such as Teju Cole, Nnedi Okorafor, and Chimamanda Adiche, play an important role in telling the African immigrant story to Americans. Their ruthlessly honest commentary on the beauty and challenges in modern America provide unique insights to their readers and compel us to critically examine American society through another cultural lens. It's also just flat out good writing.

Knowing the extent Nigerians have deepened and enriched America, I was overwhelmed with joy on my last trip back to the United States. In the middle of Arizona at my sister's college graduation, far away from typical Nigerian diaspora communities, sitting a few rows in front of me, I saw the ubiquitous slanted hat of a Yoruba man. His beautiful *agbada* confirmed my suspicion. So I greeted him with the kind and welcoming words his countrymen have done to me since my arrival: "Ekaaro, sir! You are welcome."

The Legacy of an American Education

by Malate-Ann Atajiri

EducationUSA is the United States official and up to date guide to U.S. Higher Education. EducationUSA is not just an advising center that offers support to qualified students hoping to study in the United States; it is a place where students are given the right information, tools and resources to enable them discover their full potential. At EducationUSA we encourage students to develop a spirit of giving back and to never place a limit on what they can achieve. In this article, you will learn about four EducationUSA alumni who have let the values of the Center and that of the American system of higher education continue to influence them.

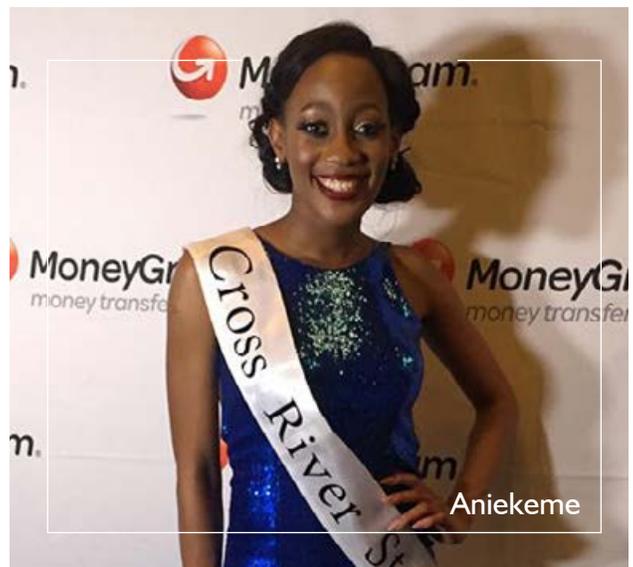
Chinedu Azodoh fondly called Zodo by his friends always knew that the U.S. was where he would get the skills and expertise he needed to make the kind of change and difference he wanted to make in Nigeria. With the help of the advisers of EducationUSA Abuja Chinedu was able to secure a scholarship to study Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Upon graduating, he took advantage of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) that gives graduates the opportunity to work and gain valuable hands-on experience in their field. He was able to secure admission to MIT's Sloan School of Management. Chinedu is the Co-Founder of MAX Delivery Nigeria, Nigerian e-courier start-up Metro Africa Express (MAX) www.max.ng.

Chinedu is back in Nigeria transforming the African e-courier space. Chinedu sees so much potential in Africa and is passionate about revolutionizing the sector. His start-up was named a "Top 12 Global Inclusive Growth Idea" by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Harvard Center for International Development among many other accolades.

Aniekeme Umoh came to EducationUSA as a shy and introverted girl. She knew she wanted to study Engineering but was unaware of just how much EducationUSA and a U.S. education would change her. At EducationUSA, we emphasize finding schools that are the right fit. At first glance, Aniekeme's decision to enroll at



Chinedu



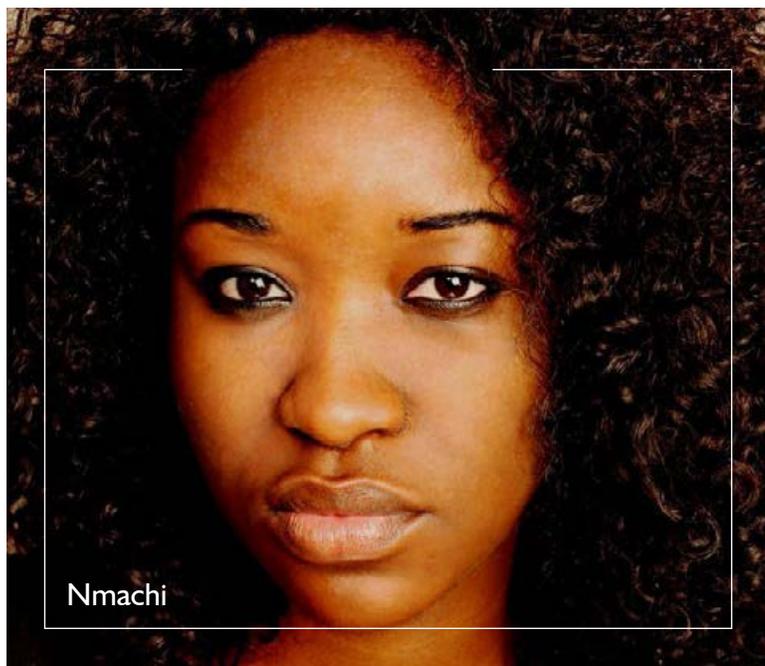
Aniekeme

Columbia University's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences in New York seemed like an odd choice for her personality. However her experiences at Columbia and living in New York gave Aniekeme the opportunity to discover and pursue her love for fashion. She

Nmachi started her journey with EducationUSA after graduating from high school in Abuja. Nmachi gained admission to study Economics at Grinnell College after which she co-founded CPAfrica, Nmachi also holds

U.S. higher education institutions for persons wishing to study in the United States. For more information about EducationUSA and study opportunities in the United States, please visit

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov>



Nmachi



Philip

currently combines her passion for Engineering while working as an Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers with running a fashion blog, TFLA: This Fashion Love Affair. Aniekeme recently represented Cross River in the Miss Nigeria USA competition. Aniekeme says she is grateful to EducationUSA and the US educational system which enabled her to discover her true self and to pursue her passion for engineering and fashion.

Nmachi Jidenma manages Payments and Commerce Partnerships for Facebook Global. With previous experience working at PayPal, Google and JP Morgan, she also happens to be the founder of CPAfrica, one of Africa's most popular technology and business websites and was listed by CNN as one of Africa's 10 leading tech voices.

a Masters in Applied Economics from Cornell University.

Philip Abel Adama first made news in 2011 when he took part in the Opportunity Funds Program and was awarded a scholarship worth over \$228,472 to study at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the spirit of giving back, Philip returned to Nigeria after graduation to help young Nigerians develop their capacity for computer programming and technology. Philip started CodifyNaija a computer programming camp aimed at teaching coding and computer programming skills to young Nigerian students.

The EducationUSA Advising Centers in Abuja and Lagos provide quality, timely, accurate, and unbiased information about all accredited

Locations:

Abuja

Embassy of the United States of America
Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive, Central District Area, Abuja

Telephone: 234-09-4614251/4241/4335/4298

Email: AbujaEducationUSA@state.gov

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/EducationUSA.Abuja>

Lagos

U.S. Consulate General
2 Walter Carrington Crescent, Victoria Island, Lagos

Telephone: 234-01-460-3801/302

Email: lagoseducationusa@state.gov

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/EducationUSALagos>



American Spaces are multifunctional platforms for U.S. public oriented programs geared towards promoting open dialogue, counteract negative preconceptions, and build bridges of understanding between the United States and foreign audiences. They serve as primary places for the ongoing people-to-people connections that are essential to warm bilateral relations between the U.S. and the people of partner countries.

With over 700 Spaces in 169 countries worldwide, American Spaces provide welcoming environments where visitors can connect and learn about the United

States and the people of partner countries.

American Spaces programming areas are categorized into 5 broad areas: English Language Learning, Educational Advising, Alumni Activities, Cultural Programs, and Information about the U.S. Topics covered in programs range from learning American English to starting a business to holding free and fair elections.

Information Resource Centers (IRCs) and American Corners (ACs) are two types of American Spaces. In Nigeria, there are presently two IRCs and eleven ACs. IRCs are located in our Embassy and Consulate compounds. While six ACs are located in the northern

American Spaces in Nigeria

CHANGING THE NARRATIVES AMONG YOUTH

States. In 2015, American Spaces worldwide received more than 36.7 million visits with more than 4 million programs attended by about 31 million.

American Spaces in Nigeria in the last four years have organized 1,483 programs with over 72,000 persons in attendance and played host to about 140,000 visitors.

Hosted in embassies, schools, libraries, and other partner institutions worldwide, American Spaces are open to the public and are equipped with resources



A YALI Learns session on Management Strategies for people and resources at the Barack Obama American Corner, Lagos

part of Nigeria - Abuja, Bauchi, Jos, Kano, Maiduguri and Sokoto; and the other five Corners are situated at in southern Nigeria - Lagos, Calabar, Ibadan, Enugu and Port Harcourt.

Our American Spaces have played host to resource persons from within and outside Nigeria. In particular, American Corners in Nigeria have organized programs with many NGOs and other bodies, partnering to contribute to youth development.

As an example, American Corner Abuja hosted the prefects of eight high schools (private and public) at a Leadership workshop facilitated by Linus Okorie, a leadership development expert and an alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Program. He encouraged the young boys and girls to be exemplary in all their dealings and stressed the great value placed upon integrity, showing them how making a positive difference in their immediate and larger communities starts with stepping up as an individual. In his feedback, Godfrey Chukwu Ebuka of Model Secondary Secondary) stated that "it was indeed a life impacting program which taught me how to make great choices."

In the same vein, American Corner Bauchi has been very active among youth. A Students' Youth Integrity Seminar was organized for high school students by AC Bauchi in collaboration with the Future Leaders Forum. The topics covered were Developing Personal

Integrity and Guidance to Improving Academic Performance, after which there was an interactive session. Having heard the presentations from the resource persons and presenters, Hajara Haruna Aliyu, a student at International Secondary School ATBU Bauchi confessed that she had been motivated by the experiences shared by participants from other schools, while another student Musa Mamuda from Government Day Secondary School B/Dukku said he had been inspired by the principles and spirit of integrity and would work towards promoting integrity in his school.

At the American Corner Ibadan, the 2016 International Youth Day event fulfilled its purpose of sensitizing youths on Sustainable Development Goals. The presentations, for one, struck a chord with Ifeaanu Ajekiigbe and a host of others, who remarked, "I feel a new sense of purpose towards the attainability of Sustainable Development Goals; my horizons pertaining to SDGs have been broadened and I'm motivated to do more."

Beyond holding seminars and hosting events, American Corners, and indeed all American Spaces offer access to eLibraryUSA for serious academic and business researchers. Information on eLibraryUSA can be found at <http://elibraryusa.state.gov/> and you can sign-up for access to these resources at <http://tinyurl.com/ircregistration>

To get all the facts about American Spaces, visit <https://nigeria.usembassy.gov/am-corners.html>

For all enquiries:

Rosa Parks Center

Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy
Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive Central District Area
Abuja, Nigeria

Telephone: 09-461-4000 Fax: 0-9-461-4011

E-Mail: ircabuja@state.gov

Open

Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm

Friday 9am - 12 noon

Whitney M. Young Information Resource Center

Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General
2 Walter Carrington Crescent, Victoria Island, Lagos Nigeria

Telephone: 01-460-3400 Fax: 01-1-261-2218

E-mail: wylagos@state.gov

Open

Monday - Thursday 9am - 3pm

Friday 9am - 12 noon

For more info, visit <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

American Corners provide access to general, substantive and accurate information about the United States to interested parties. Materials in the American Corners cover a wide range of subjects pertaining to the United States, such as its policies, society, education and culture. Free, open access is provided to all materials.

Presently, there are 11 American Corners in Nigeria:

ABUJA

Chief Bola Ige Information
Technology Center
C/o National Center for
Women Development
CBD, Abuja

BAUCHI

Professor Iya Abubakar
Community Resource Center
C/o Bauchi State Library
Complex
Abdulkadir Ahmed Road
GRA, Bauchi

CALABAR

Cross River State IT Village
37 Ekpo Archibong Road
Calabar

ENUGU

No. 53 Udoji Street
Ogui New Layout
Enugu

IBADAN

Nigerian Society for
Information,
Arts and Culture, Leventis
Building
54, Magazine Road
Jericho, Ibadan
Telephone: 02 753-5838

JOS

University of Jos
11, Murtala Mohammed
Way, Jos

KANO

Kano State Library Board
Murtala Mohammad Library
Complex
Nasarawa, Kano

LAGOS

29, Gafar Animashaun Street
(off Ajose Adeogun St.)
Victoria Island, Lagos

MAIDUGURI

University of Maiduguri
Library, PMB 1069
Maiduguri

PORT HARCOURT

Donald E. U. Ekong Library
University of Port Harcourt
Port Harcourt

SOKOTO

Usmanu Danfodiyo
University City Campus
Sultan Abubarka Road
Sokoto

For more information, visit

<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/am-corners.html>



The Adventures of **PAM**

As delivered by Bridgette Huerkamp at the farewell ceremony for Ambassador Entwistle and his wife, Pamela Schmoll

As many of you know, the Ambassador is only one half of a dynamic partnership. Often, it is the spouses and partners that have the greatest impact in the diplomatic community. Their support makes them the unrecognized heroes of the Foreign Service. While Ambassador Entwistle has worked to strengthen our ties with Nigeria on security and democracy, Dr. Pamela Schmoll, who previously served in the Peace Corps, has honored her life's ambition to serve others. All of us in Mission Abuja are extremely grateful for her genuine kindness. As the Ambassador himself often says, "Please meet my amiable spouse. She's much nicer (and smarter) than I am!"

I arrived in Abuja in early December and a few days after my arrival received an invitation to an event at the Ambassador's house. I had no idea what a Hail and Farewell was and was worried that the pending initiation ceremony would scar me for life. Pam, who may have sensed my uncertainty, slyly introduced herself to me as Pam, not as "the Ambassador's spouse Dr. Pamela Schmoll." She was simply Pam, as she is to everyone.

A woman of inspiring character, she is the unsung hero who avoids applause, who works tirelessly in an effort to ensure that those whose voices are soft are heard; for those who do not have food are fed; for those who are sick to receive care; and for those from near and far have a place they are welcome. I, for one, am extremely grateful for your friendship and hospitality.

Abraham Lincoln once said "The best way to predict the future is to create it." Pam is a walking testament of this declaration. As a vital part of the community, she is working side by side with us to save the environment. Here at the Embassy, Pam led the Mission's recycling initiative and instituted ECO Week, but her efforts have gone a lot further than that. She co-founded Naijabrics, a collaborative that makes environment-friendly cooking fuel and also generates employment opportunities for families. In addition, Pam was an integral force in the development of the Green Coalition where, she's been able to bring together community and thought leaders, artists, former ministers, and many others to discuss and plan environmentally-friendly initiatives for Abuja and beyond. Her work in this area will be a lasting legacy when she leaves. As part of Pam's efforts to generate growth in the local economy, she continuously connects partners and customers with local entrepreneurs who strive to maintain sustainable businesses to employ future generations.

One of Pam's greatest passions is a respect for the power of words and the opportunity to effect meaningful change through literacy. As co-founder of an English program that meets every weekend with area adults and

children, the school is a place where reading and writing are taught sometimes at the same time as a chicken loudly lays an egg, the compound dog gives birth to a small litter, or classes take a break to assist with the birth of a child. She is usually the first to arrive and the last to leave, and I am pretty sure that if the RSO gave her the thumbs up she would pitch a tent and stay indefinitely. Pam, your spirit and energy will be sorely missed!

A very dear friend to Nigeria, to the Mission, and to everyone you meet, I am honored to present you with a small token that we hope will remind you of your life in Abuja.

We wish you and the Ambassador all the best as you venture off on your next adventure.



THE ENTWISTLE YEARS

Ambassador James F. Entwistle was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria on October 28, 2013. He served as the Chief of Mission until July 2016, when he retired from the Foreign Service following a 35 year career. His Nigerian tour was characterized by many achievements, most notable of which was his contribution to the 2015 general elections, which are regarded as the freest and fairest in Nigeria's history.

We remember the time he and his wife, Pamela Schmall, spent with us at the U.S. Mission in Nigeria with fondness and wish them great success in all of their future endeavors.



Ambassador Entwistle with the Emir of Kano, HRH Sanusi Mohammed II in 2014



Ambassador Entwistle meeting President Goodluck Jonathan in 2015



Ambassador Entwistle meeting President Buhari before the elections which brought him to power in 2015



Ambassador Entwistle on election monitoring duty in 2015



Ambassador Entwistle learning how to pound yam in 2016



Ambassador Entwistle with Innocent '2Baba' Idibia in 2014



EXPERIENCE AMERICA

Through Cultural Exchanges

Exchange programs offer an opportunity for Nigerians to connect, interact and exchange ideas with their counterparts in the United States. The U.S. Government supports a variety of exchange programs that offer Nigerians an opportunity to travel to the United States to participate in research, study and cultural exchange.

Below are brief descriptions of some of our exchange programs.

Fulbright African Research Scholars Program (ARSP)

The Fulbright ARSP is a 3-9 month research grant opportunity for university faculty members to conduct research in the United States.

Fulbright Junior Staff Development Program (JSD)

The Fulbright JSD is a 3-9 month research grant opportunity for doctoral students to conduct research, relevant to the completion of their doctoral program, in the United States.

Hubert Humphrey

Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program offers mid-level career professionals a ten month, non-degree, graduate study and related practicum experience.

Mandela Washington Fellowship

The Mandela Washington fellowship offers an opportunity for Nigerians between the ages of 25-35 to participate in a six-week leadership and professional training program in the United States.

Tech Women

Tech Women empowers, connects and supports the next generation of women leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (KL-YES)

The KL-YES program provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students to spend one academic year attending a high school in the United States while living with a host family.

For more info on the exchange programs, visit ng.usembassy.gov/education-culture/exchange-programs/