



2018 Annual Convention
Magazine

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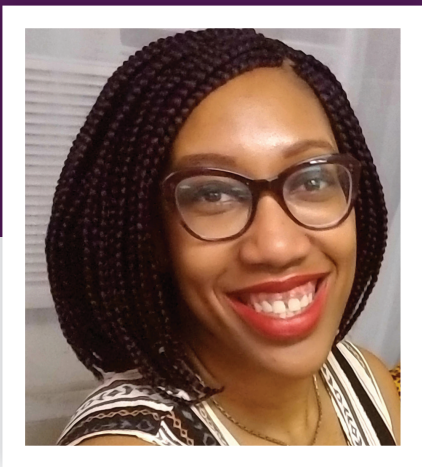
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August 2018

Contributors



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A Message from the Founding Families.



The Anadu &
The Okpukpara Families

Nnoo nu! Welcome to the 14th Annual Umu Igbo Unite Convention! We thank God for His continued guidance in our mission to Unite and Connect Igbo professionals in the diaspora, keep the Igbo culture and language alive, and to instill a sense of pride to be Igbo. The inspiration behind UIU's birth was to create a network that catered to the specific cultural, professional, and social needs of Igbos in the Diaspora.

Each year we receive a plethora of success stories and interest from different cities/states about their interest in creating a Chapter. Since its inception, UIU has grown to over 5,000 members nationwide with 13 active chapters: **Atlanta, Dallas, Houston,**

DMV, Boston, Tristate (NY, NJ, CT), Detroit, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Twin Cities, Bay Area, Austin, Miami and growing! We are so excited to partner with you all as UIU continues to LEVEL UP!

The 13th Annual convention held last year in Los Angeles was a great success! The stories shared with us about UIU's impact on your lives, keep us inspired to continue to do this year after year. From the career moves, the connections, the engagements and marriages, we are forever motivated in our efforts to unite and connect "Umu Igbo".

We aim to keep a forward momentum and keep aspiring to make a positive impact both here in the

diaspora and back home. LEVEL UP UIU! We are achieving this through our 5 structured programs:

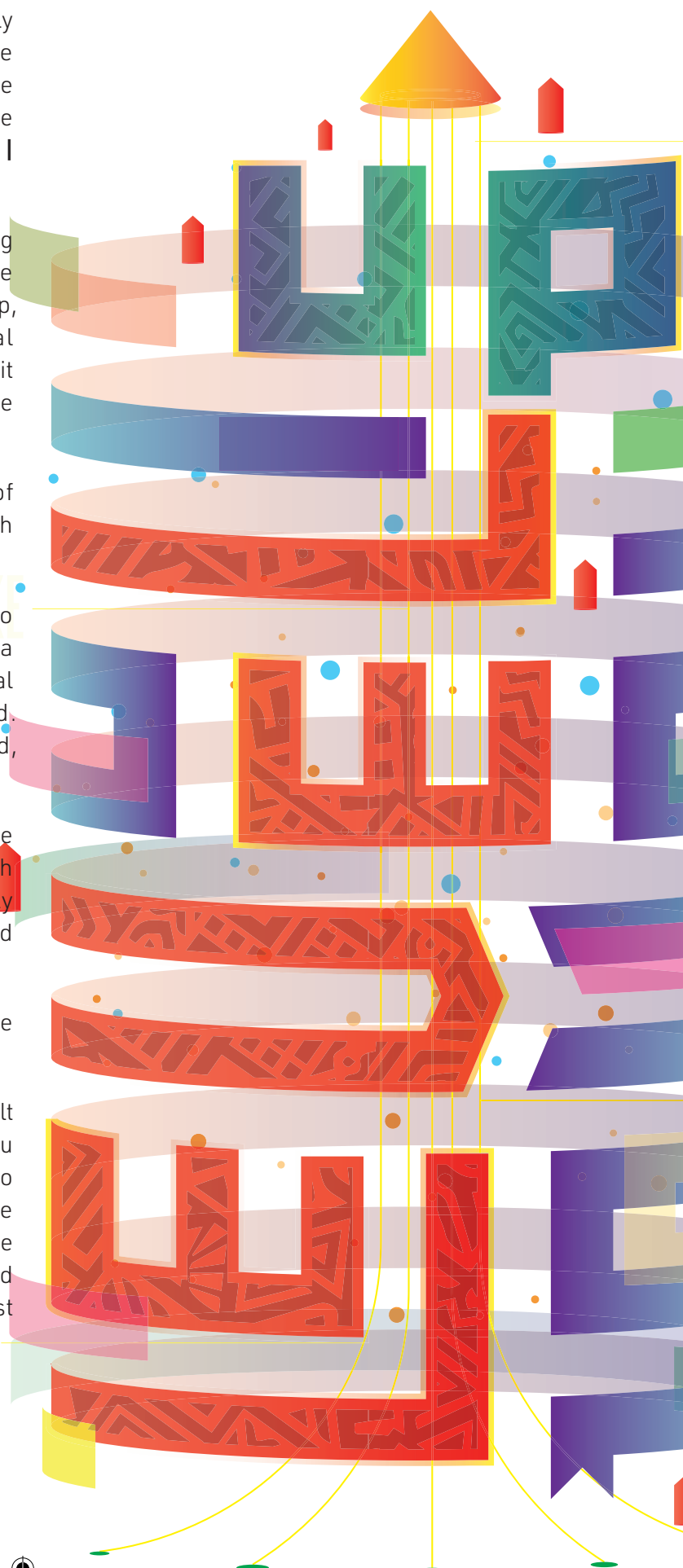
- 1. UIUCares** - the community service arm of UIU. We are excited to contribute practically to several problems facing our people. We strive to provide support to Igbos back home and Igbos in the diaspora by focusing on these 5 areas: **Creation | Accessibility | Relief | Education | Service**
- 2. UIU Annual Convention** - the annual convening of over a thousand Igbo Nigerians in one city! For a fulfilling weekend of fellowship, professional networking and cultural exhibitions! Each year we promise to make it the best national convention to date, and we always fulfill that promise.
- 3. UIU Tourism** - an annual 10 day tour of Igboland to explore and experience the rich Igbo history firsthand.
- 4. UIU Connects** - a platform created to connect Igbo professionals in the diaspora with domestic companies and international opportunities in Nigeria and abroad. Opportunities span from study abroad, internships to full time employment.
- 5. UIU Igbo 101** - a program created to teach the Igbo language. This teaching is done through onsite courses, videos and our recently launched YouTube video series, Ije the World Traveler.

As we continue to develop these programs, we will keep you updated on their progress.

We would like to express our profound and heartfelt gratitude to our parents, Dr. & Dr. Mrs. D.I. Anadu and Reverend & Dr. Mrs. J.C. Okpukpara. We also appreciate all our supporters especially those who have been with us from the beginning. We hope you have the time of your life this weekend and continue to make connections that will last a lifetime!

Sincerely,

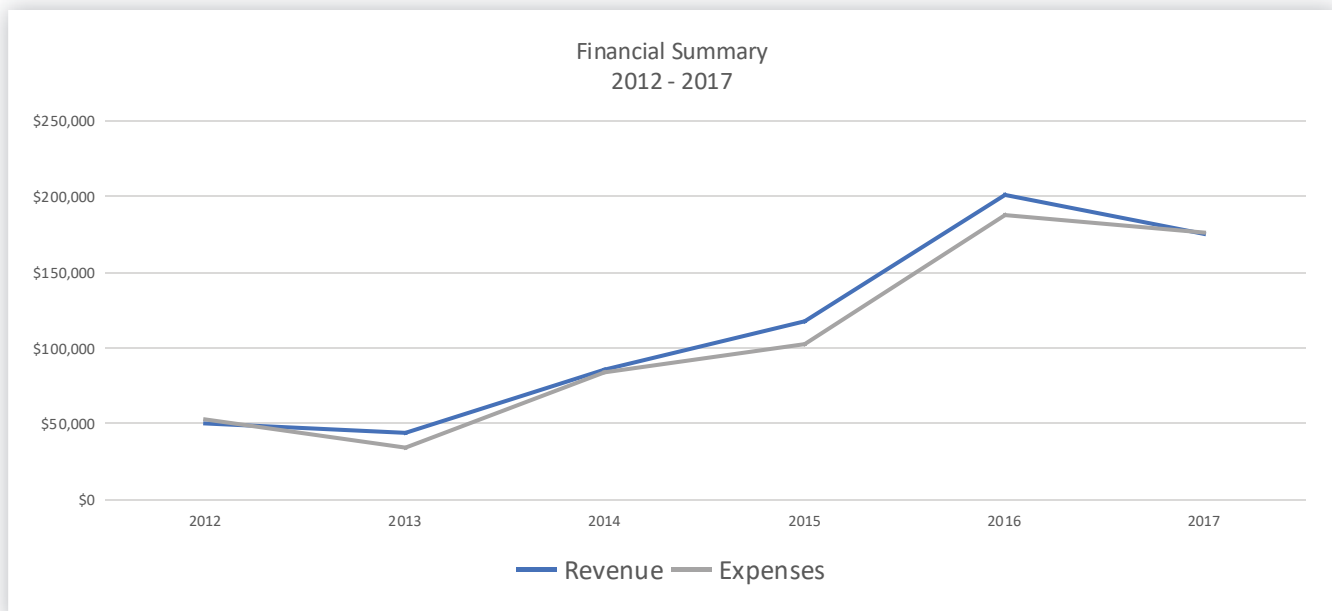
The Umu Igbo Unite Corporation Founders



Financials

UMU IGBO UNITE ORGANIZATION FY '2017

REVENUE	
Convention Registration Revenue	\$133,063
National Membership Fee Revenue	\$875
Convention Vendor Table Revenue	\$5,091
Sponsorship Revenue	\$13,884
UIU Cares Donation Revenue	\$22,255
Revenue	\$175,169
EXPENSES	
Convention Expenses	\$(151,835)
Registration & Eventbrite	\$(8,341)
Entertainment	\$(15,258)
Bank Fees	\$(369)
UIUCares Expenses	\$(12,508)
Professional Services	\$(1,045)
Media Outreach & Marketing	\$(8,210)
Office Supplies	\$(2,717)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$(176,684)
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$ (1,515)



Thank You UIU!



UIUCares would like to thank you for your dedication to educating our people. The UIUCares International student scholarship would not be possible without your support and we are grateful. We would like to again thank our wonderful 2017 sponsors, Ms. Adaobi Gwacham, Ms. Chiney & Nneka Ogwumike, GEANCO foundation and all of you that contributed at the date auction. Your support made it possible for us to support seven students with \$1000 scholarships, continue

payment for 21 students' education in Nigeria and support the UIUCares mission trip with NHF. As you know, we Nigerians continue to excel in education in the United States, but due to the ever-deflating value of the Naira, many students cannot afford to continue their education. In this precarious position many lose their student status and then become part of the illegal immigrant population that this current administration will not tolerate. Thank you for joining UIUCares to not only educate our future leaders, but also to protect them from the challenges that will befall them if they were to lose their status.

In 2017, during the first year of this scholarship we were able to offer seven, \$1,000 scholarships to Ngozichukwu Agu, Chilee Agunanna, Prince Akpoki, Ikenna Ekelem, Chidimma Imedigwu, Akachukwu Nwosu and Tochukwu Onyenze. Here's what some have to say:

'I am really grateful for this scholarship, which helped

to provide me with needed financial support. The UIUCares International Student Scholarship specifically provides me with funds to pay my fees in the fall and spring semesters which was a tremendous relief for me. Being an international student, there are few scholarship opportunities that I can leverage and I am unable to work above a certain number of hours on campus. Getting this scholarship was a source of financial support that enabled me to have peace of mind and focus on my studies. Thank you UIUCares." - Ngozichukwu Agu, Doctoral candidate, College of Public Health, University of South Florida

"I think my story as an International Student in the United States would be a full book. But UIU would be a major part of that book right from Houston to the Nationals. The 1000 dollar scholarship might sound like a drop in the ocean of the massive fees required of an International Student who has no



access to loans and Financial AID but it helped keep me in school and I've graduated successfully. I still owe the school so much but without that scholarship at the time it came, I would have been out of school and lost my status." – *Chilee Agunanna, M.A Communication, Texas Southern University*

"UIUCares Scholarship came at a time that it was most needed. My parents who are currently in Nigeria were struggling with finance at that time due to the state of the country and the change in government. I was completely confused and frustrated about the financial situation my family was in, which made me contemplate dropping out of college at that point. I have always believed that, 'A person's most useful asset is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen and a hand willing to help others. UIUCares scholarship was that ear for me that listened to me through that rough and difficult period I faced last summer, and I thank UIUCares for listening. I would say to UIUCares to never get tired of doing little things for others, sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.'" – *Prince Akpoki, 3rd year B.S Chemistry/Mathematics, North Carolina Wesleyan College*

"Being awarded the UIU cares scholarship last year was a blessing for me as it instantly went towards my tuition for the semester. I'm thankful to be part of an organization that takes care of its members both home and

abroad." – *Chidinma Imediegwu, PhD Candidate Mechanical Engineering, Georgia Tech*

"UIU is an organization that supports Igbo culture and unity. The organization came to my aid when I needed it most by providing a scholarship for me. This is an Igbo organization that I will root for anytime and anywhere." – *Ikenna Ekelem, Graduate student, Chemical Engineering, University of Dayton*

We had to turn away many qualified candidates last year due to financial restrictions and we vowed to do better this year. This year we are happy to provide ten \$1000 scholarships as these scholarships made a clear difference in the lives of the recipients. We would like to continually offer this scholarship each year as it is an evident need in our community and would allow our Igbo students to have a reliable source of support as they maintain high academic standing. Would you please help us by donating \$100, \$500, \$1000, \$5000, \$10,000 or anywhere in between as we support students that are pursuing their American dreams? Would you also consider making this an annual donation as this scholarship will continue to support Igbo students in education every year. As always Umu Igbo Unite is a 501©3 organization and your donation is eligible for tax deduction.



You can make donations in three different ways, directly to the UIUCares bank account, Paypal or by mailing a check.

Bank: Capital One
Routing Number: 031176110
Account No: 36016330967

or

Paypal: PayPal.Me/uiucares

Or

UIUCares
4062 Peachtree Rd NE, Ste A-317, Atlanta, GA 30319

Thank you and God bless,

UIUCares team

uiucares@umuigbounite.com

UIU 13 Chapters & Growing

Umu Igbo Unite (UIU) Corporation has grown and continues to expand to serve Igbos and supporters in diaspora. All members, friends and supporters gather together each year to celebrate our love of the Igbo culture and community; we would like to take the time to recognize all our chapters across the nation. We truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of each chapter and are especially proud of the positive impact made to their local community. This year, we have a total of 13 active chapters...



UIU Atlanta



Umu Igbo Unite-Atlanta is the founding chapter of Umu Igbo Unite, which was founded in 2010. As of today, we are encompassed with 61 paid and active members. Through the years we have made it our mission to connect and engage the community through service projects, volunteer opportunities and mentorship both in our local community of Atlanta and in the Igboland. We

are unique because even in all our diversity and beauty we stand as one. Look out for our exclusive member events and our annual gala!

Chapters Officers

President - Claudia Okonkwo

Treasurer - Ezenwanyi Onwuzuruoha

Public Relations Officer - Chidera Chime

Secretary - Chidinma Amadi

Event Coordinator - Adaora Adibe

Event Coordinator - Chisom Onyeuku

Provost - Wellington Onyenwe



UIU Austin



The Austin chapter was founded in 2018 here in Austin, TX. We currently have 9 members in total including the executive board. The Umu Igbo Unite Austin chapter is a non-profit organization that aims to provide a platform that promotes the Igbo culture. Our mission is to create unity amongst Igbos in Austin through social networking and gatherings. The ultimate goal of Umu Igbo Unite Austin is for our efforts to make a positive impact in Igbo land, Nigeria.

Chapter Officers:

President: Ikemefuna Enemkpali

Vice President: Chiamaka Enemkpali

Treasurer: Emeka Ebichi

Secretary: Henry Eke

Public Relations: Veronica Eke.

Provost: Jennifer Ebichi

Event Coordinator: Chidi Agu.

Community Service Chair: Ifeoma Agu



UIU Boston



The Umu Igbo Unite Boston Chapter ("UIU Boston") was founded in October 2015. Our chapter consists of a wide range of young Igbo professionals and college students who reside throughout Massachusetts and the surrounding areas. We are here to do the following: UNIFY the Igbo community; CELEBRATE and PROMOTE personal, cultural and professional growth; and PRESERVE the Igbo culture.

Chapter officers

President: Barbara Okafor

Vice President: Patrick Agudosi

Community Outreach/Fundraising Co-Chair:

Ifeoma Kamalu

Community Outreach/Fundraising Co-Chair:

Daniel Oyolu

Cultural Chair: Victor Nite



UIU Bay Area



UIU Bay Area was founded on April 9, 2018. The Bay Area is a geographically diverse, metropolitan region that includes major cities such as San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. The Bay Area is unique because of its innovation, diversity, and culture. One of UIU Bay Area's main goal as a chapter is to foster an innovative community that empowers and supports the social, cultural, and professional cultivation of young Igbo Adults (age 21-45) in the Bay Area.

Chapter Officers:

President: Solomon Nwoche

Vice-President: Chinwe Oniah

Treasurer: Uzo Akali

Secretary: Uche Amajoyi

Public Relations Chair: Ijeoma Eke

Professional Development Chair: Ogo Obi

Social Chair: Eche Enzinga



UIU Cincinnati



Umu Igbo Unite Cincinnati was founded in June 2017 by 6 young Igbo Professionals and currently has over 30 paid members. The UIUCincy Chapter offers opportunities for cultural awareness, networking, and intellectual growth. The chapter has a heart for bringing awareness of Sickle Cell Disease to Nigeria and locally in the US. Our Jollof Off and Suya, Paint & Sip events in 2018 has directly went to aiding our goal of helping the Sickle Cell community. To cap things off for this year we will be hosting a Sickle Cell 5k in September during Sickle Cell awareness month!

Chapter Officers

President: Obi Nwankwo

VP, Fundraising Chair: Nkem Iheukwu

Provost, PRO, CS Chair: Cara Nwankwo

Treasurer: Ugo Nwankwo

Executive Secretary & Advisor: Oluchi Uzodinma

Event Coordinator: Amaka Okocha

Event Coordinator: Nkechi Okocha



UIU Dallas



Umu Igbo Unite Dallas Chapter is the third national chapter founded in August of 2013. UIU-Dallas was created to bring young Igbo professional together to establish community, networking, and education about our rich Igbo culture. With over 90+ active members, UIU-Dallas has served and brought Igbo cultural awareness to the community of Dallas.

Chapter Officers

President: Mbato Nkwocha

Vice President: Jeff Obumseli

Secretary: Mary Sunshine Amaechi

Treasurer: Antonette Anuwe

Community Service Chair: Lessley Okoro

Event Coordinator: Grace Amaefula

Event Coordinator: Emeka Igwegbe

Public Relations Officer: Ijeoma Onuh

Cultural Chair: Pamela Amaechi

Provost: Arinze Oji



UIU Detroit



The Umu Igbo Unite Detroit chapter is a part of a non-profit US based organization that consists of a wide range of young professionals and students of Igbo heritage ages 21-40, in the Metro Detroit area. The UIU Detroit chapter targets people from all parts of the Igbo diaspora. Our mission is to strengthen the Igbo community in Detroit by providing a space for Igbos to fellowship, network, and learn about our culture.

We hope to engage the local Igbo community and recruit members through events such as cooking classes, Igbo lessons, community service, social and networking events, and more! We look forward to having our fellow Igbo people join us in the Detroit Area as we exhibit and share in our cultural pride.

Chapter Officers:

President: Chukwudi Nwamba

Event Coordinator: Humphrey Ihejirika

Treasurer: Joy Ikeri

Provost: Chidimma Okoroh

Secretary: Stephanie Onwuegbuna

Public Relations Officer: Nkemdilem Bernard



UIU DMV



Umu Igbo Unite – DMV, based in the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia areas, is the sixth national chapter founded in September 20, 2016. The DMV Chapter aims to build a network of young professionals, while sustaining and promoting Igbo culture.

Chapter Officers:

President: Micheal Iheakanwa

Vice President: Chibuogu Van-Lere

Treasurer: Chidiogo Menakaya

Public Relations Officer: ZoQueen Abengowe

Event Coordinator: Venessa Onwuchekwa

Event Coordinator: Chiamaka Ezeonyebuchi

Secretary: Ifeoma Collins



UIU Houston



Chapter Officers:

President: Kelechi Valentine Ndubuike

VP/Community Service Chair: Ugonna Uba

Secretary: Eric Ibekwe

Treasurer: Princewill Ibe

PRO: Ikechukwu Nweze Jr

Provost/Sponsorship Chair: Paul Oriekwu

Outreach Sponsorship Chair: Kanu Chinaemerem

Media Marketing Officer: Peter Obi

Event Coordinator: Fredrica Uchenna Dike



UIU Los Angeles



The UIU-Los Angeles Chapter kicked-off in West Hollywood with a bang on June 23rd, 2017 and we have not stopped since! UIU-LA operates in the heart of sunny Southern California, supporting the Greater Los Angeles Area. UIULA was established to bring Igbo youths and professionals together, establish a sense of community and educate members about the rich Igbo culture, while giving back to our local communities, and ensuring the younger Igbo generation in LA have role models to emulate. Our biggest event of the year is 'The UIU-LA Culture & Excellence Ball', which will hold in Los Angeles, CA on November 10th, 2018.

Chapter Officers:

President: Kingsley Ufere

Vice President: Martina Njoku

Secretary: Jessica Obilom

Treasurer: Emelda Ndubuizu

Public Relations Officer: Ada Azubuike

Public Relations Officer: Chidera Agude

Fundraising Co-Chair: Adaobi Abaekobe

Fundraising Co-Chair: Nnamdi Akwaja, Ijeoma Mephors, Esther Ojeh

Community Service Chair: Chioma Orjiakor

Cultural Awareness Chair: Donald Osakwe



UIU Miami



UIU Miami serves the South Florida region consisting of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. In this culturally and ethnically diverse region, UIU Miami aims to unite Igbo people and create a space to connect and network with one another while fostering, building and promoting our Igbo culture, values, and language.

Chapter Officers:

President: Ugo Okafor

Vice President: Arinze Iyida

Secretary: Tochukwu Ezeaba

Public Relations Officer: Ogechi Alisigwe

Treasurer: Obianuju Nwaebili

Event Coordinator: Austin Nwaebili

Event Coordinator: Kingsley Okonkwo



UIU Tri State



Umu Igbo Unite (UIU) Tri-State is a Chapter of the organization Umu Igbo Unite and welcomes members from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut to join. UIU Tri-State serves professionals with the goal of giving back to our community, connecting, empowering and sharing through our Igbo Culture. We have over 38 paid members and over 500 member affiliates that attend our events.

Chapter Officers:

President: Chiagorom Osu

Vice President: Jennifer Ezeuka,

Secretary and Membership: Ugochi Azuaru

Finance Chair/Treasurer: Chimezie Okobi

Event Coordinator: Nkem Ukoha,

Event Coordinator: Eberechi Obi,

Event Coordinator: Blossom Okafor,

Event Coordinator: Njum Kalu,

Community Service Chair: Jessica Okoroji

Public Relations Chair: Ifunanya Mokwuah,

Advisory Chair: Ugochukwu Igbokwe



UIU Twin Cities



Umu Igbo Unite - Twin Cities Chapter is the ninth national chapter founded in April 2017. UIU -Twin Cities was created to bring young Igbo professionals together to establish community, networking, and education about our rich and diverse Igbo culture. UIU-Twin Cities works to serve and bring Igbo cultural awareness to communities throughout Minneapolis - St. Paul and surrounding areas.

Chapter Officers:

President: Chiamaka Okonkwo

Vice President: Vanessa Uko

Secretary: Stacy Okpara

Public Relations Officer: Valine Nnoruo

Treasury: Kelechi Uchegbu

Professional Development Chair: Christian Njoku

Provost: Obi E. Chukwu, Esq.

Event Coordinator: Adaku Okpara

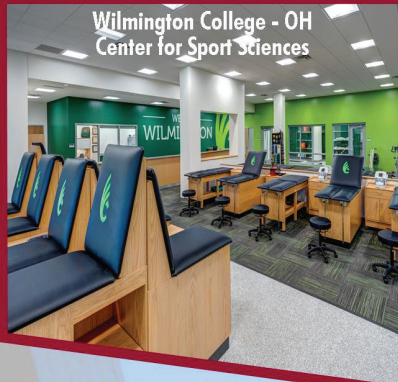
Community Service Chair: Chinwe Ozoh



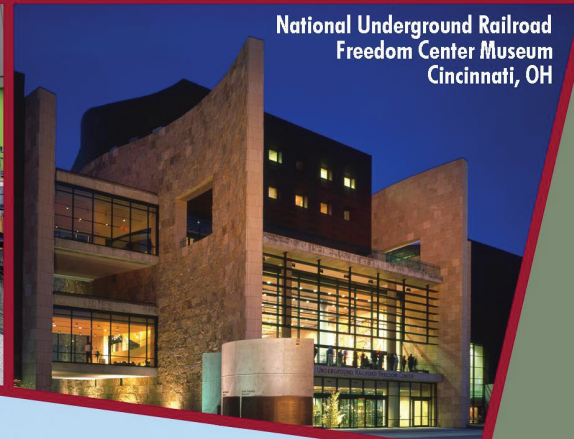
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Wilmington College - OH
Center for Sport Sciences



National Underground Railroad
Freedom Center Museum
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UIU Awards Year

This year, Umu Igbo Unite is hosting its first annual UIU Awards. The 2018 awards team have chosen 3 categories to include in this year's award ceremony. It is without doubt that Igbos, whether at home, or in the diaspora find ways to display their pride and hard work in support of our culture. The purpose of the awards is to honor those outside of the UIU Chapters with their outstanding work towards the progression of the Igbo culture and image. This year's categories are: Humanitarian, Cultural Preservation, and Trailblazer awards respectively.

The UIU Humanitarian Award is used to recognize an individual (or group) who has the courage to take decisive action needed, the wisdom to face aggressive challenges, and the willingness to sacrifice to affect these causes that have a long term impact on the betterment of the Igbo community.

This year's UIU Humanitarian Award Nominees are:

Talk Naija

talknaija.org
TALK MORE. MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS!

Talk Naija fights to bring awareness to mental health and normalize the existence of it by providing a platform to address it. This platform gives those who suffer from mental health setbacks the reassurance that they are not alone. The organization has generational benefit and continues to grow daily. Awarding this organization with the Humanitarian Award will show that not only does UIU acknowledge the existence of mental

illness, but we are in support of normalizing it and supporting those individuals and families who deal with this issue daily.

Exquisite Water

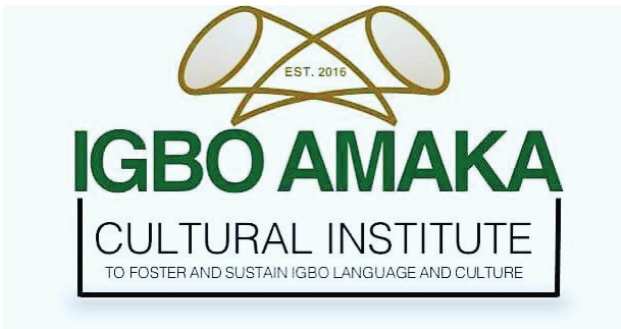


Exquisite Water is a nonprofit, public health organization with the goal of eradicating adverse health effects related to waterborne illnesses and providing access to clean, safe and affordable drinking water in rural Nigeria. Currently, our voiceless communities' bare necessities are overlooked and has led to recent outbreaks of cholera in villages, and the unfortunate status quo of a high prevalence of Typhoid and Paratyphoid disease. Through Community Involvement and Partnership, Exquisite Water conducts a proper root cause of the water issue to efficient and cost effective implementation to communities in Nigeria. This initiative is applicable to the entire country of Nigeria. Exquisite Water is hopeful to roll it out in multiple states within the next 2 years.

The UIU Cultural Preservation Award is given in recognition of an individual (or group) who have taken and exercises actions towards the preservation of the Igbo Culture in the diaspora where UIU operates.

This year's UIU Cultural Award Nominee is:

Igbo Amaka Cultural Institute



In 2012, UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) predicated that without significant efforts to promote the Igbo language that the language and culture will become extinct by 2025; Igbo Amaka Cultural Institute was established exclusively for this purpose. The purpose of fostering and sustaining the Igbo language and culture. The organization operates in the US and Nigeria. In US: This organization was established to educate young adults and professionals born and raised in America the Igbo Language and Culture. Igbo Amaka Cultural Institute has implemented Igbo course in Colleges/Universities such as Community College of Baltimore County, Morgan State University, Bowie State University (Special Program), Howard University (Special Program), Essex County College NJ.

University working on – New York University In Nigeria: This organization was established to promote the implementation of Igbo language into basic education in South-East Nigeria.

Trailblazer Award

Trailblazer Award The UIU Trailblazer Award recognizes an individual (or group) who have taken on the role of advancing and creating a new path in a given industry.

This year's UIU Trailblazer Award Nominees are:

Stephen Ozoigbo



Stephen Ozoigbo is a serial entrepreneur, investor and advisor to multiple technology startups. He is currently the CEO of the African Technology Foundation, a Silicon Valley corporation that seeks to globalize African technologies. In this role he oversees a myriad of stage agnostic technology projects on the continent and actively supports the efforts of Africa's emerging entrepreneurs. In partnership with a number of Pan-African focused initiatives like the Lions@frica program of the US State Department, the Foundation supports signature platforms and activities that

launch innovative technology companies in Africa and support their global expansion. Stephen also serves as an International Advisor for Studio School where he is responsible for bridging knowledge gaps between the African media and entertainment ecosystems and Hollywood, as well as guiding the institution's engagement strategies in the region. Prior to these roles, he served as an Investment Consultant to the Government of Catalonia and managed multiple projects related to technology incubation, commercialization and internationalization. Stephen has addressed international audiences at the Global Mobile Internet Conference (GMIC), Mobile World Congress (MWC) and DEMO Africa on various elements of the "mobile economy" and is an avid supporter of diaspora engagement activities that are geared towards innovation and technology entrepreneurship. Stephen has a Master's degree in Information Technology, an MBA in Global Business and an Executive Diploma in Behavioral Finance from Pepperdine University and Harvard University respectively.

Ifeoma Ike



Ifeoma Ike is a first-generation activist, artist and attorney with experience in both private and public sectors, as well as grassroots and movement organizing. Ike is the former Deputy Executive

Director of New York City's Young Men's Initiative, and has championed several equity strategies including co-leading the creation of New York City's Disparity Report, co-drafting the Mental Health Council Executive Order, and designing leading male teacher recruitment effort, NYC Men Teach. Ike also serves as a liaison to the City's first ever Young Women's Initiative, and has ensured young girls, LGBTQ youth, and families have been prioritized in citywide efforts. She is currently a Partner at global strategic firm, Think Rubix, Ike's portfolio includes training law enforcement in implicit bias and passing criminal justice reform legislation as a Senior Policy Advocate at the Innocence Project; spearheading an international collaboration to provide the people of Haiti clean water post the 2010 earthquake as a staffer on Capitol Hill; and addressing voter disenfranchisement on a local and national level as Counsel of the US House Judiciary. Ike co-organized the first congressional staffer walkout "Hoodies on the Hill" in response to the shooting death of teenager Trayvon Martin, and co-facilitated the creation of the congressional caucus on Black Men and Boys. In 2016, Ike and six other women (#SheWoke Committee) successfully urged Congress to create the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls following the death of Sandra Bland.

Ike is co-creator of Black and Brown People Vote; creative director of #Vote4BlackFutures, and has served as a movement lawyer throughout the country, including as a member of the Ferguson Legal Defense Committee. She is a member of the first cohort of "Change the Game," an initiative to increase the number of civic data experts. Ike's work has been awarded by the National Bar Association, Black Enterprise, and Huffington Post, among others. She is also a Lehman College professor.

Ike received her B.A. and M.A. in Communications Theory and Research at West Virginia University; J.D. from CUNY School of Law; and LL.M. from George Washington University Law School.

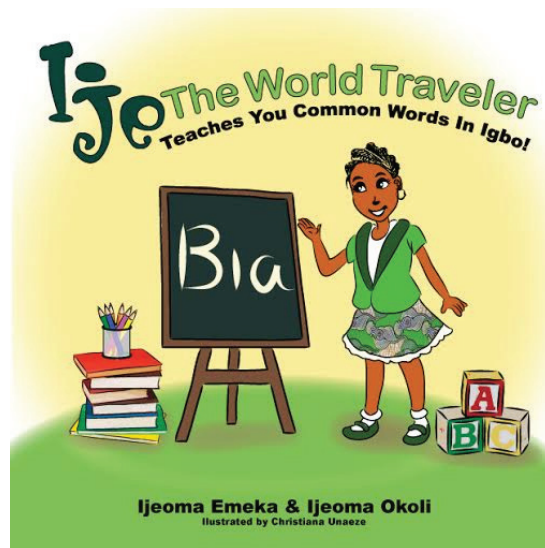
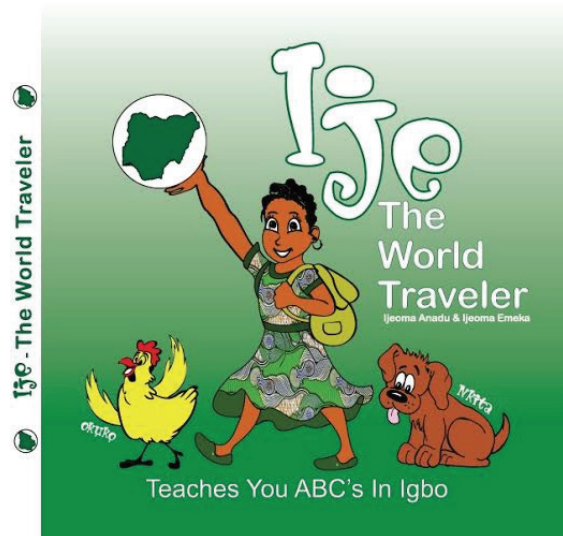


IJE THE WORLD TRAVELER, LLC.

Congratulates Umu Igbo Unite Nationals on another successful convention May God continue to be the leader of this organization as all Igbos unite as one

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Njem Ulo - 2018 UIU Igboland Tour & Excursion

Umu Igbo Unite is going to explore Igboland on a 10 day trip starting in Nigeria's capital, Abuja! In partnership with **Onye Ije Experience Tours**, we are offering two guided tour packages:

Tour 1: November 23rd - December 2nd, 2018

Tour 2: December 14th - December 23rd, 2018

Total Tour Package is \$3,500 *(\$4,500 for December Trip)*

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round trip airfare from Atlanta, GA to Abuja**
- Ground AC Transportation
- Transfers from airports. (Arrive in Abuja, Depart from Abuja)
- Comfortable and secure 4 or 3 star hotel accomodation
- Insurance & Travel security
- 3 meals a day (alcohol not included)
- Accommodation is in a shared room with one other person. Private rooms are \$400 extra.
- Select cultural souvenirs and postcards in a goodie bag

Important: 25% nonrefundable deposit is due by July 14, 2018

*\$4,500 reflects the increased airline costs during the Christmas holidays

**Your investment does not include your visa or flight to and from Atlanta, Georgia.

Check out the full itinerary and more information at: <https://umuigbounite.com/programs/uiutourism/>

For questions or requests for more information, please send us an email:

tourigboland@umuigbounite.com



Naija Don('t) Fail

By Chisom Onyeuku

By now, I'm sure you've heard the maxim, "If you're Nigerian, there are only 4 career options: doctor, lawyer, engineer, or failure." If you're a lawyer or an engineer, that sentence is likely the first time you've ever placed 2nd or 3rd in anything. If you're like me, then clap for yourself. You are one of the millions of young Nigerians who have failed.

Make no mistake about it. Medicine, law, & engineering are foundational professions in any society. If you're fortunate enough to train and gain footing in one of these professions, you will almost certainly enjoy career stability and sizable income throughout your life. When you consider what our parents/grandparents generation went through, aspiring to have children in professions is as practical as it is understandable. They watched the independence of a nation, followed by a civil war, followed by the re-integration of the southeast region into Nigeria.

Some of them had to postpone or abandon their educational and professional pursuits just to survive. On a lighter note, maybe aside from the cultural pressure, you really did just want that career for yourself. If you're one of those gifted and driven individuals whose passion and purpose aligns with one of these careers, may you retire with the same sense of principle that drew you in.

Perhaps you're one of the brave souls who discovered a passion for the creative arts and refused to shift from that path. First of all, I commend you. You have more courage than I did. If you had a dollar for every disappointed uncle or unwanted push towards another profession, you wouldn't need your art to get rich. But it was never (all) about the money. It was about following your path, right? As stubborn as Nigerians, especially Igbos, can be once we put our mind to something, it's hypocritical to ridicule people

who choose creative paths from a young age. That early discovery of a love for their craft should be commended. So if you need it, consider me to be the uncle who encourages you. It will not be easy but in this society, you can make it worth it.

I took a world politics class in college. I'll never forget an excerpt from the first paragraph in the chapter about Nigeria. It read almost verbatim, "The entrepreneurial spirit of most Nigerians is legendary." When I finally touched village for the first time in over two decades this past Christmas, I saw the spirit first hand. Most people I talked to, no matter their position in society, had some sort of entrepreneurial plan. In some cases, they just didn't have the financial means to execute it. When I came back to the US, I took notice of how many young Nigerian professionals (yes, even the doctors, lawyers, and engineers) had some type of side

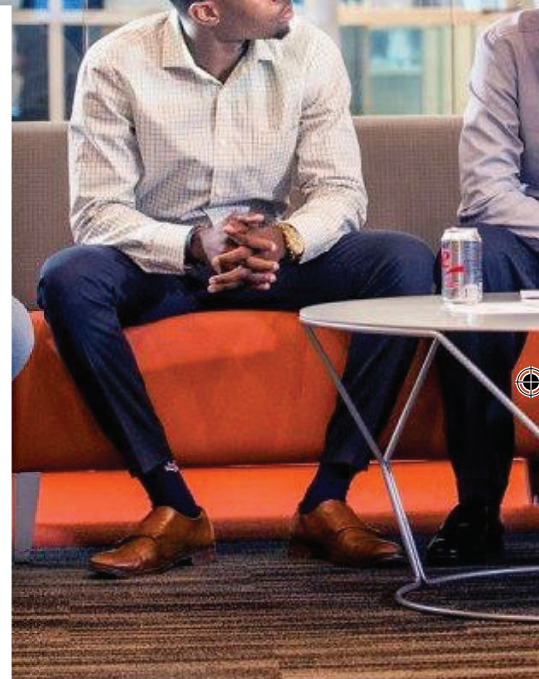
hustle or business. America's capitalistic society almost requires it. Creativity is the foundation of entrepreneurship. In most cases, so is failure. So often, we learn to do something right by experimenting and learning the wrong ways. That applies to building a business, finding a career, or even, writing an article. If the entrepreneurial spirit of most Nigerians is indeed legendary, then so is our creative spirit.

If you're reading this, it's too late. You've likely already failed. You've failed in enlightening and life course altering ways. Being a doctor, lawyer, or engineer doesn't inoculate you from this feeling. In fact, if you're in the profession for the wrong reason, it may lead to a feeling of failure due to lack of fulfillment. I'm writing this to tell you that it's ok to try new things and test new boundaries. Write that book, shoot that pilot, paint that picture, and record that song. Do something with that God given creativity that stirs your soul because you will undoubtedly stir somebody else's. No need to be afraid of failure because as Darius from the FX TV show, Atlanta, pointed out, "You know Nigerians don't fail."



Chisom Onyeuku is a disease detective and writer currently residing in the Atlanta area. When he's not getting a workout in or catching a good action movie, he can usually be found following sports, gaming or reading. Feel free to say hello on Facebook.

Igbo Rising Star: Fortune



By Nina Ngobidi

Fortune Onwuzuruike was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia but his roots can be found in Mbieri, Imo State. As the oldest and only boy with three younger sisters, he knew he had to make his parents proud and set an example for the younger ones to follow. Fortune enjoyed playing sports from childhood. During his high school journey, he became varsity captain of his high school soccer team. After receiving athletic scholarship offers for soccer, Fortune had a decision to make. Would he pursue his athletic talents and see how far that takes him, or

foundation of learning? Fortune turned down the athletic scholarships because he was excelling academically and knew the path he wanted to take for his success.



Fortune knew he wanted a career in Healthcare but he also has a love for technology. He attended Georgia State University where he majored in Health Information Technology. Academics weren't his only drive. He capitalized on as many volunteer opportunities during his undergrad as possible. Fortune was the first consolidated SGA President of the largest school in Georgia with over 50,000 students. George State University was so impressed with him that he was chosen, along with 3 other students, to meet Bill Gates! He thought he was just meeting with the Bill Gates Foundation. They interviewed Fortune and his family, getting

to know him culturally and professionally. The final interview took place at Georgia State University where they were told they would be meeting Bill Gates. It was a huge surprise! He then had the opportunity to meet Bill Gates personally. They talked about student success, technology and career.

Fortune's determination landed him prominent internships for major healthcare companies. By his sophomore year of college, he landed an internship with The American Heart Association doing data analytics. He was a part of the Multi Cultural market team, trying to help prevent illnesses and improve patient outcomes in black communities, nationally. He also worked with the national headquarters in Dallas and was flown out to other locations for data projects. His internship with Azalea Health made him realize the big push and demand for electronic health records as he continued to find ways to improve patient outcome.

Fortune's internship with WellStar Health went so well; he received a full time job offer as an application analyst working with a major healthcare system called Epic. The Epic system dominates 55% of the market in the USA. He is apart of the security and HIM team at Wellstar where he creates user/provider accounts and control access for the system. He does hospital coding as well. His goal is to bring world-class healthcare and world-class technology together to improve healthcare experience overall.

Fortune is currently pursuing masters in Healthcare Management at Kennesaw State University. He is developing his management skills in hopes of becoming a future manager, director. Fortune hopes to become a professor and healthcare executive. With his determination, drive and skill he is on the right track to making his dreams come true. Job well done Fortune, keep up the great work!

Ngozi Kim is an actress, comedian, writer, and much more! She has learned the tools of the trade when it comes to media, marketing and entertainment. Join us as we chat about her journey and discuss what it takes to turn creative passions into a career.

Ngozi the Great:

A Chat with an Igbo Creative



By Nina Ngobidi

Nina: Lets start with your background. Where do you hail from in Naija and America?

Ngozi: My mom is from Imo State and my dad is from Abia State. I was born in Atlanta, raised in New Orleans.

Nina: How was it growing up in a city filled with rich culture?

Ngozi: It was so great! Growing up Nigerian and still having that New Orleans culture was crazy. It was very fun. Then we went to Houston. It was actually a culture shock going from New Orleans to Houston. We were in the suburbs in New Orleans but it was still predominantly black. Then I got to Houston. It was way



Ashot from Ngozi's latest film "The Best Guest" that will be premiering in late August at BABESFEST in Austin, TX

Nina: Oh wow! How old were you when you went for the surgery?

Ngozi: 17, my last semester of high school. I had scoliosis. Not the worse case but I guess it was bad. I went to sleep 5'5 and after the surgery I woke up being 5'7! I went to college at the University of Texas San Antonio. I didn't know what I was going to do "career wise." I got my degree in Interpersonal Communication Studies so basically I got a Communications degree. I was honestly at college because that was the next thing to do after high school.

Nina: Wow! That's a serious surgery. What were your parents' reactions when you told them you wanted to major in communications?

Ngozi: Parents know their kids. I think the problem comes when parents clearly know their kids and still try to stop them from being who they were born to be. My parents were happy I was there and knew I was still figuring out what I wanted to do.

I started interning at a talent agency my sophomore year of college. From there I was auditioning for different things. Booked commercials, stand-in work, trying to learn about the industry. My senior year of college I had spinal surgery, AGAIN! I got a mosquito bite on my shoulder blade. I thought it was no big deal until it started getting bigger and bigger. The bacterium was affecting the hardware that was used during the first spinal surgery. I graduated in the Fall of 2012 because of that.

I stayed in the area and was working in marketing. I was making a lot of money but I could not take it. In the summer of 2012 I started my YouTube channel. I figured if I'm good at making jokes I would go ahead and just make a YouTube channel and see where it goes. It started picking up traction fast because this was the year they started Love and Hip Hop Atlanta, a reality show. I was doing parodies with wigs and props. I don't watch a lot of reality shows at all, but that

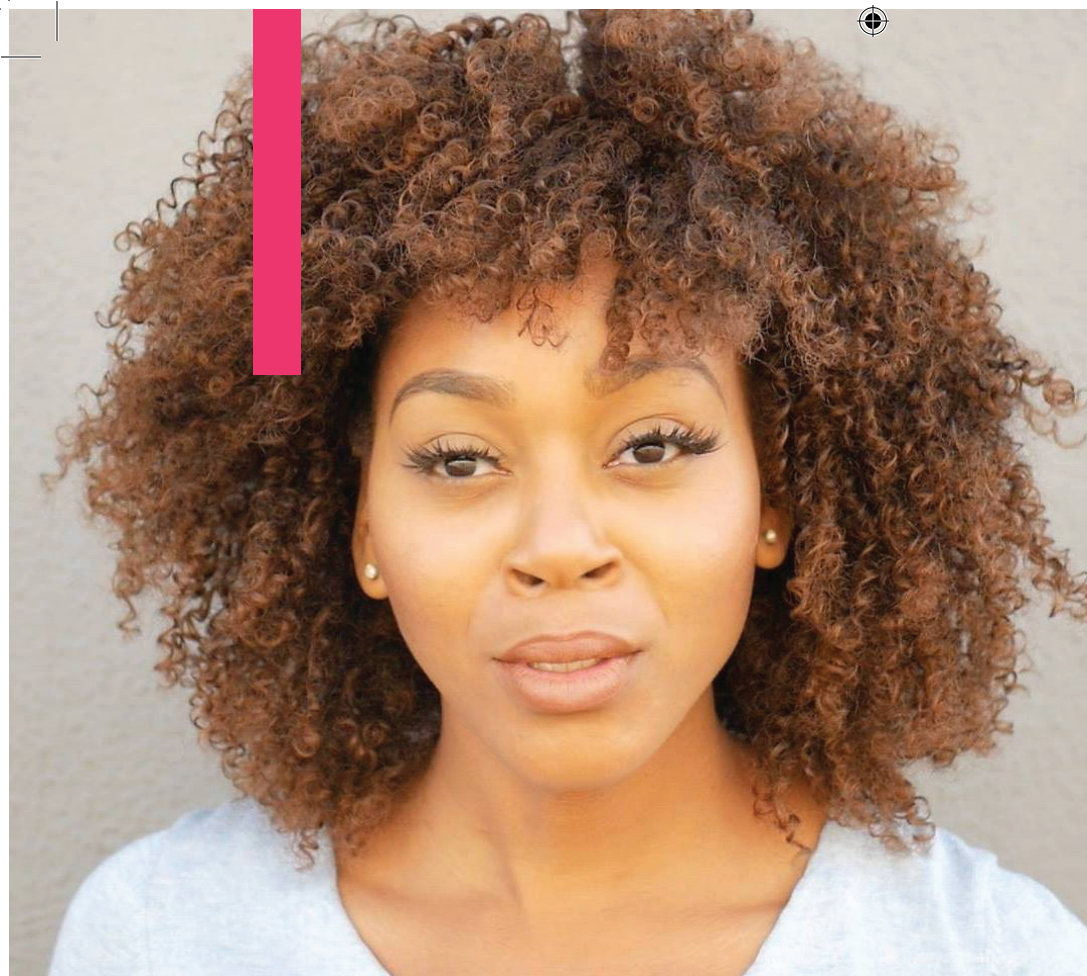
show got everyone's attention because it was so ridiculous. I would do Empire parodies and one year I was invited to host the Empire After show.

In 2014 I moved to Austin. Loved that it was an artsy city, it was cool, until it wasn't. I was doing YouTube and driving Lyft. A majority of my income was coming from YouTube. I thought I was doing great. I thought I was on an upward trajectory. But YouTube started changing.

In 2016 I had a friend, Uche, he had a brain aneurysm and died. It was crazy. Uche was the Igbo boy that every mother wanted for their daughter. He was a great guy. He had a lot going for him. His death motivated me to chase my dreams. I said to myself I am not staying here in Texas.

Nina: I'm sorry for your loss. Do you feel your friend Uche encourage you pursue your goals?

Ngozi: Of course! While he was alive he was very motivating. Its after he passed away that I



collaborating or meeting fellow Igbos or Nigerians?

Ngozi: I'm happy I have my takeaways from Texas. I've collaborated with other Igbo creators such as Chika Moma (@CallMeSkitzo). When I was in Texas I would collaborate a lot with the WoWo Boys. They are an Igbo sketch comedy group. Mainly, James aka @OTWHITE. In fact, the voice of my dad in Growing up Nigerian is James. There is a scene in Growing up Nigerian where you hear a deep Igbo dad yelling at me, which is funny because my mom was more of the noisemaker growing up but I feel its funnier coming from a dad perspective.

Nina: Igbo moms should all win Nollywood performances for their displays.

Ngozi: My mom should've been a Nollywood star! But yes, I collaborate with Nigerians here in LA. On Growing up Nigerian some of the cast members are Nigerian. Andrea Okeke (@drea_knowsbest), she is a pretty big viner. A whole engineer, who

realized his true reason for being here was to inspire people. I just felt like life was happening and I needed to better myself. I went to LA August 2017. I randomly booked my flight. I said Universe, Lord; I need a cheap one-way ticket. I found one for \$57 and left August 22nd, the day before Hurricane Harvey hit.

Nina: Oh no! Hope your family made it out ok. That's a tough situation to be in. Lets talk about your show, "Growing up Nigerian." How did you team up with the key players that make the show possible?

Ngozi: I'm still fairly new to LA. I just got here. In the grand scheme of things I have been here in under a year. Growing up Nigerian was created in October 2017, 2 months after I moved to LA. It's a digital 1-minute show.

Nina: Wow you didn't waste any time!

Ngozi: Yea, I don't like to play games. I like to hit the ground running. Hopefully it picks up more traction. I decided to make a series that's super authentic to me and maybe people will find it relatable.

Nina: Do you find yourself



still does her own thing. She is on the show as the friend that is always getting into trouble. Nkiru (@NkGorgeous), is a choreographer. I met Nkiru at a party, she knew the WoWo boys and wanted to collaborate.

Nina: We know that school is important, how would someone incorporate education as a part of their creative career?

Ngozi: It depends. It took me going to school for me to realize this is what I want to do. Also, I do love talking to people. So my degree was perfect for me. It really depends on what people want to do. If they want to do a start up they may need to go to business school, if you want to be an actress ok great, you should still go learn your craft. It doesn't have to be a university. Just make sure you are always working on your craft.

Nina: Lets talk money, budgets. Do you feel there has to be some sort of balance between focusing on money and knowing that it will come eventually?

Ngozi: You have to love it. Let me tell you, any thing in art, you aren't getting a lot of money. If you are willing to put in the work, money will come but its not money driven. I didn't start making money off of YouTube in a day. It took a lot of videos, a lot of editing, time and even then it was only small amounts. It did get to the point where I was making good money, but it didn't happen over night. You have to be willing to do the side hustles to support you along the way.

Nina: Hard work and drive is always important. What are your future plans?

Ngozi: I'm being more open with my audience now and being my authentic self. Growing up Nigerian is on hiatus for right now. I went to Costa Rica a couple weeks ago. Came back, with a bad back. Long story short I went to the spine doctor and it was a wake up call that I need to take care of myself a little more. It also inspired me to create Gozi Goes West.

Gozi Goes West is an Instablog on Instagram (@Ngozithegreat). I've been updating it every day since I moved to LA. It now a YouTube Channel as well. After the incident with my back, I needed to start physical therapy and I thought to myself, I need to tell this story so www.GoziGoesWest.com is more about my journey channel. It's a docu-blog format. More like a look behind the creator. I love documentaries I want to do everything! I want to work for Vice one day.

In August I'm screening my short film "The Best Guest" It is a romantic comedy written & directed by me starring myself & @MIKEDAMN of the YouTube sketch comedy troupe Dormtainmant. It will be screening in the comedy portion at BABESFEST (an annual festival highlighting women making boss moves) taking place in Austin, TX the last weekend of August. This year has been cool I spoke on 3 panels at SXSW. I just want to

keep making stuff and being able to share it. Getting my out there.

Nina: Any last minute advice?

Ngozi: This is the best time to do whatever you want. You just have to go hard. It sounds so cliché but its true!

Catch up with all of Ngozi's creative adventures at:

instagram: @Ngozithegreat

YouTube: GoziTV

YouTube: GoziGoesWest

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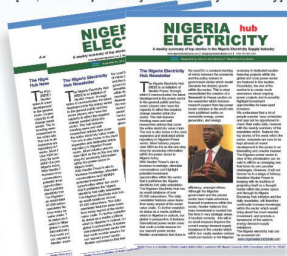
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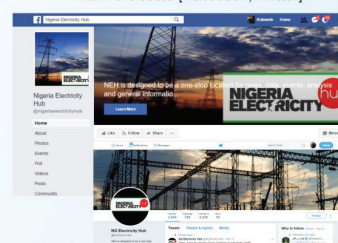
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The Process of Igba Nkwu Nwanyi in Igbo Culture



By Rosemary Eneogwe

From time immemorial, the Igbo culture includes outstanding ceremonies that distinguish them from other tribes in Nigeria. Every ceremony has its excitement, beauty, uniqueness, fun and is deeply rooted in the culture. One of the exciting ceremonies that is celebrated greatly in Igbo culture is the Igba nkwu Nwanyi (Bride's wine carrying).

Igba nkwu, formally known as Traditional marriage, is an Igbo customary way of marriage. It is the Igbo traditional marriage rites that a groom performs at the bride's family home in the presence of her family, extended family and his family as well. It is an affair that joins a man and woman as well as their families and villages.

It is important to note that Igbo culture does not recognize the process of marriage proposal on bended knee with a ring as that signifies western culture. In Igbo culture the family, extended family and villagers do not recognize a man and a woman as husband and wife even if kids were involved, until a woman's bride price has been paid.

In the olden days, Igba nkwu used to be arranged by the parents of the future bride and groom. In this case, after cautious inquiry parents select husband and wife for their children. In certain

instances this lead young girls to be betrothed from birth. However, in this modern age, young people are free to choose the spouse of their choice, wherever they find love, with their parents' approval. Every stage about Igba nkwu takes place in the bride's family and in her compound. To that effect, there are 4 processes of Igba nkwu, and the idu uno, which is practiced by some communities. It is imperative to know that all stages are essential.

Before the proper traditional marriage takes place, the man makes his intentions known to the woman he's been dating. He proposes to her and if she accepts the proposal, the next stage is to make his intentions well known to the father and formally ask for the daughter's hand in marriage. The act of making his intentions well known to the bride's father is the beginning of the first Igba nkwu process called Ikuaka.

Ikuaka (inquiry/knocking): Ikuaka as we have come to know is the first process of Igba nkwu in igbo culture. Here the groom goes with his father and few relatives to declare his intention to marry from that family. They are not obliged to come with anything at this early stage but as a sign of goodwill they come with kola nut and hot drinks. The father of the man usually introduces himself

and makes the intention known. In cases where the father of the groom is not alive an uncle or elder brother does that. The bride is usually summoned by her parents and asked if she knows the groom, the reason for his visit and whether she agrees to marry him. If she accepts the kola nut brought by the groom, then that gives way for lju ajuju or lju ese (Discovery of family background). Of course they family of the groom will not be expecting immediate answers until after lju ese or lju ajuju.

The next process includes seeking the consent of bride's extended family known as the Umunna: This stage is where the lju ese or lju ajuju (discovery of family background) begins. Here both parties go into inquiry about each other's family and what is being inquired includes the background of the family, reoccurring issues, if there is any bad omen in the family, healthy history, fertility, divorce traces, family history. If any of the parties finds anything negative the marriage process has ended. There will be no more marriage traditionally. This is because the party that found out the negativity will no longer be in support, but in cases where the man and the woman are adamant as a result of love for each other (as can be seen in some cases in this modern age) they might choose to do the court marriage. The court wedding is a western culture, and has no correlation with the Igbo traditional marriage system. Then in cases where the discovery went well the second visit is being scheduled. During the second visit the groom comes with larger people and gifts like kola nuts, palm wine, beer, dry gin, soft drink to restate his intention and seek the consent of the Umunna. Once the Umunna gives their consent as well as the bride (for the second time) then both families share food and drink.

The next process is called Ugwo ishi Nwanyi or Imego (bride price): The bride price is the money paid by a groom to the parents of the woman he has just married or is just about to marry. This is where the negotiation and payment takes place. There comes a lot of bragging from the bride's family stating their daughter's accomplishments while the groom and his family continue to beg for negotiation. At the end there's always an agreement. The bride price goes very low or high depending on what the bride's father chooses to take from the groom. In some cases, the father of the bride will not take anything from the groom but advised him to take care of their daughter, as they are all one family.

In addition, whenever a woman decides not to be in the marriage anymore because of any reason, or the man doesn't want to marry her anymore because of whatever reason the bride's father returns the bride price. This is also the stage where the marriage requirement list is given to the groom and his family. The marriage requirement list is compulsory. This list differs depending on the state, village and community and can be negotiated with the Umunna. They might decide to do it monetarily. The marriage requirement includes yam, wrappers, drinks, chickens, beverages, toiletries, jewelries, kegs of palm wine, bags of rice, food ingredients, soaps, igba "Ichafu" scarfs, wrist watches, umbrellas, etc. Size, quantity and amounts differ according to village, and community as well. The bride price and marriage requirement list is submitted on an agreed day or on the wine-carrying day.

The final process is the Igba nkwu Nwanyi (the bride's wine carrying): This is the final stage of the process of Igba nkwu nwanyi in igbo culture. It is known as a celebration day. It marks the customary wedding party, which is usually done at the bride's family. Cards are printed to invite people, the bride's family decorates their compound



and the seats meant for the couple. The couple's seat is always traditionally decorated with palm fronds, wrappers, and gourds. The bride's family cater for food, and might even call live bands as well as traditional dancers to make it more entertaining.

If the bride price and marriage requirement is paid this day it is done before the wine carrying. The wine carrying is the major part of this event where the father of the bride pours wine in a cup called "iko" gives it to her to give to the man that she agreed to marry. Her husband to be is hidden in the midst of the invited guest. She dances beautifully holding the cup of wine with smiles on her face as she searches for her husband. During this process the invited guest and husband's friends beckons at her to bring the drink to them but she knows who her husband is so she searches until she finds him and kneels down to serve the drink to the groom. If the man drinks it then that signifies he is the one. The groom puts some money in the cup, dances with the bride to receive blessing from their parents. After the blessing there comes a lot of feasting and dancing with gifts being given to the couple by friends and family. At the end, the bride goes to her husband's house. Traditionally, it's been seen as the first time she is going to her husband's place.

The Idu uno comes after the traditional wedding. Some communities in Igbo land practice it. This is when the parents of the bride officially visit where the daughter lives. They set a day aside for it and visit her with lots of gift items to start life and family. Idu uno gives a bride respect in her home. The items includes cooking utensils, bed-sheets, suitcases, boxes, sewing machines, bed, pillow cases, plates, spoons, wrappers, clothes, and even cars and other important things depending on the family's financial capability. This is done to give the family a head start to reduce expenses for them.

In conclusion, it is not enough for a man to propose to a woman. Marriage in Igbo culture is not a matter of man and woman alone. It concerns the close kin of both, and the relationship even extends to both villages. Women are held in high esteem in Igbo culture. The groom has to formally follow the due traditional way to marry a woman in Igbo culture. Each process has its uniqueness and all make up the beautiful ceremony known as Igba nkwu nwanyi in Igbo culture.



Rosemary Eneogwe hails from Mbaise in Imo state, Nigeria. She studies English and literary at Imo state University located in Owerri, Imo state, Nigeria. Rosemary enjoys writing, reading, and listening to music.

Facebook: Rose Miracle

The Sweet Benefits of Bitterleaf Soup

Growing up as a child my dad would squeeze bitter leaf in water and serve it as a drink to me and my siblings which we found very awful without knowing its sweet benefits.



Bitter leaf is one of the widely used cooking vegetables in Nigeria known as onugbu by the Igbo's and scientifically called **Vernonia Amygdalina**.

Apart from its culinary purposes, this herb is being adopted by few health professionals due to its therapeutic value and curative potency. The vegetable can be prepared by:

- Simply rubbing it in between your palms and squeezing the juice out of it.
- Cooking it as soup (Ofe Onugbu).

Blending the leaves with little water and drain out the extract with a sieve.



Here are some of the few benefits of bitter leaf:

- It helps to regulate the blood sugar level; especially in diabetic patients it is used as a therapy to prevent high sugar level in the body.
- Used as an antioxidant: Body cells are under constant attack from oxidation, which increase the chance of precancerous cell formation. Studies show that bitter there are antioxidant properties found in bitter leaf when added to a diet offers disease fighting properties.
- When applied on the skin, it is used to cure skin ailments such as ringworm, eczema, etc. due to its antifungal and antibacterial properties.
- Andrografen and Androfolit found in the leaf, reduce the risk of skin aging achieving a flawless skin.
- The bitter leaf contains an antiseptic which is effective to reduce heat. The content such as andrographolide lactones, glucosides, diterpene and flavonoids found in leaf helps to reduce fever

However, it is advisable not to over boil the vegetable to avoid washing out the nutrients. It is best taken freshly squeezed to get satisfactory results.

The leaf reminds us that life is not always sweet; it takes to experience bitterness before you can attain sweetness.



Ogene_Igbo is upcoming online platform established in the year 2016 that promotes the Igbo lifestyle and culture. It was created by **Ms. Chidinma Tochukwu Tony Nnamah** because for her love for the Igbo lifestyle, which she did not grow up around.

Ogene_Igbo has collaborated on various projects and intends to embark on more.

Ndewo!



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- Dr. Chukwudi Franklin Igwe
President, Moravia Health

Ifunanya

by: Chinyere Ugokwe

Nkem,
Ifukwalu ka isi welu too
dika ijele
Ijele mu
na emukasị anya
di ka anyanwu
Anyanwe ututu mu

Uboji nile
Ka mu na enye Chukwu anyi
ekene
Jirikwa ogene na eti
na afugo kwa mu
nke Chukwu nyelu mu

Nkem,
ndi oyibo
na ekwu si
"I love you"
Mana na asusu anyi
nke ndi amana
jiri welu jiko nne na nna anyi

nke anyi jiri
welu bulu ofu
afuru'm gi na anya
mgbe nine
mgbe okochi
ma na udu mmiri
Afuru'm gi na anya
nke ukwu

Ifunanya

by: Chinyere Ugokwe

Mine,
Do you see how tall you are like
the Ijele?
My ijele
Shining your eyes
As bright as the sun
The eyes that owns my mornings

Every day
I give Our God praises
Also using the gong to announce
That I have seen
The one that God has given me

Mine,
White people
Do say "I love you"
But in our language
the one our ancestors
Used to bind our parents
The one that holds us together
And makes us one
"Afuru'm gi na anya"
At all times
During dry season
During rainy season
I love you so very much

3 Poems



THE MOTHERLAND

By Rosemary Eneogwe

Dike, where is Obiora and Adaukwu?

Tell them they bear a fruit in their motherland.

Tell them the blood of their father runs through
their vein.

The Igbo land is calling them.

Tell them the ancestors are watching.

The soil of their motherland needs to feel the
warmth of their presence.

Dike, tell them that the birds chants for their
return.

Tell them that they are sojourners over there.

Tell them not to live at the other side
unbothered.

Dike, tell them "Ala Igbo anyi amaka" (Igbo land
is beautiful)

Tell them the culture is rich,

And make sure you tell them not to just wear it
as a beautiful dress,

But should cultivate it and let the fruits spring
forth

As the world gaze at the beauty.

Dike, remember to tell them that the trees
around their territory Are consumed by termites.

Tell them the walls that surrounded them have
fallen,

And now strangers creep in.

Tell them we need them when we are gone.

Dike, tell them "Na oge eruwo" (The time is now)

Level up with Disruption!

Umu Igbo would rather die

Than live in captivity..

But there is a new kind of captivity..

The mental captivity that we bring upon ourselves..

Influenced by the external system..

Strategically created to keep us on a level..

But it is time level up!..

And we shall level up above the glass ceiling

And emancipate our minds!!

As Umu Igbo, we rather die trying!

.....

But first we need to find our WHY..

Are we dying to live or

Are we living to die?

Will you be among those who

When they get to end of their stay here on earth

Will look back and wished they had started early?

Will look back and wish they had more time?

More time to achieve their dreams

.....

Well I have good news for you

Umu Igbo United is here for you!

This is the time to start

This is the beginning of a new race

The beginning of a new era in your life

.....

Do you know the era we are in right now?

This is the era of millennial unrest

This is the Era where there is peace in chaos..

There is Sense in disagreements now..

There is creativity in disruption now..

And there is beauty in the diversity we bring to the world as Umu Igbo!

.....

Long gone are the days of industrial revolution

Long gone are the days of computer revolution

And recently past are the days of technological rev.

Now we are in the days of intelligence revolution

.....

Days where we use our minds to create things

We disrupt the system with design thinking

We Cause amazement with innovation

And we invent new solutions to recent needs

....

As you take the journey inwards to find your purpose

And level up.

May you walk out of yourself and away from your comfort zone with a disruptive mindset.

Don't be afraid to dream your dream!

But as you dream remember

Your dream is like a glass of milk

The more you wait to drink it

The sour it gets

Drink your milk!

.....

And before you skip to the next article

I would like you to sip on this first..

"Always think about alternative better ways to

Think about what you think about"

.....

God bless us all in our various disruptive endeavors!

God bless Umu Igbo Unite for bringing us together

to remind us that we are stronger together

Because Igwe bu Ike

God bless all our home towns

God bless the United States of America!

Kind regards,

IK

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From Nigeria to New Orleans, the road to greatness has no limits.

Toyota is excited to partner with Umu Igbo Unite for the 14th Annual Umu Igbo Unite Convention. We join you in celebrating Igbo culture, and the accomplishments and the contributions that the Nigerian Diaspora has made to our communities through its spirit of greatness.



TOYOTA

SONS of Nigeria congratulates Umu Igbo Unite on their 14th annual convention.

We invite UIU members in the NY/NJ/CT area to join us for a fun-filled beach day at our 6th annual summer fest on September 1st in New Rochelle NY.

Rsvp: [Sonsofnigeria@yahoo.com](mailto:sonsofnigeria@yahoo.com)



UUU would like to Say a Big Thank You to All Our Chapters!



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