



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY
ILE-IFE, NIGERIA



ACADEMIC & RESEARCH
**EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**
2026
FOURTH EDITION



Awardee, Excellence in Research Practice

Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, OON CFR

Professor of Applied Chemistry,
A Distinguished Scholar and
An Outstanding Alumnus of
Obafemi Awolowo University,
Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY, 2026



Chief Host

Prof. Adebayo Simeon Bamire
Vice Chancellor,
Obafemi Awolowo University,
Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

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NIGERIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ,
In brotherhood we stand,
Nigerians all are proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honour'd,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request,
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.



GREAT IFE ANTHEM

Great Ife! Great Ife!
Africa's most beautiful campus.
Conscious, vigilant, progressive
Aluta against all oppression
Forward ever, backward never
For learning and culture, sports and struggle
Great Ife! I love you
There's only one Great Ife in the universe
Another Great Ife is a counterfeit
Great! Great! Great! Great! Great!



HIS EXCELLENCY
BOLA AHMED TINUBU GCFR
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



HIS ROYAL MAJESTY
ALHAJI YAHAYA ABUBAKAR CFR
ETSU NUPE



RT. HON. ADEJARE BELLO

PRO-CHANCELLOR &
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL



PROF. ADEBAYO SIMEON BAMIRE
VICE-CHANCELLOR



PROF. OLADAPO AFOLABI, OON CFR
HONOUREE



PROF. G. A. ADEROUNMU
DVC. ACADEMIC



PROF. E. O. AKINFALA
DVC. ADMINISTRATION



PROF. A. I. AKINYEMI
DVC. RESEARCH, INNOVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



MR K. A. BAKARE
REGISTRAR



DR. O. A. FADEHAN
LIBRARIAN



MRS. O. I. ABOGAN
BURSAR

EDITORS' REFLECTION

Knowledge, in its truest form, is never static. It is cultivated through rigorous inquiry, tested through application, and sustained through the collective commitment of a community dedicated to its advancement. This publication is a living testament to the intellectual vitality that defines Obafemi Awolowo University as one of Africa's foremost centres of learning, research, and innovation.

As we gather to celebrate the Research and Academic Excellence of the 2025/2026 academic year, we are reminded that the achievements documented herein are the fruit of deliberate vision, sustained effort, and an unwavering commitment to the ideals upon which this great institution was founded. From the strategic oversight of the Governing Council to the scholarly contributions of our distinguished faculty, from the dedication of our administrative staff to the ingenuity of our students, from the transformative research emerging from our laboratories to the global partnerships that extend our reach, every element of this compilation reflects a university in motion, advancing with purpose and clarity.

The pages that follow capture the breadth and depth of our institutional life. Leadership perspectives from the Pro Chancellor and Vice Chancellor articulate a vision of governance and academic enterprise that balances immediate demands with long-term aspirations. Faculty spotlights across the sciences, engineering, architecture, and environmental design reveal the innovative spirit that animates our academic programmes. Research support infrastructure, from the University Research Office to the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office, demonstrates our commitment to translating discovery into tangible societal impact. Student voices, testimonials, and achievements affirm that the future of this university rests in capable and inspired hands.

This compilation is an invitation to reflection and a summons to continued action. The challenges confronting higher education in



**Prof. Morenike
Ukpog**



**Prof. Charles
Ukeje**

the twenty-first century, technological disruption, funding pressures, global competition, and evolving workforce demands, require universities to adapt without sacrificing their core values. Obafemi Awolowo University has embraced this imperative with resilience and ingenuity, and the evidence of that embrace is woven throughout this document.

We extend our gratitude to every member of the university community whose contributions have made this year of excellence possible. Special recognition is due to the Central Office of Research for its tireless efforts in coordinating and celebrating research excellence, and to all the contributors who have shared their insights and achievements within these pages. Their work ensures that the story of this university continues to be told with accuracy, pride, and hope.

As we look toward the future, our vision remains clear: to position Obafemi Awolowo University among the most respected institutions globally while remaining deeply committed to serving the needs of Nigeria, Africa, and humanity at large. This publication serves as both a record of our progress and a foundation upon which future generations will build. May the excellence celebrated here inspire greater accomplishments in the years to come. And may this university continue to be a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and service for generations yet unborn.

WELCOME MESSAGE

from the Registrar at the 2026 Excellence Day Celebration

Excellence is what we celebrate on a daily basis in Obafemi Awolowo University and dedicating a particular day to the celebration is epoch making and most heartwarming. It is with this euphoria that I welcome you all to the 2026 edition of the Excellent Day Celebration at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Between last year celebration and now we have undoubtedly broken new grounds in excellence with regards to research, innovation, administrative ingenuity, student representation and alumni relations.

Obafemi Awolowo University was founded in 1961 and established in 1962. Since inception, it has remained rooted in the principles of excellence and aesthetics laid down by its visionary architects and academic pioneers. The original master plan articulated through the brilliant vision of the Bauhaus-influenced Israeli architect Arie Sharon married function with form, purpose with beauty. The motto "For Learning and Culture" and the guiding ethic of the 'Omoluabi' honour code continue to shape our university's soul. OAU was conceived not merely as a centre for academic instruction, but as a transformative institution, to teach, to research, and to serve society. The

University of Ife Edict of 1970 clearly enunciated this mandate: to advance knowledge and its practical application for the social, cultural, economic, scientific, and technological benefit of Nigeria, Africa, and the world. Today, as we reflect on our journey, we do so with the understanding that this vision has transitioned into remarkable impact.

Our campus remains one of the most iconic and beautiful in Africa, a real-world architectural masterpiece nestled within a serene, lush forest. This rare blend of aesthetic brilliance and environmental harmony offers the perfect atmosphere for inspiration, reflection, and innovation. I warmly welcome you all to this extraordinary space where beauty meets purpose, and vision meets impact.

We have produced Nobel laureates, led pioneering medical breakthroughs including Nigeria's first successful kidney transplant—and contributed thought leadership in diverse global spheres. These are not isolated achievements but manifestations of a consistent culture of excellence.

The Excellence Day Celebration was instituted to reinforce this culture by

celebrating outstanding students who exemplify academic brilliance, and alumni whose lives represent the ideal outcome of an OAU education. The inaugural edition in 2023 recognized the legendary Professor Anthony Adegbulugbe for his groundbreaking research, leadership in the energy sector, and enduring loyalty to OAU. Following that great stride, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN, jurist, philanthropist, and mentor was honoured in 2024 for his towering contributions to legal scholarship and youth development. His Men Leaders mentorship model has nurtured over 360 students into ethical and excellent leaders. In 2025, Alhaji Muritadha Adeyemi Adeniji, a business tycoon and Chief Executive Officer of Starlink Global and Ideal Ltd., took centre stage in recognition of his exceptional vision and leadership. His remarkable contributions to the cocoa value chain and the agribusiness sector continue to promote innovation, create employment opportunities, and shape a more self-reliant and prosperous Nigeria.

For 2026, a brobdingnag, Professor Afolabi is being celebrated today. One unique thing about him is his impeccable work ethics and his devotion to excellence.

I commend the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire, for his visionary and purposeful leadership. Under his stewardship, initiatives such as this celebration and the annual Research Fair have become integral to our University's strategic direction, reflecting the aspirations of our founding fathers.

OAU has a very passionate fan base of alumni. Thank you for your unwavering support of the Great Life vision. Together, we will continue to build a lasting legacy.

Thank you.



Kamardeen Adetunji BAKARE
The Registrar,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

GREAT IFÈ

OBAFEMI
AWOLOWO
UNIVERSITY



FOUNDED 1961



PART

01

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES



MESSAGE FROM THE PRO CHANCELLOR

Sustaining A Legacy Of Excellence:

GOVERNANCE, STEWARDSHIP AND STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT

The Governing Council's stewardship responsibilities extend beyond managing present realities to shaping a legacy for future generations. As we celebrate the remarkable achievements of our staff, students, researchers, alumni, and partners, we recognize that institutional excellence depends not merely on individual accomplishments but on the strength of governance frameworks, strategic decisions, and accountability systems that sustain them.

The Council exercises its governance responsibilities through strategic oversight, policy direction, and accountability mechanisms, ensuring the University fulfils its mandate while positioning for sustainable growth and global relevance. This requires balancing immediate operational demands with long-term institutional development, ensuring decisions made today serve the trajectory of decades to come. Throughout the past year, the Council has remained steadfast in upholding transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and institutional integrity—principles that provide the foundation for academic excellence, research innovation, and administrative effectiveness to flourish.

Our strategic decisions have prioritised strengthening OAU's academic and research profile through enhanced funding mechanisms for faculty research and postgraduate programmes, directing resources toward national development priorities and emerging global research

frontiers, and reinforcing quality assurance through programme accreditation and curriculum review. Recognising that institutional excellence depends on people, Council has focused on staff development, improved conditions of service, and strategic workforce planning to ensure continuity and future capacity. Strategic investments in physical and digital infrastructure have strengthened institutional competitiveness, while our commitment to environmental stewardship ensures responsible resource utilisation.

Effective governance requires robust accountability systems. The Council has reinforced financial oversight through enhanced internal controls, risk management practices, and financial reporting, ensuring that government allocations, internally generated revenue, and external grants are managed with integrity. Performance monitoring against strategic objectives ensures programmes deliver intended outcomes, while rigorous compliance with national policies and regulatory standards maintains institutional integrity and public confidence.

Our vision extends beyond maintaining current excellence to positioning OAU for future leadership. We are fostering innovation and entrepreneurship through intellectual property protection and technology transfer, expanding global partnerships and research visibility, breaking down disciplinary silos to address

complex societal challenges, and leveraging digital transformation for enhanced teaching, learning, and administrative effectiveness.

Success depends on partnership. We are grateful to the Federal Government for continued support, to our alumni for enduring commitment, to development and private sector partners for strategic collaboration, and to philanthropic supporters for investing in scholarships, research, and infrastructure.

The Council acknowledges the challenges confronting twenty-first-century universities—rapid technological change, global competition, funding pressures, demographic shifts, and evolving workforce demands. Rather than viewing these as obstacles, we approach them as imperatives for institutional reinvention. Our resilience, adaptability, and commitment to excellence will determine how we navigate these challenges, and we are confident that OAU possesses the talent, vision, and determination necessary to seize emerging opportunities.

The Council remains committed to OAU's aspiration for recognition among Africa's and the world's leading universities—not for rankings or prestige, but to build an institution that consistently delivers excellence in teaching, impactful research, responsible leadership, and societal contribution. The future we envision is one of academic distinction, research leadership, strong governance, financial sustainability, technological innovation, and global relevance.

Achieving this vision requires continued collaboration among Council, Management, Senate, staff, students, alumni, government, and development partners. Enduring excellence is achieved through collective effort and shared commitment. As Chairman of Council, I congratulate all award recipients, researchers, scholars, students, and members of staff whose contributions have advanced institutional progress, and the University Administration for its leadership and dedication.

May this celebration inspire continued



recognition of excellence achieved but also as inspiration for greater accomplishments to come. Together, we shall continue to strengthen the legacy of Obafemi Awolowo University and ensure it remains a beacon of excellence, innovation, and service for generations to come.

Rt. Hon Adejare Bello

Pro Chancellor and Chair of Council,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Olusegun Obasanjo

Agbe L'oba House, Quarry Road, Ibara
P.O. Box 2286, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria

July 9, 2026

Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR,
Former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation,
Ibadan, Oyo State.

My dear Professor and Brother,

LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

It is with immense joy and a deep sense of pride that I write to heartily congratulate you on your being conferred with the *Academic Research Excellence Award 2026* (Fourth Edition) by the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife.

This prestigious recognition is a well-deserved tribute to a lifetime of unalloyed dedication to scholarship, public service, and national development. Long before you brought your intellect to the apex of the Nigerian Civil Service, you had already established yourself as a scholar of international repute. Your brilliant mind shaped generations of students as a lecturer and professor across various universities both at home and abroad.

When duty called you to the civil service, you brought that same rigorous academic discipline into administration. It was during your sterling career that our paths aligned closely, and I witnessed firsthand your capacity for strategic leadership across various ministries. Your elevation to the position of Head of the Civil Service of the Federation was not just a personal milestone, but a profound blessing to our nation.

As a statutory and in-attendance member of the Federal Executive Council, the Council of State, and the National Economic Council, your contributions were invaluable. I vividly recall and commend your visionary focus on building a knowledge-based civil service. You understood that a modern, efficient bureaucracy is the bedrock of any transformational national development agenda, and you laid a solid foundation for that transformation before your meritorious retirement in 2011.

Retirement has clearly not diminished your appetite for service. Your continued leadership on various Boards and the numerous accolades you receive bear testament to a life completely devoted for the advancement and progress of humanity.

As OAU celebrates your research excellence today, you remind us all that true leadership is rooted in knowledge and integrity. My prayer for you on this auspicious occasion is that the Almighty God will grant you robust health, renewed vigour, and many more years of impactful service to our fatherland.

May this award be a stepping stone to even greater honours. Once again, congratulations.

Yours joyfully
Obasanjo
OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

e-mail: obasanjonig@yahoo.com

OGEJ/AB/HE/090/0707-26

7th July, 2026

Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, CFR

Former Head of Service of the Federation
FCT, Abuja

Dear Prof. Afolabi,

GOODWILL MESSAGE

I am pleased to extend my warm congratulations to Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR, on the occasion of his recognition at the 4th Edition of the Obafemi Awolowo University Academic Research Excellence Awards 2026.

This honour is a fitting tribute to a distinguished scholar, accomplished administrator, and exemplary public servant whose career has been defined by integrity, excellence, and a deep commitment to national development. Professor Afolabi's remarkable contributions to academia and public service, culminating in his stewardship as Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, have left an enduring legacy in Nigeria's governance architecture and institutional development.

Throughout his career, he has demonstrated that intellectual excellence and ethical leadership are mutually reinforcing. His dedication to scholarship, public sector reforms, and national service continues to inspire younger generations of academics, administrators, and public leaders across our country.

I commend Obafemi Awolowo University for sustaining this noble initiative of celebrating excellence in research, innovation, and service. By recognising individuals whose lives exemplify the transformative power of knowledge, the University is reinforcing its historic role as a centre of academic distinction and national leadership.

As we honour Professor Oladapo Afolabi today, we celebrate not only an outstanding individual but also the enduring values of scholarship and visionary leadership.

I congratulate Professor Afolabi once again on this well-deserved recognition and wish him continued good health, greater accomplishments, and many more years of meaningful service to our nation and humanity.

Thank you, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours Sincerely,

Goodluck Ebele Jonathan
Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR, GCON



BPSR

BUREAU OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS

THE PRESIDENCY

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT COMPLEX
NEW EXTENSION PLOT 04, PHASE II
BLOCK D, 3RD FLOOR, SHEHU SHAGARI WAY,
P.M.B. 625 GARKI, ABUJA, NIGERIA

the ecosystem.

Office Of The Director General

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY DR. DASUKI I. ARABI MCIPM, MNIM, FICD, FIIM,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL BUREAU OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS ON
THE OCCASION OF THE ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD
IN HONOUR OF PROF. OLADAPO AFOLABI, ON 15TH JULY, 2026**

It is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the management and staff of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR), extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Oladapo Afolabi on the well-deserved conferment of the Academic Research Excellence Award.

This distinguished recognition is a fitting tribute to a remarkable scholar, administrator, and public policy expert whose lifelong commitment to academic excellence, research, and public sector development has left an enduring imprint on Nigeria's governance landscape.

Prof. Afolabi's contributions transcend the walls of academia. Through his outstanding scholarship, visionary leadership, and unwavering dedication to institutional development, he has consistently demonstrated that rigorous research and evidence-based policy are indispensable tools for effective governance and sustainable national development. His work continues to inspire scholars, policymakers, public servants, and the younger generation to pursue excellence with integrity, diligence, and patriotism.

At the Bureau of Public Service Reforms, we deeply appreciate the role that sound research and intellectual leadership play in driving meaningful reforms across the public service. Prof. Afolabi's exemplary career reflects the ideals

we seek to promote innovation, professionalism, accountability, and continuous learning in the service of our nation.

As we celebrate this well-earned honour, we also celebrate the enduring legacy of a distinguished Nigerian whose contributions have enriched public administration, strengthened institutions, and advanced the frontiers of knowledge.

On behalf of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms, I congratulate Prof. Oladapo Afolabi on this prestigious recognition. We pray that God Almighty grants him continued good health, wisdom, strength, and many more years of impactful scholarship and service to our nation and humanity.



Dr. Dasuki I. Arabi, MCIPM, MNIM, FICD, FIIM,
Director-General
Bureau of Public Service Reforms



DR. AKINWUMI A. ADESINA, CON, C.G.H

Honorary President, African Development Bank Group
President & Chairman of the Boards of Directors,
African Development Bank Group (2015-2025)
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development,
Nigeria (2011-2015)

World Food Prize Winner (2017)
SunHak Peace Prize Winner (2018)
Forbes Africa Man of the Year (2013, 2019)
Obafemi Awolowo Leadership Prize (2023)
Forbes Africa Man of the Decade (2024)

Goodwill Message in Honour of Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate **Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR**, on the well-deserved conferment of the Academic Excellence Award by Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

I have had the privilege of knowing Professor Afolabi since his days as a lecturer at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, where he served from 1976 to 1990. Over the years, I have watched with admiration as he built an extraordinary career distinguished by academic excellence, exemplary leadership, and selfless public service. Professor Afolabi first distinguished himself as an exceptional student and later as an accomplished researcher and Professor of Chemistry.

He has authored more than 100 publications in leading international academic journals, making significant contributions to the fields of nutritional chemistry, environmental chemistry, and analytical chemistry.

His outstanding scholarship has earned him numerous national and international honors, including the Distinguished Earth Award (2024), Fellowship of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the African Productivity Merit Award, and Fellowship of the Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria (FICCON), among many others.

Yet, Professor Afolabi's legacy extends far beyond the laboratory and the lecture hall. He proved himself to be an outstanding administrator and nation-builder.

As Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, he championed far-reaching reforms that strengthened the efficiency, professionalism, and productivity of Nigeria's public service. His exemplary leadership, patriotism, and unwavering commitment to national development rightly earned him the prestigious national honor of Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR).

What I admire most about Professor Afolabi, however, is not only the remarkable heights he has attained, but the remarkable humility with which he has attained them. Despite his many accomplishments, he remains gracious, approachable, and self-effacing.

He has quietly mentored and inspired generations of leaders, and I count myself fortunate to be among those who have benefited from his wisdom and encouragement.

During my service as Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development under the administration of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, his counsel and support were invaluable.

There are many brilliant people in the world. There are also accomplished administrators. But it is rare to find a person who combines intellectual distinction, administrative excellence, humility, integrity, and genuine concern for others in equal measure.

That rare combination is what makes Professor Oladapo Afolabi truly exceptional.

Like a catalyst, he has inspired transformation and enabled the success of countless others without seeking recognition for himself.

Today, as his alma mater honors one of its most distinguished sons, we celebrate not only a scholar of global repute, but also a man of character, integrity, and enduring service to humanity and to our nation.

Professor Oladapo Afolabi has brought honor to his family, to Obafemi Awolowo University, to the scientific community, and to Nigeria.

His life reminds us that true greatness is measured not only by personal achievement, but by the lives one has touched and the institutions one has strengthened.

On behalf of all those whose lives have been enriched by your scholarship, leadership, and mentorship, I offer my heartfelt congratulations.

Congratulations, **Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR**, on this richly deserved recognition.

Congratulations also to Obafemi Awolowo University for celebrating one of its finest ambassadors.



Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, CON, GCOG, CGH.

President, African Development Bank Group (2015-2025)

Executive Chairman, Global Africa Investment Summit

Chairman, Diamonds for Development Fund (Botswana)





POWER HOUSE
Plot 14 Zambezi Crescent,
Maitama District,
Abuja - Nigeria

OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER

FMP/HM/GEN. CORR/2026/I/015

8th July 2026

Professor Oladapo Afolabi, OON, CFR
Ibadan, Oyo State.

GOODWILL MESSAGE

It is a singular delight for me as a proud alumnus of our great Obafemi Awolowo University and a son of Ibadan to join in celebrating you at this year's Academic & Research Excellence Awards.

2. Your remarkable journey and transition from the academia to the pinnacle of civil service as Head of Service of the Federation is one that has inspired an entire generation of us who now serve this nation in various capacities. That you have continued, in retirement, to devote yourself to nurturing young minds as Chairman of the Governing Councils of both The Polytechnic, Ibadan, and the First Technical University, Ibadan, remains a model of a life devoted to nation-building beyond office.
3. I congratulate you most warmly on this well-deserved recognition by our Alma Mater. It is a fitting honour for your life of exemplary service, and it is always a joy to celebrate an accomplished Ibadan compatriot on such a distinguished platform.
4. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations, and my prayers for continued good health and many more years of impact.


Joseph O. Tegbe, FCA, FCTI
Honourable Minister

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Advancing Excellence, Innovation and Global Impact:

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY IN A TRANSFORMING HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

The 2025/2026 academic year has tested our capacity to respond to a transforming higher education landscape with vision, determination, and excellence. Universities today must do more than transmit knowledge. They must generate solutions to societal challenges, drive innovation, contribute to economic development, shape public policy, and prepare graduates who can compete and lead in an interconnected world. Obafemi Awolowo University has embraced this expanded mandate with purposeful action and strategic clarity.

Our reputation as a centre of academic distinction, groundbreaking research, and societal impact is no accident. It is the product of decades of dedication by our staff, the commitment of our students, the support of our alumni and partners, and the enduring values upon which this institution was founded. The achievements we celebrate today are not merely institutional milestones—they are reflections of a shared commitment to excellence and a collective belief in the transformative power of education.

Throughout the past year, we have deliberately aligned institutional priorities with national development aspirations. The Federal Government has consistently emphasized education, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and human capital development as critical drivers of sustainable growth. OAU has actively

embraced these priorities through strategic investments in research capacity, academic programme development, staff development, and partnerships that bridge knowledge generation and practical application. This alignment ensures that our work contributes directly to Nigeria's developmental agenda while positioning the university as a key player in national transformation.

Research remains central to our mission. The increasingly complex challenges facing contemporary societies demand evidence-based solutions, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovative thinking. Our researchers have distinguished themselves through studies addressing critical issues in health, agriculture, climate change, technology, governance, and social development. The growing visibility of our research outputs in reputable international journals and the increasing success of our scholars in attracting competitive grants demonstrate the confidence that global partners place in our expertise. This recognition affirms our capacity to contribute meaningfully to global knowledge production while addressing locally relevant challenges.

Simultaneously, we have expanded our global reach and influence. The global higher education landscape is becoming increasingly competitive, with rankings, international collaborations, research visibility, graduate employability, and

innovation outputs serving as important indicators of institutional relevance. Our administration has implemented strategies to strengthen OAU's international profile through expanded partnerships, increased research visibility, enhanced international engagement, and stronger support for global academic collaborations. These efforts position OAU not as a passive participant in global higher education but as an active contributor to international knowledge networks.

Equally important is our commitment to nurturing the next generation of scholars, innovators, and leaders. Our students remain our greatest ambassadors, and throughout the year, they have excelled in national and international competitions, distinguished themselves in professional examinations, demonstrated entrepreneurial ingenuity, and upheld the tradition of excellence for which our institution is renowned. Their achievements affirm the quality of education we provide and reinforce our confidence in the future. Beyond academic distinction, we are preparing graduates who can compete globally, lead with integrity, and contribute to national development.

The success of any university depends not only on its academic staff but also on the invaluable contributions of its non-academic workforce. From administration to technical services, from library services to facilities management, from student affairs to security operations, every unit contributes to the effective functioning of the institution. Our administration remains deeply committed to creating an enabling environment that supports staff productivity, professional growth, and personal well-being. Over the past year, significant efforts have been directed

toward staff development, capacity enhancement, improved service delivery, and the promotion of a workplace culture built on professionalism, accountability, and mutual respect.

Infrastructure development has also remained a major priority. Modern universities require physical and digital environments that facilitate learning, research, creativity, and innovation. Despite prevailing economic challenges and resource constraints, we have continued to pursue strategic infrastructure improvements aimed at enhancing the teaching and learning experience. Investments in classroom facilities, research laboratories, digital platforms, connectivity, and other critical infrastructure underscore our determination to provide a conducive environment for academic excellence.

We must also acknowledge the challenges confronting higher education institutions in Nigeria and across the world. Funding limitations, infrastructure deficits, technological disruptions, changing student expectations, and the increasing demand for globally competitive education require continuous adaptation and innovation. However, OAU's history is one of resilience. Time and again, this institution has demonstrated the capacity to overcome obstacles while remaining faithful to its mission. The challenges we face today are not barriers to progress—they are opportunities for creativity, collaboration, and transformation.

The achievements of the past year would not have been possible without the dedication and sacrifices of many individuals and groups. I express my profound appreciation to the Governing Council for its guidance and support, the Deputy Vice-Chancellors for their

leadership, the Registrar, Bursar, University Librarian, Provosts, Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, members of staff, students, alumni, development partners, and friends of the University. Together, we continue to strengthen the foundations upon which future generations will build.

As we look ahead, our vision remains clear. We aspire to position OAU among the most respected universities globally while remaining deeply committed to serving the needs of Nigeria, Africa, and humanity at large. We envision a university recognized not only for academic excellence but also for innovation, societal impact, inclusiveness, ethical leadership, and global relevance. Achieving this vision requires sustained commitment from every member of our community.

The Research and Academic Excellence Celebration provides an important platform to recognize outstanding achievements and inspire even greater accomplishments. Excellence is not a

destination but a continuous pursuit. The remarkable accomplishments being celebrated today remind us that the future of OAU is bright and that our greatest achievements may still lie ahead. Let us therefore continue to work together with renewed determination, guided by our shared values and inspired by our collective aspirations.

By strengthening our commitment to excellence in teaching, research, innovation, service, and leadership, we will continue to advance the legacy of this great University and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of society. On behalf of the University Administration, I congratulate all award recipients, researchers, scholars, students, and members of staff whose achievements have brought honour to our institution. May this celebration inspire us all to strive for even greater heights as we continue our journey toward becoming a university of enduring global impact.



Prof. Adebayo Simeon Bamire

Vice-Chancellor
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

STATE HEADQUARTERS

STATE OFFICE: 6, Birrel Avenue, Sabo-Yaba, Lagos.

Office Of The Resident Electoral Commissioner



EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR PROF. OLADAPO AFOLABI, OON, CFR- A HONOUR WELL-DESERVED

I join all well wishers home and abroad, to celebrate and congratulate my uncle and mentor, Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, OON, CFR on this auspicious occasion of his well-deserved selection as the 2026 Excellence Award Winner in Research Practice at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU). This is akin to the case of a prophet who has been deemed for honour in his home. It is fitting for this University to honour Prof. Afolabi- a dyed-in-the-wool academic, who played a pivotal role in convening the Ecological Summit of 1988 that birthed the Federal Ministry of Environment. He has etched his name on stone at every portal of his career from Department of Chemistry, OAU, Ile-Ife to Ladoko Akintola University, Ogbomoso and the defunct Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) and subsequently, the Federal Ministry of Environment as well as Office of Head of Service of the Federation. He is no doubt a man with the coat of many colours. A professor of environmental and food nutritional chemistry with over 20 awards and distinctions in his kitty, including Fellow of International Atomic Agency in 1983; African Productivity Merit Award (2004); Outstanding Contributors Award (2007); United Nations Environment Programme, Montreal Protocol; Fellow (2007); Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria (FICON); and Vanguard's Board of Editors for the Lifetime Achievement Award, 2025; today's award is a fitting feather to his admirable cap.

Professor Afolabi's remarkable career is a testament to his dedication to environmental science, research excellence and public service. His contributions have had a lasting impact on Nigeria's development and his legacy continues to strengthen institutions.

Prof. Afolabi looms large over the academic, bureaucratic and technocratic emporiums with his indelible footprints on each of the landscapes. Having garnered a galaxy of experience as Chairman of the Governing Board, the Polytechnic, Ibadan; Ag. Pro-Chancellor & Chairman, Planning and Implementation Committee, the Technical University (now Abiola Ajimobi Technical University), Ibadan; Chairman Governing Council, Ladoko Akintola University; Chairman, Governing Council, Edwin Clarke University; Permanent Secretary in several Federal Ministries; and rising to the peak as Head of Service of the Federation; this award is a honour well-thought out by Obafemi Awolowo University. It is indeed, another flower for his remarkable public service, dedication to scholarship and a life-time commitment to pursuit of excellence. His acceptance of the award is also a validation of his avowed pledge to continue to inspire present and future generations along Nigeria's development trajectory.

I heartily congratulate this polished and urbane academic, distinguished technocrat, bureaucrat extraordinaire, humane board room guru, consummate manager of resources, elder statesman and excellent leader of men- Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, OON, CFR on this well-deserved award.

Professor Ayobami Salami
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic),
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (2011-2016)

Pioneer Vice-Chancellor
First Technical University
(now Abiola Ajimobi Technical University), Ibadan (2017-2022)

Honourable Resident Electoral Commissioner
Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
Ekiti State (2022-2023) & Lagos State (2023 till Date).

ACADEMIC ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW

Strengthening the Academic Enterprise:

Curriculum Reform, Quality Assurance, Teaching Innovation, and Postgraduate Development

Prof G.A. Aderounmu

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



The pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship has remained the cornerstone of our academic mission throughout the 2025/2026 academic year. Despite the rapidly evolving higher education landscape and the challenges confronting universities globally, Obafemi Awolowo University has continued to strengthen its academic programmes, enhance teaching and learning, expand educational opportunities, and uphold the high standards for which this institution is renowned.

Our commitment to academic excellence has manifested most tangibly in the sustained efforts to review and modernize curricula across Faculties, Colleges, Institutes, and Departments. The imperative to adapt

academic programmes to reflect emerging knowledge, technological advancements, and changing labour market demands has driven a comprehensive process of curriculum reform. This process is designed not merely to maintain regulatory compliance but to ensure that graduates possess the competencies required to contribute meaningfully to national development and global progress. The expansion of academic offerings remains a strategic priority, with significant attention devoted to strengthening interdisciplinary education and fostering collaboration across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Increasingly, solutions to complex societal challenges require expertise that cuts across fields of study, and our academic planning efforts have emphasized

flexibility, innovation, and integration—enabling students to engage with diverse perspectives and develop holistic approaches to problem-solving.

Quality assurance continues to serve as the foundation upon which academic excellence is built. The University has maintained and enhanced academic standards through robust internal quality assurance systems, periodic programme reviews, accreditation exercises, and continuous monitoring of teaching and learning outcomes. The successful accreditation of programmes across various disciplines reflects the dedication of academic staff and administrators who work tirelessly to ensure that our programmes meet national and international

benchmarks. Beyond accreditation, quality assurance involves cultivating a culture of continuous improvement. Departments and Faculties have strengthened mechanisms for evaluating programme effectiveness, incorporating feedback from students, alumni, employers, and professional bodies into academic planning processes. Such engagement enables the University to remain responsive to changing expectations while preserving the academic integrity that defines the OAU experience.

Teaching innovation has emerged as a defining feature of our academic enterprise. Technology has become an increasingly important component of contemporary education, and the University has embraced innovations that enhance teaching and learning. The integration of digital technologies into academic delivery has expanded opportunities for student engagement, collaboration, and access to learning resources. Faculty members have demonstrated commendable adaptability in utilizing technology to enrich



classroom experiences, facilitate blended learning approaches, and support student-centred pedagogies. Equally important has been the University's investment in academic staff development—over the past year, opportunities for professional development, pedagogical training, research capacity strengthening, and scholarly engagement have been promoted across the institution. Through workshops, conferences, collaborative networks, and international partnerships, academic staff have enhanced their expertise and contributed to the advancement of knowledge in their respective disciplines.

Postgraduate education represents another critical dimension of our academic enterprise. As a leading research-intensive institution, Obafemi Awolowo University places significant emphasis on advanced scholarship and the development of future researchers. Postgraduate programmes have continued to attract talented scholars from within Nigeria and beyond, while efforts to strengthen doctoral education, improve supervision practices, expand research opportunities, and support scholarly productivity have contributed to the growing reputation of the University as a centre for advanced learning and research. Internationalization has also remained an

important strategic priority—through partnerships, exchange programmes, collaborative research initiatives, and international academic engagements, OAU continues to strengthen its global presence while providing students and staff with opportunities to participate in international scholarly communities. The increasing emphasis on employability and entrepreneurship has prompted the University to integrate practical skills, entrepreneurial competencies, innovation, and problem-solving capabilities into academic programmes, ensuring that graduates are equipped to create opportunities, drive innovation, and contribute meaningfully to economic and social development.

The accomplishments of our students remain one of the most compelling indicators of institutional success. Across diverse fields of study, OAU students have distinguished themselves through academic excellence, innovation, leadership, entrepreneurship, and community engagement achievements in national

and international competitions, professional examinations, research activities, and entrepreneurial ventures that demonstrate the effectiveness of the University's educational mission. The University remains committed to fostering an environment that supports student success beyond the classroom through academic advising, mentoring initiatives, skills development programmes, career support services, and opportunities for experiential learning—interventions that reflect our recognition that higher education must prepare graduates not only for employment but also for leadership, citizenship, and lifelong learning.

Looking ahead, the University remains committed to expanding access to quality education, strengthening academic excellence, promoting innovation, and enhancing global competitiveness. Emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, digital technologies, sustainability studies,

biotechnology, and interdisciplinary research will increasingly shape the future of higher education, and our academic planning efforts will continue to position the University to respond effectively to these developments while preserving the core values that have defined OAU since its inception. The achievements of the past year provide compelling evidence that Obafemi Awolowo University remains firmly committed to its mission of producing graduates who are intellectually competent, ethically grounded, socially responsible, and globally competitive—a mission that will continue to guide our academic enterprise as we build an academic community that contributes meaningfully to national development, continental progress, and global advancement.

FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Abidjan Street, Wuse Zone 3,
P.M.B. 17, Garki - Abuja. Tel: 09-2917168



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

FCSC/CHMN/PC/05/1/232

8th July, 2026

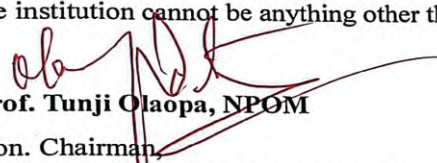
PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI, CFR: A TRIBUTE TO ICONIC EXCELLENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I rejoice with my Ògá and mentor, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR on yet another recognition of a life of deep humility, excellence, impact and unrelenting patriotism.

My tribute to Professor Afolabi derives from a space of deep connections and a long trajectory of patriotic commitment to excellence and public service. The Academic and Research Excellence Award is an institutional endorsement of what many of us, and especially me, are already aware of due to our close collaboration with and learning from the erudition and dedication of Professor Afolabi. Here is an exemplary embodiment of the merit and public-spiritedness that the public service deserves. There was no way, for example, as the most junior Director that I could have become the Permanent Secretary to replace him in 2010, even given my performance in the promotion interview, if not for his unreserved attention for excellence.

And to step into the office he left, and the big shoes he left behind, was a very tough act to follow for a junior Permanent Secretary following the track of his mentor. Only an excellent mentor will keep following the track record of his mentee to ensure that he keeps holding the standard.

Professor Afolabi brought to the public service an uncanny combination of the strict scientific rationality of an academic and the sagacious diplomacy of an astute administrator. Both were definitive of his successes and achievements not only as a permanent secretary but as the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation. Of course, it is to be expected that an academic will pay a very close attention to his posting to the education ministry which indeed benefitted his reform aspirations. From the Federal Ministry of Education to the establishment of the First Technical University in Oyo State, the narration of the transformation of the education sector will always bear the imprint of his unstinting vision. Indeed, the administrative history of the Nigerian civil service will bear witness to one HCSF who insisted that the institution cannot be anything other than meritocratic.


Prof. Tunji Olaopa, NPOM

Hon. Chairman,
Federal Civil Service Commission &
Professor of Public Administration,
Abuja.
8th July, 2026.

Building Institutional Capacity, Operational Excellence, and a Thriving University Community

Prof E. O. Akinfala

Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



The story of every great university extends far beyond its classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and research centres. Behind every academic achievement, groundbreaking discovery, successful student, and impactful community engagement initiative lies a network of dedicated professionals, effective systems, sound governance structures, and a shared commitment to institutional excellence. It is this often-unseen foundation that enables universities to fulfil their missions and sustain their legacies across generations.

As we celebrate the achievements of Obafemi Awolowo University during the 2025/2026 academic year, we recognise the critical role that administration plays in supporting aspirations for academic distinction, research excellence, innovation, and global relevance. The annual Research and Academic Excellence Celebration provides an opportunity not only to acknowledge accomplishments but also to reflect on the institutional systems and human capacities that make such

accomplishments possible. The past year has been one of purposeful effort, strategic adaptation, and continuous improvement across the administrative landscape, with the University remaining committed to strengthening administrative efficiency, enhancing service delivery, promoting staff welfare, and creating an environment that supports excellence across all facets of university life.

Central to our administrative philosophy is the understanding that people remain the University's most valuable asset. While infrastructure, technology, and financial resources are important, it is ultimately the dedication, expertise, and commitment of staff members that determine institutional success. Significant attention has therefore been devoted to initiatives supporting the professional growth, well-being, and productivity of both academic and non-academic staff. Staff development programmes designed to enhance professional competencies, leadership capabilities, technical expertise, and administrative effectiveness have equipped members of

staff with skills required to respond effectively to contemporary demands. The University continues to strengthen recruitment, appointments, promotions, career progression, and staff development processes guided by fairness, transparency, merit, and institutional accountability.

Staff welfare has remained a priority, with the administration exploring strategies to enhance support systems, improve workplace conditions, and foster a culture of mutual respect and collaboration. Beyond personnel management, administrative systems continue evolving for greater efficiency, accountability, and responsiveness, streamlining processes, improving service delivery, reducing bottlenecks, and strengthening institutional coordination.

The increasing role of technology in organisational management has driven digital transformation initiatives aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and improving stakeholder experiences. Gradual

digitisation of administrative processes, strengthening of information management systems, and adoption of technology-driven solutions contribute to a more responsive administrative environment. Simultaneously, effective management of physical infrastructure remains critical, with continued focus on improving campus facilities, enhancing the physical environment, and ensuring infrastructure supports teaching, research, and community service missions. The administration has strengthened security arrangements, improved emergency preparedness, and promoted a culture of safety across the campus community while exploring opportunities to enhance environmental sustainability through responsible resource utilisation, campus aesthetics maintenance, and environmental awareness.

The University's strength is reflected not only in academic achievements but also in the quality of relationships within its community. Considerable attention has been devoted to promoting industrial harmony, fostering constructive engagement with staff unions and associations, and strengthening communication across the institution. The preservation of a peaceful and collaborative working environment remains essential for sustained institutional progress and the successful implementation of strategic initiatives. A defining characteristic of Obafemi Awolowo University has

always been its strong sense of community, being more than a collection of buildings and programmes—it is a vibrant community of scholars, professionals, students, alumni, and partners united by a shared commitment to excellence. The administration remains committed to nurturing this sense of belonging through participation, inclusiveness, dialogue, and collective responsibility.

The achievements recorded during the year have not occurred in isolation. They are the product of collaboration among numerous individuals and units across the University, with every segment of the institution contributing to the realisation of our collective goals. The spirit of teamwork characterising the OAU community remains one of our greatest strengths and a critical factor in our continued success.

As we reflect on the year under review, we acknowledge the realities confronting universities in Nigeria and across the globe: resource constraints, technological disruption, demographic shifts, evolving workforce expectations, and increasing competition. These challenges demand effective leadership, organisational agility, resilience, and a willingness to embrace change. The administrative agenda will continue to focus on strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing operational effectiveness, promoting staff development, advancing digital

transformation, and supporting broader strategic goals. Emphasis will be placed on building systems that are efficient, transparent, sustainable, and capable of supporting a world-class university environment.

The future of Obafemi Awolowo University depends on our collective ability to align people, processes, resources, and vision in pursuit of shared objectives. Administrative excellence is not an end in itself; it is a means through which teaching, research, innovation, and community service can flourish. By strengthening the foundations that support academic and research excellence, we contribute directly to the University's capacity to achieve lasting impact.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of our staff, students, researchers, and scholars, I extend sincere appreciation to every member of the University community whose dedication and professionalism have contributed to our progress. The achievements we honour today are evidence of what can be accomplished when individuals work together toward a common purpose. Through innovation, collaboration, effective governance, and unwavering commitment to excellence, Obafemi Awolowo University will continue to strengthen its position as a leading institution of higher learning in Africa and a respected contributor to global knowledge and development.

A Year in Review:

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND METRICS

The 2025/2026 academic year witnessed substantial progress across Obafemi Awolowo University's institutional performance, with evidence from research databases, institutional records, and public sources confirming sustained growth, increasing visibility, and deepening impact.

Research output demonstrated continued global visibility, with OAU's inclusion in the Nature Index reflecting sustained presence in prestigious international journals. Beyond the natural sciences, researchers published across a broad disciplinary spectrum, with contributions appearing in the Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies, the Nigerian Dental Journal, and the Indonesian Journal on Geoscience, alongside research spanning agricultural studies, biological sciences, and public health. This breadth of disciplinary representation confirms a robust and growing research enterprise.

The year brought notable success in attracting research funding, including the AMIR Fund endowment supporting biomedical and oncology research at OAU, designed to catalyse local financing for scientific research. The Africa Think Tank Platform—a five-year, US\$50 million African Union Commission initiative—presents significant opportunities for which OAU is well-positioned. Alumni philanthropy further strengthened the research environment through contributions from the Omotayo Adegboye Foundation and donations from alumni sets.

Postgraduate education remained vibrant, with active admissions across full-time and part-time programmes spanning research and professional tracks. At the 49th Convocation, the University graduated 6,562 students across all levels, including 217 First Class honours recipients, confirming a substantial cohort of advanced-degree completions.

Student demand for an OAU education remained exceptionally high, with 60,370 applications received for the 2026 admission cycle, ranking third nationally. With admissions capped at approximately 7,000 students, over 84 per cent of applicants face selection, underscoring the intense competition and enduring reputation that positions OAU among Nigeria's most sought-after institutions.

Infrastructure development progressed significantly through government support and alumni generosity, highlighted by twenty-one shuttle buses donated by the First Lady, a N20 million volleyball and basketball court from the Omotayo Adegboye Foundation, and N20 million in projects from the 1998/1999 Clinical Medical Set, including hostel renovations.

The alumni community continued to make distinguished contributions across academia and public service. Three alumni were elected Fellows of the Nigerian Academy of Letters in 2025, with Professor Akinwumi Ogundiran also

elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The election of an International Relations alumnus as Chair of the World Customs Organisation Council marked the first Nigerian to hold this position in seventy-three years. Alumni philanthropy included Tim Akano's one thousand scholarships valued at N60 million for AI studies and the Dallas-Fort Worth branch's N20.8 million in scholarships to 104 students.

Strategic partnerships expanded across Africa, North America, and Europe, including collaborations with Penn State University, a Memorandum of Understanding with Woldia University in Ethiopia, student scholarships to Germany, and a visiting scholar appointment from the City University of New York, advancing global Black Studies. The Centre for Gender and Social Policy Studies is committed to driving collaborations that broaden learning opportunities and amplify African scholarship.

Graduate employability remained a strength, with OAU leading federal university rankings with a score of 36.5, attributed to collaborations with agribusiness, healthcare, and technology sectors. Research impact was evidenced through U.S. News & World Report rankings and Nature Index inclusion. The Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office translated discoveries into applications, while the Central Technological Laboratory and Workshop fabricated equipment supporting research across multiple faculties. Research addressed pressing national challenges, covering agricultural development, public health, environmental sustainability, and educational access, aligning scholarship with national development aspirations and the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2025/2026 academic year thus reinforced OAU's position as one of Africa's leading institutions of higher learning, research, and innovation.



Professor Akanni Akinyemi

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Development,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

STRENGTHENING UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Safeguarding Institutional Integrity and Advancing Effective University Governance

Mr. A. K. Bakare

Registrar, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

As Registrar of Obafemi Awolowo University, I am privileged to steward the administrative systems that underpin institutional integrity and enable our academic mission. The Office of the Registrar serves as the institutional backbone, ensuring that governance, policy implementation, records management, student administration, and regulatory compliance operate with precision and accountability. The 2025/2026 academic year has reaffirmed that effective administration is not merely supportive but foundational to sustaining our reputation as a leading African institution of higher learning.

Sound university governance requires transparent, participatory decision-making aligned with established regulations. Throughout the year, the Registrar's Office provided steadfast administrative support to the Governing Council, Senate, Congregation, Convocation, and statutory committees, coordinating meetings, preparing official records, and monitoring compliance to ensure institutional stability and progress. The strength of our governance lies not in structures alone but in their capacity to facilitate informed, evidence-based decisions that uphold accountability.

Preserving institutional memory while embracing innovation defines our approach to records management. Every policy decision, student record, staff appointment, and academic achievement contributes to our collective history, and their integrity, accessibility, and preservation are essential for continuity and future planning. Significant progress has been made in strengthening record systems, with digital transformation accelerating our capacity to modernize administrative processes, enhance efficiency, and safeguard valuable information for generations to come.

Student administration remains central to our responsibilities, spanning admissions, registration, examinations, graduation, and certification. The Registry works closely with Faculties and Departments to ensure timely, fair, and transparent service delivery, continuously refining processes to reduce delays and improve the student experience amidst growing complexity and population.

Policy implementation and compliance with national regulations, accreditation standards, and professional requirements are equally



critical. The University engages proactively with regulatory bodies, ensuring alignment with laws and policies while providing administrative guidance to support institutional reforms. These efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to integrity and the high standards associated with the Obafemi Awolowo University name.

Looking ahead, the Office of the Registrar remains resolute in strengthening governance, advancing digital transformation, improving stakeholder engagement, and modernizing administrative practices. Institutional excellence is a collective endeavour, and the achievements we celebrate today are the result of dedicated contributions from academic and non-academic staff, students, and partners. As we honour our researchers and scholars, we recognize that effective administration provides the foundation upon which excellence flourishes—ensuring future generations inherit an institution faithful to its values, responsive to societal needs, and unwavering in its pursuit of impact.

Engr. Ebele O. Okeke CFR, FNSE, FICE, C.ENG

Rtd. Head of the Civil Service of the Federation

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6th July, 2026

Prof. Oladipo Afolabi, CFR.

10 Ojora Road,

Ikoyi – Lagos.

My dear Brother, Dapo,

Academic Research Excellence Award 2026

CONGRATULATIONS on being bestowed with Academic Research Excellence Award 2026 by your alma-mater Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, during the fourth edition of Excellence Awards.

This recognition by your alma-mater speaks volume as to the work you must have done (and probably still doing) in academic research in your University / Universities that you are still being appreciated.

Dapo, once more, congratulations and may the Good Lord direct your foot steps, as He gives you good health and long life.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Eookeke

Engr. Ebele Okeke, CFR.

Fmr. Head of the Civil Service of the Federation.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

Transforming Knowledge Access, Research Support, and Digital Scholarship in a Knowledge-Driven World

O.A. FadehanUniversity Librarian,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

The evolution of academic libraries mirrors civilization's enduring pursuit of knowledge through acquiring, preserving, and disseminating information to advance human progress. Today, this mission is defined by digital scholarship. The University Library of Obafemi Awolowo University has embraced this transformation, evolving beyond traditional custodianship into a dynamic hub for information access, research support, and institutional knowledge preservation. The 2025/2026 academic year marked significant progress in this direction, as we strengthened our services to align with the University's strategic vision and the growing digital demands of our academic community.

Central to our efforts is the expansion of access to high-quality information resources. While we continue to build robust

physical and electronic collections, including databases, e-journals, and e-books, our focus has shifted to ensuring seamless, remote accessibility. Digital service delivery now enables students and staff to connect with scholarly literature and global knowledge networks from anywhere, breaking the physical barriers of the library.

Our research support services have become increasingly vital, guiding researchers through the entire lifecycle of scholarly work: from literature discovery and data management to publication, dissemination, and impact assessment. We offer scholarly communication support, citation management, bibliometric analysis, and guidance on responsible research practices, all designed to enhance productivity and global visibility. Complementing this is our commitment to open access, which



amplifies the reach of institutional research and reinforces the University's societal impact.

A cornerstone of this digital transformation is our institutional repository, which safeguards and showcases the University's intellectual legacy. By preserving theses, dissertations, articles, and conference papers, we ensure that decades of academic achievement remain accessible to future generations. Alongside this, information literacy training empowers our community to navigate complex digital environments with confidence, transforming information abundance into effective knowledge use. The 2025/2026 academic year witnessed a notable increase in Library-student engagement following the admission of almost 12,000 new students into the University. This growth has



led to increased participation in library orientation programmes, user education, and information literacy initiatives, thereby reinforcing the Library's central role in supporting students' academic transition and lifelong learning.

The library also serves as a collaborative learning environment, fostering innovation through improved user experiences and supportive spaces. Partnerships with consortia and professional networks amplify our capacity to adopt emerging technologies like AI and data analytics, while remaining rooted in the core values of intellectual freedom and equitable access. It has successfully supported nearly 100 programme accreditation exercises, ensuring the availability of

current information resources, electronic databases, scholarly journals, and the learning environments required for successful accreditation outcomes.

As part of our commitment to expanding the University's digital scholarly assets, the Library organised specialised hands-on training sessions on self-archiving and self-uploading into the Institutional Repository during the 2026 Library Week Celebration, held from 20–23 April 2026. These practical sessions equipped participants with the knowledge and skills required to manage and disseminate their scholarly outputs more effectively, while encouraging greater participation in the University's open scholarship agenda.

None of this would be

possible without the dedication of our librarians, technical staff, and support personnel. Their expertise and professionalism are the foundation of our success, which is intrinsically linked to every research breakthrough and academic achievement celebrated today.

Looking ahead, our priorities remain clear: expand digital access, enhance research support, promote open scholarship, and preserve our institutional heritage. The future university will be defined by how effectively it creates and shares knowledge, and the Library is committed to ensuring that Obafemi Awolowo University remains a leader in scholarship, innovation, and global impact.

I congratulate all award recipients and the entire University community. May the excellence we honour today inspire even greater pursuit of knowledge and service in the years to come. Together, we continue to build a university where scholarship thrives, and excellence endures.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

Financing Excellence:

Stewardship, Sustainability, and Strategic Investment

Mrs. O. I. Abogan

Bursar, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

The pursuit of excellence in higher education rests on prudent financial stewardship. At Obafemi Awolowo University, the Bursary functions not merely as custodian of institutional finances but as a strategic partner in development, ensuring that resources enable every aspect of the University's mission to flourish.

The 2025/2026 academic year has reinforced the importance of strategic financial management. Operating within an environment of economic uncertainty, rising costs, and growing demands for investment, the University has demonstrated resilience through disciplined resource allocation. Every financial decision has been guided by accountability, value for money, and alignment with institutional priorities. These principles have enabled the University to sustain critical academic, research, and administrative activities despite challenging conditions.

Resource Allocation and Strategic Budgeting

Sustainability depends on deploying available resources effectively while building financial resilience. The University has strengthened financial planning processes that prioritise long-term institutional development over short-term expenditure. Strategic budgeting ensures that limited resources are directed toward areas of greatest impact, supporting teaching, research, infrastructure, and staff development. The Bursary continues to strengthen internal controls, risk management practices, and financial reporting systems that promote transparency and safeguard institutional assets. Investments in modern classrooms, laboratories, digital infrastructure, libraries, student services, and staff development have been carefully planned and disciplined, enhancing the academic experience and strengthening the University's capacity to deliver globally competitive education.

**Revenue Diversification**

Financial sustainability increasingly requires diversifying revenue sources and strengthening internal resource generation. Obafemi Awolowo University is committed to exploring sustainable financial models that combine prudent expenditure with strategic investment and responsible income diversification. This approach preserves academic integrity while enhancing institutional resilience. The University recognises that its greatest asset is its people. Financial management continues to support staff welfare, professional development, and institutional effectiveness. The Bursary collaborates with the Administration to facilitate financial obligations while promoting productivity, motivation, and organisational stability.

Research Grant Management

Research and innovation remain defining strengths, and the financial systems

supporting these priorities have been strengthened significantly. The administration of research grants, financial oversight of externally funded projects, and management of donor resources require robust structures capable of meeting international accountability standards. The increasing volume of externally funded research demonstrates the University's growing global reputation. As international collaborations expand, financial accountability becomes more critical. Development partners expect sound financial governance, timely reporting, and responsible project management. The University remains committed to meeting these expectations, strengthening its reputation as a trusted research partner.

The Bursary has enhanced its capacity to support researchers, development partners, and funding agencies through efficient financial management systems. Researchers benefit from streamlined processes for grant administration, enabling them to focus on scholarly pursuits while maintaining compliance with funding requirements. This support has contributed to the growing success of OAU researchers in attracting competitive grants from national and international funding organisations.

Digital Transformation and Operational Efficiency

Technology has become essential for improving efficiency, enhancing accountability, and strengthening financial reporting. The Bursary continues to improve financial management systems, streamline operational processes, and leverage technology for effective decision-making. These initiatives contribute to improved service delivery, institutional transparency, and operational excellence.

Building Trust and Institutional Integrity

Financial stewardship cultivates trust. Universities rely upon the confidence of governments, development partners, alumni, donors, students, staff, and the wider public. This confidence is sustained through consistent demonstration of integrity, accountability, and responsible resource management. The Bursary maintains the highest standards of professionalism in every aspect of financial administration.

Looking Ahead

The financial landscape of higher education will continue to evolve. Universities must become increasingly agile, innovative, and strategic in managing scarce resources while remaining faithful to their academic mission and public responsibility. The future requires stronger financial

planning, greater operational efficiency, enhanced digital capability, expanded partnerships, and sustained commitment to accountability.

Our vision is to support the emergence of Obafemi Awolowo University as a financially resilient, globally respected, and sustainably managed institution capable of fulfilling its mission for generations to come. Achieving this vision requires collective responsibility, prudent stewardship, strategic investment, and unwavering commitment to excellence from every member of the University community. The accomplishments celebrated during this year's Research and Academic Excellence Celebration reflect the dedication of researchers, academic staff, administrators, students, and development partners. It is a privilege for the Bursary to contribute to these achievements by ensuring that financial systems effectively support institutional aspirations. May this celebration inspire us to continue investing wisely, responsibly, and courageously in the enduring future of Obafemi Awolowo University.



MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE PETROLEUM RESOURCES (OIL)

11th Floor, Block 'D' NNPC Towers, Herbert Macaulay Way
Central Business District, P.M.B. 449, Abuja

HMSO/MPR/085/VOL.1/136

6th July 2026

Prof. Oladapo Afolabi,
CFR Pro-Chancellor,
Edwin Clark University,
Former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation

CONGRATULATORY GOODWILL MESSAGE

I heartily congratulate you, your family, and all well-wishers on your well-deserved honour at the Obafemi Awolowo University Academic & Research Excellence Awards 2026*, holding on the 15th of July, 2026, at Oduduwa Hall, Ile-Ife.

2. I had the privilege of meeting you when you served as Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Even then, you stood out for your competence, innovativeness, transformative leadership, and commitment to excellence. Those qualities made your elevation to Head of the Civil Service of the Federation both natural and inevitable.

3. You discharged that onerous national assignment with distinction, managing the Service with wisdom and driving reforms that left a lasting mark on the Nigerian Civil Service.

4. What I have always admired most, however, is your personal disposition. In spite of the immense weight of responsibility, you remained relaxed, amicable, and a jolly good fellow - a rare blend of excellence and humility.

5. I therefore join your family, the OAU community, and Nigerians everywhere to celebrate this most deserved recognition by your alma mater. It is a fitting tribute to a life of service, scholarship, and impact.

Congratulations, my dear brother

6. Please accept as always, the assurances of my highest regards.

Sen. Heineken Lokpobiri, PhD.
Honourable Minister of State (Oil)

TEL: 09-46084910



Tertiary Education Trust Fund

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Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, FNIA
Executive Secretary

GOODWILL MESSAGE

In Honour of Prof. Oladapo Afolabi

*4th Academic & Research Excellence Awards, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife – 15th
July, 2026*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Management, and Staff of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), and on my own behalf, I most heartily congratulate Prof. Oladapo Afolabi on his well-deserved recognition as the Honouree of the 4th Edition of the Academic & Research Excellence Awards of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

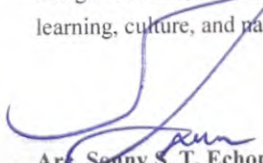
Prof. Afolabi is a distinguished scholar and an accomplished public servant whose career embodies the very excellence this Award celebrates. As a former Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, and in that capacity a valued member of the TETFund Board of Trustees, he contributed immensely to the advancement of tertiary education in Nigeria, championing policies and interventions that continue to bear fruit in our institutions today.

It therefore came as no surprise when the then President found him worthy of appointment as Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, the very pinnacle of the nation's public service. In that exalted office, Prof. Afolabi acquitted himself with distinction — providing exemplary leadership, championing far-reaching reforms, and upholding the finest traditions of professionalism, discipline, and merit. His stellar stewardship remains a reference point for excellence in public administration in Nigeria.

Beyond his towering achievements in office, Prof. Afolabi is renowned for his integrity, humility, and mentorship of generations of scholars and public servants. His life of service stands as an enduring example of how knowledge, diligently applied, can transform institutions and uplift a nation.

It is therefore most fitting that Obafemi Awolowo University has chosen to honour him in this manner. I join family, friends, colleagues, and well-wishers in celebrating this icon of academic and public service excellence.

Congratulations, Prof. Oladapo Afolabi. May this honour inspire even greater contributions to learning, culture, and national development.


Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono
Executive Secretary
Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)

All correspondence should be addressed to the Executive Secretary



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
Barker Center, 12 Quincy Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138-3879

Jacob Olupona, Chair
*Hugh K. Foster Professor of African and African American Studies and
Professor of African Religious Traditions*

Tel. 617.496.0354
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Professor Dapo Afolabi: Scholar, Civil Servant and a Gentleman

I would like to congratulate Professor Dapo Afolabi, a quintessential scholar and consummate civil servant, for this great honour bestowed on him by Obafemi Awolowo University. I have known Dapo for over three decades. We first met as colleagues in this great institution in the 1970s, and we have been friends ever since. He is a wise, generous and kind man whose good deeds are too numerous to recount here. What amazes me about him is how he calmly and jokingly responds to issues several of us would likely perceive as too difficult to handle, while offering uncommon solutions. He is an incredibly good listener, planner and organizer, who succeeded greatly in making his mark in all the places he has worked.

To showcase his impressive leadership roles in the country's seat of government, I will give one or two examples of his drive, initiative and hard work. During President Jonathan's administration, Dapo persuaded him to call the Education Summit to discuss the crisis in the education sector. It was a well-organized meeting in Abuja, and a few professors from the diaspora, including my humble self, were invited. At this conference, significant policy matters were discussed and recommendations were made. Some of them were implemented, including the appointment of a few Nigerian professors abroad as Vice Chancellors back home, especially after the creation of

twelve new universities. Secondly, the Summit made it possible for contingents at Harvard to invite Nigerian delegates to campus and explore possible exchange programs with Nigeria. This is leadership in action and an example of why it matters!

Dapo chose the best Nigerian statesmen and educationalists to visit Harvard, including the celebrated Dr Gamaliel Onasode. By the end of the one-week visit, Harvard was impressed. They were convinced by the request I had made as chair of the Committee on African Studies, to offer Nigeria an MoU that would create a Nigerian fellowship, similar to the South African Fellows' Program that Harvard instituted for President Mandela. I personally brought the draft to Abuja to discuss and sign. Unfortunately, it was the Nigerian factor that thwarted its implementation!

Always going above and beyond, Dapo did his best in education to make a difference. I am not surprised that Obafemi Awolowo University has found you, dear Dapo, worthy of this great honour, and I count this set of students privileged individuals who will benefit from your wealth of wisdom, innovation and resilience. Congratulations, my dear friend, and best wishes as you keep making global impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Olupona', is positioned above the typed name.

Professor Jacob K. Olupona, PhD, FNAL, NNOM
Hugh K. Foster Professor of African and African American Studies
Professor of African Religious Traditions
Chair, African and African American Studies (FAS)



Mike A. Oghiadomhe, DBA, D.Sc, FNIM, CFR.

4th of July, 2026

Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, CFR
Pro-Chancellor, Edwin Clark University,
Former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation

My dear brother,

CONGRATULATORY GOODWILL MESSAGE

I heartily congratulate you, your family, and all well-wishers on your well-deserved honour at the Obafemi Awolowo University Academic & Research Excellence Awards 2026*, holding on the 15th of July, 2026 at Oduduwa Hall, Ile-Ife.

I had the privilege of meeting you when you served as Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Even then, you stood out for your competence, innovativeness, transformative leadership, and commitment to excellence*. Those qualities made your elevation to Head of the Civil Service of the Federation both natural and inevitable.

You discharged that onerous national assignment with distinction, managing the Service with wisdom and driving reforms that left a lasting mark on the Nigerian Civil Service.

What I have always admired most, however, is your personal disposition. In spite of the immense weight of responsibility, you remained relaxed, amicable, and a jolly good fellow — a rare blend of excellence and humility.

I therefore join your family, the OAU community, and Nigerians everywhere to celebrate this most deserved recognition by your alma mater. It is a fitting tribute to a life of service, scholarship, and impact.

Congratulations, my dear brother.

*Ambassador Ayorinde Otepola, MFR
9 Ayoola Street, Lagos
Tel: 08065277252*

Prof. Oladapo A. Afolabi, OON, CFR
Ikoyi, Lagos

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

Dear sir,

I write to congratulate you as you are being honored today, by your Alma mata, as the honoree of the 2026 Academic & Research Award (4th Edition) of this prestigious Obafemi Awolowo university.

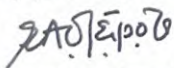
Your recognition today does not come as a surprise because a gold fish has no hiding place. The university is indeed recognizing you as an erudite scholar having distinguished yourself in academia. As a chemist and environmentalist, you have left your footprints on the sands of time as a consultant to oil companies in quality control and to the United Nations on Environment including the Montreal Protocol.

On another realm as a civil servant, you blazed the trail to become Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Labour, Agric and Water Resources, Cabinet Secretariat and Education before becoming the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation in 2010. As the Director in your office as Head of Service, I saw you as an astute administrator, a silent achiever, a thinker, an arbitrator, a peace maker and a very deep family man with the fear of God.

You are indeed a gift to your generation.

Please accept, sir, my very best wishes as you continue to contribute to the development of the country you love so much, and to humanity in general.

May your days be long sir.



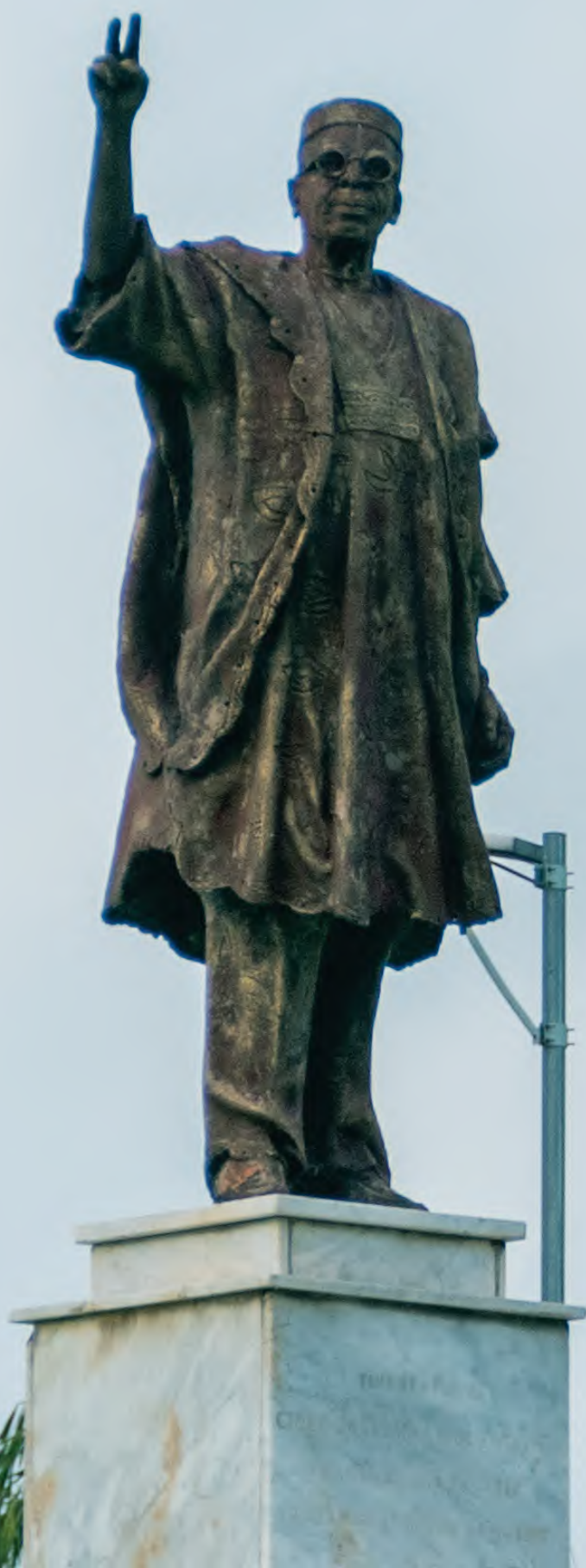
Ambassador Ayo Otepola, MFR
Former Nigeria's Consul General to Shanghai, China

PART

02

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH LEADERSHIP





Call to Action for the University Community

Prof Akanni Akinyemi,

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Development

The bibliometric landscape of Obafemi Awolowo University reveals an institution at a critical inflection point, one where scholarly output is demonstrably rising, yet the gap between current performance and the university's latent potential remains substantial. An analysis of global research metrics paints a picture of solid achievement shadowed by vast opportunity. The U.S. News Best Global Universities rankings for 2025–2026 offer a comprehensive view of OAU's research footprint. With a global score of 37.9, the university ranks #1157 worldwide, #1050 in global research reputation, and #17 in regional research reputation. Its publication output ranks #1862 globally, while total citations stand at #1774. More revealing are the indicators of research quality: normalized citation impact ranks #1132, the number of publications among the top 10% most cited ranks #1950, and the percentage of total publications in that top tier ranks #1728. International collaboration ranks #412 globally and #1164 when adjusted relative to the country. These figures suggest that while OAU produces a respectable volume of research, the impact and visibility of that research, both in terms of citation influence and global collaboration, lag significantly behind what an institution of its stature should command.

Yet within this aggregate picture, pockets of extraordinary excellence shine through. The AD Scientific Index's 2026 citation rankings, covering 2.6 million scientists worldwide, reveal that OAU's top researchers command remarkable influence. The institution's most cited scholar holds a world rank of 4,909 and a Nigerian rank of 11, with 92,401 total citations and an impressive 83.7% citation momentum score, indicating that recent work constitutes most of their scholarly impact. The second-ranked researcher, Professor Morenike Oluwatoyin Folayan Ukpog, celebrated as

the most cited scholar at OAU since 2018, possesses 64,657 total citations with a staggering 93.2% citation momentum score. Other highly cited scholars include Professor Adesegun Fatusi with 18,009 total citations, Professor Ayansina Ayanlade with 13,642 citations and an 86.6% momentum score, and Professor Aaron Aboderin with 12,445 citations. These scholars are globally influential, with citation momentum scores that demonstrate their work remains at the forefront of contemporary discourse.

The existence of such high-performing researchers amid otherwise middling institutional metrics reveals a truth: OAU possesses the intellectual capital to compete at the highest levels of global scholarship, but that capital remains insufficiently distributed, supported, and amplified. The concentration of research impact in a relatively small number of scholars and disciplines suggests that systemic barriers, whether in funding, infrastructure, mentorship, or institutional culture, prevent the diffusion of excellence across the broader academic community. This is the central challenge that must shape our collective call to action.

To the past recipients of the Excellence Award in Research Practice, we extend our profound gratitude. Your contributions have built the very foundations upon which this university's research reputation rests. Through your support to equip prospective research centres that will help support the training of postgraduate students, we can carry forward your legacy. Through your mentorship, which has helped shape the OAU Stars, who are exceptional students whose academic achievements and leadership potential now illuminate this institution. Through your visibility, you have elevated OAU's standing in international collaborations, opening doors

for younger colleagues to engage with global research networks. The call to action for the university community is urgent and concrete. For researchers across all faculties and disciplines, the imperative is to embrace interdisciplinary collaboration as an intellectual necessity, recognising that the complex challenges of our time—climate change, pandemic preparedness, food security, digital transformation—demand expertise that transcends traditional departmental boundaries. It means cultivating research agendas that are both locally relevant and globally visible, ensuring that the questions we ask resonate with international scholarly communities while addressing the pressing needs of Nigeria and Africa. It means prioritising quality over quantity, aiming not merely to publish but to publish work that is cited, debated, and built upon by peers worldwide.

For academic and administrative leaders, the call is to dismantle the barriers that prevent excellence from scaling. This requires sustained investment in research infrastructure, digital platforms, data repositories, and open-access publishing support that enable researchers to maximise their impact. It requires strengthening grant-writing support and mentorship programmes, ensuring that early-career academics have the guidance and resources to compete for funding. It requires reforming reward systems to recognise publication volume alongside citation impact, collaboration, and knowledge translation. It also requires a deliberate strategy to address the disciplinary imbalances revealed by the bibliometric data, by fostering research capacity where OAU currently underperforms relative to its potential.

For students, the OAU Stars of today and tomorrow, the call is to embrace research as an immediate vocation. The scholars you honour today began their journeys in the same lecture halls, laboratories, and libraries you now inhabit. Their trajectories were shaped by discipline, curiosity, and the willingness to persist through failure. The mentorship you have received through programmes like the OAU STARS initiative is

an investment in future contributions. Seize it. Challenge your lecturers. Question assumptions. Pursue knowledge not for grades but for understanding. And recognise that the excellence you cultivate now will determine not only your own trajectory but the trajectory of this institution for decades to come.

For the entire university community—alumni, development partners, government agencies, and friends of OAU—the call is to invest in this vision with renewed commitment. OAU possesses the talent to compete globally, but talent alone is insufficient without resources, infrastructure, and strategic support. Your contributions to scholarships, research grants, infrastructure development, and institutional endowments are investments in Nigeria's intellectual future. Every edifice built, every fellowship endowed, every partnership forged strengthens the foundation upon which future discoveries will rest. The path forward is neither easy nor guaranteed. Global competition for research funding, talent, and recognition intensifies with each passing year. Technological disruption reshapes the very nature of scholarly communication and collaboration. Demographic pressures and resource constraints test the resilience of even the most established institutions. Yet OAU's history is one of overcoming adversity through collective determination. The same spirit that built this university from modest beginnings into one of Africa's most respected centres of learning now animates our research enterprise.

Let this celebration of excellence galvanise our pursuit of impact with renewed vigour. Let it challenge students to embrace intellectual rigour as a way of life. Let it remind every member of this community that the legacy we build today will determine whether Obafemi Awolowo University fulfils its promise as a beacon of knowledge, an engine of development, and a force for good in Nigeria, Africa, and the world. The data speaks. The potential is evident. The moment demands action. Let us rise to it together.

RESEARCH SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Advancing a Culture of Research Excellence

Positioning Obafemi Awolowo University for Global Research Leadership

Professor Babajide Odu

Director, University Research Office,
Central Office of Research, Obafemi Awolowo University



Research defines Obafemi Awolowo University's identity and purpose. While teaching transmits existing knowledge, research creates it by expanding frontiers, addressing humanity's pressing challenges, and shaping national futures. Institutional strength, therefore, lies not only in the quality of graduates but in the societal impact of the knowledge produced. The past year has seen significant progress across disciplines, from health sciences and engineering to agriculture, humanities, social sciences, and emerging technologies, demonstrating that OAU remains a powerhouse of intellectual leadership. Yet research excellence is never accidental; it is the product of deliberate investment, visionary leadership, and an enduring culture of inquiry. The University Research Office exists to build and

sustain that enabling environment.

Central to our work is strengthening the research ecosystem across four interconnected pillars. First, grant competitiveness: we have strengthened support mechanisms from identifying funding opportunities through proposal development, financial accountability, and project implementation, resulting in growing success in attracting competitive national and international grants. Second, researcher development: we invest continuously in capacity building through workshops on grant writing, ethics, project management, data handling, and emerging methodologies, with particular attention to mentoring early-career academics who will become tomorrow's research leaders. Third, research governance: we

uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that all research reflects international best practices and responsible scholarship. Fourth, impact measurement: we recognise that publications, while important, are not the ultimate metric; true value lies in research that informs policy, advances healthcare, improves agriculture, drives innovation, and contributes to sustainable development.

Increasingly, complex challenges demand interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches. We have therefore encouraged partnerships across disciplinary boundaries within OAU while strengthening engagements with universities, research institutes, industry, and international organisations, collaborations that enrich



quality, expand access to expertise, and raise the University's scholarly visibility. Simultaneously, we are positioning researchers to leverage digital transformation, artificial intelligence, big data, open-access publishing, and virtual collaboration that is reshaping knowledge production worldwide.

Excellence also requires recognition. Our Excellence Award in Research Practice celebrates scholars whose work exemplifies outstanding practice and impact, reinforcing institutional values of quality, integrity, and sustained contribution. Research integrity remains fundamental to our mission, and we continue to strengthen systems that

promote ethical conduct and responsible scholarship.

The achievements celebrated today are collective accomplishments—belonging to researchers, supervisors, postgraduate students, administrators, technologists, librarians, and institutional leaders whose contributions sustain our research ecosystem. The journey toward becoming a globally recognised research-intensive university demands sustained commitment, strategic investment, and shared vision. We remain focused on greater interdisciplinarity, stronger international collaboration, enhanced infrastructure, and deeper societal engagement.

To every award recipient, grant winner, postgraduate researcher, and member of our community contributing to OAU's growing reputation: your accomplishments strengthen our position as one of Africa's leading centres of knowledge creation. Together, we are building a legacy of discovery, excellence, and impact that will shape the future of our University and contribute meaningfully to Nigeria, Africa, and the world.

Building Bridges for Global Impact:

Advancing Strategic Partnerships and International Collaboration

Professor 'Niran Oluwaranti

Director, Linkages and Partnerships, Central Office of Research,
Obafemi Awolowo University



In an increasingly interconnected world, no university achieves excellence in isolation. The strength of a globally competitive institution lies not only in the knowledge it creates but in the relationships it cultivates, the diversity of ideas it embraces, and the breadth of its engagement beyond borders. At Obafemi Awolowo University, we recognize collaboration as fundamental to our mission. Every strategic partnership expands our horizons, enriches our academic environment, strengthens our research capacity, and enhances our contribution to national development and global scholarship. This philosophy guides the Directorate of Linkages and Partnerships as we celebrate the power of collaboration, which continues to shape the remarkable achievements of our researchers across disciplinary, national, and continental boundaries.

The global higher education landscape has transformed profoundly, with universities increasingly evaluated by their international outlook, collaborative networks, and capacity to address shared challenges. Against this backdrop, we are positioning OAU as a globally connected institution that actively engages with universities, research organizations, governments, industries, development agencies, and civil society worldwide. Internationalization remains a principal priority as creating opportunities for shared learning, collaborative research, academic mobility, and cultural exchange. Our expanding network with institutions across Africa, Europe, North America, and Asia generates opportunities for joint conferences, curriculum development, and postgraduate training that strengthen our international profile.

Particularly encouraging is our growing emphasis on South-South collaboration. Africa possesses immense intellectual resources, yet its greatest challenges demand African-led solutions. By strengthening partnerships across the continent, OAU contributes to a vibrant research ecosystem built on shared priorities and collective problem-solving in public health, agriculture, climate resilience, digital transformation, and sustainable development. Our engagement with international development partners further reflects the confidence global organizations place in our academic community, opening new pathways for transformative research and institutional capacity strengthening.

Industry engagement represents another pillar of our work, transforming knowledge into economic and societal value through

collaborative research, workforce development, and technology transfer. These relationships enhance graduate employability while ensuring our research responds to real-world needs. Simultaneously, our alumni community leaders across academia, government, business, and public service remain one of our greatest strategic assets. Strengthening alumni engagement fosters mentorship, philanthropy, research collaboration, and international networking, enriching institutional development far beyond financial support.

Partnerships also enhance research competitiveness, as major funding agencies increasingly favour collaborative, multidisciplinary initiatives. We therefore cultivate a culture of engagement across Faculties, Departments, and Centres, encouraging every academic to pursue collaborative opportunities that strengthen teaching, research, and innovation. Digital technologies have further transformed collaboration, making virtual exchanges and remote platforms indispensable

complements to traditional academic exchange.

At the heart of every successful partnership lies trust built on shared values, mutual respect, transparency, and accountability. Our objective is not merely to increase the number of partnerships but to cultivate relationships that deliver measurable outcomes for the University and society. As we reflect on the past year, we acknowledge the commitment of our administration, academic staff, students, alumni, government agencies, industry partners, and international institutions whose collaboration strengthens our global engagement. Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our international footprint while deepening existing collaborations, focusing on strategic partnerships that support research excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship, student mobility, and sustainable development. Our aspiration is clear: to position OAU not simply as a participant in global higher education, but as a respected leader whose scholarship and

partnerships address the world's most pressing challenges.

The future belongs to universities that are connected, collaborative, and globally engaged. Through purposeful partnerships, we will continue to strengthen our reputation as one of Africa's leading research universities and a trusted partner in global knowledge creation. As we celebrate research and academic excellence, I congratulate all award recipients, researchers, scholars, students, alumni, and partners whose dedication elevates our standing nationally and internationally. Together, we are building bridges that connect knowledge with opportunity, research with impact, and local excellence with global influence. May our partnerships continue to grow in strength, our collaborations deepen in purpose, and our collective efforts establish OAU as a globally connected institution committed to excellence, innovation, and transformative societal impact.

From Discovery to Impact:

Advancing Innovation, Intellectual Property, and Technology Transfer for National Development

Professor Grace Ogunlusi

Director, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office,
Central Office of Research, Obafemi Awolowo University



The true measure of research excellence lies not in publications alone but in the translation of knowledge into solutions that solve problems, improve lives, and drive sustainable development. Universities increasingly bear the responsibility not merely to generate knowledge, but to ensure it moves beyond the academy into tangible applications. This is the essence of Knowledge Translation, the process through which discovery becomes impact, and research fulfills its highest purpose.

Across the globe, leading institutions have strengthened the systems that protect intellectual property, foster entrepreneurship, and facilitate the movement of research outcomes into practice. Intellectual property management and technology transfer have become indispensable pillars of this mission, linking academic discovery with societal transformation. At Obafemi Awolowo University, the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) exists to champion

this critical work, ensuring that the ingenuity of our scholars is transformed into innovations that generate value for society while advancing national and global development.

The journey of research does not end with publication; it reaches its fullest expression when knowledge is translated into technologies, products, enterprises, and policies that improve human life. The IPTTO is therefore centred on bridging the gap between discovery and real-world impact. The past year has reaffirmed the growing importance of innovation within higher education—universities are now recognised as engines of economic growth, industrial competitiveness, and sustainable development. Our laboratories are sources of transformative ideas, our researchers are innovators, and our campus has evolved into an ecosystem where creativity, entrepreneurship, and scientific inquiry converge.

Obafemi Awolowo University possesses extraordinary intellectual capital across all disciplines, generating

discoveries with potential to address challenges in healthcare, agriculture, engineering, digital technology, and beyond. Our responsibility is to ensure these discoveries are protected, nurtured, and positioned for meaningful application. Intellectual property, whether ideas, inventions, software, or designs, constitutes one of a modern university's most valuable assets. Protecting these assets safeguards researchers' interests while creating opportunities for commercialisation, investment, and collaboration.

Throughout the year, we have strengthened awareness of intellectual property among researchers, encouraging early consideration of innovation potential. Building a culture of IP begins with education; researchers who understand the value of their work are better positioned to maximise impact and secure the protection necessary for future development. Technology transfer is the process through which research outputs move into



industries, communities, and entrepreneurial ventures, generating measurable benefits. This requires collaboration among researchers, industry partners, investors, and policymakers, a catalytic role the IPTTO plays in connecting ideas with opportunities and innovation with implementation.

Entrepreneurship has become an increasingly important extension of the research mission, and the University is well-positioned to nurture this movement. Supporting innovation also requires robust institutional frameworks—policies and systems that enable responsible knowledge transfer and sustainable commercialisation. Our work extends beyond traditional science and technology; innovation flourishes across creative industries, social sciences, health, and public policy, and we remain committed to supporting it wherever it emerges.

Multidisciplinary collaboration strengthens our capacity to develop technically sound, socially relevant, and economically

viable innovations. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, with advances in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and renewable energy, has further underscored the importance of university-led innovation. We are committed to ensuring our researchers contribute to these emerging frontiers, guided always by responsibility: technologies must advance human well-being, uphold ethics, and align with our mission of service.

The achievements of the past year reflect the dedication of our researchers, students, collaborators, and leadership. Every invention disclosed, partnership established, and entrepreneurial initiative launched is a testament to collective effort. As we celebrate research excellence, we also celebrate innovation as a defining characteristic of this community. We aspire to complement our tradition of outstanding scholarship with a reputation for translating research into tangible local and global solutions.

Looking ahead, the IPTTO will strengthen our innovation ecosystem through expanded awareness, improved IP

management, enhanced industry engagement, and strategic partnerships that accelerate technology transfer. Emphasis will be placed on creating clear pathways from research to measurable economic and social impact. Our vision is to position Obafemi Awolowo University among Africa's leading innovation-driven institutions where discoveries are protected, creativity is encouraged, entrepreneurship flourishes, and research consistently improves lives beyond the academy.

The future of higher education belongs to institutions that not only generate knowledge but transform it into opportunity, prosperity, and progress. Through effective intellectual property management, strategic technology transfer, and a vibrant culture of innovation, we will ensure our research contributes meaningfully to national and global well-being. As we honour excellence, I extend heartfelt congratulations to all award recipients, researchers, innovators, and partners. Together, we demonstrate that research achieves its highest purpose when it extends beyond discovery to transformation, and beyond knowledge to lasting human progress. May this celebration inspire us all to build a culture where ideas are valued, innovation is encouraged, and research becomes an enduring force for good.

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Research Fair:

Promoting Research, Innovation And Societal Impact

Professor Ayobola M.A. Sakpere,
Chairperson, Research Fair Planning Committee



The Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife Research Fair is a flagship initiative of the University's annual Academic and Research Excellence Programme coordinated by the Central Office of Research. Established in 2024, the Fair serves as a strategic platform for showcasing the University's rich research portfolio, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthening university-industry-government-community engagement, and promoting the translation of research outputs into tangible societal benefits.

Since its inception, the Research Fair has become a vibrant avenue for connecting researchers, innovators, policymakers, industry leaders, investors, students, and community stakeholders. Through interactive exhibitions, research presentations, innovation showcases, and networking engagements, the Fair demonstrates OAU's commitment to advancing knowledge, innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Vision and Objectives

The Research Fair was conceived to:

- * Showcase ongoing and completed research projects across disciplines;
- * Promote research excellence and innovation within the University community;
- * Bridge the gap between academic research, industry, government, and society;
- * Facilitate partnerships for research commercialization and technology transfer;

- * Foster the quadruple helix model of development by integrating academia, industry, government, and community engagement;
- * Encourage a culture of inquiry, creativity, problem-solving, and impactful scholarship.

By strengthening the "Town and Gown" relationship, the Fair contributes to national development while positioning OAU as a leading hub for transformative research and innovation.

Growth and Evolution

The maiden edition held in 2024 under the theme "Advancing Research for Sustainable Development" successfully showcased innovative research outputs from students, staff, and research groups across the University. Building on this success, the 2025 edition, themed "Shaping the Future: Research, Innovation, the Convergence of Disciplines, and Impact," expanded stakeholder participation and deepened engagement with industry partners and development organizations.

The 2026 edition, themed "Transformational Research: Advancing Innovation, Enterprise and Global Relevance," reflects the University's aspiration to produce research that not only advances scientific knowledge but also drives innovation, enterprise development, policy impact, and global competitiveness.

Virtual Research Pitch Sessions

A distinctive feature of the Fair is the Virtual Research Pitch Session, which provides researchers with the opportunity to present their work to a diverse audience comprising industry leaders, investors, government agencies, mentors, and development partners.

The sessions have consistently attracted high-profile keynote speakers and industry stakeholders who provide strategic insights on research relevance, commercialization, entrepreneurship, and innovation ecosystems. The pitches have stimulated valuable discussions on translating research outcomes into market-ready products, scalable solutions, and sustainable enterprises.

Participation has grown steadily, with research presentations spanning undergraduate projects, postgraduate research, staff-led investigations, and multidisciplinary research groups. The increasing involvement of industry professionals has strengthened mentorship opportunities, investment prospects, and collaborative engagements between researchers and external stakeholders.

Notably, Dr Olasupo Olusi, Managing Director, Bank of Industry, (Represented by Dr Isa Omagu), CEO of Dudu-Osun, Mr. Abiola Ogunrinde and several technology, consulting, manufacturing, and innovation-focused organizations have engaged participants, providing practical perspectives on industrial relevance, commercialization pathways, funding opportunities, and technology transfer.

Physical Research Exhibition

The Physical Exhibition component of the Fair has evolved into a major showcase of OAU's research and innovation capacity. The event attracts distinguished guests from government (Erelu Ngozi Abeni Adeleke, Wife of the Osun State Governor; Hon Dipo Eluwole – Hon. Commissioner of Education; Rev Bunmi Jenyo, Hon. Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Osun State; Arc Sonny Echono, Executive Secretary, TETFund, (Represented

by Prof Faborode); Mr. Michael Oye, Regional Manager for South-West Operations of the Bank of Industry), academia (Professor Clement Adebooye - Vice Chancellor Osun State University, Professor Taiwo Asaolu - Vice Chancellor), industry (CEO, Starlink Global and Ideal Limited, Lagos, Alhaji Murthada Adeniji {Represented by Mr. Lekan Adeyemi} among others) and the private sector, providing researchers with opportunities to demonstrate the societal relevance and practical applications of their work.

Over the years, keynote presentations have emphasized the critical role of research in driving sustainable development, economic transformation, industrial growth, and national competitiveness. The exhibitions have featured innovative projects, prototypes, minimum viable products (MVPs), technology demonstrations, and research posters from participants across multiple disciplines.

The Fair has also served as a platform for recognizing and celebrating research excellence, with participants receiving certificates of participation and commendation for their contributions to knowledge generation and innovation. Promoting Innovation and Community Engagement

In line with OAU's commitment to inclusive innovation and societal impact, the 2025 edition introduced the highly successful "Waste-to-Wealth Challenge" for primary and secondary schools. The initiative encouraged young learners to develop creative solutions for plastic waste management and environmental sustainability. Participating schools demonstrated remarkable ingenuity in repurposing plastic waste materials, while winners received cash prizes and recognition for their innovative contributions.

This initiative exemplifies the University's dedication to nurturing future innovators and promoting environmental responsibility beyond the campus community.

Impact and Future Outlook

Within a short period, the OAU Research Fair has established itself as a significant platform

for advancing research visibility, fostering strategic partnerships, encouraging innovation, and strengthening the University's contribution to national development. The Fair continues to attract growing interest from industry, government agencies, development organizations, and investors, thereby creating pathways for research commercialization, entrepreneurship, and societal impact.

As the Fair continues to evolve, it remains a testament to Obafemi Awolowo University's unwavering commitment to research excellence, innovation, knowledge transfer, and global relevance. Through this initiative, the University is building a dynamic ecosystem where research transcends academic boundaries to generate transformative solutions for local, national, and global challenges.

Acknowledgement

The remarkable success and sustained growth of the Obafemi Awolowo University Research Fair have been made possible through the dedication, commitment, and collaborative efforts of numerous individuals and stakeholders. We are deeply grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Simeon A. Bamire, for his unwavering support and steadfast commitment to advancing research excellence at Obafemi Awolowo University. We also acknowledge the invaluable guidance and encouragement of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Development), Professor Akanni I. Akinyemi, whose leadership has been instrumental in the growth and success of this initiative.

As Chairman of the Research Fair Planning Committee, I wish to express profound appreciation to the members of the Committee and the staff of the Central Office of Research, especially Professor Morenike Ukpang (Former Executive Director, Central Office of Research), whose vision, creativity, diligence, and tireless efforts in planning, coordination, stakeholder engagement, and programme execution have transformed the Fair into a flagship platform for research visibility, innovation, collaboration, and societal impact.

Our sincere appreciation extends to the University's principal officers, deans, faculty representatives, industry partners, sponsors, researchers, students, alumni, and community stakeholders whose enthusiastic participation and contributions have enriched the Fair and strengthened its impact.

I wish to specially recognize the distinguished members of the Research Fair Planning Committee: Prof. Temitope O. Olomola, Prof. Omotayo A. Aregbesola, Prof. Olatomide Fadare, Prof. Kehinde N. Awokoya, Dr. Aderonke Lawal, Dr. Oluwatayo E. Abioye, Dr. Atanda Oladejo, Ms. Oluwatoyosi E. Ogundare, Mr. Segun Kadiri, and Mrs. Bola F. Olawale-Raimi. Their professionalism, commitment, teamwork, and unwavering pursuit of excellence have been pivotal to the continued success and growing prominence of the OAU Research Fair.

As we celebrate the achievements recorded thus far, we remain committed to strengthening the culture of research, innovation, and impactful scholarship that will continue to position Obafemi Awolowo University as a leading centre of academic and research excellence in Africa and beyond.

Stephen Osagiede Oronsaye

#15, Bola Ige Close, Asokoro, Abuja, Nigeria; 08052252200 email: stephenoronsaye@yahoo.co.uk

July 4, 2026

Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, CFR
10, Ojora Road, 2, Cameron Road,
Ikoyi, Lagos.

Goodwill Message

I warmly congratulate you, my dear brother and friend, Prof., on your well-deserved recognition as the honouree at the fourth edition of the Academic and Research Excellence Awards 2026 of the renowned Obafemi Awolowo University, Ilefe.

This honour is a fitting tribute to your distinguished career, your remarkable contributions to scholarship, and your enduring commitment to academic and research excellence. Your work continues to embody the values of intellectual discipline, service, mentorship, and dedication to advancing knowledge.

Your recognition by the University is not only a celebration of personal achievement but also an affirmation of the positive impact you have made in the academic community and beyond. You remain an inspiring example to colleagues, students, researchers, and the wider society.

I recall with fondness our time together in the Federal Civil Service, where your brilliance, diligence, and commitment to excellence were always evident. I remain deeply grateful for the selfless support you extended to me during my tenure as Head of the Civil Service of the Federation between 2009 and 2010. Indeed, your outstanding contributions to the reform and strengthening of the Federal Civil Service, first as Federal Permanent Secretary and later as Head of the Civil Service of the Federation from 2010 to 2011, have secured your place in the annals of Nigeria's public service. Your legacy remains one of professionalism, dedication, and distinguished service to the nation.

As you are celebrated alongside the 2026 Cohort of OAU Stars, I join family, friends, colleagues, and well-wishers in saluting your outstanding achievements and the legacy of excellence you continue to build.

I wish you continued good health, greater accomplishments, and many more years of meaningful service to education, research, and national development.
Congratulations, Professor, and best wishes on this special honour.
Yours sincerely,



Stephen Osagiede Oronsaye, CFR
Former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (2009 – 2010)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Professor Oladapo Afolabi:

A Legacy of Excellence Worth Celebrating

Prof. Saidu Oyarekhua Oseni

Member, Governing Council,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife



It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Professor Oladapo Afolabi on being honoured with the Excellence Award in Research Practice. This recognition is a fitting tribute to a distinguished scholar whose remarkable contributions to research, scholarship, mentorship, and national development have left an indelible mark on Obafemi Awolowo University and the wider academic community.

Professor Afolabi's career exemplifies the highest ideals of the academy: intellectual curiosity, unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity in scholarship, and an enduring passion for advancing knowledge. His achievements have not only elevated the profile of our University but have also contributed significantly to Nigeria's research and development landscape. His legacy serves as a source of inspiration to established academics and emerging scholars alike, reminding us that true excellence is measured not only by personal accomplishments but also by the lives one influences and the knowledge one leaves behind.

I also wish to commend the Central Office of Research (COR) for sustaining the Excellence Award in Research Practice over the past four years. What began as an important institutional initiative has grown into one of Obafemi Awolowo University's defining traditions of recognizing and celebrating research excellence. By consistently honouring scholars whose work has advanced knowledge and impacted society, the Central Office of Research continues to reinforce a culture where outstanding scholarship is acknowledged, celebrated, and encouraged.

This initiative reflects the University's unwavering commitment to fostering a vibrant research ecosystem in which innovation, discovery, and impactful scholarship are not only pursued but also publicly recognized. Such recognition motivates researchers across disciplines to strive for greater heights while strengthening OAU's reputation as a leading centre of research and academic excellence in Africa.

As a member of the Governing Council, I am particularly

pleased to see initiatives that celebrate the University's greatest asset, its people. The recognition of exceptional researchers such as Professor Afolabi affirms the University's enduring commitment to rewarding excellence and preserving a legacy of academic distinction that has defined Obafemi Awolowo University for generations.

I congratulate the Central Office of Research for its foresight and consistency in institutionalizing this prestigious award, and I heartily congratulate Professor Oladapo Afolabi on this richly deserved honour. May this recognition inspire even greater achievements within our academic community and encourage future generations of scholars to pursue excellence with dedication, integrity, and purpose.

**Congratulations,
Professor Oladapo Afolabi,
on a legacy truly well earned.**

**Office of the Honourable Commissioner,
Representing Gombe State**

Federal Character Commission (FCC),
No 3, Maputo Street, Wuse Zone 3,
Abuja.

Goodwill Message

Dear Prof. Oladapo Afolabi,

It is with profound joy and deep respect that I extend my heartfelt goodwill to you on the occasion of the **Academic Research Excellence Awards 2026 (Fourth Edition)**, convened to celebrate an exceptional scholar, an accomplished administrator, and an eminent son of Nigeria. You have been and Loving Husband, Father and guardian to your wife, family and all who have met you. Your towering contributions as a scholar, administrator, and statesman have illuminated the path of excellence for countless Nigerians and remain a beacon of inspiration to generations including myself who have looked up to you as a Boss and Mentor.

Since our paths crossed about 20 years ago, I have always treasured your leadership, courage and uprightness.

Your life's work reflects uncommon dedication, integrity, and wisdom—qualities that continue to strengthen our nation's institutions and uplift the aspirations of our people. I celebrate not only your remarkable achievements but also the humility and grace with which you have carried them.

May the Almighty grant you continued health, peace, and fulfillment. May your legacy of service endure as a guiding light for all who seek to build a better Nigeria.

With warmest regards and highest esteem,

Hon. Ibrahim A. Mairiga

Federal Character Commissioner Representing Gombe State

Faculty Spotlights:

Technology, Environmental Design

Prof Adeyinka Adesina

of the Faculty of Science and Chairman of the Committee of Deans,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



Under my stewardship, the Faculty of Science at Obafemi Awolowo University has deepened its legacy of academic distinction through a focused elevation of scientific leadership. His tenure, which includes two terms as Chairman of the University's Committee of Deans, has been defined by a tangible enhancement of the faculty's research ecosystem. This has involved the strategic mobilization of external partnerships to bolster research outputs and the strengthening of academic infrastructure, such as the adoption of computer-based testing for large-enrolment courses, which ensures rigorous and scalable student assessment. Concurrently, disciplinary excellence has been nurtured through a sustained commitment to postgraduate education and the promotion of best practices in curriculum delivery, reinforcing the faculty's reputation as a powerhouse of scientific inquiry.

Central to this progress has

been a deliberate investment in the faculty's human capital. Staff welfare has moved to the forefront of the developmental agenda, manifesting in the systematic upgrading of office spaces, the improvement of general working conditions, and the expedited processing of staff promotions. These initiatives are predicated on the understanding that a supportive environment is the bedrock of sustained academic productivity and innovation. This people-centric approach extends to his institutional role, where his leadership of the Committee of Deans has fortified collegial governance and participatory decision-making, ensuring that academic policies are both consultative and effectively implemented.

Looking outward, I have championed a vision of the university as a dynamic contributor to national transformation. By advocating for interdisciplinary collaboration and international academic

linkages, he has positioned the faculty to remain competitive in a globalized knowledge economy, fostering an environment where critical inquiry and scholarly excellence thrive. This season of celebration is fittingly crowned by the recognition of Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR, a distinguished alumnus of the Department of Chemistry, with the 2026 Obafemi Awolowo University Excellence Award. His career, which ascended from university teaching to the pinnacle of public service as Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, exemplifies the profound societal impact that science leadership can engender. Professor Afolabi's achievements are a powerful testament to the faculty's enduring mission to produce graduates who not only excel in academia but also drive institutional transformation on a national scale, embodying the very ideals upon which the University was founded



Congratulations

**PROF. OLADAPO
AFOLABI** OON, CFR

Pro-Chancellor,
Edwin Clark University
Kiagbodo.

Edwin Clark University Kiagbodo, Delta State heartily congratulates her Pro-Chancellor/Chairman, Governing Council, Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, OON, CFR, on the conferment of the **Academic Research Excellence Award** by **Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.**

This recognition is a testament to Prof. Afolabi's outstanding contributions to research, scholarship, and academic leadership.

We celebrate this well deserved honor and are proud of his continued excellence.
Congratulations sir.

Signed:
Prof. Samuel .T. Wara
Vice Chancellor
Edwin Clark University



For A Robust Peace And Conflict Curriculum In Our Universities

N. Oluwafemi MIMIKO, PhD, mni

Professor, Department of Political Science,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.



I. Introduction

This paper presents a structural framework for reforming peace and conflict curricula within Nigeria's higher educational system. It addresses systemic tensions in foundational relational patterns, social constructs, and an anarchic international system driven by power and national interests. It thus argues that addressing Nigeria's evolving security challenges requires a multidimensional response, kinetic and non-kinetic alike, with the country's educational system being of particular relevance to the latter.

II. The Dual Realities of Global Governance

The contemporary international system operates on a complex dichotomy. While structured around a framework of international rules, its core drivers remain power and national interest. In an anarchic global order, formal bodies like the United Nations function as moral agencies rather than a universal government. Consequently, the pursuit of peace by major global powers is often conditional. When national interests align with stability, global leaders actively pursue conflict resolution. Conversely, when narrow strategic or resource-extraction goals dictate, powerful states may actively destabilize external regions, directly impacting national and grassroots peace.

At a lower level, societies promote—albeit sometimes inadvertently—patterns of cultural exclusion, exclusionary trends, and a malign sense of otherness that provide the

foundation for the types of tension that undermine the peace and stability of communities. Within this framework, non-state actors also thrive on the weaponization of grassroots social vulnerabilities to actively promote conflict. While this may not detract from the role of benign non-state actors, which through their interventions directly mitigate the more obvious conflict triggers like poverty, social exclusion, identity politics, and extremist ideologies—thereby preventing conflicts and relapses in post-conflict zones—the role of malign non-state actors in driving conflict within and between nations cannot be overemphasized.

Practically all of these patterns feed into Nigeria's evolving security landscape, which debuted with the emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency around 2009. Today, the nation's military is on the field with containment operations across all 36 states and the federal capital territory—a situation necessitated by the fragmented capability structure of existing constabularies conventionally mandated to put local forces of instability in check.

Yet, the conflict continues to rapidly expand in scope, mutating into broader forms—such as banditry, kidnapping, illegal mining, and secessionist disruptions—and has become protracted. This has necessitated a multidimensional response scheme, kinetic and non-kinetic alike, which requires complementarity between national efforts and cross-border, regional collaborative initiatives.

To build sustainable peace, countries must move past superficial crisis intervention and reactive conflict resolution mechanisms in a manner that aligns with the imperative of non-kinetic intervention. They must structurally reinforce formal governmental and non-governmental agencies that target these structural vulnerabilities with a view to overcoming them. This compels a more nuanced interrogation of the foundational issues relating to conflict phenomenon as a pathway to peace. Formal education possesses limitless possibilities for achieving this critical end-state. In focus here is a structural framework for reforming peace and conflict curricula within Nigeria's higher educational system, in a manner that addresses systemic tensions in foundational relational patterns, social constructs, and an anarchic international system driven by power and national interests.

IV. Educational Foundations: Deconstructing the Roots of Conflict

The psychological and cultural frameworks of war and peace originate within human consciousness. Educational institutions, therefore, serve as the vital starting point for a holistic conflict-resolution orientation for society, with tertiary educational institutions being the best positioned as the analytical engine for this indispensable synergy.

To measure up to the foregoing canons, a reimagined peace curriculum must champion several pedagogical shifts:

- *. Early childhood intervention: Curricula must proactively validate diversity and cultivate inclusivity from an early age. Education must systematically deconstruct cultural ethnocentrism, teaching students to evaluate individuals based on character rather than collective stereotypes or broad generalizations.
- * Liberal arts and tolerance: Deepening a liberal arts orientation within education expands student perspectives, explicitly training their minds to tolerate ideological and cultural diversity.

- * Civic action and community integration: Practical community involvement should be integrated directly into the student experience, establishing grassroots civic action as an instinctive civic duty.
- * Non-zero-sum paradigms: Students must be trained in cooperative conflict resolution, demonstrating that "win-win" negotiations are structurally superior to destructive "win-lose" or "lose-lose" outcomes.

A core principle of this curriculum must be the realistic appraisal of human dynamics; namely, that conflict is endemic to all human organizations and social structures. The ultimate objective of peacebuilding is not the absolute avoidance of friction, which is impossible. Indeed, in consonance with Hegelian dialectics, it is from the dyadic movement of thoughts underpinning social conflicts that society finds higher meaning. Thus, when managed appropriately, conflict can be channeled to serve the growth of society rather than overwhelming it. Rather than seeking the complete extirpation of frictions and conflicts, the focus should always be on their constructive containment and management.

V. Youth Empowerment and Alternative Educational Frameworks

Young people represent both the primary hope for sustainable peace and a potential catalyst for instability when marginalized, making it imperative for state and academic policies to proactively engage them. To be relevant, curriculum revision must be comprehensive and extend beyond traditional university walls to reach vulnerable demographics, in the manner outlined below:

- * Curricular embedding: Educational institutions must formally embed deep exposure to diversity issues, cross-cultural respect, and structured community action directly into their core training.
- * Technical and vocational education and training (TVET): Governments and civil society must aggressively



establish TVET centers. This is a critical imperative for accommodating the vast populations of out-of-school children and young adults who have fallen outside the formal school system and remain vulnerable to radicalization or criminal recruitment.

* Economic integration and state priority: True stability requires creating robust avenues for productive economic engagement for youth. State action must deliberately prioritize youth interests in macroeconomic planning to transform potential liabilities into active agents of peace.

VI. Conclusion: Structural Interdependence and Coordinated Action

Ultimately, global peace requires a fundamental paradigm shift among world leaders regarding economic and social interdependence. The historical fiction that wealthy nations can remain insulated from global crises is obsolete, as it is structurally impossible to sustain an island of prosperity within an ocean of deprivation and poverty. As demonstrated by the 2015 migration crisis in Europe, localized instability inevitably spills across borders.

In light of the foregoing, a nuanced strategic action plan for institutional partners becomes intelligible. Specifically, strengthening global peacebuilding in the coming years will require

at least four strategic priority shifts on the part of policy leaders, universities, and organizations alike.

The first relates to systemic global equity, whereby international political and economic architectures are reformed to ensure they function equitably for all segments, bridging the gap between the Global North and the Global South. Second, non-state actors must transition away from fragmented, isolated humanitarian interventions and instead establish centralized, collaborative platforms to maximize resource efficiency and operational impact. Third, strategic resource allocation must occur, with international donors aggressively channeling Official Development Assistance (ODA) into the poorest, most vulnerable segments of the global population to neutralize conflict triggers before they manifest. Fourth, because the seeds of conflict are sown in the human mind, the localization of these strategies via a bespoke national curriculum in Nigeria's school system—one that exposes students to subtle conflict triggers and cultivates cognitive frameworks naturally attuned to peace—stands as a critical imperative.

An Administrative Perspective on the Central Office of Research (COR), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

By Julius Olugbenga Oyelakin
Pioneer Administrative Secretary

Research is the foundation of every great university. Beyond teaching, it drives discovery, innovation and the generation of knowledge that addresses societal challenges. At Obafemi Awolowo University, research remains central to the University's mandate of "For Learning and Culture," ensuring that knowledge is not only preserved but continually expanded for the benefit of society.

As research became increasingly competitive, collaborative and subject to more stringent funding and regulatory requirements, the need arose for a central structure to coordinate and strengthen research administration across the University. This led to the establishment of the Central Office of Research (COR) during the 2016/2017 academic session, building on the foundations of the former University Research Office and the University Research Committee.

The Central Office of Research serves as the University's coordinating hub for research administration. Reporting to Senate, it harmonises research activities, promotes a vibrant research culture, manages donor-funded projects, supports grant acquisition and administration, facilitates research partnerships, oversees research ethics and compliance, promotes intellectual property protection and commercialization, coordinates research mentoring, and develops policies that strengthen the University's research enterprise.

To effectively discharge these responsibilities, COR operates through four specialised components: the University Research Office (URO), the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), the Linkages and Partnerships Office (LPO), and the Administrative Support Office (ASO), which comprises the Administrative, Communications and Finance Units.

From an administrative standpoint, COR was established to achieve three strategic objectives: to reduce the administrative burden on researchers through effective management of compliance, contracts and reporting; to streamline pre-award and post-award grant processes; and to strengthen the University's capacity to compete for, secure and manage high-impact research funding. In essence, COR enables researchers to focus on generating knowledge while providing the institutional systems that support research excellence.

Behind every successful research project lies a strong administrative framework. The Administrative Support Office ensures that research activities are efficiently coordinated, financial and reporting obligations are met, institutional policies are implemented, and researchers receive the administrative support required to navigate increasingly complex funding and regulatory environments. It has also continued to develop practical solutions to challenges relating to funding administration, bureaucracy and institutional processes, thereby contributing significantly to the



University's research success.

Since its establishment, the Central Office of Research has recorded remarkable growth in its systems, partnerships, research support services and institutional visibility. Administrative innovations, including the engagement of graduate interns on a voluntary basis, have proven mutually beneficial by providing valuable work experience for young graduates while strengthening the Office's operational capacity.

The Office has also benefited from visionary leadership. The position of Executive Director has been held by:

- * Professor Abiodun O. Ogundaini
- * Professor Francis Adeyinka Adesina
- * Professor Akanni Ibukun Akinyemi
- * Professor Morenike Oluwatoyin Ukpang-Folayan
- * Professor Ebun Adejuyigbe
- * Professor Akanni Ibukun Akinyemi (second tenure)

The Administrative Support Office has been led by a senior administrator serving as Administrative Secretary. I had the privilege of serving as the pioneer Administrative Secretary from 28 August 2017 to 2023, laying

many of the administrative foundations upon which the Office continues to build. Mr. I. O. Adejuwon succeeded in 2023 before proceeding on sabbatical leave a few months later.

Today, the Central Office of Research has become an indispensable pillar of Obafemi Awolowo University's research ecosystem. It has not only strengthened research administration but has also helped foster a culture in which research is increasingly embraced across the University community, extending beyond academic staff to include non-teaching personnel. As the University continues to pursue greater global relevance, COR remains well positioned to shape the next phase of research excellence, innovation and societal impact.



**Julius
Olugbenga
Oyelakin**

Pioneer
Administrative
Secretary



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY
ILE-IFE, NIGERIA

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH
**EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**
2026
FOURTH EDITION



Goodwill Message

FROM

ESS NIGERIA

On behalf of the Management and Staff of ESS Nigeria, we extend our warmest congratulations to the Vice-Chancellor, Management, Staff, Students, and the entire Obafemi Awolowo University community on the occasion of the **2026 Academic & Research Excellence Awards**.

We are proud to celebrate **Prof. Oladapo Afolabi** and all the distinguished honourees whose outstanding achievements exemplify academic excellence, innovation, and dedication to national development.

At ESS Nigeria, we believe that excellence in education and innovation is the foundation of sustainable development. We are honoured to associate with this prestigious event and reaffirm our commitment to supporting initiatives that foster knowledge, technology, and human capital development.

We wish all the award recipients continued success and congratulate Obafemi Awolowo University for sustaining a culture of excellence.

Congratulations to all the 2026 Honourees.

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EDWIN CLARK UNIVERSITY

KIAGBODO, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

VICE-CHANCELLOR,

Engr. Prof. Samuel T. Wara, PhD

FIMC, FICA, FRMD, FIET, FNSE, MIEEE, MIASTD, MSAEE,
AMNIBE, MNIPRODE, MNIEEE, MCSE, R.Eng (COREN)



P.M.B. 101, Ughelli, Delta State, Nigeria.

Telephone: 08037415262, 08056731904

Website: www.edwinclarkuniversity.edu.ng

Email: vc@edwinclarkuniversity.edu.ng

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

6th. July 2026

Subject: Congratulations on Your Well-Deserved Honor

Dear Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, FICON, FIAEA, OON, CFR,

On behalf of the entire Edwin Clark University community, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on being honored with the Academic Research Excellence Award at the 2026 edition of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. This prestigious recognition is a testament to your unwavering commitment to academic excellence, innovative research, and impactful leadership.

Your exemplary contributions to education and research have not only elevated the standards within our institution but have also inspired countless individuals in the academic community. We are proud to have you as our Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Council, and your achievements continue to shine as a beacon of excellence.

As you receive this well-deserved accolade, please know that you have the full support and admiration of the Edwin Clark University family. We look forward to your continued leadership and the many more milestones that lie ahead.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel T. Wara".

Engr. Prof. Samuel T. Wara

Vice Chancellor

Edwin Clark University

CONGRATULATORY & GOODWILL MESSAGE



Professor Oladapo Afolabi OON, CFR.

Pro-Chancellor, Edwin Clark University, Delta State.

Former Head of Service of Nigeria.

Former Pro-Chancellor/ Chairman of Council,

Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho.

We extend our warmest congratulations to you, your family and all well wishers on this well-deserved special honour and recognition on such a grand stage of the 2026 Obafemi Awolowo University Academic and Research Excellence Awards, holding on Wednesday, 15th July 2026.

Your exceptional accomplishments, lasting contributions to the academic community and selfless investment in the good of humanity in general, set you apart as a deserving honouree at this time -

We are proud to highlight your numerous achievements in the academia and during your public service as the Head of Service of the Federation and later as the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho. It is not surprising that you have been appointed to the same position presently at the Edwin Clark University, Delta State.

We trust that our grateful fatherland will forever cherish your contributions in the field of Environment, the organisation of the first Nigerian Ecological Summit of 1988, the creation of the Federal Ministry of the Environment in 1995 and your pivotal role in the creation of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) and the Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health.

As a recipient of several academic and research awards locally and globally, your value you added to the body of invaluable intellectual knowledge continue to guide current and future generations in environmental and food nutrition chemistry.

It is wonderful to see your outstanding contributions in academia, public service, business and other spheres of life recognised and celebrated.

We are therefore inspired and honoured to celebrate with you on this auspicious occasion.

We use this opportunity to join your family, the OAU community, and former colleagues to celebrate this well-deserved recognition by your Alma Mater. Our wish and prayer is that you are renewed and encouraged to attain even greater and impactful success!

Former Governing Council Members, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho:

1. Dr. Bade Adeshina FCIB, CFloD, FNIM, FERP, MCSI
2. Abiodun Jelili Owonikoko SAN
3. Prof. (Mrs) Olaide A. Adedokun
4. Alhaji Isiaka Niyi Olagoke FCA
5. Prof. Lai Olurode
6. Mr. Tise Adenipekun

Dated 6th July 2026

3rd July, 2026

Dear Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR

On behalf of the Directors, staff and management of Capital Express Capital Market Group, I extend my warmest congratulations to you on the occasion of your well-deserved recognition and award of Academic Research Excellence 2026 by the prestigious **Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife**.

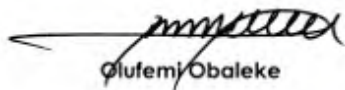
This distinguished honour is a testament to your exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to excellence, and remarkable contributions to business, society, and the development of our nation. Your vision, integrity, and dedication continue to inspire all who have the privilege of working with and learning from you.

This award not only celebrates your personal achievements but also reflects the positive impact of your service and the enduring legacy you are building. We are immensely proud to be associated with a leader of your stature and accomplishment.

As you receive this prestigious recognition, I pray that God grants you continued wisdom, strength, and good health to achieve even greater milestones in the years ahead.

Congratulations once again, Chairman. May this honour be the first of many more recognitions of your outstanding contributions to humanity and national development.

With profound respect and best wishes,



Olufemi Obaleke

Group Managing Director



DIRECTORS: Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, CFR (Chairman), Chief Anthony Aletor (Managing Director),
Mr. Olufemi Obaleke, Mr. Adewale Oketola, Mrs. Olayinka Aletor Esq, Mr. Frank Okosun (Independent),
Chief Martins Olatode, Barr. Osahon Idemudia, Alhaji Aliyu Ahmed



Senator Bode Olajumoke PH.D, LL.D, B.L
SOLICITOR & ADVOCATE

8/7/2026

The Vice-Chancellor,
Prof. A. S. Bamire,
Obafemi Awolowo University,
Ile-Ife, Nigeria

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026: FOURTH EDITION.

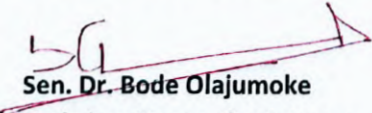
I refer to your invitation to the above-stated event and I extend my warmest congratulations to you, the University Council, Senate, Management, Staff, and Students of the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University on the occasion of the 4th Edition of the Academic & Research Excellence Awards 2026.

I especially congratulate & celebrate the Honouree, Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, an age-long good friend & brother, and indeed the entire 2026 Cohort of OAU Stars.

Prof. Afolabi's dedication to scholarship, research, and service as exemplified by his outstanding stint as the Head of Service of FGN, continue to uphold the great tradition of excellence in Service, Learning and Culture.

May this Celebration and Awards inspire even greater feats for generations unborn and our beloved Great Ife.

Hearty Congratulations.


Sen. Dr. Bode Olajumoke
Parkview Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos

GOODWILL MESSAGE TO PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI ON THE AWARD OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

My heartfelt congratulations to my dear friend, brother, and colleague Professor Oladapo Afolabi on receiving the award of academic research excellence by our Alma Mata, Great University of Ife.

"Laiwowe", (our name for professors at Ife), as I call you, this award is a recognition of your brilliance, dedication, discipline, resilience and integrity. In addition, it is an indisputable testimony of your commitment to knowledge, passion for advancing knowledge and hard work.

In the University system, you rose to become a Professor, you joined the Federal Civil Service, became a Permanent Secretary and the Head of the Federal Civil Service. Yet you remain so kind, God-fearing and humble.

The award is well deserved as I know you are always committed to whatever you set your mind to advance and achieve.

May almighty God, who has led you this far, grant you strength, good health and wisdom to continue to make an impact on academic research. I wish you many more laurels! You know I am incredibly proud of you. Today, as always, I am overjoyed to share this momentous occasion with you.

Ama Pepple
Former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY HON. HULAYAT MOTUNRAYO OMIDIRAN, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION, AT THE ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026 (FOURTH EDITION): CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP, EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP, AND ENDURING LEGACY OF PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI, DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY

Protocol.

It is with profound delight, immense honour, and heartfelt admiration that I extend my warmest goodwill and congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the Academic Research Excellence Awards 2026 (Fourth Edition), convened to celebrate an exceptional scholar, an accomplished administrator, and an eminent son of Nigeria, Professor Oladapo Afolabi.

Today's gathering is far more than an awards ceremony; it is a celebration of intellectual distinction, visionary leadership, unwavering integrity, and a lifetime devoted to excellence in scholarship and public service. It is a fitting tribute to a man whose remarkable journey continues to inspire academics, professionals, public servants, and young Nigerians to pursue greatness through diligence, discipline, and selfless commitment.

Professor Oladapo Afolabi has earned widespread respect through an illustrious career distinguished by academic brilliance, administrative competence, and an enduring commitment to national development. His professional trajectory exemplifies the virtues of excellence, accountability, wisdom, resilience, and purposeful leadership. His contributions to education, governance, and institutional development have left an indelible imprint on the nation's progress and have continued to enrich the landscape of public administration and intellectual advancement.

As a distinguished alumnus of Obafemi Awolowo University, he represents the enduring ideals of scholarship, character, innovation, and transformational leadership for which the institution is renowned. His accomplishments reaffirm that true education

extends beyond the acquisition of knowledge; it is reflected in service to humanity, ethical leadership, and the positive impact one leaves on society.

The Federal Character Commission identifies with the ideals embodied by Professor Afolabi—fairness, merit, inclusiveness, patriotism, and national cohesion. His exemplary life reminds us that genuine leadership is measured not merely by positions occupied but by the lives transformed, institutions strengthened, and enduring legacies built for future generations.

On behalf of the 5th Commission, management and entire staff of the Federal Character Commission, I heartily congratulate Professor Oladapo Afolabi on this well-deserved recognition. This prestigious honour is a testament to decades of unwavering dedication, intellectual excellence, and distinguished service to Nigeria and humanity.

May this award serve as yet another milestone in your extraordinary journey, inspire greater accomplishments, and encourage emerging scholars and leaders to emulate your exemplary virtues. I pray that Almighty God grants you continued strength, sound health, divine wisdom, abundant grace, and many more fruitful years of impactful service.

Congratulations once again, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, on this richly deserved honour. Your legacy of excellence will continue to illuminate the path of generations yet unborn.

Thank you, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION
THE PRESIDENCY

10 July 2026

Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR

Retired Head of the Civil Service of the Federation
Abuja.

My dear Big Brother

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE CONFERMENT OF THE ACADEMIC
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD BY THE OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY,
ILE-IFE.**

On behalf of the Federal Civil Service, I extend my warm congratulations to you on the conferment of the **Academic Research Excellence Award** by the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

2. This prestigious recognition is both timely and richly deserved. It celebrates a lifetime devoted to scholarship, exemplary leadership, public service, and nation-building. More importantly, it affirms the profound impact of a career that has consistently demonstrated how academic excellence can shape public policy, strengthen institutions, and contribute meaningfully to national development.
3. Your distinguished career stands as an enduring testament to the harmonious integration of academia and public administration. As a respected scholar, accomplished administrator, and former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, you provided visionary leadership that advanced professionalism, institutional reform, capacity development, and ethical standards across the Federal Civil Service. The foundations laid during your tenure continue to support ongoing reform efforts and inspire the pursuit of excellence throughout the Service.
4. Beyond your years in public office, you have remained an influential intellectual, mentor, and statesman. Through your research, teaching, publications, and continued engagement with national discourse, you have consistently enriched public administration while nurturing future generations of scholars and public servants. Your enduring commitment to knowledge, integrity, and service continues to resonate across both academic and governance communities.
5. Your life's work reminds us that true leadership is measured not merely by the offices one occupies, but by the institutions one strengthens, the



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION

people one inspires, and the values one leaves behind. Your legacy continues to serve as a source of inspiration as we pursue our collective vision of a professional, innovative, technology-driven, citizen-centred, and globally competitive Federal Civil Service.

6. I also commend the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife for honouring an Administrator whose remarkable contributions have left an indelible mark on both academia and public administration. In celebrating your achievements, the University has once again affirmed the enduring value of scholarship, leadership, and public service in advancing national development.

7. As you receive this well-deserved honour, please accept my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. I pray that Almighty God grants you continued good health, renewed strength, and many more years of fulfilment as you continue to inspire and contribute to the advancement of our nation.

Mrs. Didi Esther Walson-Jack, OON, mni
Head of the Civil Service of the Federation



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EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH PRACTICE AWARD 2026

Your dedication to advancing knowledge, driving innovation, and mentoring the next generation of researchers continues to inspire and elevate the research community.

This honour is a testament to your unwavering commitment to excellence and the lasting impact of your work.

Well done, Professor!

We celebrate you and rejoice in your remarkable achievement.



PROF. DAPO AFOLABI

2026 RECIPIENT
EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH PRACTICE AWARD



“

Prof. Afolabi, your leadership in research and your passion for discovery have made a significant difference in the lives of many and in the advancement of science for societal good.

”

With warm regards and best wishes,

PROF. EBUN ADEJUYIGBE

For SAPCARE & CHRADS

PART

03

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT





STUDENT AFFAIRS: SUPPORTING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Advancing Academic and Research Excellence

Prof. Lukman O. Olasunkanmi

Vice Dean, Division of Student Affairs,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



The Division of Student Affairs (DSA) is a strategic arm of Obafemi Awolowo University dedicated to creating an enabling environment that fosters academic excellence, research productivity, leadership development, and the holistic growth of students. As a critical partner in advancing the University's vision and mission, the Division complements the work of the academic units by providing comprehensive student support services that empower students to realise their full intellectual, personal, and professional potential.

Comprehensive Student Support Services

The Division provides a wide range of essential services designed to enhance students' welfare and academic success. These include orientation programmes for newly admitted students; allocation of accommodation in university hostels; guidance and counselling services; scholarship, bursary, and financial assistance administration; issuance of attestation and identification letters to ministries, embassies, and other organisations; and mobilisation of eligible graduates for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

Beyond these core responsibilities, the Division collaborates closely with relevant units within and outside the University to ensure a conducive learning environment. It facilitates students' access to healthcare services and health insurance, provides oversight for campus transportation services, and works with the University Security Unit to promote a safe, secure, and inclusive campus. These coordinated efforts enable students to concentrate on their academic and research pursuits in an environment that supports their overall well-being.

Academic Guidance and Personal Development

Recognising that academic success extends beyond classroom instruction, the Division offers professional guidance and counselling services that enrich students' educational experience. These services include academic advising, career counselling, mentorship programmes, and mental health support. Through these interventions, students develop the resilience, confidence, and competencies required to excel academically, undertake meaningful research, and prepare for successful lifelong careers.

Scholarships, Research Grants, and Academic Opportunities

The Division actively mobilises resources and partnerships that promote academic excellence and reduce financial barriers to education. In collaboration with alumni associations, faculties, departments, research institutes, government agencies, industry partners, philanthropists, and development organisations, the Division facilitates access to scholarships, bursaries, research grants, fellowships, internships, welfare interventions, and other academic enrichment opportunities.

These partnerships not only alleviate financial constraints but also expose students to emerging research frontiers, strengthen their practical and research competencies, and enhance their competitiveness in both academic and professional spheres. Notable opportunities facilitated by the Division include: (1) Annual Scholarship Scheme of the Great Ife Alumni Association, Dallas Branch; (2) Annual Scholarship Scheme of the Obafemi Awolowo University

Muslim Graduates' Association (UNIFEMGA); (3) Examination Food Support Programme by the Great Ife Alumni Association, Home Branch; (4) Clothing, Shoes, and Bags Support Initiative by the Great Ife Alumni Association, USA Branch; (5) Annual Bursary Awards by the Omotayo Adegboye Foundation; (6) Annual Research Grant for Final-Year Students by the Professor Abayomi Oluwatosin Jiboku Foundation (AOJF); (7) Annual Scholarship Scheme by the Majekodunmi Foundation; (8) HOBNOB–Great Ife Educational Support Programme; (9) Annual Scholarship Scheme by the Osun Development Forum, USA; (10) Scholarships and financial support from philanthropists, corporate organisations, and non-governmental organisations; (11) Federal Government Scholarships and the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND); and (12) State and Local Government Scholarship Schemes.

Leadership, Innovation, and Student Engagement

The Division provides institutional support for the Students' Union, professional associations, discipline-based societies, and other recognised student organisations whose activities promote intellectual engagement, critical thinking, innovation, collaborative learning, and responsible leadership. Through participation in these

organisations, students acquire invaluable transferable skills in communication, teamwork, governance, project management, community engagement, and problem-solving. These experiences prepare them to become outstanding scholars, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and professionals. The Division also promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion by ensuring equal opportunities for all students regardless of their socio-economic or educational backgrounds. Attention is given to supporting students with special needs to ensure their full integration into the University community.

Promoting Excellence Beyond the Classroom

In addition to supporting excellence in students' respective academic disciplines, the Division actively facilitates participation in national and international academic competitions that promote innovation, intellectual engagement, and knowledge exchange. Recent achievements by students include:

- **STEM Africa University Duel Competition (2026) – (1st Place);**
- **STEM Africa SMART Challenge (2026) – (1st Place);**
- **All Nigerian Universities Debating Championship (ANUDC) (2025) – (1st Place);**
- **All Nigerian Youth Debate Championship (2026) – (1st Place);**
and
- **Redeemer's University Debate Competition – (1st Place).**

These accomplishments underscore the University's enduring commitment to producing graduates who excel not only academically but also in innovation, research, leadership, and intellectual discourse.

Conclusion

Through its integrated programmes, strategic partnerships, and student-centred initiatives, the Division of Student Affairs continues to make significant contributions to the academic reputation and research excellence of Obafemi Awolowo University. By fostering an environment that supports learning, innovation, leadership, and personal development, the Division plays a pivotal role in producing globally competitive graduates distinguished by intellectual excellence, ethical values, innovative capacity, and a lifelong commitment to service. Its contributions remain central to the University's vision of addressing contemporary societal challenges through knowledge generation, research, innovation, and responsible leadership.

STUDENTS RELATIONS

The Confluence of Innovation, Talent, Excellence, and Institutional Advancement

Dr. (Mrs.) Adeduntan Segun-Olasanmi

Ag. Director, Advancement Office,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife



Today's celebration affirms what becomes possible when talent meets opportunity, and aspiration finds support. As we honor an esteemed alumnus, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR, for his distinguished research practice, and recognize students whose achievements bring honor to this University, we are reminded that excellence is never accidental. It is cultivated through vision, discipline, and the intentional creation of environments where potential can flourish.

Every distinguished alumnus once sat in our lecture halls, navigated uncertainty, and experienced formative moments that shaped both character and ambition. The journey from student to accomplished professional is built not on isolated experiences but on a continuum of engagement that inspires confidence, curiosity, and resilience. This is why student experience is the foundation of institutional advancement. Beyond academic instruction, the relationships students build, the culture they inhabit, and the support they receive profoundly influence their future trajectories.

Professor Afolabi exemplifies this continuum. His distinguished academic career, grounded in rigorous research and intellectual leadership, has

seamlessly extended into transformative public service as Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, where he championed reforms and national development. His recognition reflects years of intellectual discipline and the determination to extend knowledge beyond boundaries—reinforcing the university's enduring role as a crucible for societal contribution. Likewise, the top-performing students honored today signal promise, leadership, and the emergence of a generation prepared to shape the future. Their success proves that excellence remains attainable and renewable, and it illustrates what happens when institutions invest deliberately in student experience.

Here, the Advancement Office plays a pivotal role. Advancement is not merely about fundraising, alumni engagement, or visibility; at its highest expression, it is about building relationships and creating conditions where individuals and institutions thrive together. Through strategic partnerships, student-focused initiatives, and a culture of belonging, our work strengthens the bridge between past, present, and future generations. We cultivate an ecosystem where achievement is celebrated, connections are

deepened, and legacies are built, ensuring that excellence becomes not an event but a living culture.

As we honor research excellence and student achievement, we renew our commitment to fostering environments that encourage bold thinking and transformative innovation. May this occasion inspire students to pursue distinction with humility, alumni to remain connected through meaningful contribution, and our community to continue building a legacy of enduring impact. Congratulations to Professor Afolabi and to all our student awardees. May your achievements illuminate the path for others and affirm education's power to transform lives and society. I invite all staff, students, alumni, and friends to join our #OAU@65AnniversaryCampaign and secure your place on our Donor Wall by scanning the QR code below:





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3rd July 2026

Professor Oladapo Afolabi

Director

AMNI International Petroleum Development Company (Ghana) Limited

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Accra, Ghana.

Dear Professor Afolabi,

Congratulations on Your 2026 Academic & Research Excellence Award

On behalf of everyone at AMNI International Petroleum Development Company (Ghana) Limited, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on your recognition as the **Honouree** at the **2026 Academic & Research Excellence Awards** of Obafemi Awolowo University.

When news of this prestigious honour reached us, it was met not with surprise, but with unanimous admiration. The general sentiment was that this recognition is both fitting and richly deserved. It is a reflection of your exceptional scholarship, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

At AMNI Ghana, we have been privileged to benefit from your remarkable intellect, sound judgment, and strategic guidance. Most notably, your leadership in the successful conclusion of the landmark drilling rig contract has positioned AMNI Ghana to commence drilling operations in the Central Tano Block—a significant milestone in the Company's history. Your wisdom and foresight were instrumental in achieving this success, and we remain deeply grateful for your invaluable contributions.

As we celebrate this well-deserved honour, we also express our sincere appreciation for the privilege of working under your guidance. We pray that you continue to enjoy good health, divine favour, and many more years of impactful leadership, so that AMNI and the wider academic and professional communities may continue to benefit from your wealth of knowledge and experience.

Congratulations once again, Sir, on this outstanding achievement.

From all of us at AMNI Ghana, we proudly say, **Ayekoo!**

Yours faithfully,

Egya Kwamena Jallow, Esq.
General Manager

Directorate Of Internal Audit:

**Promoting Academic And Research Excellence
Through Accountability, Knowledge Sharing,
And Capacity Development**

Bosede O. Oyesanmi

Director of Internal Audit,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

The Directorate of Internal Audit serves as a strategic partner to the University, embedding accountability and integrity across all institutional operations. By providing independent assurance and advisory services, the Directorate anchors its mandate in rigorous oversight, ensuring every process and transaction reinforces the public trust placed in the institution. Through its specialized sections, which oversee personnel emoluments, grants, internally generated revenue, capital projects, investments, and asset management, the Directorate conducts continuous reviews to enforce regulatory compliance, safeguard institutional resources, and promote value for money.

This commitment to accountability directly underpins academic and research excellence. The Directorate ensures that funds allocated for teaching, staff development, student services, and infrastructure are utilized strictly for their intended purposes. By minimizing financial leakages, it preserves scarce resources for the University's core mission. In the critical area of research, the Grants and Agency Section provides audit oversight for

externally funded projects, ensuring strict adherence to donor requirements. This rigorous stewardship enhances donor confidence and fortifies the University's reputation, directly supporting its ability to attract competitive funding and foster international collaborations.

Beyond compliance, the Directorate proactively strengthens the institutional culture of accountability through continuous capacity building. Regular training programmes and workshops equip staff across the University with updated knowledge of financial regulations, risk management, and procurement procedures. This reduces errors, reinforces compliance, and enhances operational efficiency. Similarly, the Directorate's Monthly News Bulletin serves as a practical knowledge-sharing platform, disseminating insights from audit observations and emerging risks, which fosters informed decision-making and a shared sense of responsibility among stakeholders.

Reinforcing these efforts, the Directorate's internal research and sub-system activities identify systemic challenges and analyze operational trends. By recommending practical



solutions, it supports evidence-based management and drives the continuous improvement of administrative processes, directly contributing to the University's strategic objectives. Through its assurance services, advisory functions, capacity-building programmes, and knowledge dissemination, the Directorate cultivates a governance framework rooted in integrity and resilience. As Obafemi Awolowo University strives for preeminence in learning and innovation, the Directorate remains unwavering in its commitment to fostering accountability and institutional excellence.

On this notable occasion, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, recipient of this year's prestigious Academic Research Award. Your dedication and innovative spirit are truly inspiring, and this recognition is a well-deserved testament to your hard work and the profound impact of your scholarship. We celebrate this milestone with you and look forward to the continued influence of your contributions on future generations of scholars. Warmest congratulations!



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03 July 2026

Prof. Oladapo Afolabi, OON, CFR

ED Human Resources & Admin.

Plot 1377 Tiameyi Savage Street

Victoria Island

Lagos.

Dear Prof. Afolabi,

CONGRATULATIONS

It is with great pride and admiration that we celebrate your well-deserved recognition as the **Honouree** at the **2026 Academic & Research Excellence Awards (Fourth Edition)** of Obafemi Awolowo University.

This prestigious honour is a testament to your unwavering commitment to academic excellence, groundbreaking research, exemplary leadership, and invaluable contributions to knowledge and national development. Your remarkable achievements continue to inspire colleagues, students, and professionals alike, while reflecting the highest ideals of scholarship and service.

May this recognition serve as yet another milestone in your distinguished career and inspire even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

Congratulations once again on this outstanding and richly deserved honour. We wish you continued success, good health, and many more impactful years of excellence.

Warmest Congratulations!

Olajide Farinre

Group Chief Operating Officer

One of Our Own: Celebrating an Illustrious Chemist and National Leader

Temitope O. Olomola,

Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry.

It is with immense pride and profound admiration that the Department of Chemistry celebrates Professor Oladapo Afolabi, OON, CFR, on the conferment of the 2026 OAU Award of Excellence in Research Practice. This prestigious recognition is a fitting tribute to a distinguished scholar, mentor, administrator and technocrat per excellence, whose remarkable career has been defined by intellectual excellence, unwavering integrity, and an enduring commitment to the advancement of Obafemi Awolowo University. Professor Afolabi's journey at Obafemi Awolowo University exemplifies the ideals of scholarship, humility, and service. As a lecturer, he distinguished himself not only through his outstanding teaching and impactful research but also through his exceptional simplicity, accessibility, and genuine concern for the academic and personal development of both colleagues and students. His modest disposition, despite his many accomplishments, earned him the admiration and respect of generations of scholars who continue to regard him as a model academic and mentor.

Professor Afolabi holds a B.Sc. in Biochemistry (1975), M.Sc. in Biochemistry (1978) and Ph.D. in Applied Chemistry (1981) from University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University). His core research is in the area of Food Chemistry but he has actually contributed significantly to research on environmental management, food quality, and sustainable development issues relevant to Nigeria. He has over 100 publications in reputable international journals. Professor Afolabi's distinguished career at Obafemi Awolowo University spanned 14 years (1976-1990), after which he moved with his mentor and former supervisor, Professor O. L. Oke to Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, where



the latter had been appointed Pioneer Vice Chancellor.

Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR, is the very embodiment of hybridization not merely in the chemical sense of mixing orbitals to create stronger and more versatile bonds, but in the way he has seamlessly blended diverse spheres of knowledge and service throughout his life. His life is a remarkable journey of purposeful migrations: from Biochemistry to Chemistry, where he broadened his scientific horizons; from OAU to pioneering leadership at LAUTECH, where he contributed significantly to the foundation laying of a new institution; from the laboratory and lecture theatre to the highest levels of public administration, where he applied the discipline of science to the art of governance; and from mentoring students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels to shaping national policy as Head of the Civil Service of the Federation. Like a well-hybridized orbital that combines the strengths of its constituent parts to achieve

greater stability, Professor Afolabi has consistently fused scholarship, leadership, integrity and public service into a legacy of enduring impact. His life resonates one key ideology that true excellence lies in courageously integrating diverse experiences to build stronger institutions, transform lives and advance the nation. In the chemistry of leadership, Professor Oladapo Afolabi has shown that the greatest hybridization is not merely of orbitals, but of intellect with character, science with service, and scholarship with statesmanship.

His contributions to the University extend well beyond his years of active service. Demonstrating an enduring commitment to fostering a vibrant research culture, Professor Afolabi established the Professor Dapo Afolabi Most Productive Researcher Prize in the Faculty of Science. This endowment has become a source of inspiration and healthy competition among academic staff, rewarding excellence in research productivity and reinforcing the University's tradition of world-class scholarship.

In yet another remarkable demonstration of his passion for academic development, Professor Afolabi donated a state-of-the-art smart screen to the Department of Chemistry in 2024. This thoughtful intervention has significantly enhanced technology-driven teaching and learning within the Department, creating a more interactive and engaging educational environment while supporting the integration of modern digital tools into classroom instruction. During one of his visits to the Department in 2024, Professor Afolabi observed that there was a challenge with the toilet usage as a result of wear and tear on the plumbing within the departmental building. He graciously made funds available for the correction of the plumbing challenges and thus restored the functionality of the restrooms in the building. He also facilitated the launch of the smart chemistry flagship project of the department which took place in Lagos in 2025.

Professor Afolabi's legacy is therefore not measured solely by his impressive scholarly



achievements but also by the lasting institutions, opportunities, and culture of excellence that he has nurtured. Through his generosity, visionary leadership, and steadfast dedication to academic advancement, he continues to shape the future of research and education at Obafemi Awolowo University.

On behalf of the staff and students of the Department of Chemistry, I heartily congratulate Professor Oladapo Afolabi on this well-deserved honour. The 2026 OAU Award of Excellence in Research Practice is a recognition of a lifetime devoted to scholarship, mentorship, innovation, and selfless public service. We celebrate his exceptional accomplishments and thank him for leaving an indelible mark on our Department, our Faculty, and the University at large.

Congratulations, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, on this richly deserved recognition. Your legacy continues to inspire excellence.

Department of Mechanical Engineering:

Driving Innovation, Excellence, and Sustainable Development

Prof. Adam Olatunji Muritala

Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife



The Department of Mechanical Engineering operates as a dynamic innovation ecosystem where advanced manufacturing, indigenous design, and commercial viability converge. Our specialized facilities, including the Additive Manufacturing, Robotics and CNC, and Moniepoint CAD/CAM Laboratories, provide the technical infrastructure necessary to transform theoretical concepts into tangible, market-ready technologies.

Our innovation portfolio demonstrates a clear trajectory from laboratory research to commercial application. In advanced manufacturing, we have successfully developed and fabricated a Nigeria-made 3D Printer for Bio-Filament Production and a Nigeria-made CNC Machine for Precision Machining Operations, proving that sophisticated

production technologies can be engineered locally. Our Ball Milling Machine for Lithium Processing supports critical mineral beneficiation and energy storage research, while the Plastic Extruding Machine advances sustainable recycling initiatives. In aerospace and fluid dynamics, the AERO-VISION Mist Tunnel and the IoT-Based Wind Tunnel for Precision Aerodynamics Analysis represent significant breakthroughs in intelligent experimentation.

Our flagship commercial asset is the patented African Genius Engineering Kit, a modular training platform designed to revolutionize STEM education across the continent. This patented innovation, alongside the AERO-VISION Subsonic Wind Tunnel and the Solar-Assisted Electric Tricycle, constitutes our primary commercialization portfolio, each offering

substantial investment potential and clear pathways to market. We are actively seeking industry partnerships and strategic investments to scale these technologies, creating economic value while addressing critical developmental challenges.

Furthermore, our newly established Reverse Engineering Unit underscores our commitment to technological sovereignty, systematically studying and improving imported technologies to strengthen local manufacturing capabilities and support small and medium-scale enterprises. We invite industry leaders, investors, and development partners to collaborate with us in bringing these innovations to market and building a future defined by indigenous engineering excellence.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO PROF. OLADAPO AFOLABI OON CFR, ON HIS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH PRACTICE

ALETHEIA UNIVERSITY

AGO-IWOYE, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.



ALETHEIA
UNIVERSITY



GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF ALETHEIA UNIVERSITY, AGO-IWOYE, OGUN STATE, AT THE ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026 IN HONOUR OF PROF. OLADAPO AFOLABI AT ODUDUWA HALL, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council,
The Vice-Chancellor,
Principal Officers,
Members of the Governing Council and Senate,
Distinguished Scholars and Researchers,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Governing Council of Aletheia University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, it is my singular honour and privilege to extend our warmest goodwill and hearty congratulations to the Management of Obafemi Awolowo University on the occasion of the Academic Research Excellence Awards 2026, and particularly to the distinguished honouree, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, whose remarkable contributions to scholarship and research have earned him this well-deserved recognition.

This event is a celebration of intellectual excellence, unwavering dedication, and the transformative power of research. It is also an affirmation that societies flourish when they honour men and women who have devoted their lives to the advancement of knowledge, the mentoring of future generations, and the pursuit of solutions to the challenges confronting humanity.

The Governing Council of Aletheia University commends Obafemi Awolowo University for sustaining a culture of recognising outstanding scholars whose achievements continue to enhance the reputation of Nigerian universities on the global academic landscape. Such recognition serves not only as a reward for excellence but also as an inspiration to emerging academics to pursue impactful research with commitment, integrity, and resilience.

Today, we pay tribute to Professor Oladapo Afolabi, a distinguished academic whose career exemplifies excellence in research, teaching, leadership, and service. His scholarly contributions have enriched his field of specialisation, influenced public discourse, and inspired colleagues and students alike. His unwavering commitment to academic excellence stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through hard work, discipline, and an enduring passion for knowledge.

Research remains the heartbeat of every great university. It drives innovation, informs policy, promotes economic development, and provides lasting solutions to societal challenges. As universities continue to play pivotal roles in national development, it is imperative that we

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Vincit Omnia

continue to celebrate and support scholars whose works contribute meaningfully to the advancement of society.

At Aletheia University, Ago-Iwoye, we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a world-class institution where excellence in teaching, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and community engagement thrives. We believe that partnerships, collaboration, and the celebration of academic achievement are essential to strengthening Nigeria's higher education system and positioning our universities for greater global relevance.

On behalf of the Governing Council, Management, staff, and students of Aletheia University, we heartily congratulate Professor Oladapo Afolabi on this prestigious honour. We pray that the Almighty God will continue to bless him with good health, renewed strength, greater wisdom, and many more years of fruitful service to academia and humanity.

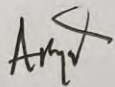
We also congratulate the Governing Council, Senate, Management, staff, students, and alumni of Obafemi Awolowo University for organising this laudable event. May this initiative continue to inspire excellence in research and scholarship across Nigeria and beyond.

As we celebrate this outstanding scholar today, may his life and accomplishments continue to motivate present and future generations of academics to pursue knowledge with integrity, excellence, and an unwavering commitment to national and global development.

Once again, please accept the sincere goodwill and best wishes of the Governing Council of Aletheia University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State.

Thank you for the honour of sharing in this memorable occasion.

God bless Professor Oladapo Afolabi.
God bless Obafemi Awolowo University.
God bless Aletheia University.
God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Professor Olukayode Dewumi Akinyemi
Vice-Chancellor



HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI, OON

The Governing Council, Senate, Management, Staff, Students, and the entire University Community of Abiola Ajimobi Technical University, Ibadan congratulate our former Pro-Chancellor, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, OON, on the conferment of the Award of Academic Research Excellence by Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

As Chairman of the Implementation Committee and Pioneer Pro-Chancellor, your vision and leadership remains indelibly woven into the history of our University.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

Professor Adesola Ajayi
Vice-Chancellor

Department of Architecture:

**Shaping the Future of the Built Environment
through Teaching, Research, and Innovation**

Dr. Pius Kofoworola Olayeni

Department of Architecture at
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife



At Obafemi Awolowo University, the Department of Architecture occupies a singular place in Nigeria's educational landscape, where heritage and innovation converge in equal measure. Its campus, a masterpiece of Bauhaus-inspired modernism conceived by Arie Sharon and realised between 1963 and 1980, is not merely a setting for learning but the very subject of it. Here, students move daily through courtyards and quadrangles that embody the climate-responsive, contextually grounded principles the Department teaches, making architectural education a lived experience rather than an abstract pursuit.

Since its founding in 1977 and subsequent maturation into a full department within the Faculty of Environmental Design and Management in 1982, the programme has cultivated a rigorous two-tier B.Sc. and M.Sc. pathway, fully accredited by the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria, that has produced over a thousand architects across three generations of curriculum development. The design studio anchors this training, integrating creative

design with technological skill and environmental analysis, while the campus itself serves as an inexhaustible laboratory in tropical architecture and material honesty.

The Department's scholarly output, spanning sustainable building technologies, housing policy, vernacular architecture, and heritage conservation, carries profound national and international resonance. Its most celebrated endeavour is the Conservation Management Plan for the Sharon-designed campus core, selected by the Getty Foundation's Keeping It Modern initiative and supported by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, advancing the University toward national monument status and eventual UNESCO World Heritage consideration. This stewardship of the built environment is paralleled by a forward-looking embrace of digital design, building-performance simulation, and computational methods, ensuring graduates lead the profession's technological transformation.

The impact of this education is reflected in alumni like Olajumoke Adenowo, whose design for the University's own

Senate Building draws from the Ori Olokun bronze, embodying the cultural depth and professional integrity instilled at Ile-Ife. Her trajectory, alongside countless graduates shaping practices and policy across Nigeria and the globe, testifies to the Department's enduring influence.

This legacy of excellence reached a historic milestone in November 2025 with the approval of a new Faculty of Architecture, comprising five departments spanning architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, urban design, and furniture and product design. This bold expansion, first conceived by alumni and faculty leadership, signals a new chapter in academic growth, research capacity, and interdisciplinary collaboration, reinforcing the Department's role as a custodian of Nigeria's architectural future. In an era of rapid urbanisation and climate pressures, Obafemi Awolowo University's architecture programme stands as both a guardian of its storied past and a forge for the innovators who will shape Africa's built environment for generations to come.

c/o Institute of Public Analysts of Nigeria IPAN, 443, Herbert Macaulay Way, Yaba, Lagos

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PROF. OLADAPO AFOLABI ON HIS ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

On behalf of the National Executive Council, Board of Trustees, and the entire members of the Society of Testing Laboratory Analysts of Nigeria (SoTLAN), I extend my warmest congratulations to our esteemed Chairman, Board of Trustees, **Prof. Oladapo Afolabi**, on the well-deserved recognition as an Honouree at the **2026 Obafemi Awolowo University Academic & Research Excellence Awards**.

This prestigious honour is a fitting recognition of your unwavering commitment to academic excellence, groundbreaking research, professional integrity, and dedicated service to humanity. Your remarkable contributions to higher education, scientific advancement, and capacity development have inspired generations of scholars and professionals within and beyond Nigeria.

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of SoTLAN, your visionary leadership, wise counsel, and steadfast commitment have continued to strengthen our Society and advance the practice of laboratory science and public analysis in Nigeria. Your passion for excellence has remained a guiding light to many of us.

This award not only celebrates your personal achievements but also serves as an inspiration to members of SoTLAN and the wider scientific community that diligence, innovation, and selfless service are always rewarded.

We are immensely proud of this well-deserved recognition and join your family, colleagues, students, and associates in celebrating this significant milestone.

May God grant you continued good health, greater wisdom, and many more years of impactful service to academia, the scientific profession, and our nation.

Congratulations once again, Professor.



Bolawa A. Gbolahan

President

Society of Testing Laboratory Analysts of Nigeria (SoTLAN)

TRUSTEES

Prof Oladapo Afolabi, CFR; Prof (Mrs) Celine Maduemezia, Dr Dahiru Adamu, Alhaji Ganiyu Sanni, Prof Oladele Osibanjo

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OGUNMOYELA
Immediate Past
President

Brief History of Central Technological Laboratory and Workshops

Prof. Obayopo Surajudeen Olanrewaju

Director, Central Technological Laboratory and Workshop,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



The Central Technological Laboratory and Workshop (CTLW) emerged from a 1988 merger with the Central Services Unit, a consolidation driven by the need for a unified structure recognized by the National Universities Commission. This integration expanded the workshop's capacity to absorb former CSU functions while centralizing management of the university's laboratory equipment, as envisioned by the University Research Committee. The resultant unit operates through three core sections—Product Development, Teaching and Research, and Office Equipment Maintenance—to deliver a comprehensive technical infrastructure.

At its heart, the CTLW functions as a university-based production environment where theoretical design translates into tangible prototypes and functional machinery. Its primary mandate is threefold: to impart practical engineering and technical skills to students, supplementing industrial attachments; to provide



Plate1. Bean dehulling machine

robust infrastructural support for research through fabrication and testing; and to sustain central technical services via preventive maintenance and repairs of office equipment. Furthermore, it serves as a dedicated training ground for undergraduate and postgraduate engineers, focusing on machine fabrication, plant design, and re-engineering principles.

This technical foundation enables extensive collaboration across the university. The unit directly supports academic and administrative operations by repairing equipment, installing facilities, and offering specialized student training. It has also

contributed to institutional security by developing movable and permanent barricades. In research, the CTLW has been instrumental in advancing projects across multiple faculties. For instance, the Department of Food Science and Technology has developed a kitchen oil separator, a mini biomass digester, and a gas-fired oven. Work with Materials Science and Engineering includes an air quenching chamber and heat-treatment furnace, while Mechanical Engineering collaborations have yielded a portable cowpea dehuller, solar dryer, coconut dehuller, and biogas plant components. The unit has also supported Electrical Engineering with solar-panel



Plate 2: Hammer mill

stands, Agricultural Engineering with a locust-bean cooker and palm-oil processing plant, and the Faculty of Pharmacy with metabolic cages and an essential oil extractor. Additional projects include specialized cages for physiological research at Babcock and Adeleke Universities, alongside

numerous Tetfund-sponsored initiatives, cementing the CTLW's role as a pivotal technical partner in both academic and applied research.

The Unit undertakes industrial training for students on the Students' Work Experience Programme (SWEP) and Students'

Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) yearly. More than one hundred students from within and outside the University are engaged. The departments and institutions that have benefited from this exercise in the Unit are listed below. Pictures of students undergoing training in the Unit.



Plate 3: Locust bean cooking device



Plate 4: Pedal-operated juice extractor



Plate 5: Essential oil extractor



Plate 6: Heating furnace



Plate 7: Black oil separator



Plate 8: Heat treatment furnace



Plate 9: Coconut cracking device



Plate 10: Groundnut oil extractor



Plate 11: Lecture theatre seats produced by CTLW

Centre for Energy Research and Development Celebrates Professor Oladapo Afolabi, on the Award of Excellence from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

Prof. A. S. Momodu

Director, Centre for Energy Research and Development

The Federal Government in 1976, following the take-off of the B.Sc. Engineering Physics degree programme, declared the University of Ife, a Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Science and Technology. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria was equally declared as a Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Technology in the same year. Thus, 2026 marks the 50th Year of this declaration, and the Centre for Energy Research and Development, the unit anchoring this declaration on behalf of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife is celebrating it.

In 1980, the University Senate approved the Centre for Energy Research and Development (C.E.R.D.). The same year, the then Department of Physics (now, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics) graduated the first crop of students in the B.Sc. Engineering Physics degree programme, and the programme has continued to thrive, and attracting very bright students to the programme and the University. The Coordinator of the Nuclear Programme, Emeritus Professor A. F. Oluwole (from the then Department of Physics), was appointed the first Director of CERD, the position he held till 1982. Since 1992 till date the CERD has been having its staff member appointed as Directors by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, with Prof. A. O. Adegbulugbe as the first staff member succeeding Dr. Salau, as Director and served till 2000. Dr J.A. Akintunde thereafter succeeded him as an Acting Director in the period 2000-2022. Prof Adegbulugbe was then reappointed as the Director of the CERD between 2002-mid-2005 when he left to serve as the Special Adviser to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on Energy matters.



The main objective of CERD is fundamentally research, development and training, being devolved in:

- a. promoting energy research and development of nuclear techniques for peaceful applications
- b. fostering joint research in areas of nuclear applications between nuclear scientists and colleagues in other disciplines
- c. developing manpower in all aspects of nuclear energy with a view to the introduction of nuclear power plants and reactors
- d. providing services and making available the facilities and expertise to government, the nation's research centres, other institutions of higher learning, and industries, among others.

Talk of excellence, CERD has experienced a dose of it in its existence in the form of human

capacity endowment. It is imperative to state that most of the pioneer Heads of Divisions have been men of excellence. These include the former Vice-Chancellor of this great university, Prof. 'Wale Omole (Radiobiology and Health Physics), two former Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Academic), Prof. A. A. Afonja (Nuclear Materials), and Prof A. E. Akingbohunbe who anchored the Irradiation Facility and supervised the Food Irradiation programme and an international conference held at OAU, sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This programme led to the IAEA support and grant of the Irradiation Facility for the country. At the up-coming celebration of the 50th Anniversary declaration of University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) as a Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Energy programme, these distinguished men of excellences shall be honoured among others.

In recent times, CERD in collaboration with the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, CERD is running postgraduate programmes in Energy Systems Science and Engineering. The degree programmes are Postgraduate Diploma (PGD), M.Sc., M.Tech., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in Energy Systems Science and Engineering. The emphasis is for the Energy Systems Science and Engineering programme to become a hub for developing expertise in the field of energy systems development for affordable and clean energy for economic growth and development. Also, the CERD recently got the approval of the Senate of the University to directly mount courses at the postgraduate levels.

The facilities at CERD include the unique 1.7 MV Tandem accelerator and the ancillary equipment that include X-ray Fluorescence (XRF), Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS), Thermoluminescent Dosimetre (TLD), Gamma Cell 220, most of which have aged significantly and needed replacement.

Thus, in marking our 50th Year Anniversary, we are looking at scaling our operations through strategic partnerships, service

offerings, and academic programmes. In this light, we are creating a culture of urgency, collaboration, quality and efficiency, that will allow all staff to solve problems together at speed and achieve impact at scale. We are breaking down existing “silo mentality”, to unlock resources, strengthen internal and external partnerships, learn more from one another, and ultimately deliver better results in contributing to local and national economy. Our focus at the CERD is to form one unit that will work across five verticals — people, prosperity, planet, infrastructure, and digital. Hopefully, this fundamental shift is to be about moving from a model of survival to that that rewards production and impact. We will work towards integrating our expertise and analytical facilities into brilliant and impactful research, innovation and development in the sectors of agriculture, health, solid minerals, and power generation. The goal of this culture shift at the CERD will be to evolve more scalable, collaborative approaches to serving our clients better rather than the current silo one.

This will require that all hands be on deck to change for better, become faster, and more effective — so we can help project the declaration in 1976 as a Centre of Excellence in nuclear science and technology as well as serve the nation and individuals well.

On this note, we identify and celebrate with the Awardee, Professor Oladapo A. Afolabi, a former Head of Service of the Federation. This award not only speaks of excellence on your part, but that you are directly connected to our areas of interest as a Centre in your areas of specialization in environmental and food nutritional chemistry. Your very important role in organising the first Ecological Summit in 1988, is remembered as those from the Centre participated in the Koko Waste Dump in 1987 - 1988, that culminated in the establishment of the Federal Ministry of Environment.

Thank you.



KIA Lakeside Academy
CRECHE, NURSERY, PRIMARY & SECONDARY

6th July, 2026

PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI

Chairman, Governing Board
KIA Lakeside Academy,

Dear Sir,

The Board, Management, Staff, Parents, and Students of **KIA LAKESIDE ACADEMY**, felicitate with our Indefatigable Chairman Board of Governors; **PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI** as he is being conferred with the prestigious **ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD** by the **OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE IFE**.

Sir, the KIA Lakeside Family is very proud of your various accomplishments in Academia and public service (globally and nationally) over the years and we are not surprised by the conferment of this unique recognition on you not only by a formidable citadel of excellence but also your Alma Mater.

As the Chairman of KIA Lakeside Academy board of Governors, your passion for excellence, visionary leadership, and steadfast commitment to quality education have continually inspired us. Your insistence on high standards, innovation, integrity, and purposeful leadership has significantly shaped the culture and aspirations of our school. This latest recognition further affirms the values of excellence that you exemplify and encourage in all, who have the privilege of interacting with you.

We celebrate this remarkable milestone with great pride, knowing that your achievements will continue to inspire our students, faculty and staff to pursue knowledge with diligence, embrace excellence without compromise, and aspire to make meaningful contributions to society.

Today, we also, celebrate you with great pride and wish you many more years of service to mankind.

Mrs Titilayo Adebisi

On behalf of the Board of Governors.

FORMER COUNCIL MEMBERS (2017 – 2019)
LADOKE AKINTOLA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Ogbomosho, Oyo State, Nigeria

CONGRATULATORY & GOODWILL MESSAGE TO

Professor Oladapo Afolabi OON, CFR.

Pro-Chancellor, Edwin Clark University, Delta State.

Former Head of Service of Nigeria .

Former Pro-Chancellor/ Chairman of Council, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho.

We extend our warmest congratulations to you, your family and all well wishers on this well-deserved special honour and recognition on such a grand stage of the 2026 Obafemi Awolowo University Academic and Research Excellence Awards, holding on Wednesday, 15th July 2026.

Your exceptional accomplishments, lasting contributions to the academic community and selfless investment in the good of humanity in general, set you apart as a deserving honouree at this time -

We are proud to highlight your numerous achievements in the academia and during your public service as the Head of Service of the Federation and later as the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho. It is not surprising that you have been appointed to the same position presently at the Edwin Clark University, Delta State.

We trust that our grateful fatherland will forever cherish your contributions in the field of Environment, the organisation of the first Nigerian Ecological Summit of 1988, the creation of the Federal Ministry of the Environment in 1995 and your pivotal role in the creation of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) and the Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health.

As a recipient of several academic and research awards locally and globally, the value you added to the body of invaluable intellectual knowledge continues to guide current and future generations in environmental and food nutrition chemistry.

It is wonderful to see your outstanding contributions in academia, public service, business and other spheres of life recognised and celebrated.

We are therefore inspired and honoured to celebrate with you on this auspicious occasion.

We use this opportunity to join your family, the OAU community, and former colleagues to celebrate this well-deserved recognition by your Alma Mater. Our wish and prayer is that you are renewed and encouraged to attain even greater and impactful success!

Former Governing Council Members, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho:

1. Dr. Bade Adeshina FCIB, CFloD, FNIM,FERP,MCSI (UK)
2. Abiodun Jelili Owonikoko SAN
3. Prof. (Mrs) Olaide A. Adedokun
4. Isiaka Olaniyi Olagoke FCA
5. Prof. Lai Olurode
6. High Chief Tise Adenipekun FCIA, MNIM

Dated 6th July 2026

AJAYI CROWTHER UNIVERSITY, OYO

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

VICE-CHANCELLOR
PROF. (MRS) EBUNOLUWA
OLUFEMI ODUWOLE, FNAL



PMB 1066, Oyo,
Oyo State, Nigeria
Tel.: 09133543653, 08079717692,
08034065214
Email: vc@acu.edu.ng
eo.oduwole@acu.edu.ng
Website: www.acu.edu.ng

VISION

*To be a top-class institution in the pursuit of
knowledge and scholarship through teaching, learning,
research and exemplary service to humanity.*

On behalf of the Governing Council ably led by Dr Olutoyin Okeowo, Management, Senate, Staff and Students of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, I, Prof. (Mrs.) Ebunoluwa Olufemi Oduwole, FNAL, FCIA, wish to extend our warmest congratulations to **Professor Oladapo Afolabi** on the well-deserved conferment of the **Academic Research Excellence Award** by Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

This distinguished recognition is a fitting testament to your commitment to scholarship, impactful research, academic leadership and the advancement of knowledge.

Your remarkable contributions to academia have, no doubt, continue to inspire colleagues, students and the wider scholarly community.

As the Chairman of the Ajayi Crowther University Development Endowment Fund (ACUDEF), your visionary leadership and invaluable support have strengthened our institution's pursuit of excellence.

This honour, not only celebrates your outstanding academic achievements, but, also reflects the values of excellence, integrity, diligence and service that you consistently represent.

We are proud to be associated with you, Sir.

Once again, Congratulations.

Prof. (Mrs.) Ebunoluwa Olufemi Oduwole, FNAL, FCIA
Vice-Chancellor,
Ajayi Crowther University,
Oyo.

MISSION

To produce graduates who are imbued with the fear of God and sense of service to humanity and who are endowed with a well-rounded education to enable them operate successfully both as private entrepreneurs and top-flight workers in the private and public sectors of the nation's economy

THE OBAFEMI AWOLOWO FOUNDATION

15 Lanre Awolokun Road, Gbagada Phase II, Lagos.

Email; centenary@awolowofoundation.org, awolowofoundation@yahoo.com,
awofound@gmail.com

Website: www.obafemiawolowofoundation.com

Office of the Executive Director



CELEBRATING A DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR, REFORMER AND PUBLIC SERVANT

It is with great pride and profound pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations to **Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR, OON**, on his conferment with the prestigious **University Award of Excellence in Research Practice**, bestowed by his alma mater, the **Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife**.

As the recipient of the Fourth Edition of the Award in 2026, Professor Afolabi joins the distinguished ranks of alumni whose scholarship, professional accomplishments and service to society exemplify the highest ideals of the University. His distinguished career reflects an exceptional breadth of knowledge and a remarkable commitment to applying scholarship to the advancement of society.

Beyond his accomplishments in scholarship and research, Professor Afolabi brought the discipline of the scholar and the dedication of the public servant to the highest levels of national service. His rise to the position of Head of the Civil Service of the Federation stands as a testament to a career defined by competence, integrity and commitment to institutional progress. In that distinguished office, he brought intellectual rigour, integrity and a reform-oriented approach to strengthening public administration and advancing the effectiveness of the Federal Civil Service.

The conferment of this prestigious award is therefore a fitting recognition of a life devoted to the pursuit of knowledge, the application of research to societal challenges and distinguished service to the nation. Professor Afolabi's journey demonstrates the enduring value of scholarship when it is combined with integrity, leadership and a commitment to the public good.

On this memorable occasion, I celebrate Professor Afolabi for this well-deserved honour and commend the Obafemi Awolowo University for recognising an alumnus whose accomplishments continue to inspire excellence in scholarship, leadership and national service. May this recognition further illuminate his remarkable legacy and inspire present and future generations of scholars, researchers and public servants to pursue knowledge with purpose, serve with integrity and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of society.

Congratulations, Professor Afolabi, on your emergence as the 2026 recipient of the University Award of Excellence in Research Practice.

I wish you continued distinction, fulfilment and enduring impact in the years ahead.

Ambassador Dr O. Awolowo Dosumu

GOODWILL MESSAGE ON THE RECEIPT OF THE 2026 ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD BY PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI, CFR

On this auspicious occasion of the *Academic Research Excellence Awards 2026*, we pay tribute to a distinguished scholar, administrator, and nation builder; Professor Oladapo Afolabi.

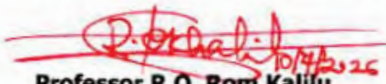
Professor Afolabi's illustrious journey in academia began at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife in 1976, and continued with his impactful service at the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), where he not only nurtured students many of who are in turn nurturing generations but later returned in 2017 to serve with distinction as Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council. His stewardship at LAUTECH remains a testament to his unwavering commitment to institutional growth and academic excellence.

Beyond the lecture halls, Professor Afolabi's contributions to national development are equally remarkable. His leadership in the Federal Civil Service, particularly as Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Labour, Agriculture and Water Resources, and Education, was marked by integrity, vision, and decisive action. Notably, his intervention in resolving a prolonged industrial action in the education sector stands as a milestone in safeguarding Nigeria's academic stability.

As the pioneer Pro Chancellor of the Abiola Ajimobi Technical University, Ibadan, and a participant in the historic Ecological Summit of 1998 that birthed the Ministry of Environment, Professor Afolabi has consistently demonstrated foresight and dedication to the advancement of knowledge and the strengthening of institutions.

Today, as he is honoured with the *Academic Research Excellence Award*, we celebrate not only his scholarly achievements but also his enduring legacy of service, leadership, and excellence. May this recognition inspire future generations to emulate his example of diligence, resilience, and devotion to the cause of education and national progress.

On behalf of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso and all who have benefitted from his wisdom and leadership, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and deepest respect to Professor Oladapo Afolabi.



Professor R.O. Rom Kalilu

Vice Chancellor,

Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso

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PART

04

SPOTLIGHTS: STUDENTS AND ALUMNI





A MESSAGE FROM THE OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY GLOBAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Obafemi Awolowo University Alumni Association, it is my great pleasure to extend warm congratulations to the Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Principal Officers, members of Senate, academic and non-academic staff, students, researchers, development partners, and the entire University community on the occasion of the 2026 Research and Academic Excellence Celebration

This annual celebration has become one of the University's most significant traditions, providing an important platform to recognize outstanding scholarship, celebrate groundbreaking research, honour exceptional academic achievements, and reaffirm the enduring values that have made Obafemi Awolowo University one of Africa's most respected institutions of higher learning. As alumni, we are immensely proud to witness the continued growth of our alma mater and the remarkable accomplishments that continue to strengthen its reputation both within Nigeria and across the global academic community.

For generations of graduates, Obafemi Awolowo University has been much more than a place of learning. It is a community that shapes minds, builds character,



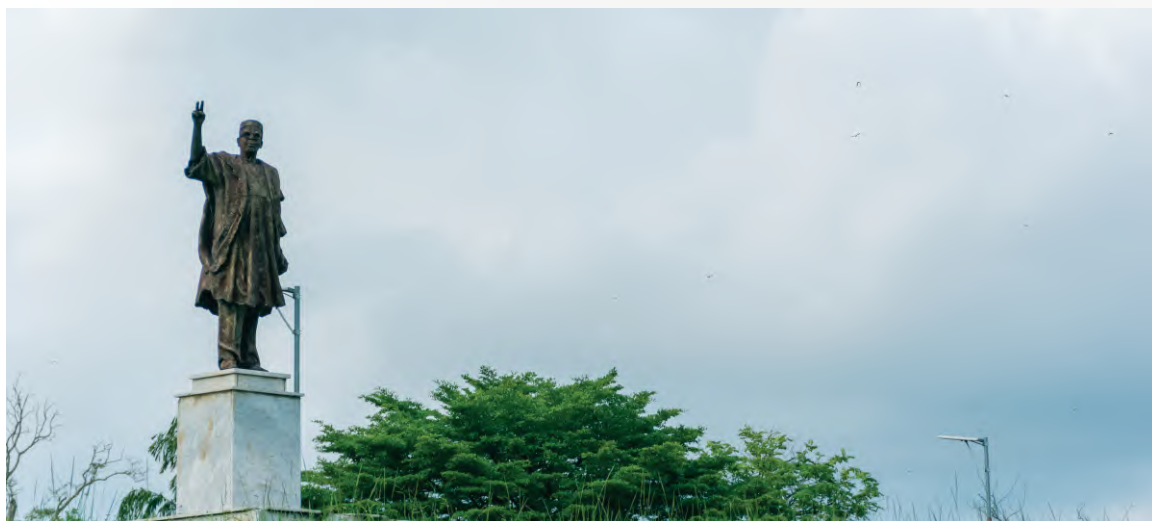
Barrister
**Leye Bunmi
Falode**

nurtures leadership, and inspires a lifelong commitment to excellence and service. The values that define this great institution—integrity, intellectual curiosity, discipline, innovation, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge—continue to influence the lives and careers of thousands of alumni who proudly represent the University in every corner of the world.

Today, OAU alumni occupy positions of leadership and distinction in academia, government, diplomacy, healthcare, engineering, law, business, technology, the creative industries, entrepreneurship, international development, and numerous other sectors. Wherever they serve, they carry with them the ideals of this great University and continue to demonstrate the quality of education and mentorship they received within these historic walls. Every achievement by an alumnus or alumna reinforces the enduring strength of the OAU brand and reflects the University's lasting impact on society.

The accomplishments being celebrated during this year's Research and Academic Excellence Celebration are particularly significant because they reaffirm the University's position as a leading centre of knowledge creation, innovation, and societal transformation. In a rapidly changing world where universities are increasingly expected to generate solutions to complex global challenges, research has become one of the most powerful instruments for national development and human progress. We are delighted that Obafemi Awolowo University continues to distinguish itself through impactful scholarship, pioneering discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovative solutions that address the needs of society.

As alumni, we take particular pride in seeing members of our academic community recognized for excellence in research practice. Such recognition not only honours individual achievement but also reinforces a culture in which excellence is celebrated, innovation is





encouraged, and scholarship is valued. The Central Office of Research deserves commendation for institutionalizing this annual celebration and for sustaining a tradition that continues to motivate researchers and inspire future generations of scholars.

The Alumni Association firmly believes that the future of every great university depends upon the strength of the relationship between the institution and its graduates. Alumni are not merely former students; they are lifelong partners in the University's development. They serve as ambassadors who promote the University's reputation, mentors who guide the next generation, philanthropists who support institutional advancement, employers who create opportunities for graduates, collaborators who strengthen research and innovation, and advocates who champion the University's interests both nationally and internationally.

It is in recognition of this shared responsibility that the Obafemi Awolowo University Alumni Association remains committed to supporting initiatives that advance the University's strategic aspirations. We will continue to work closely with the University Administration in promoting academic excellence, strengthening research and innovation, expanding scholarship opportunities, supporting infrastructure development, encouraging mentorship, facilitating strategic partnerships, and mobilizing resources that contribute to the University's long-term growth and sustainability.

We are particularly encouraged by the University's growing emphasis on international collaboration, interdisciplinary research, entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology transfer. These priorities reflect the realities of twenty-first-century higher education and position

Obafemi Awolowo University to remain globally competitive while responding effectively to national and continental development needs. As alumni spread across the world, we are uniquely positioned to support these aspirations by connecting the University with global networks, industries, research institutions, philanthropic organizations, and opportunities that will further elevate its international standing.

This celebration also reminds us that excellence is never accidental. It is the product of visionary leadership, dedicated faculty, hardworking professional staff, committed students, supportive partners, and a community united by a common purpose. The achievements we honour today are therefore collective accomplishments that belong to the entire OAU family. They inspire confidence that the University's best years are still ahead.

To the distinguished award recipients, we offer our heartfelt congratulations. Your achievements represent the very best of the OAU tradition and serve as a powerful reminder that scholarship has the capacity to transform lives, influence policy, stimulate innovation, and shape the future. Through your work, you have not only brought honour to yourselves but have also enhanced the reputation of our beloved alma mater.

As alumni, we renew our pledge to remain active partners in the University's journey toward greater global prominence. Together, we must continue to preserve the rich heritage of Obafemi Awolowo University while embracing new opportunities that will strengthen its

role as a leading institution of research, innovation, and societal impact. The responsibility for sustaining the University's legacy belongs to all of us, and we are proud to stand alongside the University as partners in this noble endeavour.

As we celebrate another year of remarkable achievements, let us remain united in our commitment to excellence, innovation, integrity, and service. Let us continue to champion the values that have distinguished Obafemi Awolowo University for more than six decades and work collectively to ensure that future generations inherit an institution that is even stronger, more innovative, and more globally influential than the one we proudly call our alma mater

Congratulations once again to the University Administration, the Central Office of Research, all award recipients, researchers, scholars, students, and every member of the OAU community whose dedication continues to make this institution a beacon of excellence. We celebrate your achievements today with immense pride and look forward to an even brighter future for our great University.S

Great Ife! Great Alumni!! Great OAU!!!
National President
Obafemi Awolowo University Alumni
Association

OAU Alumni Spotlight

Onikepe Oluwadamilola Owolabi

Onikepe Oluwadamilola Owolabi holds an M.B.Ch.B in Medicine and Surgery, 2009 from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. A child of two alumni of the then University of Ife, including one from the college of Medicine (Adedoyin Idowu Owolabi and Dr. Mary Omoyosola Omolayole), her time at OAU laid the intellectual and ethical groundwork that would come to define a career as a researcher and public health leader committed to advancing women's health and improving the quality of health care in low- and middle-income countries. From the lecture halls of Great Ife, her time at Christ Love Fellowship, to her current role as the Vice president of Global Research and Advocacy at the Guttmacher Institute, USA, her journey is a testament to the enduring generational power of a rigorous university education rooted in the pursuit of excellence and service to humanity. OAU is also a foundational part of her personal life and family, bringing her in touch with the spouse she has been married to for 15 years.

Since graduating from OAU, Dr. Owolabi has earned an MSc in Global Health Science from the University of Oxford, and a PhD in Epidemiology and Population Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is currently Vice President of Global Research and Advocacy at the Guttmacher Institute, where she leads a team focused on advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all-in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America and the

Caribbean. She also leads research and strategy at Maternal and Reproductive Health Research Collective, Nigeria, a locally founded NGO with a mission to eliminate pregnancy related illness, and maternal mortality.

Dr. Owolabi's career has been driven by the conviction that data systems and research must ultimately serve people by changing health systems and public policies. Her work on measuring access to availability of postabortion care in low- and middle-income country systems has contributed to highlighting key gaps in life saving care for women experiencing complications from early pregnancy loss. To date, she has over 50 peer-reviewed publications and contributed to landmark studies on quantifying neglected areas of sexual and reproductive health, measuring access to and quality of data and care in health systems, and describing sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian settings.

Beyond her own scholarship, Dr. Owolabi invests substantially in the next generation of researchers and institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. Having benefitted deeply from mentorship on public health data by senior colleagues such as Prof Olusegun Fatusi during her time in medical school, and in being a person-centered clinician by Prof Bosede Afolabi during her medical internship at the Lagos, University Teaching Hospital, she is keen on expanding opportunities for women and

scientists from LMIC backgrounds. She lectures on women's health modules at the college of Medicine, University of Lagos, and the City St George's University of London, mentors early-career scholars on the MSc Sexual Reproductive Health Policy and programming at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine and supervises postgraduate students. She is proud to have helped incubate the African Coalition for Research and Communication on abortion (ACORCA), all embodying the spirit of reciprocity that OAU instilled in her and the understanding that excellence is not merely achieved but passed forward.

It was at Obafemi Awolowo University that Dr. Owolabi first encountered the questions that would shape her life's work. Clinical textbooks gave a voice to the many questions she had been observing growing up with a physician mother and invoked her desire to do something about the data gaps in the Nigerian (and African) health care environment whilst introductory epidemiology and demography lectures started her research journey. Attending public health clinics at the Ilesa hospitals inspired her love of community engagement and the

importance of adapting programming to patient's contexts. Volunteering with the Campus Health and Rights Initiative opened her up to the practicalities of programming in sexual and reproductive health and rights, opened doors for her to participate in youth conferences and exposed her to youth advocacy for SRHR. And being a leader in campus fellowship and vice president of her graduating class exposed her to some of the most inspiring youth leaders she had ever met who have helped shape how she leads teams today. Colleagues who built community, addressed practical and tough problems amongst their peers, and engaged with university administration respectfully but progressively to advance important agendas. OAU's clinical training which infused interdisciplinary social science and quantitative research methods into medicine gave her strong technical tools whilst the aluta spirit of OAU and its constant fight for justice layered on her advocacy moral framework. Obafemi Awolowo University has deeply influenced Dr. Owolabi's approach to her career as a researcher and her belief that knowledge carries obligation, and that the measure of a scholar is the difference they make in the world.



THE SACRED PARTNERSHIP

Redefining the Student's Role in the Pursuit of Academic Excellence.

Oluwatodimu I.D Adelani

President, Great Life Students' Union,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife



True excellence begins the moment we stop asking what the university can give us and start demanding what we can build with it. The architecture is here—the libraries, the labs, the lecturers—but these are inert until we animate them with our agency. Intellectual ownership is the first pillar of that transformation. It means abandoning the minimalist question, "What do I need to do to pass?" and replacing it with a hunger for mastery. Ownership treats the syllabus as a launchpad, not a prison. It walks into lectures not as an empty vessel but as a prepared mind ready to challenge assumptions, ask the uncomfortable "why," and demand rigorous debate. To our lecturers, we say: do not spoon-feed us; meet us at the high altar of intellectual friction.

The second pillar is a learning strategy, not superstition. Cramming is chaos; excellence is deliberate. We must abandon passive re-reading for active recall, forcing our

brains to retrieve knowledge, not merely recognize it. We must embrace spaced repetition, letting concepts root themselves in long-term memory through discipline, not panic. And we must practice metacognition: thinking about our thinking, mapping our gaps with brutal honesty, and seeking help before crisis demands it. These strategies transform instruction into profound understanding and make our lecturers' work genuinely rewarding.

The third pillar is resilience, the quiet refusal to be defined by failure. The path to distinction is paved with friction, such as incomprehensible concepts, bruised egos, and exhausting schedules. But a low grade is not a sentence; it is data. A failed experiment is not an identity; it is a signpost. We must cultivate the stamina to see setbacks as diagnostic, not fatal, and hold ourselves radically accountable, never blaming the system for our own insufficient effort. We show

up, we adapt, and we persist when the climate gets harsh.

To the university: this is our pledge. We are not numbers; we are not faces. We will not ask you to lower the bar; we will ask you to help us climb higher. And to my fellow students: look beside you. We are not a crowd; we are a community of scholars. Let us make late-night academic debates louder than gossip and celebrate intellectual triumph as fiercely as we celebrate games and entertainment. The foundation is laid; the blueprint is in our hands. Let us build a legacy not of what could have been, but of what we chose to become.

Thank you, and may excellence be our common language. Aluta Continua, Victoria Aserta.

GOODWILL MESSAGE

The entire congregation of Adeola Afolabi Memorial Anglican Church, Ere Adura, Off Ayegun Road Ibadan, heartily congratulate our beloved member and benefactor, Prof. Dapo Afolabi, on the well-deserved honour of the 2026 Academic and Research Excellence Award from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

We rejoice with you as this prestigious recognition has further shown your lifestyle of excellence, integrity, and distinguished service to God and humanity. The establishment of Adeola Afolabi Memorial Anglican Church through the generous vision and sacrificial gift of your family stands as a lasting testimony to your love for God. We trust your love for education will bring to manifestation your desire for a vocational school around the church, to cater for the less privileged in Ayegun community and environs.

As we celebrate this remarkable honour, we pray that the Lord will establish the work of your hands and reward you abundantly for your faithful service to His Kingdom.

Congratulations to you Sir.

Evangelist Babatunde Akinyemi

Evangelist in-Charge

Canon Olufemi Olabambo

Supervising Priest

Ven Dr Yemi Alade

Archdeacon of Oluyole

STUDENT VOICES: TESTIMONIALS AND PERSPECTIVES

My Internship Experience at the Central Office of Research

Micheal Akande

Department of Occupational Therapy, Obafemi Awolowo University
2023 Intern, Central Office of Research, Obafemi Awolowo University



My internship experience at the Central Office of Research was one of the highlights of my undergraduate days at Obafemi Awolowo University. I owe a debt of gratitude to Prof. Akinyemi, the Executive Director at the time, who granted me this opportunity. This experience was a period of condensed exposure across many areas of professional development. The Central Office of Research was an environment where potential met opportunity. The leadership and other major stakeholders had built a work environment and culture that made it possible for every intern to maximise their potential through

multiple trainings and avenues to upskill in areas of deficits, learn and have their debuts on different kinds of tasks and assignments, and contribute actively to university-wide programs and initiatives.

Personally, my time in COR consolidated my conviction to pursue a research career in the future. The exposure to the work being done by many researchers within the university and beyond served to widen my horizon on what was obtainable through research and innovation, and the critical role research plays in academia and the wider society. I was also a beneficiary of a series of

research methodology training sessions organised and tried my hand at a few research-related projects.

Beyond the technical skills I gained, COR also equipped me with vital soft skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, and time management, etc making my eventual transition into the formal corporate world seamless. Summarily, my internship experience at COR was a period I used to build competence in many areas, and it remains a defining milestone in my professional journey.



Professor Dan Adebisi

Address: 24 Bashin Dalhata Close, 2nd Avenue Extension, Ikeja, Lagos. Email: dan118@gmail.com

7th July, 2026

My Dear Brother,

It is with great pleasure that I write to congratulate you on the prestigious 'Academic Research Excellence Award' conferred on you by the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife.

With your enviable pedigree in Academia and Public Service, it is no surprise that Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, where you spent most of your academic career, is honouring you.

As William Shakespeare said, "some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them ". Despite the fact that you uniquely deserve the totality of the above phrase- born into Royalty, worked hard to achieve academic excellence, and the society recognising your talents, ability and accomplishments- you still remain a humble, amiable, honest and God-fearing person in all your personal and professional relationships.

As you receive this well-deserved honour, my wife and I rejoice with you and wish you God's perfect peace and an enduring legacy of service to our fatherland.

Most affectionately yours,



Professor Dan Adebisi

My Internship Experience at the Central Office of Research, Obafemi Awolowo University

Catherine Emakpor

Institute of Public Health, Obafemi Awolowo University
2024 COR Intern, Central Office of Research,
Obafemi Awolowo University



One moment from my internship at the Central Office of Research, Obafemi Awolowo University, has stayed with me. During a data collection exercise, one of my supervisors, Mr Oluwatobiloba Shadare, made a comment that caught me by surprise. While assigning responsibilities, he said, "We have one of our best on the field," and he was referring to me. In that moment, I paused and reflected on how far I had come. For him and my other supervisors to see me as someone they could trust with collecting quality data and carrying out important research tasks meant that I had truly grown. It was evidence that the lessons, experiences, and opportunities I had received throughout my internship had shaped me into a more capable researcher.

Beyond strengthening my research skills, this internship helped me develop in ways I never imagined. I discovered and improved my graphic design

skills, creating designs for several university events and activities, including the Obafemi Awolowo University at 65 celebrations. These opportunities came because my supervisors, especially Dr. Oladimeji Ogunoye and my colleagues, believed in me, invested in my growth, and consistently encouraged me to do better. Their confidence in my abilities inspired me to challenge myself and continue learning.

As I reflect on this journey, I am deeply grateful to God for His guidance and favor throughout my internship experience. I am equally thankful to the Central Office of Research under the leadership of Professor Akanni Akinoyemi for providing an environment where I could learn, contribute, and grow both professionally and personally.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Professor Oladapo Afolabi, recipient of

the 2026 Award for Excellence in Research Practice. Thank you for being a shining example of excellence, leadership, and dedication. Your achievements inspire young researchers like me and remind us of what is possible through commitment and hard work.

Congratulations as well to all the Obafemi Awolowo University Stars recognized as the best students in their respective departments. You are beacons of hope and excellence, and your accomplishments serve as an inspiration to others. May you continue to shine brightly and make meaningful contributions in your fields and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this remarkable journey.



**ADEOLA AFOLABI
MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH,**
Ere Adura, Off Ayegun Road Ibadan

06/07/2026

GOODWILL MESSAGE

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Evangelist Babatunde Akinyemi
Church Evangelist

Canon Olufemi Olabambo
Supervising Priest

Ven Dr Yemi Alade
Archdeacon of Oluyole

My Experience of Mentorship at the Central Office of Research

Efeoghene Enavrube

Department of Crop Production and Protection,
Obafemi Awolowo University
2024 Intern, Central Office of Research, Obafemi Awolowo University



My time at the Central Office of Research has been a great hands-on journey. Alongside learning real-time skills, I was trusted and allowed to dive straight into major projects, being an active participant in managing and executing projects, and seeing practical research through from start to finish. This pattern of active involvement helped me grow quickly, pick up relevant research and project management experience, sharpen my problem-solving skills, and build my confidence.

Our Community

A huge part of this opportunity of being an intern at COR came from working alongside my fellow interns. It's a band of people and men you can trust, an active community

of diverse, passionate learners, always ready to share ideas, brainstorm solutions, and support each other through navigating the space of doing life in our present-day experience as young, thriving adults. Moving forward together made the entire research process much more rewarding.

Our Mentors

There are not enough papers to cover the immense role that our leaders and mentors have played in this growth journey. They don't just supervise from a distance; they give us true hands-on guidance, walking us through complex procedures and patiently sharing expertise every step of the way. Your daily support made all the difference in our success.

Counsel for New Interns

To the next cohort, here is my advice for making the most of this opportunity: Dive into the projects: Don't sit on the sidelines. Take ownership of the practical work and learn by doing. Lean on your community: Lean on your fellow interns collaborating and sharing perspectives makes everyone stronger. Lean on your mentors: Ask questions and make the most of the direct, hands-on guidance from the leaders here. Keep tracking everything: Document your daily project steps and mistakes—it is the best way to see how much you are improving.

A TRIBUTE TO AN ARCHITECT OF EXCELLENCE: PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI

It is a profound privilege to pen this goodwill message for my revered former teacher, mentor, and an exceptional statesman, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR, as he is rightfully honoured at the 4th Academic Research and Excellence Awards (AREA 2026).

To the nation, Professor Afolabi is the consummate technocrat—a former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation who brought structure, integrity, and visionary leadership to public service. But long before he built bridges across national institutions, he was building minds right here at the great Obafemi Awolowo University.

As his student, I experienced firsthand the depth of his resourcefulness and the genuine kindness that defines his mentorship. Professor Afolabi does not just teach chapters in a textbook; he imparts wisdom, instills character, and inspires a relentless pursuit of excellence. He is a rare bridge builder who connects academic rigour with national development, ensuring that knowledge serves humanity.

Sir, this recognition at the historic Oduduwa Hall is a fitting celebration of a lifetime dedicated to integrity, scholarship, and nation-building. Thank you for your impactful years of guidance, your unwavering kindness, and for being a stellar blueprint of what an academic and a leader should be.

Congratulations, Professor! Your legacy continues to shine through the countless lives you have transformed.



Arc. Tunde IMOLEHIN, FNIA, FLEAD

tundeimolehin.com

(Alumnus of OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (1993-1990))



www.tundeimolehin.com



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Testimonials of My Internship at the Central Office of Research

Deborah Ibukunoluwa Aderogba

Department of Foreign Languages (French)
2023 COR Intern, Central Office of Research,
Obafemi Awolowo University



As a student of French and Portuguese who wanted to prepare myself for future roles in research, stepping into the world of research at Obafemi Awolowo University's Central Office of Research (COR) was an exciting and formative pivot. COR didn't just teach me the mechanics of research administration; it served as a dynamic incubator for practical learning, leadership, and deep institutional engagement during my undergraduate journey.

I actively supported university planning committees in coordinating high-level programs, gaining firsthand insight into institutional development and stakeholder management. Additionally, I benefited immensely from the training sessions—particularly the Friday seminars and conferences, where I engaged with

distinguished faculty on advanced research methodologies, data analysis, academic publishing, and emerging trends in the field.

What truly set this experience apart was the opportunity to make substantive contributions. Central Office of Research empowered me to take on meaningful leadership roles, from mentoring and onboarding new interns to coordinating team activities, which significantly sharpened my organizational and interpersonal skills.

Central Office of Research offered a masterclass in positive workplace culture. Even when the tasks were highly demanding, the environment remained deeply supportive. The Executive Directors—Prof. Akanni Akinyemi and Prof. Morenike Ukpung, the Directors, staff, and my

fellow interns created a space defined by kindness, collaboration, and genuine encouragement—showing me firsthand what a truly healthy professional workspace looks like.

Ultimately, the internship offered me a holistic view of Obafemi Awolowo University's structural ecosystem and its people. The exposure, mentorship, and hands-on experience I gained continue to shape my professional trajectory. I remain deeply grateful for its unwavering investment in the growth of young professionals and emerging leaders.



PROFESSOR OLADAPO ABRAHAM AFOLABI, CFR
CHAPEL OF GRACE

Iyana Offa, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

The Vice Chancellor,
Obafemi Awolowo University
Ilé Ifè, Nigeria

4TH JULY, 2026

**GOODWILL MESSAGE ON THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE TO
PROFESSOR OLADAPO ABRAHAM AFOLABI, CFR, OON**

In the name of the almighty God and on behalf of Chapel Council members we hereby specially congratulate our dear own Life Grand Fellow of Evangelism and Pillar of Faith - PROFESSOR OLADAPO ABRAHAM AFOLABI, CFR, OON on his well deserved AWARD OF EXCELLENCE by the Obafemi Awolowo University (Ó. A. U), Great Ifè.

We are delighted to join millions of lovers of good things to appreciate God and also to felicitate this notable erudite scholar for his relevance to this present and future generations.

For the Bible says in Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business he shall stand before kings he shall not stand before mean men.

God who has inspired and motivated the management team of Obafemi Awolowo University to give him this Award will strengthen and re-empower him to be more relevant and definitely be rewarded by the most High God

Forward ever shall be your lot in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Man gives Awards but God gives rewards.

Congratulations!

Ven Isaac Ó. Ó. Olaleye

Vicar in Charge /Administrator

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY STARS: CULTIVATING EXCELLENCE

Experience Being an Obafemi Awolowo University STARS Scholar and How the Mentorship Programme Has Helped Shape Me

Alimi Rereloluwa Victor

Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering,
Obafemi Awolowo University
Obafemi Awolowo University Star 2023, 2024, 20255



My name is Alimi Rereloluwa Victor, a recent graduate of Electronic and Electrical Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Throughout my undergraduate studies, I was privileged to maintain a strong commitment to academic excellence, graduating with a First-Class degree and consistently ranking among the top students in my class. Beyond academics, I actively participated in research, professional activities, mentorship programmes, and extracurricular engagements that contributed significantly to my personal and professional development.

Being selected as an OAU STARS Scholar remains one of the most rewarding experiences of my undergraduate journey at Obafemi Awolowo University. I had the privilege of being part of the very first cohort of the programme in 2023 and was subsequently recognized as an OAU STARS

Scholar for three consecutive years—2023, 2024, and 2025, spanning my 300-level to 500-level academic sessions.

At the time of the first edition, I did not fully grasp how remarkable the recognition was. I simply saw it as an award for academic excellence. However, when I was selected again in subsequent years, I began to appreciate the significance of the programme and the impact it had on how others perceived my academic journey. It became evident that my efforts were being noticed and appreciated. More importantly, it reassured me that I was doing something right and encouraged me to continue striving for excellence.

My first experience with the programme came at a period when I was struggling academically, not necessarily because of poor performance, but because I was battling with motivation. Being

shortlisted as an OAU STARS Scholar came as a pleasant surprise and served as a much-needed source of encouragement. It motivated me to get back on my feet and approach my studies with renewed determination. Knowing that there was an opportunity to be recognized for excellence gave me an additional reason to remain focused and disciplined throughout my undergraduate studies.

The mentorship aspect of the programme played a significant role in shaping my experience. During the first edition under Professor Adegbulugbe, I was not particularly active in the mentorship activities. Combined with a generally unmotivated team environment, my enthusiasm gradually faded. However, my experience changed significantly during the 2024 edition under Professor Yusuf O. Ali, SAN.

Professor Yusuf's entrepreneurship programme was highly engaging and practical. We were assigned weekly tasks and projects, and a scoreboard showing the performance of each group was released regularly. This created a healthy competitive atmosphere that kept everyone motivated. I had the privilege of working alongside outstanding teammates, including Chioma Adekoya, Present Onyebuchi, Priscilla Taiwo, and Justman. Together, we consistently tackled the weekly assignments, solving problems and completing tasks as a team.

Through these activities, we developed a strong sense of teamwork and built excellent relationships with one another. Although our interactions with our mentor were mostly through his representative, who communicated regularly with him, the programme itself provided practical lessons that extended beyond the classroom. The entrepreneurship training was so impactful that it eventually led to the establishment of a business venture known as Mentra4 Limited, in which I became one of the shareholders.

One interesting effect of the programme on me was the

sense of productivity it created. The excitement that accompanied each weekly task gave me something to look forward to. The satisfaction of solving problems and contributing to team success spilled over into my academics. As a result, I found myself becoming more productive, more willing to study, and more engaged in both academic and extracurricular activities.

The programme also helped build my confidence. It improved my public speaking skills and taught me the importance of building genuine relationships with people to achieve meaningful goals. I learned that success is rarely an individual effort and that collaboration, communication, and mutual respect are essential qualities for any leader.

Beyond academics, the programme broadened my perspective on what it means to be an engineer. Through the entrepreneurship mentorship, I gained valuable insight into the concept of being a business-minded engineer. It showed me that engineering and entrepreneurship can go hand in hand and that with the right skill set, an engineer can create value not only through technical expertise but also through

innovation and business leadership. The OAU STARS programme provided an early exposure to this mindset and gave me a head start in developing these skills.

Another aspect of the programme that left a lasting impression on me was the networking opportunities it provided. I attended several networking events organized through the programme and had the opportunity to meet brilliant and accomplished individuals from different disciplines. These interactions reminded me that I was not alone in my pursuit of academic excellence. Being surrounded by like-minded students was both motivating and inspiring.

Since becoming an OAU STARS Scholar, mentoring others has become a natural part of my life. There was practically no hiding place for me after receiving the award because many colleagues, juniors, church members, and students from other departments frequently reached out for guidance and support. Whether through examination programmes, church webinars, IEEE activities, meetups, or online discussions, I have always tried to make myself available whenever possible.



As a graduate today, I continue to apply the same principle of giving my best to whatever I find myself doing and helping others whenever the opportunity arises.

My most memorable experience as an OAU STARS Scholar was undoubtedly the 2024 edition under the mentorship of Professor Yusuf O. Ali, SAN. His speeches were always engaging, humorous, and filled with valuable life lessons. One thing that particularly stood out to me was his deliberate effort to acknowledge and recognize people who had contributed to his journey. It reflected the fact that he is truly a man blessed with people, and it inspired me to aspire toward living a life characterized by discipline, meaningful

relationships, and positive impact.

The entrepreneurship programme itself was exceptional. Beyond the extensive training and mentorship, Professor Yusuf generously pledged a token of ₦25,000 to over 200 participants without being prompted to do so. Such generosity and commitment to empowering young people left a strong impression on me. Furthermore, the award ceremonies themselves were deeply encouraging. There were times when I needed every bit of motivation I could get, and the recognition provided by the programme helped keep me going. Travelling from Ibadan to Ile-Ife to attend the 2024 event was worthwhile because I never left disappointed.

Looking back, the OAU STARS Mentorship Programme has helped shape me into a person who refuses to settle for mediocrity. It has reinforced my commitment to pursuing excellence in a free, fair, and disciplined manner. It has taught me the value of truth, consistency, teamwork, and service to others. Most importantly, it has inspired me to encourage others to strive for excellence while remaining grounded in strong values and integrity.

For these lessons and experiences, I remain sincerely grateful to the OAU STARS Programme, its organizers, and especially my mentors whose impact will continue to influence my life for many years to come.

6th July, 2026

Dear Prof,

It is with great delight and a deep sense of pride that I extend my warmest congratulations to the management, staff, and students of ObafemiAwolowo University on the occasion of the Academic & Research Excellence Awards 2026.

This remarkable event is a celebration of diligence, intellectual rigor, and the relentless pursuit of excellence that continues to distinguish the university as a beacon of knowledge and innovation. Recognizing outstanding individuals such as Prof. OladapoAfolabi and the 2026 cohort of OAU Stars is not only inspiring but also a testament to the enduring culture of excellence within the institution.

I commend the leadership of the University for fostering an environment where scholarship, research, and character thrive. These awards serve as a powerful reminder that dedication and hard work never go unnoticed, and they inspire others to strive for greater heights.

To the honourees, I celebrate your achievements and encourage you to continue breaking new ground, contributing meaningfully to society, and upholding the noble ideals of this great institution.

As you gather for this prestigious occasion, may it further strengthen the bonds of academic excellence and ignite even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

Congratulations once again, and best wishes for a successful and memorable ceremony.

Amb Dr (Mrs.) Florence Ajimobi, Fspsp



My Experience Being Recognized one of the Obafemi Awolowo University Stars.

Teniola Jinadu

Department of Public Administration, Obafemi Awolowo University
Obafemi Awolowo University Stars 2026



Being recognized as one of the Obafemi Awolowo University Stars for the first time is a truly humbling and rewarding experience. Receiving this recognition in my final year makes it even more meaningful, as it represents the culmination of years of hard work, consistency, discipline, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Throughout my time at Obafemi Awolowo University, I have intentionally pursued growth beyond the classroom. From leadership responsibilities and extracurricular engagements to professional development opportunities, I have sought to make the most of the university experience. However, amidst these commitments, I remained deliberate about

maintaining academic excellence. This recognition serves as a reminder that it is possible to pursue multiple interests and responsibilities without compromising one's academic goals.

Beyond the personal significance of this achievement, I am grateful for the impact it has had on those around me. Many students often believe they must choose between academic success and active involvement in leadership, service, or other pursuits. My journey demonstrates that both can coexist. I hope that my experience encourages others to remain committed to their studies while confidently exploring opportunities that contribute to their personal and professional growth.

Being named an OAU Star is not merely a recognition of academic performance; it is a testament to resilience, effective time management, and the pursuit of excellence in all areas of life. It has inspired me to continue striving for greater impact while remaining grounded in the values that have guided me throughout this journey.

Above all, I recognize that this accomplishment would not have been possible without God's grace and guidance. Through every challenge, opportunity, and milestone, He has been my anchor.

My Experience as an Obafemi Awolowo University Star and Its Impact

Mustapha Ibrahim Abiodun

Department of Accounting, Obafemi Awolowo University
Obafemi Awolowo University Stars 2026



To me, being an OAU Star has been a turning point. First, it has helped me stay committed to my academics. The responsibility that comes with the title pushed me to maintain good grades because I knew younger students were watching. It also gave me the exposure to represent my department in competitions. That experience built my confidence, improved my public speaking, and taught me how to prepare under pressure. OAU Stars taught

me that excellence is not optional when you carry the name of your institution.

To others, my role as an OAU Star has meant mentorship, advice, and tutorials. Many junior colleagues and my coursemates reached out when they were struggling with courses. I became someone they could look up to for words of encouragement and practical help. Through tutorial sessions and one-on-one chats, I was able to guide students, share study

tips, and remind them that setbacks are part of growth. Seeing them improve and later thank me showed me that influence is most powerful when it is used to lift others. In all, OAU Stars shaped me by making me more disciplined and exposed, and it shaped those around me by giving them guidance, support, and hope.





Estd. August 5, 1990

IBADAN ANGLICAN DIOCESE

St. Mary's Anglican Church Oluyole Estate, Ibadan

(Headquarters of Oluyole Archdeaconry)

Church Street, Off Alaafin Avenue, Oluyole Estate, G.P.O. Box 38222, Ibadan.
Tel: 08093399618. e-mail: oluyoleanglicanchurch@yahoo.com

Monday 6th July, 2026

GOODWILL MESSAGE TO PROF. OLADAPO A. AFOLABI CFR

It is with great joy and profound gratitude to God Almighty that I heartily congratulate **Prof. Oladapo Afolabi** on the well-deserved honour bestowed upon him at the **2026 Academic and Research Excellence Awards of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife**.

This prestigious recognition is a fitting reward for your years of exceptional scholarship, visionary leadership, unwavering integrity, and outstanding contributions to academia and national development.

Outside of your remarkable academic accomplishments, the Church has been richly blessed through your passionate commitment to the advancement of God's Kingdom. Your unflinching support for evangelism and church growth have strengthened many congregants and brought many souls closer to Christ, including the donation of Adeola Afolabi Office Complex to St. Mary's Anglican Church, Oluyole.

As you receive this distinguished honour, it is my prayer that God will continue to grant you more wisdom, robust health, and greater opportunities to impact generations through both scholarship and Christian service.

Congratulations, Sir!

The Venerable Dr. Yemi Alade
Vicar, St. Mary's Anglican Church,
Oluyole Estate, Ibadan.

PRESSING FORWARD IN FAITH



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A WELL-DESERVED HONOUR: GOODWILL MESSAGE TO PROFESSOR OLADAPO AFOLABI, CFR, ON HIS ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD 2026 BY OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU), ILE-IFE, NIGERIA.

The entire Ibadan Business School (IBS) heartily congratulates our esteemed Vice Chairman, Board of Advisors, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, CFR, on the well-deserved conferment of the Academic Research Excellence Award 2026 (Fourth Edition) by Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Nigeria alongside the recognition of the 2026 Cohort of OAU STARS. This prestigious honour celebrates his enduring contributions to research, scholarship, public service, and national development.

This distinguished recognition is a fitting tribute to an exceptional scholar, accomplished administrator, visionary leader, and patriotic Nigerian whose life's work has bridged the worlds of academia and public service with uncommon excellence.

Professor Oladapo Afolabi's academic journey has been marked by outstanding scholarship and pioneering research in environmental and applied chemistry. His numerous scientific publications, research contributions, and commitment to advancing knowledge have significantly enriched environmental science, food chemistry, and sustainable development in Nigeria and beyond. As a respected Professor of Chemistry, he has mentored generations of scholars while promoting a culture of research excellence and intellectual inquiry.

Beyond the walls of academia, Professor Oladapo Afolabi distinguished himself through an illustrious career in Nigeria's public service. As former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, he championed institutional reforms, strengthened administrative efficiency, promoted professionalism, and advanced innovations that enhanced governance and public sector performance. His leadership exemplified integrity, discipline, competence, and unwavering dedication to national progress.

His contributions to environmental management are equally remarkable. As one of the pioneering professionals who helped shape Nigeria's environmental governance framework, he played a significant role in the development of the country's environmental institutions and policies, laying foundations that continue to support sustainable environmental management today.

At Ibadan Business School (IBS), we consider it an exceptional privilege and a profound honour to benefit from the visionary leadership, distinguished intellect, strategic foresight, and vast reservoir of experience that Professor Oladapo Afolabi brings to the institution in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Board of Advisors. His wise counsel, unwavering commitment to excellence, and deep understanding of governance, leadership, public policy, and institutional development have continued to provide invaluable direction for the School's strategic growth and transformation.

Professor Oladapo Afolabi has consistently inspired the pursuit of the highest standards in executive education, leadership development, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and capacity building. His

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passion for excellence, unwavering belief in lifelong learning, and dedication to nurturing future generations of ethical, competent, and visionary leaders have significantly enriched the School's programmes and strengthened its reputation as a centre of excellence in management, entrepreneurship and leadership education.

Through his exemplary leadership and mentorship, he has encouraged the cultivation of critical thinking, innovation, integrity, and responsible leadership among our faculty, students, and participants. His invaluable contributions continue to reinforce our resolve to produce transformational leaders, visionary entrepreneurs, forward-thinking policymakers, and accomplished professionals who possess not only the competence to excel in their respective fields but also the character and commitment to drive sustainable economic growth, institutional excellence, good governance, and inclusive development across Nigeria, Africa, and the global community.

Indeed, Professor Oladapo Afolabi's enduring influence on Ibadan Business School (IBS) extends far beyond governance; it is reflected in the culture of excellence, innovation, integrity, and impactful leadership that the School continues to uphold. His remarkable legacy serves as both an inspiration and a guiding light as we remain steadfast in our mission of developing globally competitive leaders equipped to address the complex challenges of the twenty-first century.

The Academic Research Excellence Award is therefore more than a personal honour; it is a celebration of a lifetime devoted to scholarship, ethical leadership, public service, mentorship, and nation-building. It also serves as an inspiration to the younger generation that excellence, integrity, perseverance, and selfless service remain the enduring pathways to meaningful impact.

On behalf of the Board of Advisors, Management, Faculty Members, Staff, and Alumni, we extend our warmest congratulations to you on this remarkable achievement.

May Almighty God continue to grant you good health, renewed strength, greater wisdom, and many more years of impactful service to humanity, higher education, and our dear nation.

Fondest Congratulations, Professor Oladapo Afolabi, C5R, this richly and well-deserved honour!



Asiwaju Yinka Fasuyi
B.Sc.(Econs) M.I.L.R.; M.Inf.Sc.; M.B.A./
F.N.I.M.; F.I.M.C.; F.C.I.R.M.; F.I.T.D.
The President/CEO,
Ibadan Business School.
15th July, 2026

THE VERY REVD & MRS. OLUSEGUN FALEYE

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JAMES THE GREAT, OKE-BOLA IBADAN.

GOODWILL MESSAGE!

On behalf of my family and I, this is to most heartily rejoice with our big uncle, father, admirer, erudite professor, and benefactor, **Prof. Oladapo Abraham Afolabi, OON, CFR** as one of the major recipients of the 2026 ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS of the Obafemi Awolowo University (O.A.U.), Ile-Ife, Today 15th July, 2026.

Your doggedness, and love for education, especially in the area of academic research has continued to place you on Global recognition, and this award does not come as a surprise either. Hearty congratulations to our dearly beloved uncle, and more feathers to your cap sir.

O - Outstanding
L - Lovely
A - Admirable
D - Diligent
A - Attentive
P - Purposeful
O - Optimistic

A - Accessible
B - Brilliant
R - Resourceful
A - Accountable
H - Helpful/Honest
A - Amazing
M - Magnanimous

A - Approachable
F - Friendly
O - Original
L - Lively
A - Appreciative
B - Beneficent
I - Intuitive

THE VERY REVD & MRS. OLUSEGUN FALEYE

For the family.

GOODWILL MESSAGE TO PROF. OLADAPO A. AFOLABI CFR

It is with great joy and profound gratitude to God Almighty that I heartily congratulate Prof. Oladapo Afolabi on the well-deserved honour bestowed upon him at the 2026 Academic and Research Excellence Awards of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife.

This prestigious recognition is a fitting reward for your years of exceptional scholarship, visionary leadership, unwavering integrity, and outstanding contributions to academia and national development.

Outside of your remarkable academic accomplishments, the Church has been richly blessed through your passionate commitment to the advancement of God's Kingdom. Your unflinching support for evangelism and church growth have strengthened many congregants and brought many souls closer to Christ.

As you receive this distinguished honour, It is my prayer that God will continue to grant you more wisdom, robust health, and greater opportunities to impact generations through both scholarship and Christian service.

Congratulations, Sir!

The Venerable Dr. Yemi Alade

Goodwill Message for Prof. Dapo Afolabi OON, CFR

Prof. Dapo Afolabi remains one of the most impactful educators I encountered during my undergraduate years at the University of Ife. He taught our Chemistry 202 tutorial during the 1981/82 academic session, and his dedication to teaching, depth of knowledge, and unwavering commitment to the growth of his students have continued to inspire me long after leaving the classroom.

I remain profoundly grateful for the guidance, encouragement, and intellectual discipline I received from him—qualities I still draw upon today. His influence shaped not only my academic journey but also my approach to learning and personal development. Prof. Afolabi followed my progression in the academic world closely, from my early years as a young scholar until I became Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, and even beyond.

Today, I celebrate my Teacher with deep respect and sincere appreciation. I wish him continued strength, fulfillment, and success in all his endeavors.

Prof. Oluwatoyin T. Ogundipe PhD (OAU-Ife), MBA (Unilag)
FAS, FAAS, FLS, FNSB, FERP
Chairman, National Universities Commission (NUC) Board
Non Executive Director, Alpha Morgan Bank

PART

05

**CELEBRATING
EXCELLENCE**





F SCIENCE

OLOLO UNIVERSITY, ILORIN

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Excellence is a Journey: Building Character, Inspiring Lives, and Leaving a Legacy

KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
PROF. EBUNOLUWA ADEJUYIGBE
VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,
ONDO, ONDO STATE.

Protocol

The Vice-Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire; the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council; the distinguished Awardee, Professor Oladapo Afolabi; members of the Governing Council and Senate; principal officers of the University; members of staff; parents and guardians; our distinguished alumni; and above all, the exceptional young men and women we proudly celebrate today as the OAU STARS—I warmly greet you all.

It is a privilege to stand once again on this hallowed ground. Obafemi Awolowo University has always been more than an institution to me; it is a place of formation, a second home that shaped my intellect, refined my values, and prepared me for a life of service. Returning

here feels like a homecoming: a reminder that the greatest universities shape destinies, nurture character, and produce leaders who light the path for others. Conferring degrees is actually secondary. Today, we gather to celebrate achievements, and to reflect on something far more profound: the journey of excellence itself. Excellence Begins Long Before Recognition

Let me begin with a personal reflection. Growing up as a young girl in Akoko, Ondo State, I never imagined I would one day become a Professor of Paediatrics, serve this great University in various capacities, or lead an institution as Vice-Chancellor. Like every child, I held dreams—some vivid, others uncertain, many that once seemed impossible. Yet one truth became clear early in life: dreams alone do not forge excellence.



Excellence is built one deliberate decision at a time, one disciplined habit at a time, one difficult challenge at a time, and one act of perseverance after another. Looking back, every stage of my journey, be it my years as a student here in OAU, my medical training, my work as a clinician caring for children, my research, teaching, and eventual leadership roles, was quietly preparing me for responsibilities I could not yet see. Life has a remarkable way of equipping us for tomorrow through today's

experiences, whether through success, setback, or steady persistence. To every OAU STAR here today, I say this with conviction: this award should not be viewed as the destination. It is only another milestone on a much longer journey of growth and contribution.

The True Meaning of Excellence

The word excellence is used often but rarely understood too rarely. Many equate it with coming first, receiving accolades, or possessing exceptional intelligence. While these may be outcomes, they are not its essence. Excellence runs deeper. It is the art of doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways. It is choosing integrity when dishonesty seems easier. It is maintaining discipline when no one is watching. It is continuing to learn long after others have stopped.

And above all, it is transforming knowledge into meaningful service that makes other people's lives better. As a paediatrician, I have witnessed the enormous potential in every child. Some discover it early; others later. But none fulfil it without guidance, discipline, encouragement, and opportunity. The same principle applies to excellence. Talent may open the door, but character determines how far you go and how long you remain standing.

Lessons from the Journey

Throughout my career, I have learned lessons that I believe are essential for everyone on this journey of excellence. Let me share a few with you.

First, excellence is built one disciplined day at a time. Many people think success occurs suddenly. They do not see the countless ordinary days of discipline behind every extraordinary achievement. Success is waking up early when no one is watching. It means reading when others are relaxing with time that can be dedicated to tasks. It means preparing before opportunities arrive. Talent may open doors, but discipline keeps them open.

Second, your first setback does not define your future. Permit me to tell you a story. I scored very highly in JAMB and gained admission into OAU, but because my WAEC result was released only a few days before matriculation, I resumed later than many of my classmates. Soon after resumption, we had our first Mathematics test. I scored 35 percent. I was devastated. I wondered whether I truly belonged in this university. For perhaps the first time in my life, I questioned my ability. I wrote to my secondary school Principal, sharing my disappointment. Her response was simple but powerful. She encouraged me not to give up, to keep

working, and to believe that one test could never determine my future. I listened and worked harder. I refused to allow one poor result to become my identity. Eventually, I graduated with my classmates. That experience taught me something I have never forgotten: Failure is an event. It is never your identity. Some of you may have experienced disappointing grades, rejected proposals, or failed examinations. Those experiences are chapters in your story and not the conclusion.

Third, never be afraid to stand by the truth. Years later, during my Fellowship research, I studied infections in newborn babies. My research showed alarmingly high resistance to antibiotics that were commonly used at the time. Many people were worried about the findings. Some wondered whether the results were correct because they challenged prevailing assumptions. But research demands honesty. I presented exactly what my data showed. About a year later, several publications from different parts of the world reported similar findings. That experience reinforced a principle that has guided my career: Never manipulate evidence to make people comfortable. Stand with the truth. Good science requires courage.

Fourth, discouragement can become your greatest motivation. My husband once told me about one of his lecturers during his preclinical years at the University of Ibadan. After an examination, the lecturer grouped students who had failed into three categories. Those who scored between 45 and 49 were told: "Are you sure you are in the right place?" Those between 40 and 44 were told: "Pack your bags and prepare to leave." Those below 40 were told: "Abandon hope." Those words were harsh. But instead of surrendering, many of those students resolved to work harder. Many eventually became distinguished consultants, professors, and leaders in medicine. Criticism can either destroy you or develop you. Choose development. Use every disappointment as fuel for improvement.

Fifth, character is more important than certificates. Your grades may get you interviews. Your character determines whether people continue to trust you. Integrity is doing the right thing when nobody is watching. Humility keeps learning alive. Respect earns lasting relationships. Kindness leaves an enduring legacy. People eventually forget examination scores, but they rarely forget character. Protect your name as it is one of your

greatest assets.

The Responsibility of Being an OAU STAR

Today, you receive a rare distinction. Your University has recognised you among its finest. Celebrate this moment with gratitude. Honour your parents, guardians, lecturers, mentors, and the Almighty who made it possible. Understand that this award changes expectations. From today, society will look to you to think differently, lead with integrity, solve problems creatively, and demonstrate character even when it is costly. You are now ambassadors of Great Life's values. The world does not need more successful individuals alone. It needs men and women whose success creates opportunities for others, whose excellence inspires hope, and whose integrity restores faith in our institutions.

You need more than academic brilliance to meet these expectations. Society does not need only brilliant minds; it needs trustworthy, compassionate, and ethical leaders. The most respected doctor is not always the one with the highest grades, nor is the most influential professor the one with the longest publication list. People ultimately remember how we made them feel, how we treated

them, and whether we used our knowledge to serve humanity. I urge you, therefore, never to separate excellence from humility, brilliance from compassion, or success from service. When these qualities converge, excellence becomes truly transformational.

Remember also that there is a difference between achievement and significance. Achievement asks, "What have I accomplished?" Significance asks a deeper question: "Whose life is better because I lived?" As a paediatrician, I have found the greatest fulfilment in knowing that my knowledge, time, and compassion brought healing and hope to children and their families. Wherever your path leads, whether in medicine, engineering, law, research, entrepreneurship, or public service, strive for significance. Ask not only how far you can go, but how many people you can lift as you rise. That is the true measure of greatness.

Now, here is my Charge to the OAU STARS. Today you have been recognised as among the finest of this great University. Wear this honour with gratitude, carry it with humility, protect it with integrity, and multiply it through service. May this

recognition mark not the peak of your journey but the beginning of even greater commitment to scholarship, leadership, and service to humanity. Always remember my interpretation of the STAR acronym as a covenant that I hope will remain with you throughout your lives.

S — Serve before self. Let your education improve the lives of others.

T — Think beyond limitations. Never stop learning, questioning, and innovating.

A — Aspire with integrity. Pursue excellence honourably and ethically.

R — Remain humble. The higher you rise, the more humanity should see your humility.

This is personified in the life of your mentor Prof. Dapo Afolabi. If you live by the five principles I have shared with you, your influence will extend far beyond your profession. You will become leaders whose lives inspire confidence, restore hope, and strengthen society. The future of our nation will be shaped by you our future teachers who refuse to lower standards, doctors who put patients before profit, engineers who build with integrity, researchers who pursue truth, entrepreneurs who create shared prosperity, and citizens who choose what is right even when no one is watching. This is the future each one of

you have the potential to be.

Finally, here is my charge to all of us, the entire university community, I say this: We are all on this journey together. Excellence is not reserved for the extraordinary few. It belongs to ordinary people who consistently choose extraordinary standards. It is forged in small, daily decisions: preparing thoroughly, honouring commitments, telling the truth, and refusing to settle for mediocrity. Character is the unshakable foundation of lasting excellence. Knowledge without integrity can be dangerous. Power without humility can be oppressive. Success without compassion can feel empty. Guard your character jealously for it will determine whether doors opened by your achievements remain open.

Let me conclude with a reflection. Years ago, I was simply a young girl with dreams. Today, I stand before you convinced of a timeless truth: excellence is never an accident. It is the product of vision, disciplined effort, perseverance, humility, continuous learning, and faith that is sustained by a commitment to lifting others. Wear your distinction proudly, but live it humbly. Let your success inspire hope, your character build trust, and your life become a living testimony to the ideals of Great Life which is excellence, integrity, innovation, courage, compassion, and service.

Dear OAU STARS, as you leave this programme, I encourage you to remember these principles:

- * Let discipline become your daily habit.
- * Never allow failure to define you.
- * Stand courageously for truth.
- * Turn discouragement into determination.
- * Guard your character.
- * Let your research solve real problems.
- * Be intentional about your future.
- * Above all, walk with God.

Nigeria needs principled leaders. Africa needs innovative researchers. Humanity needs compassionate professionals. Go and become men and women whose excellence is matched by integrity, whose intelligence is matched by humility, and whose success becomes a blessing to others. May your journey be fruitful. May your excellence endure. May your lives bring glory to God and lasting benefit to humanity.

Congratulations to our distinguished Excellence Award recipient, Professor Oladapo Afolabi. Congratulations to every OAU STAR. Congratulations Great Life, my dear Alma Mater. The future is bright and it is yours to illuminate.

Thank you and God Bless you All.

Citation of Professor Oladapo Abraham AFOLABI OON, CFR

By Dr. Oluwadamilola Adejumo

Oladapo Abraham Afolabi was born in Ibadan on October 3, 1953 in the night. I say night, authoritatively because only stars are undoubtedly born at night!

The young Oladapo's early years were characterized by exceptional achievements worthy of a true star and he shone brightly excelling in morals, social and academic life.

In 1972, he was admitted to study Biochemistry in this great Ife and that was the beginning of his remarkable journey in this chosen field of study. He graduated with a BSc degree in Biochemistry in 1975 and was appointed as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Biochemistry. He enrolled for his MSc in Biochemistry and graduated in 1978. Immediately after his MSc, he enrolled for his Ph.D. and bagged a Ph.D. in Applied Chemistry in 1980 making him proudly made and 'fully baked' in Ife!

He got an offer for a Postdoctoral fellowship at the Howard University and became an International Atomic Energy Agency Fellow in 1983. He also conducted postdoctoral research at the Torry Research Station in Aberdeen.

He returned to Nigeria and continued his teaching career at the Obafemi Awolowo University until 1991. He served excellently and was appointed as the head of Department. His lecturing career took him to the University of Zimbabwe as a Visiting Lecturer and the Ladoke Akintola

University of Technology where his academic expertise was required in their Chemistry and Pure and Applied Chemistry Department. He also served as of head of the Department in both institutions.

As an Applied Chemist/Biochemist, he specialised in environmental and food/nutritional chemistry and his research interest in about five decades have covered a wide range of issues concerning the environment and food security in the third world. This has culminated in over 100 publications in reputable international journals, and still counting!

To Afolabi, learning never ends and his insatiable quest for knowledge has led him to obtain certification in diverse areas including the British Council Leadership Certification; and the US Government Training for First Responders Leadership for the 21st Century at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Professor Afolabi is not an academic whose research is merely theoretical and completely detached from practical realities. His research transcends the walls of academic institutions to impact public service and day to living. His research has opened doors of recognition for him and he has been highly consulted and widely sought after to serve in various capacities where his wealth of knowledge is in high demand.

Afolabi played a key role in organizing the first Ecological Summit in 1988. This summit birthed the Federal Ministry of Environment. His cutting edge research in environmental Chemistry took Afolabi to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency in June 1991 where he worked till he rose to become the Acting Director of the Agency.

In 1995, Afolabi worked with the Federal Ministry of Environment and recorded landmark achievements including chairing the committee that defined the ministry's initial structure. He later served in several capacities including as Director, Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health. His service in the Ministry also led to the supervision of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility for 15 cities in Nigeria.

He served excellently well in various capacities including as Permanent Secretary of the Federal Civil Service of Nigeria in 2006; Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labour in 2007; Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources; and Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education in 2009 where he played a key role in bringing an end to a 3-month strike action. In 2009, he was assigned to the Cabinet Secretariat where he brought some novelty bringing about the introduction of electronic storage of documents.

His meritorious service did not go unnoticed and this culminated in his appointment as the head of Service of the Federation of Nigeria in November 2010. He served in this capacity till 29 September 2011 when he retired leaving a trail of landmark achievements. Notably, Afolabi:

- * built a knowledge based Civil Service which enhanced the transformational national development agenda;

- * introduced e-Learning to boost the knowledge base of civil servants;
- * introduced Public/Private Sector Officers Exchange to enable sharing of knowledge and experience and enhanced synergy for a more efficient and responsive service;
- * took decisive steps to institutionalize Performance Management as a tool of accountability and improved performance in Civil Service; and
- * was instrumental to the adorning of Nigeria's national attire to the office on Fridays as a bid to encourage the local textile industry and promote our culture.

He has served on the Board of key agencies and institutions at national, regional and international levels including serving as the Chairman National Social Insurance Trust Fund (NISTF) and the Labour Institute. He served as Member of the governing board of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), the National University Commission (NUC), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Salaries and Wages Commission, Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Micheal Imoudu Institute for Labour Studies and RAMFAC, National Directorate of Employment, the National Productivity Centre, the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRB) Ltd and the Education Trust Fund (ETF).

Afolabi served on the Executive Board of Food and Agricultural Organization, International Fund for Agriculture; the White Paper Drafting Committee of the Presidential Committee on the Review of Incentives, Waiver and Concessions; Member, Presidential Committee on Quick Win Projects of the Millennium Development Goals; the Cabinet Committee on Draft White Paper on

Electoral Reform; Member Subcommittee of Council of State on Funding of the Nigeria Police Force; Member, Inter-Ministerial Committee on Modalities for the Setting up of the Centre for Democratic Studies; the Presidential Committee on Power Reform (Electric Power); Member, Presidential Committee on Outstanding Issues on Constitutional Review, 2012 among others. He was a member of the committee for the review of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government, created post 2012 and Team Lead, Study on Sustainable Operations of Federal Universities in Nigeria in 2023.

Apart from his notable contributions to public service, retired but not tired Prof. Afolabi has been called upon to serve in several leadership capacities in academic institutions across Nigeria. He served as:

- * Chairman, Governing Council, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, 2012-2014;
- * Acting Pro-Chancellor, The Technical University, Ibadan.
- * Pro-Chancellor, Ladoke Akintola University, Ogbomoso, (2013-2015)
- * Member, Governing Council, KolaDaisi University
- * Member, Board of Trustee, Edwin Clark University
- * Member, Governing Council, Alithelia University, Ago Iwoye.
- * Pro-Chancellor Edwin Clarke University, Kiagbodo 2023

He has chaired and served on visitation panels to several institutions across Nigeria on different occasions including Chairman, Visitation Panel, Ayo Babalola University and Chairman, Visitation Panel, Ahmadu Bello University.

His expertise and leadership acumen has also been highly sought after in diverse private organisations within and outside Nigeria. He served as a member of the Board of CHAMS Plc from 2012-2016. Chairman, Board of CARD Centre, 2012-

2016; Member Board of Revelation Water Technology (Global); Chairman, Revelations Water Technology Ltd.; Chairman, SONARWA Life Assurance Company, Rwanda; Chairman, Ibadan Business School Board of Advisors; Chairman, Environmental Health Registration Council of Nigeria, 2014-2015; Member Board of Industrial and General Insurance (IGI) Plc; Member AMNI Petroleum Development Company (Ghana); Alternate Director Board of AMNI Petroleum Development Company Limited; Board Member Samuel Josephus Foundation; Chairman, Samuel Josephus Consulting Ltd.; Chairman, Lucas Energy; Executive Chairman, Avidor Services Limited; Chairman, Connexion; Chairman Inferix Africa; Chairman, Avidor Digital; and Chairman Capital Express.

On the international scene, Afolabi's contribution and commitment to environmental protection has not been unnoticed and he has attended the UN General Assembly multiple times. He has led Nigerian delegations to deliberations of the international community on several occasions including deliberations on the United Nations Conventions on Climate Change, Ozone layer protection and chemicals Management. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the environmental protection discourse, Afolabi was elected Chairman, Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances. He has also been appointed to Chair of several UN ad-hoc committees on different occasions. He served as Co-Chair, Clean Development Mechanism, Technology Transfer of Climate Change Convention, BAT/BET (Best Available Technologies /Best Environmentally Friendly Technologies). He served as Chairman of the Working Group On Environmental Standards, Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project (World Bank Assisted) in March 2024.

Afolabi is not a king who has no honour in his home. Indeed, that is why we are gathered together this day to honour this academic sage and public service legend. Prof. Afolabi has received several recognitions at the national level. He is a recipient of the prestigious award of the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) and subsequently, the award of the Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR). In 2025, he got the Lifetime Achievement Award, by the Vanguard Board of Editors in recognition of his contributions to environmental science, education, and public service. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria; Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology; Fellow, Institute of Public Analysts of Nigeria; Fellow Michael Imoudu Institute for Labour Studies (FMILS); Fellow, Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network; and recently he was conferred with the fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Local Government and Public Administrators of Nigeria.

Other awards and recognitions include:

- * African Productivity Merit Award 2004
- * Distinguished Earthcare Award (2004)
- * Distinguished Scientist Award (2004) by the Faculty of Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.
- * Global Environment Outlook; Outstanding Contributors Award (2007)
- * United Nations Environment Programme, Outstanding Contributors Award (2007)
- * Family of the Year Award (2007) by the Ibadan Anglican Diocese
- * Outstanding Contribution & Exemplary Leadership Award as Director Pollution Control (2007) by

the Federal Ministry of Environment

- * Award of Excellence (2007) by St. Mary's Anglican Church, Oluyole Estate, Ibadan
- * Award for Meritorious Service (2008) by the Environmental Health Officers Registration Council of Nigeria
- * Distinguished Service Award (2008) by the Nigerian Committee on Large Dams
- * Award of Merit for Contribution for Development of Public Health in Africa (2008) by the Faculty of Public Health, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan
- Distinguished Scholar Award (2009): Wesley University

His traditional titles include Aare Gbagura of Gbagura; Fimotolu of Egba Land and Otun Asiwaju of Ibadan Land.

Mr. Vice Chancellor sir, I present to you a highly respected public servant and Nigerian academic. An environmentalist, and academic with about five decades of impeccable and enviable track record of public service, academic research and uncommon lifetime achievements. I present to you, an internationally recognised applied Chemist/Biochemist who has lived a life devoted to public service championing education, environmental protection and food security in Africa and third world countries, Professor Oladapo Abraham AFOLABI OON, CFR

Professor Oladapo Afolabi:

A Life of Purpose, Excellence and Service

Part 1

The Foundations of My Journey

People often ask me what shaped me into the person I eventually became. I usually find that a difficult question to answer because I cannot point to one defining moment or one life-changing experience. If I am to be honest, I would say that I am the product of many influences—my family, my upbringing, the people God brought into my life, and the opportunities I had to observe leadership, hard work and service from a very young age.

I was born into a family where love was abundant and where professionalism, discipline and integrity were not merely preached but lived every day. Although I lost my biological father when I was only six years old, the little time I spent with him left impressions that have remained with me throughout my life.

My father was an extraordinary man. He began his career as a Captain in the Salvation Army before leaving the ministry to join the public service. He eventually became the officer in charge of the courts across the old Ibadan Province, which in those days covered present-day Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti and parts of Ogbomoso. His work took him across the region, and wherever he went, he was respected. As a little boy, I watched traditional rulers, community leaders and highly placed individuals visit our home. At that time, very few people owned cars, yet my father

was one of them. I did not fully understand the significance of what I was seeing then, but I knew he commanded respect wherever he went. Looking back now, I realise that my earliest picture of professionalism came from watching him quietly carry out his duties with dignity and excellence.

Yet what fascinated me just as much was his versatility. Beyond his public service, he loved music. He played almost every instrument available at the time—the organ, accordion, guitar, mouth organ and several others. I admired that about him. It taught me, even unconsciously, that one could pursue excellence in more than one area of life.

After my father's passing, my mother became the greatest influence in my life. She was an exceptionally hardworking woman and one of the sharpest minds I have ever known. She traded in textiles at Gbagi Market in Ibadan, and anyone who knew her knew that her mental arithmetic was almost unbelievable.

During school holidays, my siblings and I did not spend our days playing. We joined her at the shop. Whenever customers came to buy fabric by the yard, she expected us to calculate the total immediately. If someone asked for ten yards of cloth at four shillings per yard, we

were expected to produce the answer without hesitation. Mistakes were not entertained. At the time, I probably thought she was simply being strict. Today, I know she was teaching us lessons that no classroom could have offered. She was teaching us accuracy, discipline, confidence and the importance of doing every task well.

She also had remarkable taste. Our shop was located on Lebanon Street in Ibadan, where many Lebanese families lived. Whenever she noticed a new style of clothing on one of their children, she would go to Kingsway or UTC to buy something similar for us. She wanted her children to carry themselves well, regardless of circumstance. Looking back, I appreciate the sacrifices she made to ensure we lacked nothing essential.

Another person who profoundly influenced my life was my maternal grandfather, the traditional ruler of Ikirun. By the time he passed on, he was reputed to be one of the oldest monarchs in the old Western Region, having spent decades on the throne. Whenever we visited the palace, he insisted that all his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren sit quietly behind him while he held court. We listened as disputes were presented before him and watched him weigh evidence carefully before giving judgment. We probably understood very little of the legal arguments at that age, but we learnt something even more valuable. We learnt that leadership demands patience, wisdom and fairness.

The palace itself also taught me another lesson that has remained with me throughout my life. It was a large household with many wives, children and relatives. We all ate together from the same trays. Nobody was considered superior because of wealth or family position. We slept together, played

together and grew together. That experience shaped the way I have viewed people ever since.

I have never believed that human beings should be classified according to social status. To me, people are simply people. Every individual deserves dignity and respect. The same attitude was reinforced by my childhood in Ibadan. It was a truly cosmopolitan city. My classmates and friends came from every part of Nigeria. We played together without thinking about tribe or ethnicity. In fact, I never consciously thought of myself as Yoruba until I went for the National Youth Service in what was then the South-Eastern State. One day, as I was driving out of the college where I was teaching, I heard someone shout, "That Yoruba boy!"

I actually looked around before realising they were referring to me. That was the first time it occurred to me that someone saw me first as Yoruba rather than simply as Nigerian. It surprised me because that was not how I had been raised. Growing up, I had never learnt to see people through the lens of ethnicity. I only knew that they were fellow human beings.

This philosophy has remained with me throughout my career. Whether I worked with men or women, Nigerians or foreigners, professors or junior staff, I tried to judge people by their character, competence and commitment rather than by ethnic or status labels.

Hard work also became part of my nature because I saw it demonstrated every day by my parents. Neither of them was afraid of work. They enjoyed what they did, and that attitude rubbed off on me. Even today, I often say that work is my hobby. I do not stop working because I am tired; I stop only when I have to sleep. Looking back now, I realise those early years laid the foundation for everything that came

afterwards. Without knowing it, my parents and grandparents had already taught me the values that would guide my entire life: integrity, discipline, humility, service, curiosity and respect for every human being.

Leadership opportunities also came naturally during my school years. In primary school, I joined the Boy Scouts and eventually became one of the troop leaders. Later in life, I even served as a Scout Master. Those experiences taught me responsibility at an early age.

My educational journey took me through several schools. I began at CMS Primary School in Ede before our family relocated to Ibadan, where I attended ICC Primary School at Adeoyo. From there, I proceeded to Igbo Elerin Grammar School, later attended Mayflower School, Ikenne, and eventually completed my secondary education at Ibadan Grammar School.

In secondary school, I served as the Science Prefect. At the University of Ife, I later became President of the Biological Sciences Students' Association. Looking back, I realise that leadership kept finding me long before I consciously sought it. Perhaps one of the most important decisions of my life came after secondary school when I received admission offers from both the University of Ibadan and the University of Ife.

Ironically, I was not particularly interested in either. At that stage of my life, my greatest ambition was to study abroad. My immediate elder brother had already travelled overseas, and I imagined that my future also lay outside Nigeria. I even resisted taking the normal university entrance route because I hoped another opportunity would present itself.

Eventually, however, I applied with my A-Level qualifications and received admission into both universities.

Since I was already familiar with Ibadan, I decided to visit Ife before making my final decision.

I still remember that journey vividly.

As our vehicle approached the campus and reached the crest of the hill on Road 1, I saw the library standing majestically against the backdrop of lush green vegetation. At that time, there were very few buildings. There was no Senate Building yet—only the magnificent library and the surrounding landscape. I stepped out of the car and simply stood there, taking everything in.

The serenity, the beauty and the atmosphere captivated me completely. I remember saying to myself, "If I do not get America, this is my America." That single moment changed the course of my life.

Without knowing it then, I had found the institution that would shape my academic career, define much of my professional life and eventually become my intellectual home for decades to come.



Part 2

Discovering My Calling

When I arrived at the University of Ife, I was excited about the environment more than anything else. Looking back now, I can honestly say that it was the beauty of the campus that attracted me before the course I was admitted to study. I had been offered admission to study Biochemistry, but that was not exactly where my heart was. I had wanted to study Medicine and, more than anything, I still imagined that my future would eventually take me abroad.

So, I arrived on campus as something of a reluctant student. In fact, if anyone had told me then that I would spend most of my professional life in the university system, I probably would have laughed.

Those were very different times. The academic standards at the University of Ife were uncompromising. Students were expected to earn their place every session, and nobody survived simply because they had gained admission. Failure had consequences, and excellence was expected.

When we entered the Faculty of Biological Sciences, there were well over a hundred students. Biochemistry was one of the most sought-after programmes, with about fifty of us admitted into the department. By the time we graduated, only nine students remained. It was a period many of us jokingly referred to as the era of "Aluta." If you failed one course, you had a resit. Fail two, and you left the programme. Fail the resit, and that was the end of the journey. The university did not lower its standards for anyone.

I was not one of those students chasing First Class honours or even a Second Class Upper. My philosophy then was quite simple: graduate and move on. We often joked among ourselves, saying, "Let my people go." Looking back, I smile at that youthful mindset because life had entirely different plans for me.

Although I was not initially passionate about Biochemistry, I gradually discovered that what truly makes a university education valuable is not merely the curriculum but the people who teach it. The University of Ife was blessed with extraordinary scholars. For the first time in my life, I encountered lecturers who were not simply teaching from textbooks but were actively creating new knowledge. That made a profound impression on me.

One of them was Dr. Halstead, a zoologist from England. He fascinated all of us, not just because of what he taught but because of how he lived. Instead of driving a car, he rode a tricycle around campus. One day during a lecture, he explained that much of the desert region around Sokoto had once been covered by the sea. He had travelled there himself, excavated fossils and discovered a previously undescribed marine crocodile. He had named it sokotosaurus.

That lecture changed something in me.

Until then, I had thought science was simply about learning what others had already discovered. Suddenly, I realised that a scientist could contribute something entirely new to human knowledge. Someone sitting in front of me

had gone into the field, made a discovery no one else had made and written his name into scientific history.

That was powerful.

Professor Lawanson inspired me in a different way. During one of his lectures on plant physiology and photosynthesis, he spoke not only about established scientific theories but also about discoveries he himself had contributed to the field. Once again, I found myself listening to someone who was helping to shape global scientific understanding rather than merely repeating it.

Professor Olorode brought genetics to life with an energy that made every lecture memorable. He had recently returned from the United States, and there was something refreshing about the way he simplified concepts that many students considered difficult. He made science exciting.

Then there was Professor Afolayan. He was perhaps the most meticulous laboratory scientist I had ever encountered. In his practical classes, he taught us that excellence begins with the smallest details. Even washing laboratory glassware had to be done properly. You could wash the same beaker repeatedly until he was satisfied that it met the required standard.

Some students complained.
I learnt something different.
Precision is a habit.

Interestingly, that lesson stayed with me throughout life. I often tell people that although I am not much of a cook, I wash dishes exceptionally well. Professor Afolayan unknowingly taught me that excellence is not reserved for grand achievements; it begins with doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.

Another remarkable influence was Professor Bozomenyi, my supervisor. By the way, he had about 6 PhD's. One day, I asked him why he never drove himself. His answer has remained with me ever since. He smiled and said, "There are too many things occupying my mind. I may become so absorbed in thinking that I might not know when to stop or when to apply the brakes. I would rather not endanger myself or anyone else."

It was such a simple statement, yet it reflected the depth with which scholars approached their work. One of the most important relationships I developed during my undergraduate years was with Professor Emevbore. Like many university students of that era, I was actively involved in student activism. At one point, our activities could easily have attracted disciplinary action serious enough to jeopardise my studentship. Instead of pressing charges, Professor Emevbore invited me to his house.

He sat me down, asked me what exactly we were trying to achieve and listened patiently. His wife served me food, and after our conversation he asked me to bring the other students involved. Using his own vehicle, I went to fetch them.

Rather than punish us, he simply appealed to our sense of responsibility. He told us that examinations would go ahead and urged us not to disrupt them. That encounter changed everything.

From that day onward, Professor Emevbore became more than a lecturer to me. He became a father. Over the years, I watched his children grow into accomplished professionals, and our families remained closely connected. Looking back, I realise that his greatest lesson to me was not chemistry. It was mentorship. He showed me that correcting young people with compassion

often achieves far more than punishing them. The University of Ife also taught me what institutional excellence looked like. I watched Vice-Chancellors who inspired respect simply by the way they carried themselves.

Professor Wande Abimbola particularly impressed me. Even though I was an insignificant young student in the larger university community, he always greeted me warmly. Instead of calling me by my name, he would call me "Akowe." I admired not only his scholarship but also his humility, his deep appreciation of Yoruba wisdom and the dignity with which he related to people.

Professor Oluwasanmi represented another model of leadership. During his tenure, there was a simple but powerful tradition on campus. The beautifully maintained lawns in front of the Senate Building were almost sacred. Only professors and the Vice-Chancellor crossed them. Everyone else used the designated walkways. As a young undergraduate, I remember telling myself, "One day, I want to become the kind of scholar who could cross that lawn."

It may sound like a small ambition now, but to us it symbolised academic distinction. Professorship represented the highest standard of scholarship, and we looked up to those who had attained it. Professor Abimbola Aboyade left another lasting impression on me. Years later, while arrangements were being made for my doctoral studies in Scotland, administrative processes delayed the approval of my travel documents. Time was running out, and I feared I would miss the opportunity.

Rather than give up, I decided to wait outside the Senate Building until the Vice-Chancellor arrived. As he stepped out of his vehicle, I introduced myself and explained my predicament.



Instead of asking me to come back another day, he immediately instructed that my file be brought to him. When it arrived, he signed the necessary approval on the spot. That single act changed the course of my career.

It taught me that great leaders understand the value of timely decisions. Looking back today, I realise that the University of Ife educated me in far more than Biochemistry.

It taught me precision.
It taught me discipline.
It taught me humility.
It taught me leadership.

Most importantly, it introduced me to scholars whose lives demonstrated that research was not simply an academic exercise but a lifelong pursuit of truth and service.

Ironically, however, even after graduating, I still did not imagine that academia would become my life's calling. I thought I was simply preparing myself for another journey. God, however, had a different destination in mind.

Part 3

Finding My Purpose Through Research

When I graduated from the University of Ife, I had no intention of becoming an academic. In fact, if anyone had told me then that I would spend my life teaching, conducting research and helping to shape universities, I would probably have dismissed the idea outright. My ambition was simple, I wanted to leave Nigeria.

Perhaps many young people today will understand that feeling. At that time, I believed my future lay elsewhere. I even made up my mind that after earning my first degree, I was done with serious studying. I jokingly told myself that I would never read another book if I could help it. I even said that one day I would employ somebody to read newspapers for me because I was tired of reading.

Life, however, has a way of redirecting our plans. After completing my National Youth Service, my first ambition was not even academia. I wanted to join the Nigeria Police Force. I attended the interview and genuinely looked forward to a career there. My eldest brother, with whom I was living in Ikoyi at the time, thought differently.

He asked me a simple question. "What if one of your classmates becomes a governor someday and you are assigned as his Aide-de-Camp? Would that satisfy you?"

That question made me think.

He advised me to look elsewhere, and through his support I secured employment with the Federal Ministry of Education. I was posted to Badagry, to what later became the Nigerian French Language Village. Although the work was good, the daily commute from Ikoyi was exhausting. My brother encouraged me to become independent and find accommodation

closer to work. While trying to settle into this new phase of life, I met an old classmate who had taken a very different path.

He had completed a Master's degree in Biochemical Engineering and was working with Nigerian Breweries. He had an official car, a chauffeur, excellent accommodation and all the benefits that came with the job.

I looked at him and asked, "What exactly did you study?" When he told me, I immediately became interested. Not because I suddenly loved Biochemical Engineering, but because I could see what that education had made possible.

He had studied at Imperial College London. Without wasting time, I applied. To my delight, I was offered admission. My immediate elder brother, who was already in the United States, agreed to finance my education.

I thought my dream had finally come true. But there was one more hurdle. Before any major family decision was taken, we always sought the blessing of my eldest brother. He was twenty-six years older than I was and had practically become a father to all of us after the death of our biological father. He had paid our school fees, supported our education and guided our lives. Out of love and respect, we listened to him. When I informed him about my admission to Imperial College, he asked me a question I had not anticipated. "If you become ill in London, who will take care of you?"

Before I could respond, he said quietly, "I cannot approve." That was the end of the discussion.

I was deeply disappointed.

At that moment, I felt as though my dreams had collapsed. Today, looking back, I understand that he acted out of genuine concern. At the time, however, it was difficult to appreciate that perspective. Still, I refused to abandon my ambition of pursuing postgraduate education abroad.

Around that period, universities in Nigeria frequently advertised positions for Graduate Assistants, and many young academics knew that such appointments often led to overseas scholarships. I applied. I was offered a position at the University of Ife.

From the beginning, I was completely honest with my employers. I told them I did not intend to stay permanently. My goal was to obtain postgraduate training abroad. They smiled and said, "No problem. Complete your Master's degree first. Perform well, and you can go anywhere." That conversation changed my attitude completely. For the first time in my academic life, I became truly serious about my studies.

During my undergraduate years, I had simply wanted to graduate. Now I had a clear objective, and that objective transformed my work ethic. I devoted myself to my Master's programme and earned the grades required to qualify for overseas scholarship. Soon afterwards, another opportunity presented itself.

The University of Ife was planning to strengthen its postgraduate programmes and hoped that young academics like us would eventually earn doctoral degrees and return to build the institution.

I appreciated the vision, but I still wanted international exposure. Around the same time, I secured a scholarship from the old Western State Government to pursue doctoral studies in Scotland. There was only one complication.

The scholarship was in Fisheries rather than Biochemical Engineering. Many people would probably have concluded that the

disciplines were too different.

I saw an opportunity instead.

I contacted my prospective supervisor in Scotland and explained my situation. He responded with remarkable generosity. Rather than insisting on a conventional research topic, he designed a project that combined fisheries with research in Applied Chemistry. That decision changed the direction of my scientific career. Eventually, the University of Ife also agreed to support my doctoral training under an arrangement that allowed me to carry out my laboratory research in Scotland while earning my doctorate through Ife. I arrived in Aberdeen in 1978.

Everything about the research environment was different. The laboratories were well equipped, resources were readily available and scientific questions were pursued with remarkable curiosity and rigour.

More importantly, I discovered something about myself. For the first time, I genuinely enjoyed research. My project focused on understanding why a particular species of fish looked attractive during one season and unattractive during another.

It may sound like a simple question, but behind it lay fascinating biological and chemical processes. The fish was abundant in the North Atlantic and had tremendous commercial potential. Yet consumers often rejected it because of its appearance. My task was to determine what caused those seasonal changes.

As I investigated the chemistry of the fish's skin, I discovered that the answer lay in structural changes involving sulphur-containing amino acids. The oxidation and reduction of cysteine and cystine influenced the physical characteristics of the skin, making it appear thick and unattractive at one stage and smooth and appealing at another. When finding was published the stock of fish became a commercial resource

which is well consumed today.

What excited me most was not merely solving the puzzle. It was discovering that scientific research could explain everyday phenomena and generate practical solutions. That experience transformed the way I thought about science. Research was no longer simply an academic requirement. It became a tool for solving real problems.

That philosophy has remained with me ever since. Throughout my career, I have never been attracted to research simply because it would produce another publication. My greatest satisfaction has always come from research that improves lives, strengthens industries or solves societal challenges. That conviction shaped almost every project I undertook afterwards.

One of the areas that particularly interested me was analytical methodology. I constantly asked myself a simple question: "Is there a better way of doing this?"

Sometimes the answer was yes.

In one instance, I was able to adapt an entire laboratory-scale experimental process into a much smaller system using a two-and-a-half-litre Winchester bottle without compromising scientific accuracy. On another occasion, I redesigned a conventional esterification procedure into a simplified one-step process that required far less material and time. To many people, these may have appeared to be technical improvements. To me, they represented something much bigger.

Innovation is often about making complex things simpler. Another area that fascinated me was food science and human nutrition. As researchers searched for affordable alternatives to breast milk, soya milk emerged as an important option. Yet soya lacked one essential amino acid required for complete infant nutrition.

Rather than accept this limitation, I began searching for indigenous plant materials that could complement soya nutritionally.

That search led me to amaranth seed. Its amino acid profile perfectly complemented soya, allowing us to develop a much more nutritionally balanced formulation.

Again, the excitement was not simply making a scientific observation. The excitement lay in knowing that research could contribute to better nutrition for children. Perhaps one of the discoveries that gave me the greatest satisfaction came from an entirely different direction.

While studying bitter leaf seeds, I isolated an unusual oil with a chemical structure rarely found in nature.

Using advanced analytical equipment, including Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry, we characterised its composition and later demonstrated that it could be co-polymerised with styrene to produce an exceptionally strong material with remarkable industrial potential.

Further investigation also showed that coatings derived from this oil significantly reduced the emission of volatile organic compounds from freshly painted surfaces. For me, these discoveries reinforced the same lesson I had first learnt in Scotland.

Research should not stop at explanation.

It should move towards application.

It should create value.

It should solve problems.

Looking back now, I realise that I never truly chose research.

Research chose me.

What began as a stepping stone to another destination gradually became the work through which I found my deepest fulfilment.

Without realising it at the time, I was no longer simply pursuing an academic career. I was discovering my life's purpose.

Part 4

Building Institutions, Serving the Nation and Looking Ahead

By the time I returned to Nigeria after my doctoral studies, my outlook had changed completely. I had gone abroad thinking primarily about obtaining a degree, but I came back with something much more valuable—a philosophy. I had become convinced that research should never exist for its own sake. Every research question should eventually lead to a solution that improves lives, strengthens institutions or contributes to national development.

That conviction influenced every major decision I made afterwards.

As I progressed through the academic ranks—from Graduate Assistant to Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and eventually Professor—I found myself becoming increasingly interested not only in conducting research but also in creating systems that would allow others to do better research.

I was fortunate to work with remarkable colleagues, particularly Professor Oke, who became much more than a senior colleague. He became a mentor, a trusted adviser and a friend. Together, we shared a vision that universities should be centres of innovation rather than mere awarding institutions. When the opportunity came to contribute to the development of what is now the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), we wanted to build something different. We did not want to replicate the traditional university model. We wanted a university whose graduates would be known not only for academic knowledge but also for technological competence and practical problem-solving.

That philosophy informed many of our early decisions. One of the ideas I championed was that our degrees should be Bachelor of Technology rather than the conventional Bachelor of Science. It was not simply a matter of nomenclature. It reflected our conviction that every programme should have a strong technological and practical orientation.

We also believed that professors should not confine themselves to publishing papers alone. Research ought to produce prototypes, innovations and enterprises that students could see, understand and improve upon. We encouraged academics to establish pilot facilities where their discoveries could be translated into practical applications. Our dream was for students to learn not only in classrooms and laboratories but also in environments where research became products and products became industries.

Looking back, I still believe that was the right philosophy. Universities should not merely produce graduates.

They should produce solutions.

My own research interests gradually expanded into environmental chemistry, an area that was still relatively new in Nigeria at the time. Through my association with Professor Emevire and several other colleagues, I became increasingly involved in understanding environmental pollution, industrial waste management and environmental regulation. Before long, our research group found itself working with industries across the country, helping them understand the

environmental implications of their operations and developing practical approaches to managing them. We worked with companies such as Shell and many others, not simply as consultants but as scientists seeking solutions to real environmental challenges.

Those experiences opened another chapter in my professional life. I often say that some of the most important opportunities in life come when you are simply trying to solve a problem well.

That certainly happened to me.

At one point, while I was arranging industrial placements for my students, I approached the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA). My intention was straightforward, I wanted my students to experience environmental management in practice. The Director had something entirely different in mind. He told me they had been looking for someone with my background because the World Bank was supporting a major environmental programme, but they needed technical leadership to drive it. What I had imagined would be a brief academic engagement quickly became a national assignment.

With the permission of the university, I stayed for six months. Then another six months. Those months eventually changed the direction of my career. At FEPA, I found myself working on issues that affected the entire country. We developed environmental monitoring systems, strengthened laboratory capacity and supported the establishment of modern environmental laboratories across several states. I became involved in international environmental negotiations, working with experts from different parts of the world to address challenges that transcended national boundaries.

For me, it was another confirmation that research should never remain locked inside journals.

It should influence policy.

It should improve governance.

It should help governments make better decisions.

Eventually, circumstances led me to leave the university system altogether and remain in public service. It was not a decision I had originally planned to make, but life has taught me that not every important journey follows the path we initially design for ourselves. Although I left full-time university employment, I never left academia. The university remained part of who I was. Whether I was serving in government, advising international organisations or working with industry, I still approached every assignment with the mindset of a researcher. I asked questions. I gathered evidence. I analysed problems. Most importantly, I looked for solutions.

Perhaps that explains why I have always struggled with the notion that universities exist primarily to teach.

Teaching is important.

Research is essential.

But neither should be an end in itself.

The true purpose of a university is to solve society's problems.

That conviction has only grown stronger over the years. When I look around today, I sometimes worry that many universities have become excessively teaching-oriented. Lecturers spend enormous amounts of time delivering lectures, setting examinations and grading scripts, while the pressing problems surrounding them remain largely untouched.

That was never the original idea behind the modern university.

Universities became known as ivory towers because they were repositories of wisdom. They existed to generate ideas, develop innovations and provide answers to society's most difficult questions.

When communities lack clean water, reliable electricity, sustainable agriculture or affordable healthcare, universities should be asking, "What contribution can we make?" When industries face technological challenges, universities should be their first point of call. When governments struggle with policy questions, universities should be ready with evidence-based solutions.

That, to me, is what scholarship truly means. I also believe that Nigerian universities must continue to pursue greater autonomy—academic, administrative and financial. Institutions that are expected to think independently should also possess the freedom to innovate independently.

Of course, autonomy also comes with responsibility. Universities must become more entrepreneurial, more collaborative and more responsive to society's needs. They must build stronger partnerships with industry, government and communities while maintaining the highest standards of scholarship. Funding remains one of the greatest challenges facing higher education today, but I have always believed that universities themselves possess enormous intellectual resources capable of generating many of the solutions they seek. If we can solve complex scientific problems, surely we can also develop sustainable models for financing our institutions.

Throughout my career, I have also learnt the importance of relationships. No one succeeds alone. Looking back, I can trace almost every significant opportunity in my life to people who believed in me,



challenged me or extended a helping hand at critical moments. From my parents and grandparents to my teachers, mentors, colleagues and students, each person contributed something to my journey.

That is why I have always considered mentoring younger scholars an important responsibility. Knowledge should never end with one generation. It must be transferred, strengthened and passed on. If I have one hope for the next generation of researchers, it is that they will never see research merely as a requirement for promotion or publication.

Research should be driven by curiosity. It should be guided by integrity.

Above all, it should be inspired by service. Our nation does not lack problems. What it needs are researchers who are prepared to devote their knowledge to solving them.

When I look back over my own journey, from a little boy watching his grandfather dispense justice in Ikirun, to a student captivated by the beauty of the University of Ife, to a young academic determined to study abroad, and eventually to a researcher, institution builder and public servant, I realise that every stage prepared me for the next.

None of it was accidental.

The values my parents taught me, the discipline my teachers demanded, the mentorship I received from distinguished scholars and the opportunities I had to serve all combined to shape the person I eventually became. Receiving the Obafemi Awolowo University Excellence in Research Practice Award is therefore deeply meaningful to me.

This University did much more than educate me.

It shaped my character.

It challenged my assumptions.

It introduced me to mentors who transformed my thinking.

It gave me opportunities to grow as a scholar and as a leader.

In many ways, it gave me a home.

If there is one lesson my journey has taught me, it is that excellence is not an event.

It is a habit.

It is built quietly over many years through discipline, curiosity, humility and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

That, above all else, is the legacy I hope to leave behind.



PART

06

LOOKING FORWARD





Strategic Priorities and Vision

Prof. Adebayo Simeon Bamire, FAS, FAEng

Vice-Chancellor,
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Looking ahead, the strategic priorities of Obafemi Awolowo University are anchored in a clear-eyed assessment of our current research standing and an ambitious vision for the future. A bibliometric analysis of our scholarly output reveals both the scale of our achievements and the magnitude of the opportunity before us. On the global stage, the university's ranking is supported by a robust volume of publications, with the university ranking 1,862nd globally in this metric. The global research reputation of Obafemi Awolowo University, ranked at 1,050th worldwide, underscores the growing international recognition of our scholars' work. The engagement of our researchers with high-impact publications is also notable, with a total citation count ranking of 1,774 globally. However, the data also illuminates areas for deliberate advancement; our normalized citation impact and the percentage of publications among the top 10% most cited are areas where focused effort can elevate our global influence.

The strength of our regional research reputation, ranked 17th in Africa, is a solid foundation upon which to build a more dominant continental and global presence. This vision is being actively constructed through the strategic

investments and partnerships that define our current trajectory. The expansion of our academic faculties, such as the newly approved Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Nursing, signals a commitment to interdisciplinary growth and research capacity. Our researchers are increasingly visible in global databases, with over a thousand scientists affiliated with OAU contributing to fields as diverse as chemistry and animal science. We are a significant contributor to global knowledge, and our strategic priority is to accelerate this trajectory, transforming volume into amplified impact and cementing our position as a leading research-intensive university in Africa and the world.

The realization of this ambitious vision is inextricably linked to the unwavering support and pioneering spirit of our past award recipients and honorees. It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the foundational role our Excellence Award Recipients have played in building edifices of research and scholarship that define this institution. These groundbreaking works will further elevate the global profile of Obafemi Awolowo University and also create the intellectual and physical infrastructure that enables



current and future generations to strive for excellence. Through your dedication to research practice and your commitment to mentoring the next wave of scholars, you have directly cultivated the OAU Stars who are and will continue to emerge as leaders in their respective fields, embodying the vision of academic and professional distinction we hold dear.

The contributions of the OAU Excellence Award Recipients have extended beyond personal achievement to foster a culture of inquiry, innovation, and service that permeates every facet of our university community. As we chart our course forward, we stand on the shoulders of your accomplishments, drawing inspiration from your example and leveraging the strong foundation you have helped to build. This enduring legacy of excellence is the bedrock upon which we will continue to strengthen our global partnerships, enhance our research infrastructure, and deepen our societal impact, ensuring that the future of Obafemi Awolowo University is as distinguished as its storied past.



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OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER

FMP/HM/GEN. CORR/2026/I/015

8th July 2026

Professor Oladapo Afolabi, OON, CFR
Ibadan, Oyo State.

GOODWILL MESSAGE

It is a singular delight for me as a proud alumnus of our great Obafemi Awolowo University and a son of Ibadan to join in celebrating you at this year's Academic & Research Excellence Awards.

2. Your remarkable journey and transition from the academia to the pinnacle of civil service as Head of Service of the Federation is one that has inspired an entire generation of us who now serve this nation in various capacities. That you have continued, in retirement, to devote yourself to nurturing young minds as Chairman of the Governing Councils of both The Polytechnic, Ibadan, and the First Technical University, Ibadan, remains a model of a life devoted to nation-building beyond office.

3. I congratulate you most warmly on this well-deserved recognition by our Alma Mater. It is a fitting honour for your life of exemplary service, and it is always a joy to celebrate an accomplished Ibadan compatriot on such a distinguished platform.

4. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations, and my prayers for continued good health and many more years of impact.

Joseph O. Tegbe, FCA, FCTI
Honourable Minister



MEET THE OAU STARS FOR THE 2023/2024 SESSION



FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATION

The Faculty of Administration is a leading centre for teaching, research, and professional development in leadership, governance, and organizational management. It comprises five departments: Accounting, Business Administration, International Relations, Local Government & Development Studies, and Public Administration. The faculty offers B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. programmes, as well as professional postgraduate degrees, including the MBA, MPA, MIR, and MLDS, as well as postgraduate and university diploma programmes. Through a curriculum that integrates theory with practice, the faculty develops expertise in corporate management, financial accountability, public policy, diplomacy, and local governance, preparing competent professionals and transformative leaders to address contemporary challenges and drive sustainable development in Africa and beyond.

MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING



MAKANJUOLA Victoria
Oluwadarasimi
100 level

Victoria is an Accounting student excited about the level of analytical thinking, financial discipline, and problem-solving skills that the course provides. She plans to become a chartered accountant, build expertise in finance and auditing, and contribute meaningfully to organizational growth and economic development.



AJAGBE Joseph
Ololade
200 level

For Joseph, Accounting is more than balancing numbers. Drawn to critical thinking, detailed analysis, and problem-solving the discipline demands, he is building expertise in understanding how financial records tell the story of a business and help solve real cash flow challenges. He looks forward to building a career where he can help businesses make better financial decisions.



EYIARO Enoch
Oluwatobiloba
200 Level

Enoch is an ICAN prize winner and Head of Research at Bureau of Finance (BOF) OAU. Accounting's role inspires him in business and economic growth. His big-picture goal is to leverage finance, research, and policy to drive sustainable societal impact.



Mustapha Ibrahim
Abiodun
300 level

Mustapha is an Accounting student passionate about accounting, taxation, and finance with a vision to establish a firm that provides strategic guidance to organizations and drives sustainable business growth.



BABALOLA Olutoyin
Ayodamope
Masters

Olutoyin chose to pursue an M.Sc. in Accounting to deepen her knowledge, enhance her professional skills, and improve her career opportunities. She is deeply invested in accounting and financial management.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



OYELAMI Mercy
Busayo
200 level

Mercy has loved learning about governance, community development, and how policies improve people's lives. She plans to build a successful career in development and leadership, contribute to society, and help create positive change in local communities.



AKINSANYA Ayomide
Mary
300 level

Ayomide is a 300-level student in the Department of Local Government and Development Studies. What she appreciates most about the discipline is the insight it offers into how governance works at the grassroots and how decisions made at that level shape everyday life. She looks forward to applying that understanding across different levels of public administration.

Boluwatife Rachael
Aina
400 level

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Joseph Terlumun
APAV
PHD

Joseph is a PhD student in Policy and Governance Studies with interests in governance, public policy, and development. His research explores the leadership and policy challenges shaping Nigeria and Africa, with a focus on developing practical solutions to some of the region's most pressing societal issues.



Emmanuel Damilola
OWOLABI
Masters

Emmanuel is a Governance and Policy Studies scholar known for academic excellence, leadership, and support for research within the department. His commitment to scholarship, mentorship, and intellectual growth is evident in his active academic engagement, research contributions, and outstanding performance throughout his MSc program.



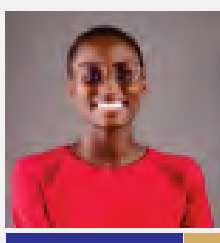
Abass Olanrewaju
OBAWOLE
Masters

Abass is looking to invest himself in public service, governance, and effective leadership. The programme provided a strong foundation for my career goals. I plan to pursue a Master's degree (MSc) in Public Administration and contribute meaningfully to national development.



Teniola Ebunoluwa
Jinuadu
300 level

Teniola's journey in Public Administration has given her a deeper understanding of leadership, governance, and the role institutions play in shaping society. She is building towards a career in Human Resources and organisational strategy while remaining committed to youth development and initiatives that strengthen communities.



Chioma Adenike
Adekoya
300 level

Chioma is passionate about creating solutions to societal challenges through leadership, policy, and community impact initiatives, while equipping young people with opportunities for professional growth and career success.



Kehinde Omowumi
Ajayi
PHD

Kehinde is interested in what makes public institutions effective and how good governance improves everyday life. Public Administration has given her the tools to think more critically about policy and service delivery. She is building towards a career in public service, with a focus on transparency, effective governance, and community development.



**Oluwafisayo Fiyinfoluwa
ABASS
200 level**

Oluwafisayo is a student leader who believes young people should have a stronger voice in leadership and decision-making. Her interests lie in governance, public policy, and financial accountability, particularly in how effective systems can strengthen institutions and improve people's lives. She hopes to contribute to building organisations and policies that encourage greater participation and lasting development.



**Phoebe Oluwadamilola
ADEOYE
200 level**

Phoebe's experience as a student leader has strengthened her interest in Public Administration, particularly in governance, transparency, and public-sector auditing. She wants to contribute to stronger accountability in public institutions while continuing her advocacy for the education and empowerment of the girl child.

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

The Faculty of Agriculture is a centre of excellence in agricultural education, research, and innovation. It comprises six departments: Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Extension & Rural Development, Animal Sciences, Crop Production & Protection, Soil Science & Land Resources Management, and Family, Nutrition & Consumer Sciences. The faculty offers B.Agric., B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. programmes, alongside postgraduate diplomas and professional training programmes. Through cutting-edge teaching, research, and innovation, the faculty advances sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security, agribusiness, environmental management, and rural development, preparing skilled professionals and generating evidence-based solutions that support national development and strengthen Africa's competitiveness in the global agricultural sector.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



**Oladipupo Esther
Ajibola**
100 level

Esther is a writer and art enthusiast studying Agricultural Economics. She enjoys the course because it combines agriculture, economics, policy, and business within the food system. Inspired by Dr Akinwumi Adesina, Esther hopes to work in banking while building a successful agribusiness in food production.



**Olorunniwo Abigeal
Iyanuoluwa**
200 Level

With a sharp mind for economic analysis and a deep passion for agriculture, Abigeal is deliberately building expertise to drive meaningful change in Nigeria's food systems and rural development landscape. Agricultural Economics is positioning her to make a world of difference, and she is just getting started.



**DADA Elizabeth
Oluwatomisola**
300 level

Elizabeth believes Agriculture is about survival for mankind. She is confident that with Agriculture, the main problems of Man (Food, Clothing, Shelter) can be solved. This informs her drive to dive into Agribusiness in the future.



**Ayotaiwo Titofunmi
Grace**
400 level

Tito is a book and animal lover. To her, Agricultural Economics integrates different disciplines and broadens her perspective on real-world issues. She looks forward to investing some more time studying this course. The big picture is to contribute to future research, policy-making, food security, and sustainable agricultural development.



**OMISAKIN Oyinkansola
Roseline**
500 level

Oyinkansola has invested the past few years in developing Agricultural Economics skills to address the complexities of food insecurity and boost rural incomes through smart policy and agribusiness. She loves analyzing how markets and farming connect. Her big plan is to work in agricultural development, helping farmers access better markets and build sustainable, profitable systems both locally and internationally.

ANIMAL SCIENCE



**OLORUNNISOLA Teslim
Gbolahan
100 Level**

Animal Science was a natural choice for Teslim because it combines his interest in agriculture with the practical work of raising and improving livestock. He is building the knowledge and skills to contribute to a more productive and sustainable livestock sector.



**OLA Maryam
Bolanle
200 Level**

Maryam believes her course is giving her the knowledge and practical skills to prepare for the future she wants. She is focused on doing well academically and building a career where she can put what she has learned to good use.



**UMORU Josephine
Ayomide
300 Level**

Josephine is optimistic she can meaningfully contribute to making something truly remarkable happen with animal health research and implementing sustainable animal health practices here in Nigeria.



**ADEBAYO Victor
Adeola
400 Level**

Victor's interest in Animal Science is rooted in livestock breeding and its role in improving food production. He wants to contribute to food security by supporting healthier animal production and better nutrition for communities



**AKINWANDE Emmanuella
Ikeoluwa
500 Level**

Emmanuella is confident she can leverage data-driven life sciences to solve complex biological challenges. Inspired by agricultural food safety, her fascination with genomics drives her goal to transition into bioinformatics, where she plans to advance infectious disease research and translate complex science into simple and accessible public knowledge.



**Oladipupo Kehinde
Deborah
Masters**

Growth, learning, research, and discovering new ideas sum up some of the most fulfilling academic experiences for Kehinde. Studying Animal Science has broadened her understanding of agriculture's role in food security. Her goal is to contribute through research and innovation, helping to develop sustainable food systems and practical solutions to global food challenges.

CROP PRODUCTION AND PROTECTION



FAWALE Joseph
Adedapo
100 Level

Growing up, Joseph developed a passion for agriculture, especially plant growth and development. This inspired him to study Crop Production and Protection. He genuinely enjoys learning about food production and crop management. His goal is to engage in large-scale farming, food processing, storage, and the development of improved crop varieties.



BALOGUN Kaosara
Olaitan
200 Level

Kaosara is a student of Crop Production and Protection, passionate about improving food security through modern farming techniques. Her love for this field bloomed when she discovered how critical it is for farmers to increase crop yield and protect plants from diseases and pests. She plans to become an agricultural expert who contributes to sustainable agricultural development.



ADEMILUYI Boluwaji
Olamide
300 level

Boluwaji's passion for Agriculture is fuelled by the belief that it is the next phase in the world economy. His goal is to excel in crop production and protection, leveraging his skills to make a meaningful impact and drive positive change to the point of revolutionizing people's ideas about Agriculture as a whole



AGBOLA Tolani
Oluwaferanmi
400 Level

Tolani chose Crop Production and Protection to specialize as a plant breeder. Her future goal is to breed superior, highly nutritious crops that address real-world farming challenges and improve global food security.



DOSUNMU Adewunmi
Mutiat
500 Level

For Adewunmi, Crop Production and Protection has helped her understand both the science and practical side of crop production. As the future draws closer, she is committed to contributing to modern, sustainable agriculture through research, innovation, and technology-driven solutions across Africa.



FAMUTIMI Oluwatobi
Olubukola
Masters

Oluwatobi loves that her course addresses food security and sustainable agriculture. She plans to become an agroclimatology researcher contributing innovative solutions to climate-smart agriculture and environmental sustainability.



AKANFE Nasirat
Mojirola
PhD

Nasirat is a PhD researcher in Seed Science and Technology. She is confident optimising Agriculture as a tool for building resilience and prosperity could stabilize Nigeria's economy. Her research interests focus on advancing climate-smart agriculture through innovative, sustainable crop improvement strategies to enhance food security and agricultural sustainability.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



**Ihinmikaye, Marvellous
Toluwalase**
300 level

Marvellous has enjoyed learning about how agriculture can improve lives, support food security, and combine practical knowledge with real-world impact. She hopes to build a successful career contributing to agricultural development and creating opportunities that positively affect people and communities.



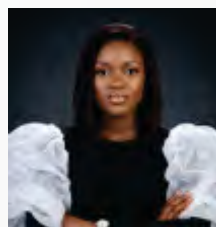
**Fawibe, Jadesola
Abosede**
400 level

Jadesola believes agriculture changes lives, and specifically, that Agricultural Extension is the bridge that makes that change possible. Studying this course has deepened her passion for people-centered development and sustainable food systems. She aspires to lead initiatives that empower farmers, strengthen food security, and drive sustainable agricultural transformation across communities.



**Asiyanbola Aaron
Omosile**
500 level

Aaron is a First-class Agricultural Extension graduate from OAU, specializing in agribusiness operations, supply chain logistics, and data analytics. Leveraging advanced skills in Power BI, SQL, Python, and systematic research, Aaron currently drives data-backed decisions in the agricultural value chain. He is dedicated to optimizing farm management, food security, and data-driven operational efficiency.



**Ajibola, Joy
Ayooluwa**
Masters

Joy is a certified SDG advocate studying Agriculture because of its essential role in every human life. This allows her to impact many lives. She has her eyes on global relevance, which sustains her drive to continue gaining the necessary skills and knowledge.



**Ajibade, Iyanuoluwa
Esther**
PhD

Driven by a passion for using communication as a tool for development, Iyanuoluwa is currently exploring how knowledge, innovation, and media can transform rural communities. Her research interests span agricultural communication, rural development, and indigenous knowledge systems, with a focus on creating practical solutions to real-world development challenges.

FAMILY, NUTRITION AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



Sanu Esther
Oluwafunmilayo
100 Level

Baking came first for Funmilayo Esther. Studying Nutrition has added the science behind the craft, helping her better understand food, health, and product development as she grows both as a nutrition professional and an entrepreneur. Now, she confidently looks forward to adding this expertise to the food industry.



Adetunji Mary
Ifeoluwa
200 Level

For Mary, studying Human Development and Family Relations has been an opportunity to better understand people, families, and the relationships that shape healthy lives. She wants to put that knowledge to work in ways that support individuals, families, and communities.



Adedayo Adetola
Oluwafemi
300 Level

Adetola Adedayo is a Child Development student in the Department of Family, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences. Her academic journey has that child development goes far beyond physical growth, sparking a deeper interest in how children learn, think, and thrive. She plans to pursue further training in neuroscience and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) as she works towards becoming a certified developmental therapist.



Oluwayoose Abigael
Oluwaseun
400 Level

Abigael is specialising in Child Development and Family Relations in the Department of Family, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences. Her personal journey has inspired a vision beyond the classroom: establishing an NGO to support vulnerable children and families. Having experienced the life-changing impact of sponsorship and educational support as an orphan herself, she hopes to extend the same opportunities to others.

SOIL SCIENCE AND LAND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Olaniyi Emmanuel
Olugbenga
500 Level

Emmanuel Olaniyi is a final-year student of Soil Science and Land Resources Management at Obafemi Awolowo University. His academic focus is Soil Fertility, and he is passionate about improving soil health, increasing crop productivity, and promoting sustainable land management practices.



Adekola Ayomide
Precious
300 Level

Adekola Ayomide Precious is passionate about advancing food nutrition and sustainability through the production of safe, nutritious whole foods. Driven by a vision to improve lives through research and innovation, she remains committed to academic excellence and meaningful impact.

FACULTY OF ARTS

The Faculty of Arts is a distinguished centre for teaching, research, and innovation in the humanities, languages, culture, and the creative arts. The faculty comprises eight departments offering B.A., M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. programmes. Through excellence in scholarship, cultural preservation, and community engagement, it equips students with critical thinking, communication, and creative skills, producing graduates who excel in academia, diplomacy, education, media, public service, and the creative industries while contributing to national development and global scholarship.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH)



**Efeaduona Bright
Oghale
Masters**

Bright is a passionate language educator and lifelong learner with a strong interest in foreign languages, as they connect people, cultures, and ideas across borders. The global relevance of this course keeps him motivated to excel at it. His big plan is to advance in language teaching, translation, and intercultural communication.



**Oloyi Oluwapamilerin
Tioluwani
300 Level**

French was never part of Oluwapamilerin's plan, but somehow it became part of her story. What started as a course of study has grown into a passion for languages and the opportunities they create. Now, she hopes to encourage more people to embrace multilingualism and build a career on the global stage, whether in diplomacy, aviation, or another field where she can represent and inspire.



**Orimoloye
Oluwanifemi
100 Level**

For Oluwanifemi, languages and their role in shaping culture and ideas fuel a deep passion in him. Studying French allows him to engage with global perspectives, particularly in regions where the language is widely spoken. It is his way of exploring the world. Oluwanifemi's big plan is to contribute professionally within a French technology company.



**Oluwatimileyin Adefunke
Adedoyin
200 Level**

Oluwatimileyin has had to learn to love the French language, and so far, it's been worth it. She is excitedly looking forward to becoming a French translator.



**Atere Ebunoluwa
Josephine
400 Level**

Ebunoluwa is a recent graduate of the Department of Foreign Languages, OAU. She sees French as a language that offers room for expression (as a foreign language) and helps her connect with French culture and history as a Nigerian student. Ebunoluwa loves just how versatile French is. Her goal is to build a career around cross-cultural communication, using her skills to connect with people.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES (GERMAN)



**Olagunju Mercy
Egunoluwa
200 Level**

Studying German fuels Mercy's passion for cross-cultural communication and linguistic structures. As an author and award-winning poet, she loves how language connects worlds. Her plans include leveraging these skills globally, combining international diplomacy with the tech space through Natural Language Processing to innovate communication and represent her heritage on global stages.



**Jokotoye Peace
Anjola
200 Level**

Peace has always been inspired by the German language and how it connects cultures and creates global opportunities. She truly enjoys learning the language, exploring German-speaking communities, and discovering new perspectives on communication and life. Through her studies, she has developed valuable skills and hopes to pursue a career in translation, media, or international communication.



**Ezekiel Dorcas
Oluwayanmi
300 Level**

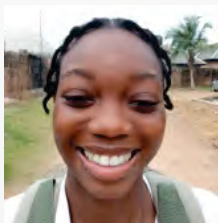
For Dorcas, language is a bridge to opportunity. Driven by a passion for education, she teaches, researches, and develops ideas that make language learning more accessible and engaging. She hopes to contribute to educational innovation and create pathways for learners who might otherwise be left behind.



**Oguntuase
Oyindamola
400 Level**

Oyindamola believes multilingualism opens doors to the world, and for her, German is one of those doors. She is building towards a career in academia, where she hopes to teach the language while encouraging more people to embrace the opportunities that come with speaking more than one language.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES (PORTUGUESE)



**Babatunde Tomiwa
Folasayo
300 level**

With Portuguese, Tomiwa has found an edge as it remains one of the less commonly studied languages in Nigeria, opening doors to cultures and connections many people have yet to explore. She looks forward to helping more people discover its value while building a career as an international interpreter, translator, and ambassador, using Portuguese and other languages to connect people across borders.



**Olowu Adewale
Daniel
200 level**

Adewale is an ambitious student of Portuguese Language in the Department of Foreign Languages. His dream was to study law, but he discovered along the way a deep passion for languages and cultural diversity. Adewale loves the endless opportunities language creates and the ability to connect with people globally. He is working hard towards building a successful future internationally.



**Oluwatuyi Mary
Ayomide
400 level**

Mary describes herself as a language lover, and Portuguese is a language she grew to love over time. It wasn't easy at first, but the journey of learning it changed the way she sees the world and deepened her appreciation for languages. She is working towards a career in media and academia, with plans to keep exploring new languages along the way.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH/PORTUGUESE)



**Emmanuel Precious
Chidiebere**
200 level

Precious is a polyglot who enjoys learning languages and exploring different cultures. She loves how languages help people connect and understand one another better her communication skills and confidence. Her plans include working in the military, international relations, or any field where she can use languages to make an impact.



**Ughakpoteni Aghogho
Augustina**
400 level

Aghogho studied Brazilian, Portuguese, and French because languages have always felt like keys to new worlds and friendships for her. She loves how they connect people and cultures and broaden the mind. Now, she plans to make language learning accessible for anyone who has ever dreamed of speaking or working with another language.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH/GERMAN)



**Oderinde Rodiat
Oluwadamilola**
400 level

Rodiat studied French and German at Obafemi Awolowo University. She has a passion for languages, communication, and global engagement. She particularly loves how languages connect people, cultures, and opportunities. Her big plan is to build a career in international relations, education, and cross-cultural communication.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES (GERMAN/FRENCH)



**Osunmakinde Oluwafemi
Ayomide**
400 Level

Oluwafemi is a dedicated and ambitious student passionate about this course because it allows him to develop valuable knowledge and practical skills that can positively impact society. He enjoys learning, personal growth, and teamwork. His big plan is to build a successful international career, continue his education, and contribute meaningfully to his community.



**Adegoke Adenike
Ifeolu**
400 Level

Adenike decided to study German/French because of the importance of languages in our globalized world today, as a means of communication and for keeping us connected across the globe. Her future goal is to build a successful career in language education and international development and engage actively in her community.

LINGUISTICS AND AFRICAN LANGUAGES (B.A.YORUBA)



Adeleke Oyinkansola
Oyindamola
100 level

Oyinkansola is currently a Part Two student of Linguistics and African Languages (Yorùbá major). She has found the way the course is structured quite interesting because it deals with the Yorùbá culture and history. Oyinkansola plans to pursue her Master's and PhD and become a lecturer in this field.



Oseni Taiwo Taibat
200 level

As the saying goes "Omọ tó bá gbàgbé ilé, ó sọ àpò iyá rẹ kó." Studying Yoruba has reconnected Taiwo with her roots and strengthened her language skills. Her goal is to inspire younger generations to embrace Yoruba as a means of preserving culture, identity, and effective communication.



Alimi Temitope Itunu
300 level

Temitope is a dedicated Yoruba student with a deep passion for the Yoruba language and cultural heritage. She is committed to preserving and promoting the richness of Yoruba traditions, language, and values as Yoruba says "Nàní nàní nàní, ohun a ní là á nàní, omọ aṣégítá níí nàní èpo ìgì".



Akanji Tobì Christianna
400 level

Tenì n'tenì, t'àkísà nít'àtàn. Tobì sees the Yoruba Language as a language enriched with in-depth wisdom and insight that seems to have been forgotten. She desires to see the Yorùbá Language, culture, and insight known and preserved. Àṣà Yorùbá, àṣà wa ni!

ENGLISH



Zacheous Abidemi Olalere
Masters

For Zacheous, Language has gone beyond a subject of study; it has become a tool for research, teaching, and shaping ideas across disciplines. As a postgraduate student of English Language, he is building towards a career in scholarship and university teaching.



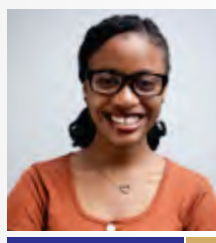
Akinola Glory Gbemisola
300 Level

Stories have changed the way Glory sees people, cultures, and the world around her. As a final-year Literature student, she has picked up transferable skills and sharpened her critical thinking and communication. Now, she is confidently looking forward to building a career where she can apply that perspective creatively through communication, storytelling, and other opportunities the field offers.



Ifedayo Moyosore Olowu
Masters

Ifedayo's interest in African Literature comes from its ability to question culture, challenge perspectives, and tell stories that matter. She is building towards a career in research and teaching, with plans to advance scholarship in African Literature.



AWORENI Oluwabusayomi Hannah
100 Level

Oluwabusayomi Hannah believes that excellence is a habit before it becomes an achievement. A student, writer, and lifelong learner, she is drawn to thoughtful conversations, meaningful service, and purposeful creativity. She hopes her work will always leave people thinking more deeply, living more intentionally, and loving God more faithfully.



Adetokunbo Idayat Faith
100 Level

Adetokunbo Idayat Faith is a 200L student of the Department of English. She is obsessed with excellence in all what she does, and this has earned her a proven record of excellence in her academics. Aside from her academic devotion, she is a graphic designer, a voice-over artist, and a public speaker who is passionate about language, communication and technology.



Edun Oritsejolomisan Anthonia
200 ILevel

Oritsejolomisan developed an interest in English language and communication from an early awareness of how language shapes expression and opportunity. She is interested in writing and editing, and enjoys exploring creative writing and critical thinking. She also has budding interests in sociolinguistics and journalism



AZEEZ Azeezat Adeola
100 Level

Azeezat is mostly driven by her curiosity. Literature serves as the perfect outlet for her to explore creatively while learning and having as much fun as she can. Her plan is to continue on this academic path and keep exploring the different opportunities that this field of study has to offer.



NASIRU Amidat Opeyemi
200 Level

Nasiru Amidat Opeyemi is a student of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, department of English, currently studying Literature in English. She is fascinated by how language reflects power and how it influences the society. Amidat hopes to become a broadcast journalist and an editor. When not reading, she enjoys watching sports and entertainment stories.



Abiola Oyindamola Ibukunoluwa
300L

The study of English Language is unarguably the only academic thing I have ever been interested in. I have come to realize that beyond just speaking the language, there are so many other interesting aspects to it. And now, it's become a part of me to analyze everything. From here, I'll go into at least two of these three fields: media, academics, and/or communications.

LINGUISTICS AND AFRICAN LANGUAGES (B.A.LINGUISTICS)



Olanihun Abosede Grace
400 level

Abosede is captivated by the power of language to carry histories, shape identities, and connect communities across generations. Studying Linguistics has deepened this fascination and inspired her interest in language documentation and technology. She hopes to contribute to preserving Africa's linguistic heritage while expanding its place in an increasingly digital world.



Aderibigbe Ikmot Olaitan
300 level

Language, to Ikmot, is more than a system of words; it is the architecture of thought and society, a bridge connecting people. Her passion for language fuels this love for Linguistics, strengthened through experience. Ikmot aspires to explore how Linguistics and technology interact in solving societal challenges and become a lecturer shaping the field.



**Ojo Hannah
Oluwafunmilayo
100 level**

Studying Linguistics and African Languages fuels Hannah's love for cultural preservation and communication. She enjoys analyzing how our native languages shape identity and society. Moving forward, she plans to leverage this knowledge in media, cultural research, or language technology, ensuring African voices remain prominent globally.



**Abiola Akorede
Alex
200 level**

Akorede is a Linguistics student driven by a passion for language, culture, and communication. Studying Linguistics has positioned him to understand how people connect and express identity across societies. Akorede hopes to build a career in research, language documentation, and public communication while preserving endangered languages and inspiring others through education and innovation.

MUSIC



**Fowosire Babatunde
Adewunmi
400 level**

Fowosire is a 400-level student in Music Performance, Composition, and Music Production who specializes in Afro-fusion, blending live performance, composition, and production to create music rooted in African tradition and tailored for contemporary audiences. He is committed to excellence in musicianship and to taking African sound to a wider stage.



**Ifeanyi Prosper
Emmanuel
300 level**

Emmanuel is a 300-level Music student with a strong passion for sound, creativity, and performance. He chose music because it gives him a platform to express ideas, connect with people, and make a meaningful impact. Beyond academics, he is deeply interested in media and entertainment, and hopes to build a successful career in music and creative production.



**Stephen Moyinoluwa
Odedele
200 level**

Stephen is a 200-level student who already specializes in contemporary music performance, both in instrumental and vocal artistry, blending live performance, lyrical dexterity, and production to create music aimed at reshaping and upholding Africa's cultural values. His ongoing training here has stretched him, but in many good ways.

PHILOSOPHY



**ALABI Abeebe
Damilare
400 level**

Abeebe is a Philosophy student passionate about exploring ideas, human reasoning, ethics, and the principles that shape society. He has seen this course strengthen his critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Now, he aims to apply philosophical insights to technology, business, and innovation, creating meaningful solutions and driving positive change.



**OJO Favour
Mosunmola
300 level**

Favour truly appreciates how Philosophy demands critical thinking and analysis of ideas to understand human nature and society at large. She finds that Philosophy challenges her to ask meaningful questions and seek rational answers when she should. With this, she plans to apply her analytical thinking and problem-solving skills as she builds a successful career.



OLUWOLE Heritage
Jesudasimi
100 level

Studying Philosophy has exposed Heritage to worlds that she never thought existed. Applying theories and ideas learned in ethics, epistemology, and other philosophical stems, Heritage feels confident she can navigate a path in the oil and gas corporate world, identifying problems, proffering the right solutions, and making a transformative impact in the world.



ADEJUWON Oyeyemi
Racheal
200 level

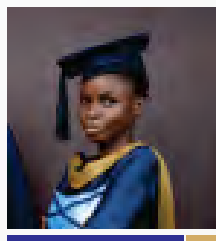
Oyeyemi is a Philosophy student passionate about exploring human intelligence, ethics, and the complexities of decision-making. She enjoys studying Philosophy because it deepens her understanding of human thought and moral responsibility. Her future goal is to contribute to ethical innovation, particularly in areas where technology, artificial intelligence, and society intersect.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Joseph Temitayo
Ogungbe
300 level

Joseph is a 400-level student of the Department of Religious Studies. He chose the course to seek answers to lifelong questions and to distinguish the truth from false teachings on human beliefs related to the sanctity of life. He aims to use his scholarship exposure to not only seek answers, but also find expression through psychology and music.



Precious Oloruntoyin
Ogunniran
400 level

Precious Ogunniran is a goal-oriented student of Religious Studies with a keen academic interest in the intersection of faith, human psychology, and societal relationships. Motivated by the discipline's intellectual depth, she aspires to contribute to scholarly discourse and apply research findings toward transformational social impact.



Precious Esther
Oladokun
100 level

Precious Oladokun has always been interested in research, learning more about concepts, and understanding beyond what people say or think about an idea. This prompted her desire to study Religion. She has found the course more than just a concept; religion is life. With this background, she intends to delve into governance in the future.



Stephen Abimbola
Ogunwuyi
100 level

Stephen has always been ambitious and loved the intrigue of intellectual challenges. He initially opted for Law but has "miraculously and mysteriously" fallen in love with Religious Studies, as it has had a profound positive impact on him. No matter what, Stephen wants to be remembered as someone who did well.



Bamidele Oyinkansola
Sholeye
200 level

Oyinkansola feels privileged to be taking this course because it gets students thinking outside the box. Life after school is shaped by whatever strikes a chord with her as she explores her current interests.

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

The Faculty of Dentistry is one of Nigeria's leading centres for dental education, clinical training, and oral health research. Through excellence in teaching, research, and community service, the faculty prepares highly skilled dental professionals to meet national and global oral healthcare needs. Supported by modern clinical facilities and a teaching hospital, students receive comprehensive training that integrates scientific knowledge with hands-on clinical experience. Committed to innovation, professionalism, and patient-centred care, the faculty produces competent dental surgeons, specialists, researchers, and educators who advance oral health and contribute to improved healthcare outcomes locally and globally.

DENTISTRY



**Adeleke Oluwasegun
Emmanuel.**
300 level

Oluwasegun finds Dentistry quite interesting as it blends clinical care with aesthetics for patients. His plan is to establish dental clinics that provide treatment at minimal costs and significantly improve dental healthcare across Nigeria.



**BAMIGBADE Faisol
Adeniyi**
200 Level



**ADENIRAN Aderinola
Boluwatife**
400 level

Aderinola is a dental student with strong surgical focus and clinical rigor. He finds this course fulfilling as it merges biomedical science, anatomical precision, and measurable patient impact. His big plan is to specialize in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, leading trauma reconstruction and orthognathic cases to restore function and deliver evidence-based surgical excellence.

FACULTY OF NURSING SCIENCES

Established in 2023 following its transition from the former Department of Nursing Science, the Faculty of Nursing Sciences is dedicated to excellence in nursing education, research, and clinical practice. The faculty offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that equip students with advanced knowledge, clinical competence, leadership skills, and a strong foundation in evidence-based nursing. Through rigorous academic training, hands-on clinical experience, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the faculty prepares compassionate, ethical, and highly skilled nursing professionals to meet evolving healthcare needs and improve patient care locally and globally.

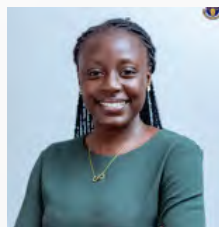
NURSING SCIENCE



**Oreoluwa Esther
Ayanrinde
200 Level**

Oreoluwa sees Nursing as not just a course but as a calling. In the course, she has grown in compassion and selflessness and picked up strong communication skills needed.

As an aspiring nurse, Oreoluwa is committed to promoting global health and wellbeing, convinced that this is how she can contribute to building a healthy nation.



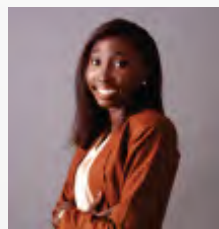
**TOFADE Ayobami
Christianah
300 Level**

Ayobami is keenly interested in occupational health nursing. She sees nursing as a stepping stone toward this lifelong goal, equipping her with the knowledge and skills needed to provide quality healthcare services and make a meaningful difference in her community.



**Yusuff Ayomide
Zainab
400 Level**

For Ayomide Yusuff, nursing is seeing people beyond their illness and supporting them through vulnerable moments. She loves how nursing allows her to advocate for clients and provide compassionate care that preserves dignity and autonomy. Her goal is to become a public health nurse using data-driven approaches to improve health outcomes.



**Adeyehun Yewande
Tomiwa
500 Level**

An early-career nurse, Yewande is passionate about serving God and humanity. She describes Nursing as caring and has come to love how truly noble the profession is. Yewande aspires to reach the highest possible height in this profession whilst making a remarkable impact.



**Abdulwaheed Rokibat
Ayomide
200 Level**

Abdulwaheed Rokibat Ayomide is a Part 3 Nursing student with a deep passion for nursing, inspired by the opportunity to save lives, provide compassionate care, and restore patients' independence. Nursing has shaped her empathy, strengthened her commitment to service, and deepened her appreciation for health and humanity.

FACULTY OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences provides the scientific foundation for medical and health sciences education through excellence in teaching, research, and innovation. Offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, the Faculty equips students with a strong grounding in the biomedical sciences, integrating rigorous academic instruction with research and practical laboratory training. It prepares graduates to advance scientific discovery, support quality healthcare, and contribute to biomedical research and innovation locally and globally.

HUMAN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



Ojo Boluwatife
Florence
200 Level

Boluwatife Ojo is driven by a passion to help people live healthier lives through informed food choices. She chose this field because she believes nutrition is a powerful tool for preventing disease and improving well-being. With this, she hopes to contribute to public health through nutrition education, research, and impactful community interventions.



Akinhanmi Similoluwa
Mojisola
100 Level

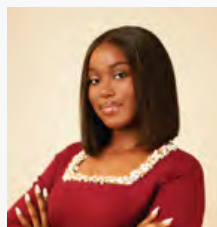
To Similoluwa, Human Nutrition and Dietetics is the beginning of good health under general circumstances. She views the course as about more than just food, but more about how what is eaten affects the quality of life. Her target is to build a career helping her patients eat right.

MEDICAL REHABILITATION



Tijani Fathia
400 Level

Fathia is a final-year Physiotherapy student in the Department of Medical Rehabilitation with an interest in orthopaedics and paediatric physiotherapy. Beyond healthcare, she has a creative side and hopes to build a future that combines her profession with a career in fashion design.



Samuel Faith
Elizabeth
500 Level

Faith is a graduate of the Department of Medical Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy Programme, for the 2024/2025 academic session. She graduated with Distinction and emerged the Best Graduating Student in the department. Beyond her academic achievements, she was actively involved in leadership and embraced every opportunity for personal and professional growth.



Ilesanmi Sharon
Eniolakiite
200 Level

Sharon is a 300L student in the Department of Medical Rehabilitation and an indigene of Osun State. She enjoys calm, well-organized environments and finds peace in music. As she continues her studies, she hopes to grow into a confident communicator and a well-rounded healthcare professional.



Olalere Qudus
Babatunde
300 Level

Olalere is a 400L Medical Rehabilitation student. Drawn to physiotherapy by a desire to help people regain movement and independence, he hopes to specialize in neurophysiotherapy. As he continues his training, Olalere is building the communication and clinical skills needed for a career in patient care and rehabilitation.



ADEWALE ISAIHAH
OYEWOLE
PhD

Oyewole Adewale Isaiha (BMR, M.Sc. PT) is a lecturer in the Department of Medical Rehabilitation, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. He earned both his Bachelor of Medical Rehabilitation (Physiotherapy) and master's degree in Orthopaedic Physiotherapy from the university and is currently pursuing a PhD in Physiotherapy. His work focuses on orthopaedic and musculoskeletal physiotherapy, sports medicine, physical activity, oncology physiotherapy, and community health physiotherapy. Through his doctoral training, he is deepening his expertise to contribute more meaningfully to physiotherapy education, research, and clinical practice in Nigeria and beyond.



Adelowokan, Omotola
Ibitayo
Masters

Omotola is a Chief Physiotherapist at UNIOSUN Teaching Hospital, Osogbo. With years of clinical experience, she is committed to advancing physiotherapy practice through continuous learning and professional development. Her commitment to getting this Master's reflects her drive to strengthen her expertise and contribute to improved patient care.

FACULTY OF CLINICAL SCIENCES

The Faculty of Clinical Sciences is a leading centre for clinical education, specialist training, and medical research in Nigeria. Through excellence in teaching, patient care, research, and community service, the faculty offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and specialist clinical training programmes that equip students and resident doctors with the knowledge, clinical competence, and ethical values required to deliver high-quality healthcare and improve health outcomes locally and globally.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY



AKINYEMI Precious
Opemiposi
200 level

The human body amazes Precious Akinyemi. How silently and beautifully every system works to keep us alive, even when we are not paying attention. That wonder drew her to medicine.

She is on this journey to become a doctor who pairs excellence with empathy, so that every patient she meets feels seen, heard, and genuinely cared for.



Akande Abdulgafar
Olayemi
500 level

Abdulgafar enjoys learning how the human body works and applying that knowledge to improve health. He likes how this course challenges him to think critically, solve problems, and continuously learn. He is building strong medical foundations with the goal of becoming a competent and compassionate physician.



OLUREMI Daniel
Ayanfeoluwa
400 level

Daniel feels privileged to be involved in the dynamically skill-heavy and intellectually rewarding field of healthcare. He is looking forward to improving the collective health-related quality of life. He is deeply interested in immunology, health administration, and emergency interventions.



Balogun Abdulmalik
Adeola
500 level

Balogun Abdulmalik is a final-year medical student. He is deeply interested in how health systems define morbidity and mortality outcomes, which drives his passion for medicine. He creates impact by conceptualizing and designing innovative health projects that have earned grants and awards for clinical impact.



Aluko-Olokun Kikilobaoluwa
Boluwatife.
300 Level

Kikilobaoluwa is a 4th-year medical student of Obafemi Awolowo University with a keen interest in Cardio-Thoracic Surgery. She is excitedly looking forward to a career in the medical profession and especially hopes to become a renowned surgeon in the years to come.

FACULTY OF COMPUTING SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The Faculty of Computing and Engineering is a centre of excellence in engineering, computing, and emerging technologies. Established following the restructuring of the Faculty of Technology, the Faculty builds on decades of academic excellence to deliver quality education, research, and innovation. It prepares highly skilled professionals with the knowledge and practical expertise to develop innovative solutions to contemporary engineering and technological challenges, contributing to sustainable development locally and globally.

COMPUTER ENGINEERING



BABATUNDE, Samuel
Sunday
100 level

Samuel is a Computer Engineering student fascinated with how hardware and intelligence work together. He finds that this course provides the tools to build systems that solve real-world problems. With this background, his goal is to become an AI Engineer, leveraging machine learning to drive technological innovation.



FALOKUN Omogbolade
Alexander
300 level

Omogbolade is a Computer Engineering student interested in software development, machine learning, and emerging technologies. He particularly enjoys how this course constantly holds out the promise that every "simple" problem has at least 20 complicated solutions. Omogbolade is working to build impactful technology and develop his AI and cloud computing skills. The big picture for him is to eventually get paid for overthinking professionally.



AKINWOLE Joshua
Simidele
400 level

Joshua has found Computer Engineering exciting as it allows creativity to be expressed with technology. His interest in robotics is inspired by the popular movie 'Transformers'. This has him working towards Robotics Hardware Engineering, combining knowledge from Computer, Mechanical, and Electrical-Electronics engineering fields to design intelligent machines, develop advanced robots, solve complex challenges, and support and improve the quality of life for all.



Abiodun Oluwatimilehin
Oluwole
200 level

Abiodun is a Computer Engineering student at OAU who is already deep into backend development, building APIs with Laravel and PostgreSQL. He is fascinated with how the field trains you to think in systems. He is currently working toward a career in backend engineering and building things that actually hold up under pressure.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CYBERSECURITY



OLADIPO Sharon
Toluwanimi
300 level

Sharon is a Computer Science and Engineering student who enjoys mathematics and problem-solving. She is confidently looking forward to solving real-world challenges. Her goal is to build impactful solutions, continue learning, and contribute to innovations that improve lives and create opportunities.



OKAFOR Precious
Robinson
400 level

Precious Okafor is a Computer Science with Economics finalist, a backend/AI engineer, and a digital literacy advocate who is keen on optimising business with technology. She is passionate about creating solutions for the African market and empowering the people building them.



**ADOKIYE Okoro
Sylvester
200 level**

Okoro is a Computer Science and Mathematics student deeply interested in getting the most out of both fields. Working towards a career in Machine Learning and Quantitative Finance. Passionate about building models that bridge the gap between data, mathematics, and code in the financial markets



**Bashir Habiblah
Adekunle
100 level**

Bashir is a passionate cybersecurity student with a strong interest in applying what he is learning to real-world security challenges. As an ethical hacker and security researcher, his goal is to leverage this academic foundation to pioneer impactful security research, master complex threat detection, and build a safer digital world for everyone.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



**Oboreziri-Okpare Eugene
Oghenekaro
100 level**

Eugene is an ambitious Information Communication Engineering undergraduate channeling deep systems thinking into Full-stack and Devops Engineering. He is meticulous about architecture, deliberate with every tool choice, and keen to bridge ICE fundamentals with modern systems engineering at the highest level.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

The Faculty of Education is a leading centre for teacher education, educational research, and professional development in Nigeria. The faculty offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional programmes across its departments, complemented by the Institute of Education, which advances teacher training, curriculum development, educational research, and continuing professional education. Through excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement, the faculty prepares competent educators, administrators, counsellors, and researchers to address contemporary educational challenges and contribute to educational development locally and globally.

ADULT EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING



ADEOTI Ramat
Temitope
100 Level

Proudly the 200L class representative of Adult Education, Ramat is both resilient and humble. She is convinced this course can truly help improve our country's growth, eradicating poverty and illiteracy.

With this background, Ramat looks forward to building a career actively educating less privileged adults and, by doing so, giving them a chance to improve the quality of their lives.



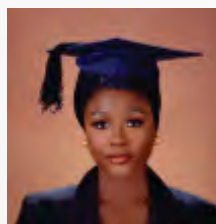
ODETOLA Deborah
Motunrayo
200 Level

A 200L student of the Department of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning, Deborah is confident she is gaining the skills to empower others through education. With this background, she plans to promote continuous learning and personal development and contribute meaningfully to educational advancement.



OLAJIDE Boluwatife
Solomon
300 Level

A 300L student of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning, Boluwatife, is excited that he is gaining the capacity to transform lives beyond the classroom. He is committed to leveraging adult education to address real-world challenges, promote social inclusion, advance welfare initiatives, and empower individuals to become active contributors to sustainable community development.



AJAO Uswat
Olaide
400 Level

Uswat finds Adult Education quite interesting as it centres on growth, empowerment, and real-life impact. She is particularly interested in Women Education. Uswat is passionate about research contributions and policies that make education more inclusive and accessible. Her big plan is to build a career that makes meaningful changes in people's lives.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (MATHEMATICS EDUCATION)



Victor Akinwale
400 Level

Victor Akinwale is a Mathematics Educator and Personal Development Coach dedicated to helping students and young people unlock their full potential through education, leadership, and self-development. He is passionate about mentoring, capacity building, and inspiring individuals to pursue excellence in their academic, personal, and professional lives. Through his work, he continues to empower others to grow with purpose, confidence, and impact.

EDUCATION MANAGEMENT



**OLAMODI Tolulope
Favour
100 Level**

Tolulope is a 100L Educational Management student passionate about understanding children and supporting their diverse needs. She enjoys learning how to create effective learning environments. Her big plan is to own a school where every child is nurtured, empowered, and allowed to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.



**AGUNBIADE Francis
Israel
200 Level**

Francis is a 200L Educational Management Accounting student passionate about how education is managed and financed. He feels fulfilled to be gaining an understanding of budgeting and accountability in education systems. Through leadership and volunteering, Francis is building a finance-focused path to bridge education and finance, improve policy, and empower sustainable development in Nigeria.



**Akinwande Olayinka
Victoria
300 Level**

Olayinka is a 300L Christian student of Educational Management. Christian. Lover of Christ. A go-getter and an achiever. She chose this course because she has always been fantastic at anything Management-related.



**ALE Dorcas
Oluwabusayo
400 level**

Dorcas is passionate about impact through education. Educational Management excites her because it blends leadership, policy, and people skills to create better learning environments. She enjoys organizing resources to improve school effectiveness. Her plan: become an education consultant and establish a model school that drives innovation.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION



**Omotomiwa Omotayo
BABATOLA
100 Level**

Omotomiwa is a 100L student of Language and Communication Arts Education. Being an impactful educator has always been her goal. She is confident she is on the track with this course.



**Rachael Abodunrinde
OGUNLEYE
200 Level**

Rachael is a 200-level Education and Social Studies student. She sees herself as an educator shaping mindsets, awakening leadership skills, and raising responsible global citizens for a better future.



**Favour Emmanuel
JOHNSON
300 Level**

Favour is a 300L Education student preparing himself for a successful future shaping minds and making the most of opportunities in the field.



**Zulaykho Taye
SULAIMAN
400 Level**

Zulaykho is a 400L Education student actively building the skills to apply mathematical concepts to real-world challenges in data analysis, research, and education.



**Ifeoluwa Oluwatobi
AYODEJI
Masters**

Ifeoluwa is currently a Masters student in the Institute of Education. She is passionate about Education and Social Studies as it addresses social issues and drives transformation. Ifeoluwa's big plans include getting a doctorate, contributing to the work of UNICEF as a researcher and consultant promoting equitable access to education globally.



**Damilola Priscilla
ADEDOYIN
PhD**

Damilola is a PhD student in Early Childhood Development keenly interested in holistic child development across cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains. She is driven by its role in shaping early learning outcomes. Her commitment is to advance evidence-based research that improves early childhood education practice in Nigeria.

ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



**AGU Chiamaka
Rose
300 Level**

Chiamaka is currently studying Education and Economics, a course she intentionally picked because of her passion for teaching. The big picture is to make an impact in the nation and the world at large as a great educator.



**ADENEGAN Blessing
Iyanuoluwa
300 Level**

As a student of Education and English Language, Blessing is spending the time to understand how people learn and also how communication shapes learning outcomes. In the next few years, she hopes to become a lecturer and researcher in the field of Education and English Language. She envisions herself teaching, mentoring students, and conducting research on challenges with language acquisition.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (EDUCATION & PHYSICS)



**Arogbua Precious
Iyanuoluwa
300 Level**

Arogbua Precious Iyanuoluwa is a 300-level Education and Physics student in the Department of Science and Technology Education. She is passionate about teaching and enjoys helping others learn and grow. Her time in the university has increased her interest in education and strengthened her desire to make Physics easier and more interesting for students. She aspires to become a dedicated teacher who will inspire young minds and make a positive difference through education.



**Oyegoke Maryam
Ajoke
400 Level**

Oyegoke Maryam is a Physics Education student in the Department of Science and Technology Education. Her passion for teaching Physics grew from her own experience as a student, watching how a subject many feared could actually become interesting and understandable when taught with clarity. She is passionate about teaching, technology, and personal development. In her free time, she enjoys reading, learning new digital skills and running a small online business. Her goal is to become a professional educator who positively impacts students and contributes to educational development.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (BIOLOGY EDUCATION)



**Busari Aminat
Olabisi
400 Level**

Aminat Busari is a graduate of Biology Education, Department of Science and Technology Education, Obafemi Awolowo University. Her academic journey has been shaped by discipline, resilience, and a genuine commitment to continuous growth. She values meaningful impact, purposeful service, and opportunities that inspire learning, leadership, and personal development. She hopes to build a career defined by excellence, service, and a lasting positive impact on society.

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND DESIGN MANAGEMENT

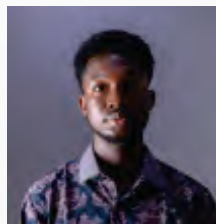
The Faculty of Environmental Design and Management is committed to excellence in teaching, research, innovation, and professional practice. The faculty prepares architects, planners, surveyors, builders, artists, and environmental professionals with the knowledge and skills to address the challenges of sustainable development, urbanization, and environmental management. Through innovative education and research, it contributes to national development and promotes the creation of resilient, sustainable, and high-quality built environments in Nigeria and beyond.

ARCHITECTURE



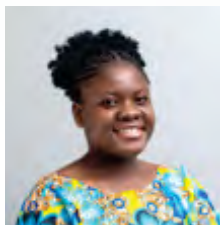
**Bamidele-Lucas
Ayanfeoluwa
100 Level**

Ayanfeoluwa is an Architecture student who enjoys the creativity and problem-solving that come with designing spaces. Studying architecture pushes him to think beyond the obvious and explore new ideas. After gaining some years of professional experience, he hopes to start his own architecture firm and contribute meaningfully to the profession on a global scale.



**Binuyo Oluwafemi
Adediran
200 Level**

Oluwafemi Binuyo is an Architecture student who truly loves designing spaces. The beautiful blend of art and science has become his signature way of solving real-world problems. He believes great design transforms lives. Beyond the drafting table, Oluwafemi is pursuing his filmmaking journey, bridging visual storytelling with his architectural eye for the world.



**Omojowo Blessing
Omotola
300 Level**

Blessing believes the best designs are the ones that improve everyday life. She is drawn to the way architecture gives purpose to creativity and is committed to growing into a professional who designs sustainable spaces that serve people and strengthen communities.



**Tijani Quadri
Olawale
400 Level**

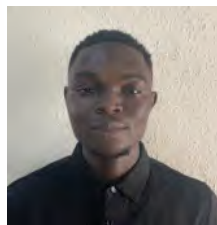
Tijani is an architecture student enthusiastic about innovative design and sustainable practices. He focuses on creating spaces that inspire and enhance community well-being. The future for Tijani includes gaining diverse experience, earning professional licensure, and eventually leading projects that blend creativity with environmental responsibility.

BUILDING



**ABIDOYE Yaseer
Gbolahan
100 Level**

ABIDOYE Yaseer Gbolahan is positioned to be a structural and construction expert. He is fascinated by how buildings come to life, moving from simple drawings to solid structures. The way creative ideas turn into real-world solutions has sustained his interest in this course. With this background, he intends to construct modern, sustainable buildings that are safer, more habitable, and affordable for everyone to live in comfortably.



**Kehinde Emmanuel
Oluwadamilare
200 Level**

Kehinde loves the art of construction. Right after this degree, he plans to deep dive further by pursuing a Master's degree in Structures (Structural Engineering/Civil engineering). The big picture for Kehinde is owning a construction firm and overseeing building projects.



**KELLY-CHUKWUDI
Nmerichukwu Oluwatoni
300 Level**

Nmerichukwu is a Building student at Obafemi Awolowo University with interests in Construction Management, leadership, and social impact. She finds this course fulfilling as she sees ideas on paper become structures that provide shelter, a basic human need. Nmerichukwu hopes to build a career in project and nonprofit management, driving sustainable development across Africa.



**AJIBAWO Busayo
Precious
400 Level**

Busayo is a driven individual motivated by the challenge of solving problems. Whether it is theoretical or practical, she is inspired by her deep appreciation for Building because of its dynamic, challenging and practical nature. She aspires to contribute to the construction industry by delivering innovative projects that improve infrastructure and the built environment.



**OGUNNIYI Olabisi
500 Level**

Olabisi is deeply invested in Building and Project Coordination as this is an aspect of Construction Management that combines technical knowledge, leadership, and problem-solving skills to create functional structures. He plans to become a professional project manager, delivering quality projects efficiently while contributing to infrastructure development and society.



**AJAYI Abiola
Odunayo
Masters**

With a background in Building, Abiola is currently pursuing an MSc in Construction Management. He finds Building truly fascinating as it combines technical problem-solving with creating structures that improve daily life. His big plan is to contribute to Nigeria's infrastructure development by advancing sustainable building practices.



**ABDULRAZAQ Abdullahi
Taiwo
PhD**

Taiwo's motivation to undertake Construction Management is in how it allows for the combination of leadership, technology, and innovation. This positions him to solve real-world construction problems. In the future, Taiwo hopes to contribute to academic research and industry development through the application of data analytics and artificial intelligence for sustainable construction practices.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT



**Ajibade Boluwatife
Hannah
100 Level**

Boluwatife is a 100L student of Estate Management working towards a career in real estate. Always looking for ways to learn and improve, she believes growth comes from making the most of everyday opportunities and hopes to leave a positive mark wherever life leads.



**Adeniji Rasheedah
Adeola
200 Level**

Rasheedah is an Estate Management student who sees real estate as more than buildings and land. She believes the profession can play an important role in creating better communities and looks forward to contributing through sustainable development and responsible investment.



**Lateef Akeem
Omotayo
300 Level**

Lateef is the Chairman of Obafemi Awolowo Hall, a visionary student leader, and an advocate for social justice and equity. Inspired by his faith in Jesus Christ, he is passionate about transformative leadership, global development, and building inclusive systems that empower people, inspire progress, and advance the common good.



**Ojo Olamilekan
Peter
400 Level**

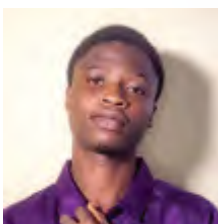
Olamilekan hopes to build a career that brings together academia and the real estate and construction industry. As an aspiring construction project manager, property developer, and self-described "funky academic," he wants to help bridge the gap between research and practice. He also believes quality education should be accessible to everyone, regardless of background.



**Aderemi Olapeju
Adejoke
500 Level**

Olapeju is a Real Estate graduate currently interning as a Real Estate Research Analyst. Research, finance, and market intelligence are the areas she naturally gravitates towards, especially when they involve uncovering insights from data and tracking trends shaping the real estate industry. Outside work, she is a lover of God, an avid reader, and someone who enjoys exploring ideas that influence business and society.

FINE AND APPLIED ARTS



**Waris Olamilekan
KAREEM
100 Level**

Waris is a Fine and Applied Arts student whose work is shaped by a love for visual storytelling. His studies have taken him beyond drawing into sculpture, design, and other forms of artistic expression, broadening both his skills and perspective. He hopes to create work that sparks conversations and connects with people across different cultures and communities.



**Adedapo John
ADEKUNLE
100 Level**

Adedapo is a Fine and Applied Arts student whose hobby has grown into a profession. He enjoys bringing ideas to life through different art forms and is always looking for new ways to express his creativity. By the grace of God, he plans to use his work to make a meaningful contribution to society through art.



**Deborah Itunu
ALEJI
200 Level**

Deborah is a student and an artist whose love for art began in primary school. Growing up in a family of artists, she embraced her talent early and has continued to build on it over the years. After completing her National Diploma, she chose to further her studies in Fine and Applied Arts through Direct Entry. She hopes to build a career as a full-time artist, fashion designer, and fashion illustrator.



**Esther
OLATUNJI-AGUDA
300 Level**

Esther is a Fine and Applied Arts student specializing in Graphic Design. She enjoys experimenting with different art styles and using design to communicate ideas in creative ways. By God's grace, she hopes to continue growing in graphic design and build a career in the field.



**ONYEBUCHI Present
Chinwe
400 Level**

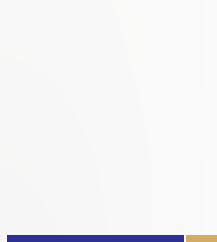
Present is a textile artist, sign language interpreter, and visual creative with a flair for transforming ideas into fabric. Specializing in embroidery, tie-dye, printing, fabric manipulation, and interior décor, she creates contemporary African-inspired designs from reclaimed textiles, giving waste fabrics a new purpose.

QUANTITY SURVEYING



**ODENIRAN IREOLUWA
EUNICE
100 Level**

Ireoluwa Eunice is a 100-level Quantity Surveying student, devout Christian, and pencil artist with growing interests in cost management and data analytics. The flexibility of the discipline encourages her to keep exploring new ideas, particularly in sustainability cost analysis and technology-driven Quantity Surveying.



**JOSHUA FAVOUR
OJENEKWU
200 Level**

Joshua Favour is a 300L Quantity Surveying student balancing academics with entrepreneurship. This discipline has strengthened his practical approach to solving problems in the built environment, and he is helping him work towards a career that contributes to successful infrastructure development.



**ARAROMI GRACE
AYOMIDE
300 Level**

Grace is getting more than measurements and figures out of Quantity Surveying. With every exposure, she is determined to develop the precision and professionalism needed to make a meaningful contribution to the construction industry.



**ADEBIYI OLUWATOSIN
IYANUOLUWA
400 Level**

Oluwatosin sees Quantity Surveying as a profession that brings together innovation, leadership, and strategic thinking to create lasting value. She is building towards a career where she can influence the construction industry and inspire the next generation of professionals.



**ONAOLAPO JOSHUA
OLUWATODIMU**
500 Level

Joshua found a natural fit in Quantity Surveying, where his love for numbers meets teamwork and practical problem-solving. He is currently strengthening his cost visualisation skills while exploring data analytics and digital tools that improve decision-making across construction projects and ensure value for money for clients.

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING



ADENOLA Happiness
Oluwasemilore
100 Level

Happiness is a student of Urban and Regional Planning. The course has held his interest as he is gaining the confidence to actually plan and develop towns and cities properly. His ambition is to become a professional town planner and contribute to building organized, safe, and sustainable communities that will improve people's standard of living.



BALOGUN Alex
Adeyemi
200 Level

Alex believes planning should keep evolving alongside the people it serves. Always looking for better ways to solve urban challenges, he wants to push the field beyond its traditional boundaries and contribute fresh ideas that shape future communities.



FALOLA Iyanuoluwa
Modupeola
300 Level

Studying Urban and Regional Planning has changed the way Iyanuoluwa sees the world around her. She enjoys tackling complex urban challenges, from infrastructure to spatial design, and finding practical solutions that make communities more functional, welcoming, and sustainable. She is working towards a career where she can help create well-designed communities where people don't just live, but genuinely feel at home.



OLALEYE Ademola
Oluwatobiloba
400 Level

Ademola sees Urban and Regional Planning as an opportunity to shape communities that are organised, sustainable, and built to last. Beyond planning, he is also working towards building a globally recognised creative brand alongside a career in sustainable housing development.



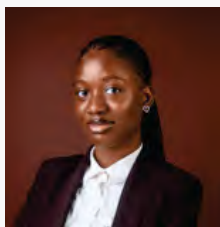
AKINDELE Christianah
Bisola
500 Level

Christianah chose Urban and Regional Planning because of her concern for people and the spaces they live in. The discipline has changed the way she thinks about communities, showing her how thoughtful planning can improve quality of life. She wants to contribute to creating safer, healthier environments for future generations.

FACULTY OF LAW

The Faculty of Law is one of Nigeria's leading centres for legal education, research, and advocacy. Through excellence in teaching, scholarship, and ethical practice, the faculty offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that combine rigorous legal education with practical training. It equips students with the knowledge, analytical skills, and professional competence required for legal practice, public service, academia, and policy development, producing legal professionals who advance justice, good governance, and national development.

LAW



**Ige Favour
Oreoluwa
100 Level**

What drew Favour to Law was its ability to influence lives far beyond the courtroom. She is interested in advocacy, leadership, and public service, and wants to use her legal education to shape policy and contribute to national and global development.



**Azeezat Oluwatimileyin
Oyenpemi
200 Level**

Azeezat is a third-year Law student with interests in corporate law, governance, and human rights advocacy. She sees her future at the point where corporate practice and social impact meet, using the law to strengthen institutions while advancing justice.

FACULTY OF PHARMACY

Building on decades of academic and professional achievement, the faculty of Pharmacy offers high-quality training that prepares pharmacists, researchers, educators, and industry professionals to advance pharmaceutical sciences, improve healthcare delivery, support drug development, and contribute to national and global health.

PHARMACY



**Ogunleye Emmanuel
Ayomiposi
100 Level**

Emmanuel's interest in Pharmacy began with a simple question: how do medicines work, and how do they help people get better? Studying the discipline has allowed him to combine that curiosity with his love for science. He is working towards a career where he can improve lives through safe, effective, and accessible pharmaceutical care.



**OJEBODE Awoyinfa
Olansile
200 Level**

Awoyinfa sees Pharmacy as a discipline where science, knowledge, and human care come together. That perspective is what drew him to the profession and continues to fuel his love for learning. Outside the classroom, he enjoys reading and watching movies, both of which broaden his perspective.



**OSUNGUNNA Deborah
Adeola
300 Level**

Currently topping her class, Deborah is a 400L Pharmacy student with a growing interest in drug discovery and improving existing therapeutics. She is building towards a career in pharmaceutical innovation while exploring ideas that could improve patient care.



**ODENIYI OLUWAFERANMI
CHRISTIANA
400 Level**

For Oluwaferanmi, Pharmacy is where science meets service. She values the role medicines and pharmacists play in improving people's health and is building towards a career in clinical or community pharmacy, where she can support healthier communities through patient-centred care.



**SALAMI Rukayat
Oyinkansola
500 Level**

Rukayat is always eager to learn and discover something new, which is one of the reasons Pharmacy appealed to her. She appreciates the many paths the profession offers and is particularly interested in pharmaceutical and clinical research. Through her work, she wants to contribute to better medicines and improved patient care.



**Ibrahim Adebayo
HASSAN
Masters**

In his MSc Pharmaceutical Chemistry programme, with a focus on pharmacokinetics, Ibrahim is studying ways to optimize the use and impact of anti-infective agents in special populations, such as pregnant women and young children. The programme provides him with an interdisciplinary worldview, relevant to scaling his work for global impact.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

The Faculty of Science, one of the pioneer faculties of Obafemi Awolowo University, is a leading centre for scientific education, research, and innovation. Committed to academic excellence and interdisciplinary collaboration, the faculty equips students with the knowledge and skills to drive scientific discovery, innovation, and problem-solving. It produces scientists, researchers, educators, and industry professionals who contribute to scientific advancement and sustainable development in Nigeria and across the globe.

APPLIED GEOPHYSICS



**Dolapo Samuel
OYEWALE**
100 Level

For Samuel, Applied Geophysics brings together physics, geology, and fieldwork, the aspects of science he enjoys most. He hopes to build a career in exploration and seismic studies, applying what he learns to challenges that matter.



**OYEPOSI Marvelous
Oluwakorede**
200 Level

Marvelous is especially interested in seismic surveys and the stories they reveal beneath the Earth's surface. She hopes to contribute to exploration geophysics by advancing subsurface imaging techniques and supporting more sustainable energy solutions. Her long-term vision is to innovate within the exploration geophysics industry, focusing on sustainable energy solutions and advanced subsurface imaging techniques.



**OLADENI Folasayo
Felicia**
300 Level

Applied Geophysics fascinates Folasayo because it is both practical and intellectually engaging. She enjoys seeing theory come alive in the field. Moving forward, Folasayo plans to secure an industry internship, pursue a master's degree, and continue growing her professional and technical expertise through mentorship and hands-on learning.



**OSESANMI Joy
Oyinlola**
400 Level

As a recent graduate, Joy is looking forward to gaining industry experience, learning from professionals, and bringing fresh ideas into the field. She also hopes to pursue a fully funded master's degree as the next step in her academic journey.



**Olusegun Olajide
BADARU**
Masters

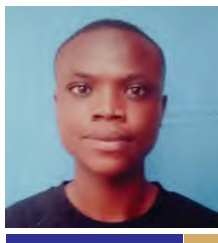
With more than 18 years of experience across technical, commercial, and leadership roles in the energy sector, Olusegun has built a career around growth and operational excellence. While continuing that journey, he is currently pursuing a master's degree in Geophysics to deepen his understanding of the science behind energy exploration.



**Ayomiposi Henry
FALADE**
PhD

Ayomiposi's interest in Geophysics is vested in existing real world issues like earthquakes, fault systems, and natural hazards. He hopes to apply his knowledge to hazard assessment, disaster preparedness, and research that helps make communities safer.

BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY



**Adeyefa Adegoke
Micheal
100 Level**

Adegoke sees Biochemistry and Molecular Biology as a way of understanding life at its most fundamental level. As he continues to grow in the field, research remains the direction he wants to pursue, with the goal of contributing to new scientific knowledge.



**Adesete Hameerah
Tolulope
200 Level**

Hameerah's curiosity about how the human body works at the molecular level is what drew her to Biochemistry. She hopes to take that curiosity into neuroscience research, contributing to discoveries that improve brain health and deepen our understanding of the brain.



**Ilesanmi Olajumoke
Esther
300 Level**

Olajumoke hopes to build a career in biomedical research, with interests in molecular biology, drug discovery, and precision medicine. She is particularly interested in combining computational and laboratory research to better understand diseases and improve diagnosis and treatment.



**Bewaji Power
Gideon
Masters**

Bewaji Power is a biochemist whose research focuses on toxicology and the biochemical effects of xenobiotics and therapeutic compounds. His work explores how these substances influence metabolic pathways and cellular health, with the goal of improving our understanding of their impact on the body.

BOTANY



**Olaogun Aminah
Olawumi
100 Level**

Aminah believes planning should keep evolving to meet the demands of a changing world. She hopes to challenge conventional thinking in the field and contribute fresh ideas that shape more sustainable and forward-looking communities.



**Adetayo Fathia
Olashile
200 Level**

Adetayo Fathia is most fulfilled when she's learning about the natural world and the role it plays in everyday life. She enjoys putting what she learns into practice and hopes to build a career that advances environmental sustainability through science.



**Raji Muizat
Bukola
300 Level**

Plants drew Muizat to Botany and has continued to hold her curiosity. She enjoys learning about their role in sustaining ecosystems and hopes to contribute to environmental research and conservation with this background.



**Adewumi Aishat
Olaide
400 Level**

Aishat is a botanist, ethnobotanist, and environmental science enthusiast fascinated by how plants, people, and the environment interact. She hopes to advance research that brings together indigenous knowledge and modern science in support of biodiversity conservation.

CHEMISTRY



**Shukurat Omolara
Alade**
100 Level

Studying Chemistry has changed the way Shukurat sees the world around her. From understanding what things are made of to seeing how everyday actions affect the environment, the discipline has shaped her perspective. She hopes to improve industrial processes and help produce safer, higher-quality products.



**Emmanuel Anuoluwa
Akinbola**
200 Level

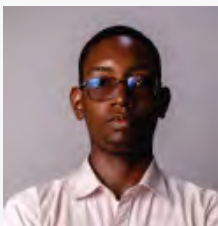
To Emmanuel, Chemistry offers a window into how nature works. Every new concept helps him better understand the world around him, reinforcing a belief he has come to live by: chemistry is life. He hopes to keep exploring the discipline wherever it leads him.



**Adebayo Zainab
Eniola**
300 Level

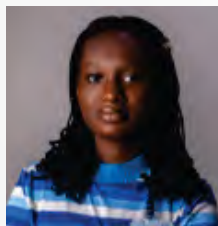
Food and cooking first sparked Zainab's curiosity about Chemistry. Understanding the science behind everyday experiences has made the subject even more rewarding for her. She hopes to keep exploring the field and make meaningful use of what she learns.

GEOLOGY



**David Temisan
ALIKA**
100 Level

David Temisan is a Geology undergraduate with interests in petroleum and environmental geology. He hopes to contribute to responsible energy development while promoting environmental sustainability through research and professional practice.



**OMAFUETA Akpewoghene
Precious**
200 Level

Akpewoghene's curiosity about the Earth led her to Geology. As a 300L student, she is learning how natural systems work and how Earth's resources can be managed responsibly. She hopes to contribute to sustainable resource management and environmental development.



**AFOLABI Damilola
Cephas**
300 Level

Afolabi Damilola Cephas is a Geology student captivated by nature's beauty and complexity. He aims to manage natural resources for sustainable development and correct geological misconceptions. His goal is to use his expertise to make the world better, thriving in sectors where a geologist's unique perspective is most essential.



**OLORUNBUNMI Magret
Olayinka**
400 Level

Magret Olayinka recently graduated with a First-Class degree in Geology and is beginning her career in the industry. Through research and data-driven projects, she has developed strong analytical skills and hopes to apply them in practice while keeping the door open for graduate studies.



Michael Tomisin
ASUBIOJO
PhD

Michael is an Applied Geology researcher whose work focuses on fault-seal analysis for hydrocarbon entrapment. By combining structural geology with geophysics, he studies reservoir integrity and subsurface processes to support more effective energy exploration and resource management.

INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY



Marvellous Emmanuel
Oladipupo
100 Level

Chemistry keeps Marvellous thinking. He likes that every topic challenges him to reason, question, and look at the world differently. He hopes to continue studying the discipline at the highest level possible.



Dominion Timilehin
Akinsuroju
200 Level

What fascinates Dominion most is seeing chemistry move beyond the laboratory and into production. He hopes to build a career as an industrial chemist while promoting chemical safety and developing sustainable, natural products.



Lapite Olamilekan
Damilola
300 Level

For Olamilekan, Chemistry is a field where curiosity meets discovery. He enjoys learning how scientific research leads to solutions that improve lives and hopes to build a career in drug discovery and pharmaceutical research.

MATHEMATICS



KOLAPO Sadiq
Ayomide
100 Level

Sadiq's love for Mathematics began in elementary school, where solving numerical problems quickly became his favourite challenge. As technology and artificial intelligence continue to shape the future, he sees mathematics as one of the foundations of that transformation and hopes to be part of it.



OGUNMEFUN Olubusola
Ayomide
200 Level

Olubusola chose Mathematics because she enjoys the challenge of thinking logically and working through difficult problems. Along the way, the discipline has taught her patience, consistency, and discipline. She hopes to use that knowledge to teach, mentor, and contribute to research.



**OGUNTOYINBO Oluwabori
Felix
300 Level**

For Oluwabori, Mathematics is about making sense of what first appears impossible. He enjoys the challenge of finding patterns, thinking through complex ideas, and arriving at answers that once seemed out of reach. He hopes to apply that way of thinking to research and artificial intelligence.

STATISTICS



**CHRISTIAN ETIM
DANIEL
100 Level**

Etim describes his journey in Statistics as challenging but worthwhile. Every hurdle has strengthened his determination to keep learning, and he looks forward to growing further in the discipline in the years ahead.



**LUKMAN ALIMOT
BOLANLE
200 Level**

Alimot is convinced data can solve everyday problems. She hopes to become a medical statistician, applying her knowledge to improve healthcare while making a positive difference in her family and community.



**OMOTAYO Mayowa
Stephen
300 Level**

Mayowa sees Statistics as a way of turning questions into evidence. Studying Statistics has deepened his interest in research, and he has committed to academic excellence as he looks forward to continuing into graduate studies, applying statistical methods to produce evidence that informs decisions across different fields.



**ADEFEMIWA OMOLARA
FATIMOH
400 Level**

For Omolara, Statistics is a discipline that rewards her curiosity and critical thinking. She enjoys taking on challenging problems and wants to keep building her skills through projects and practical experience as she prepares for a career where she can make a meaningful impact.



**SAKA Hammed
Adedayo
Masters**

Some of the most interesting stories, to Hammed, are the ones hidden in data over time. That curiosity has led him to time series analysis and statistical modelling, with plans to build a career in data science and research.

MICROBIOLOGY



LAWAL Celestina
Imoleayo
100 Level

Celestina is fascinated by the world of microorganisms and the role they play in human health and the environment. She hopes to contribute to scientific research that improves public health and deepens our understanding of the microbial world.



AYODELE Daniel
Faith
200 Level

With Microbiology, Daniel is hoping to better understand the tiny organisms that have such a big influence on human health, industry, and the environment. He looks forward to building a career in research, innovation, and science education.



ABOYEWA Irewole
Glory
300 Level

What fascinates Irewole most about Microbiology is the quiet but powerful role microbes play in health and disease. She hopes to pursue advanced research in immunology and microbial oncology, contributing to discoveries that advance medicine.



OGUNJEMISIN Timilehin
Precious
400 Level

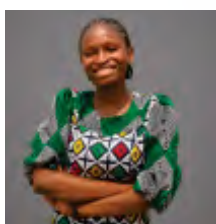
Timilehin is a First-Class Microbiology graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University with interests in infectious diseases, public health, and health data analysis. She hopes to build a career in public health research, using science and data to improve health outcomes.



AKINBAMI Ayomide
Moses
Masters

Ayomide is a microbiology researcher with a particular interest in molecular biology and host-pathogen interactions. He is fascinated by how microbes evolve, develop resistance to antibiotics, and evade the immune system. He hopes to contribute to biomedical research that leads to better treatments and improved health outcomes.

PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING PHYSICS



Eghosasere Godsglory
Imienfan
100 Level

God'sglory enjoys studying Physics because it has taught her to think analytically and approach problems with patience and precision. She hopes to build a career in aerospace engineering, contributing to technologies that shape the future of aviation and space exploration.



Oluwasina Davidson
Oluwafemi
200 Level

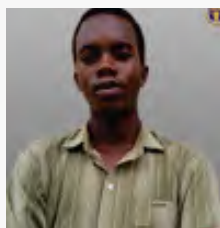
Davidson has always been fascinated by mathematics, physics, and the way science explains the world around us. He hopes to share that curiosity with others through science education while contributing to discoveries that make a practical difference.



**Olayioye Omolade
Oluwanifemi
300 Level**

For Omolade, Physics is as much about asking questions as it is about finding answers. She enjoys the way the discipline challenges her to think critically and approach problems from different angles. She looks forward to exploring the field further and discovering where her curiosity leads.

ENGINEERING PHYSICS



**Amusan Mofileoluwalowo
Nathan
100 Level**

Mofileoluwalowo is an Engineering Physics student exploring how physical laws interact with biological systems. He is especially interested in bridging the gap between hardware and living organisms, with ideas such as bio-electrochemical devices that connect microbes and physics to tackle energy and environmental challenges.



**Kuteyi Faith
Deborah
200 Level**

Engineering Physics appealed to Faith as her curiosity means she enjoys asking questions and understanding how things work. She values the discipline for the way it encourages critical thinking, resilience, and practical problem-solving. In the future, she hopes to pursue research in materials science and contribute solutions that add value to her community.



**Owolanke Oluwaferanmi
Gideon
300 Level**

For Oluwaferanmi, Engineering Physics is where scientific ideas become technologies that shape everyday life. His interest in quantum materials, combined with experience in construction and quality analysis, has strengthened his desire to bridge research and industry through innovation.

SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY



**Adepoju Maryam
Aderoju
100 Level**

Maryam is a 200L Science Laboratory Technology student in the biological option and currently serves as her class representative. She likes that the programme goes beyond theory, giving her the opportunity to apply scientific knowledge through practical laboratory work. She hopes to contribute to research and innovation while advancing the practice of laboratory science.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Faculty of Social Sciences is a leading centre for teaching, research, and innovation in the study of society, human behaviour, and sustainable development. Comprising seven departments, the faculty offers B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. programmes, alongside specialized postgraduate diplomas. It is supported by the Centre for Gender and Social Policy Studies (CGSPS) and the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Development Studies (IFEDS), which strengthen research, entrepreneurship, and policy engagement. Through interdisciplinary scholarship and professional training, the faculty prepares social scientists, gender specialists, data analysts, entrepreneurs, and policy professionals to address contemporary societal challenges and promote sustainable development in Nigeria and beyond.

CENTRE FOR GENDER AND SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES



AKINADE Ayomiposi
Omoniyi
Masters

Ayomiposi is an emerging scholar in Gender and Development whose work explores gender, governance, political leadership, public policy, and social development. He has published on women's political participation and democratic governance and remains actively involved in academic and community development initiatives.

DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS



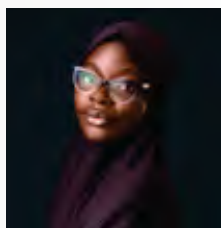
Yusuf Olaitan
Omolabake
100 Level

For Olaitan, Demography and Social Statistics is about understanding people and the stories behind the numbers. As a 200L student, she enjoys learning how population trends and social data can shape better decisions. She hopes to contribute research that helps communities and policymakers respond more effectively to society's needs.



Okwubor Confidence
Uzoramaka
200 Level

Confidence is curious about how population movement shapes people's lives and the future of communities. Her academic interests include migration, sustainable development, and finding practical ways to address brain drain in Nigeria. Beyond academics, she enjoys product design and hopes to build solutions that connect talented people with meaningful opportunities.



**Agboola Abidemi
Kaosarat
300 Level**

Abidemi is a researcher, data analyst, writer, visual artist, and final-year student of Demography and Social Statistics. She is drawn to the discipline because of the role research and data play in understanding society and shaping better decisions. She hopes to use her skills to solve social problems while helping more people appreciate the value of data.

ECONOMICS



**Owati Oluwasemilore
Deborah
200 Level**

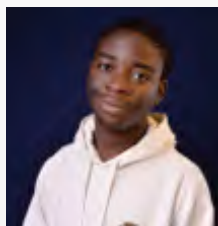
Oluwasemilore enjoys studying Economics because it helps her understand the forces that shape everyday life. She hopes to become a Professor of Economics while growing the impact of the community initiative she has started.



**Raouv Rahoofat
Oladayo
400 Level**

For Rahoofat, Economics is a way of understanding the issues people face every day. She enjoys using research and data to make sense of complex economic problems and hopes to build a career in economics and data analytics. In the long term, she looks forward to teaching Economics at the university level.

GEOGRAPHY



**AYOOLA Samuel
Ayodeji
400 Level**

For Samuel Ayodeji, understanding the climate is the first step towards protecting it. As an aspiring climatologist, he hopes to combine machine learning with climate science to develop smarter approaches to climate change mitigation.



**ADEYEMI Samuel
Adedotun
300 Level**

Samuel Adedotun's interest in geology began with a fascination for rocks, landforms, and the Earth's natural resources. Today, he is particularly interested in mining, petroleum exploration, geomorphology, and GIS. He hopes to use geospatial technologies and earth science to support responsible resource exploration and environmental management.

INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



**Dorcas Ayomide
Adeniran**
200 Level

Dorcas is an Entrepreneurship and Industrial Extension student who enjoys combining creativity with business. Whether in the classroom or through entrepreneurship, she is always looking for ways to turn ideas into practical solutions. She hopes to build businesses that create lasting value for the communities they serve.



**Adesewa Omotolani
Adebisi**
300 level

Omotolani sees entrepreneurship as a way of thinking, not just a career path. She enjoys learning how to identify opportunities, solve problems, and create value where others see limitations. She hopes to build businesses that reflect that mindset while making a meaningful impact.

POLITICAL SCIENCE



**Adeyemi Bisola
Grace**
200 Level

Bisola is fascinated by political systems, global affairs, and the ways governments shape society. She enjoys exploring how political decisions influence people's lives and hopes to deepen her understanding of governance and public policy.



**Fatoyinbo Azeez
Gbolahan**
300 Level

Azeez is drawn to governance because of its influence on everyday life. Studying Political Science has given him a deeper understanding of how policies are developed and implemented, and he hopes to contribute to stronger grassroots governance and better public service.



**Fabiyi Kehinde
Victor**
400 Level

With Political Science, Kehinde has found the framework to better understand governance, public policy, and human rights beyond the headlines. He is interested in finding practical ways to address the challenges facing communities and strengthen public institutions.

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

Driven by excellence in research, industrial collaboration, and practical training, the Faculty serves as a hub for technological innovation and engineering excellence. It equips students with the knowledge, technical expertise, and leadership skills to develop innovative solutions, advance industrialization, build resilient infrastructure, and drive digital transformation in Nigeria and across the globe.

AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



Ejike Emmanuel
Kenechukwu
100 Level



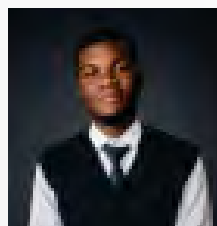
ABONYI Ebuka
John
200 Level

Ebuka is a 200L Agricultural and Environmental Engineering student whose interests extend beyond engineering into technology, web development, and design. He enjoys learning new skills, carrying out research, writing, and finding practical solutions to everyday problems. For him, every new skill is another opportunity to grow and create something useful.



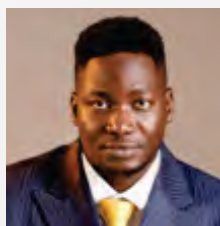
UWE Oghenekaro
Opeyemi
300 Level

What keeps Oghenekaro interested in Agricultural and Environmental Engineering is seeing how different areas of engineering come together to solve practical problems. From thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to environmental systems, he enjoys understanding how these principles shape better infrastructure and resource management. He hopes to design engineering systems that are both efficient and sustainable.



OLAWOLE John
Marvellous
400 Level

John is an Agricultural and Environmental Engineering student with interests in engineering design, automation, and artificial intelligence. He hopes to develop practical, affordable technologies that help small and medium-scale farmers improve productivity and make farming more efficient.



ADENIYI Olaitan
Lekan
500 Level

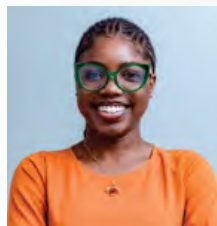
Olaitan appreciates the logical thinking Chemical Engineering demands, especially when tackling environmental challenges. He is building towards a career where engineering and technology come together to solve problems with lasting impact.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING



**Kehinde Daniel
Oluwasanya
100 Level**

What drew Kehinde to Chemical Engineering was the opportunity to solve problems using science. He enjoys seeing how engineering principles can be applied to everyday challenges and hopes to build a career creating sustainable solutions that improve lives and strengthen communities.



**Peace Oyinkansola
Akomolafe
200 Level**

For Peace, studying Chemical Engineering is both a personal calling and a professional pursuit. She believes the discipline aligns with God's purpose for her life and hopes to build a career in the energy sector, contributing to sustainable solutions that support both economic growth and environmental responsibility.



**Gbolahan Qudus
Aderogba
300 Level**

Driven by the belief that global solutions are often engineered at the invisible level, Gbolahan is exploring the future of energy through Chemical Engineering. His work brings together research and leadership as he seeks practical ways to support more sustainable industries and energy systems.



**Taiwo Enoch
Akanni
400 Level**

Chemical Engineering has equipped Enoch with strong analytical, critical thinking, and practical problem-solving skills, enabling him to approach complex challenges with resilience and strategic insight. Building on that foundation, he hopes to specialize in nuclear and reactor engineering and contribute to research that advances safe and sustainable technologies.



**Emmanuel Olayemi
Olalere
500 Level**

Emmanuel Olayemi enjoys tackling complex problems, which naturally led him to Chemical Engineering. He is particularly interested in process systems and optimisation and hopes to contribute to energy and industrial development while preparing for a future in public leadership.

CIVIL ENGINEERING



**OJO Abraham
Opeyemi
100 Level**

For Abraham, Civil Engineering is about building the infrastructure that keeps communities moving and connected. He hopes to become a skilled engineer and, in time, establish a foundation that supports people facing financial hardship while living a life that honours God.



**KOLAWOLE Anuoluwapo
Micheal
200 Level**

Anuoluwapo enjoys learning by solving real problems. This course has given him the opportunity to think practically and develop skills he can apply beyond the classroom. He hopes to build a fulfilling career while continuing to grow both professionally and personally.



**UVERE Amarachi
Catherine**
300 Level

Solving problems is one of the many things Amarachi loves doing and believes she is exceptionally good at. As a Civil Engineer-to-be, she has the opportunity to proffer solutions in the construction industry. By combining programming skills with her knowledge of Civil Engineering, she aspires to provide sustainable, unique solutions to world issues.



**AREMU Victor
Oluwaseyi**
400 Level

Victor is drawn to structural engineering because of the challenge of designing buildings and structures that stand the test of time. He hopes to work on tall and complex structures while contributing to more sustainable approaches to structural design.



**OLUMUYIWA Godsfavour
Folakunmi**
500 Level

Godsfavour is a recent Civil Engineering graduate with an interest in Highway and Transportation Engineering. He is particularly interested in how thoughtful infrastructure can improve mobility and connect communities. Through research and engineering, he hopes to contribute to transport systems that are more efficient, sustainable, and built to last.

ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING



**OLU-DADA Daniel
Okotoni**
100 Level

Daniel found his course of study to be quite abstract but consistently applicable across different fields. Now, he is intrigued by the problem solving process it has exposed him to. After graduation, he hopes to continue his studies with a focus on controls, robotics, or artificial intelligence.



**ADEWUMI Adenike
Deborah**
200 Level

Adenike enjoys solving problems that require both creativity and critical thinking. Studying Electronic and Electrical Engineering has strengthened that mindset and opened her eyes to new possibilities. She hopes to build a career at the intersection of AI, robotics, and finance, developing technologies that make everyday life better.



**OLAOYE Ayooluwakunmi
Caleb-John**
300 Level

The combination of being an analytical person by nature and an EEE student allows Ayooluwakunmi to bring complex systems to life through embedded hardware and software solutions. He looks forward to integrating AI and machine learning algorithms into industrial automation and designing smart solutions for global process automation.



**OLAOTI Favour
Omotola**
400 Level

Driven by a passion to create practical and intelligent technologies, Favour is studying Electronic and Electrical Engineering to understand the systems shaping our world. Her goal is to build innovative, accessible hardware solutions that solve real-world challenges and uplift communities.



MUSA Oluwamayowa
Michael
500 Level

Oluwamayowa is a 500L Electronic and Electrical Engineering student fascinated with how solid-state electronics and integrated circuit design work. What he enjoys most about the field is how it brings science, innovation, and problem-solving together to create technologies people use every day. He hopes to contribute to the next generation of semiconductor and electronic technologies through research and design.

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



RAJI Kamilat
Adeola
100 Level

Kamilat is a 100L Food Science and Technology student fascinated with how food is produced, processed, and preserved. She hopes to contribute to the industry through innovative product development while promoting high standards of food safety and quality.



ADESIGBIN Tosin
Kristen
200 Level

As a Food science student, Tosin is driven by a passion for understanding how science improves food quality and safety. She enjoys learning beyond the classroom and constantly seeks opportunities to grow. Her career plans include applying this knowledge to develop safe, sustainable food solutions that positively impact communities and the global food industry, contributing to a healthier society.



Essen Jesseca
Iniobong
300 Level

Jessica enjoys studying Food Science and Technology because it brings together science, creativity, and engineering to improve food quality, safety, and processing. She looks forward to building a career as an entrepreneur, developing sustainable food solutions that support the growth of the industry.



OLA EPO Deborah
Iseoluwa
400 Level

Deborah sees Food Science as an important part of the fight against food insecurity, especially in Africa. She is particularly interested in how seasonal produce can be processed into products that remain available throughout the year. In the future, she hopes to combine food science and agriculture to help improve food security.



AYODAWHA Ejaeta
Victory
500 Level

Victory chose Food Science and Technology after seeing how many people still struggle to access safe, nutritious, and affordable food. He hopes to contribute through research that improves food production and makes quality food more accessible to communities.



ADIO Islamiyat
Yetunde
Masters

Islamiyat is a Food Science and Technology student who is drawn to the science behind food quality and innovation. She chose the field because of its role in improving food safety and nutrition. In the future, she hopes to develop sustainable, value-added food products and build a meaningful career in the food industry.



OLUSANYA Patience
Abisola
PhD

Patience is a Lecturer in the Department of Food Science and Technology with a special interest in food nutrition. She is inspired by the role of food science in improving nutrition and public health. Through teaching and research, she hopes to contribute practical solutions that strengthen food security and promote healthier living.

MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



ADEYEMI Shalom
Titunloluwa
100 Level

Shalom Adeyemi is a Materials Science and Engineering student who enjoys understanding how science and engineering come together to create materials that improve everyday life. She hopes to build a career that contributes to industrial development while encouraging more young people to see the possibilities within engineering.



AFOLABI Babatimilehin
Oluwagbohunmi
200 Level

Babatimilehin is studying Materials Science and Engineering because he is fascinated by the role materials play in technological advancement. He believes every major innovation begins with better materials and looks forward to contributing to the discoveries and developments that shape the future.



OLATAYO Hezekiah
Oluwole
300 Level

Hezekiah is a Materials Science and Engineering student and a full-stack web developer. With interests spanning engineering, mathematics, and technology, he enjoys exploring the role of materials in modern industries. He hopes to bring his engineering and software development skills together to support innovation in the oil and gas sector.



OLADUNJOYE Yusuf
Olayemi
400 Level



OLANIMOWU Olumide
Samuel
500 Level

Olumide is a recent Materials Science and Engineering graduate interested in how material properties can be engineered for better performance. His work explores nanomaterial characterization and the design of novel alloys for additive manufacturing, with a focus on how composition, processing, and microstructure influence performance. He hopes to contribute to the development of advanced materials for next-generation manufacturing.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



**Aanuoluwapo Ayobami
Afolabi**
200 Level

Ayobami's curiosity about technology began at an early age. Now as a Mechanical Engineering student, his interest has grown. He has become particularly drawn to computational robotics and its potential to solve real-world problems. He is working towards advancing innovation in the field while building a foundation that inspires and equips young people to create positive change.



**Akinwande Damilola
Subomi**
300 Level

Mechanical engineering is a course that challenges Damilola to think critically and innovatively. As she goes through each level, she is excited to be discovering just how layered mechanical engineering is. Over the next few years, Damilola will be specializing in energy systems automation.



STUDENT AWARDS



STUDENT AWARD

Babatunde
Emmanuel



Ase Hephzibah
Testimony



Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition 2025

Under the assiduous guidance of Dr. Ayoola Abuloye, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law, OAU's Ase Hephzibah (Part 3) and Babatunde Emmanuel (Part 2) conquered the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Competition over three days (17th–19th March 2025), besting over twenty top-tier universities to claim national first runner-up, while Emmanuel captured the Best Oralist award marking OAU's second consecutive triumph in that honour and the team secured Nigeria's ticket to the regional rounds in South Africa.

STUDENT AWARD

Ogunmakinwa
Faith Odunayo



The Shalina Young Talent Award (SYTA) Season 7

The Shalina Young Talent Award (SYTA) Season 7 celebrated excellence in pharmacy education by bringing together students from 25 Schools of Pharmacy across Nigeria at NECA House, Ikeja, Lagos. The competition featured multiple challenging rounds and was attended by distinguished leaders of the pharmacy profession, including representatives of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria, NAFDAC, and academia. Notably, Ogunmakinwa Faith Odunayo, a student of Obafemi Awolowo University, emerged as the overall winner. The event reaffirmed SYTA's commitment to empowering future pharmacists, promoting academic excellence, and advancing healthcare through talent development.

STUDENT AWARD

Halleluyah Folayemi



Oyinkansola Akande



NCDMB Annual National Essay Competition

The NCDMB (Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board) Annual Undergraduate Essay Competition is an annual essay competition designed to promote academic innovation and research among first- and second-year undergraduate students across Nigerian universities.

Out of over 1,000 essay submissions in 2025, the essays of Ms. Oyinkansola Akande and Mr. Halleluyah Folayemi emerged among the top 10 after a rigorous evaluation by a panel of judges using a live scoring system from the top 50 shortlisted entries.

Subsequently, Mr. Halleluyah Folayemi and Ms. Oyinkansola Akande, representing Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, advanced to a three-day trip to Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, specifically to the Nigerian Content Tower.

During the programme, the duo, alongside seven other students from different universities, participated in interactive assessment sessions with judges and key stakeholders in the oil and gas industry, where they defended their essays and responded to critical questions.

Following the final evaluation, Ms. Oyinkansola Akande emerged as the overall winner, receiving a cash prize of 1,000,000 and a brand-new laptop. Mr. Halleluyah Folayemi secured fourth place, winning a brand-new laptop in recognition of his outstanding performance.

Awardees

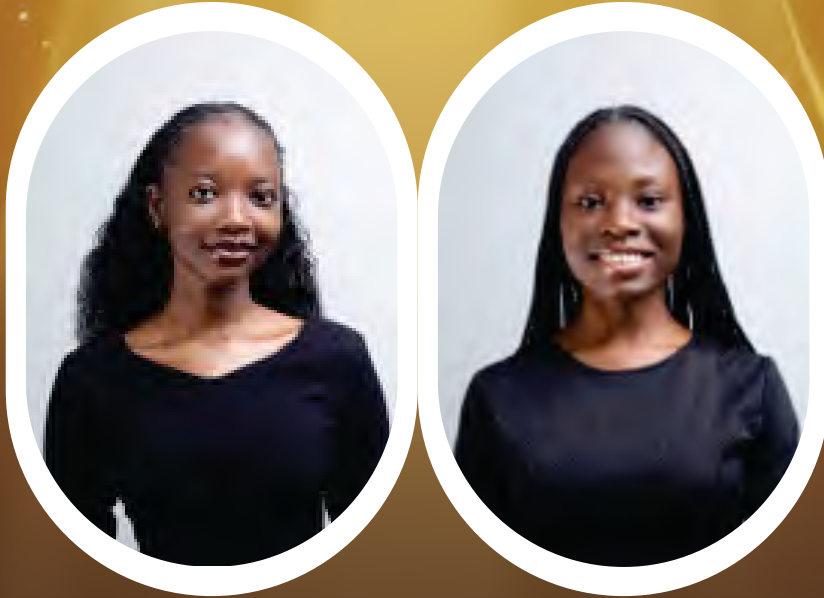
Ms. Oyinkansola Akande – 1st Place

Mr. Halleluyah Folayemi – 4th Place

STUDENT AWARD

Oluwatamilore
Mobolanle Ige

Oreoluwa Oluwafunmilayo
Owolabi



FIAE International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition, Lusaka Zambia 2026.

Miss. Oluwatamilore Mobolanle Ige and Miss. Oreoluwa Oluwafunmilayo Owolabi had the distinct privilege of representing Obafemi Awolowo University in the 5th edition of the Firdaus Initiative for Academic Excellence (FIAE) International Humanitarian Law competition which was held in Lusaka, Zambia from the 21st to 27th of June, 2026 was an incredibly enriching experience. This entire journey exceeded already lofty expectations, especially as this competition marked a first time participation in a moot court competition for the team. Advancing through the memorial writing stage of approximately 40 applicants, to the virtual preliminary rounds of 39 teams, the octofinals rounds of 16 and finally to the physical quarter-finals as the only selected team in Nigeria and West Africa demonstrates the distinct culture of excellence that is commonplace among students of OAU.

Appearing before the bench, canvassing complex legal submissions, learning how to respond to difficult questions and competing alongside incredibly brilliant teams from across the continent further reinforced the profound impact that oral advocacy can have in the legal world. In addition, over the course of the various rounds of this competition, we have gained knowledge about international humanitarian law, proper legal research, legal writing and oral advocacy.

Oluwatamilore Mobolanle Ige
Oreoluwa Oluwafunmilayo Owolabi

STUDENT AWARD

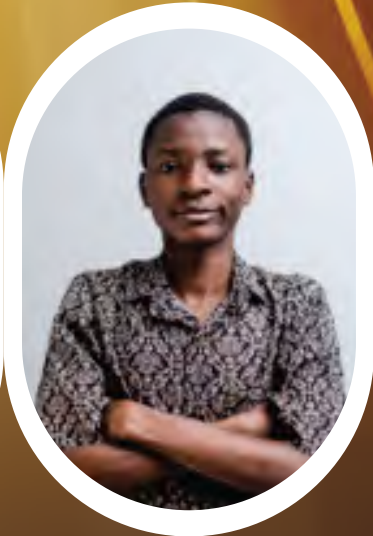
Alli Abdulquayum
Olamide



Adesina Lekan
Samuel



Ogungbayi Imran
Majekodunmi



University Duel 2.0 : OAU Takes the Prize

From January to April 2026, we represented Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) at University Duel 2.0 held at Ten O' One Studios, Lagos. The competition brought together 16 universities from across Nigeria, challenging participants in Applied Mathematics, Data Analysis, Verbal Reasoning, and General Knowledge. We faced Federal University Oye Ekiti (FUOYE), Kaduna State University (KASU), and University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), in the group stage, going unbeaten and topping the table. We then defeated Covenant University in the quarterfinals, University of Ibadan in the semifinals, and Federal University of Technology, Akure in the finals, where we emerged victorious, securing first place and bringing honor to the university. The experience not only tested our knowledge and teamwork but also showcased the caliber of talent within our university, the importance placed on academic excellence, and the unwavering support of the OAU community. This achievement stands as a testament to the dedication and excellence that OAU students bring to every endeavor. Thank God for this success.

STUDENT AWARD

Olawolemi
Ogidan

Ase Hephzibah
Testimony



Inaugural National SSK Moot Court Competition.

The Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), represented by a 400 level law student, Ase Hephzibah Testimony and a 300 level law student, Olawolemi Ogidan, emerges Winner at the Inaugural National SSK Moot Court Competition.

On 4th July 2026, Streamsowers & Köhn, a leading law firm in Nigeria, hosted its inaugural national moot court competition.

Following an intense memorial writing stage involving 17 universities including University of Lagos, University of Calabar and the University of Abuja, Team OAU came out on top securing a spot at the physical finals at Lagos.

In a final face off against Bayero University, Team OAU equally won the Moot Competition with Ase Hephzibah clinching the Best Oralist prize while at it.

Appreciation

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Editors-in-Chief, Contributors, Committee Chairpersons, and their respective members for their dedication to this publication. Special thanks to the Directors of the Central Office of Research, the Staff, Interns, and Volunteers of the Central Office of Research. Their immense contributions and sacrifice have continued to drive the success of this event.

Special thanks to OPAY Digital Services Limited and Prof. Ebun Adejuyigbe for their financial contributions and continuous support.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who sent in goodwill messages in celebration of this year's Awardee and the 2026 cohort of OAU Stars.

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