

KCOBANA MISSION

To promote, foster and advance fellowship among alumni of King's College, Lagos, and to advance the interests, influence and reputation of King's College, Lagos, by establishing a medium to serve the institution in North America.

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King's College Old Boys Association, North America





KcobaNorthAmerica

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter a new decade in the second millennium, many Kingsmen in the diaspora will inevitably ponder the momentous events of the last two decades, both in our motherland and in our respective adopted countries. In Nigeria we have witnessed a maturing of sorts of our still fledgling with transitions from democracy, successive democratically-elected governments, while serious socio-political tensions remain that remind us of how tenuous our union remains. In the United States, the democratic institutions after which we have modeled our institutions are under attack, and a protracted impeachment process was recently completed with potentially divisive outcomes. In Europe, the UK has "Brexited" from one of the strongest regional markets in history, and the country's future standing in the global economy is uncertain.

Through it all Nigerians' influence in the diaspora has slowly expanded. Nigerian culture has already made its mark around the globe, with Afrobeats dominating the music scene, Nollywood achieving new heights in critical acclaim, and Nigerian art fetching record prices at international auctions. "Bob Hearts Abishola," a new prime-time sitcom on a major US network channel, features Nigerian actors and actresses as central characters. Famed Afrobeats musician Burna Boy recently earned a Grammy nomination for his celebrated album African Giant. Nigerian influence has always been evident in many of the major sports, even when Nigerians play under other countries' flags. NBA MVP Giannis Adetokunbo (yes, I insist on using the correct Yoruba spelling of his name - what the hell is "Antetekoumpo anyway?") nicknamed "The Greek Freak" may be of Greek nationality but we all know where he's really from!

In the fields of medicine and academia, Nigerian diasporans have made their mark, as is also increasingly the case in technology and business. Indeed Nigerians, the most educated group of immigrants in the US, are settling comfortably into the American middle class and have become a force to be reckoned with economically and politically. This increasing affluence is paying dividends for our country in terms of remittances.



According to a recent PwC report, remittances from Nigerians in the diaspora amounted to almost \$24 billion in 2018 (up from \$22 billion in 2017) and represented 6.1% of Nigeria's GDP. This was more than 11 times the flows of foreign direct investment in the same year and translated to 83% of the Federal Government budget. PwC estimates that migrant remittances could grow to \$34 billion by 2023.

These trends signal opportunities for Kingsmen, both at home and abroad. The exceptional educational training and discipline that an elite institution such as King's College Lagos has traditionally offered provides the right preparation for Kingsmen of all generations to not only thrive but lead in diverse circumstances. Nowhere is this more evident than in the US where Kingsmen continue to make their mark in medicine, academia, technology, business and culture.

KCOBANA seeks to promote this development by highlighting these achievements and promoting a crosspollination of ideas through networks. We also aim to improve standards in the Old School to ensure that the tradition of an exceptional education endures. We count on your participation to help us achieve these important outcomes.

Floreat!

BAYO OYEWOLE Harman's House, 1968-1972 President, KCOBANA



KCOBANA's 5TH ANNUAL REUNION GALA

In keeping with an emerging tradition, the 5th annual KCOBANA dinner was held on May 4, 2019 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Maryland. The over 120 guests in attendance enjoyed a convivial ambience that, in keeping with the "Lagos Night" theme, was infused with various reminders of Nigeria's megacity, including tables named after different iconic Lagos venues. The evening began with a welcome address by Bayo Oyewole, KCOBANA President (Harman's House, 1968-1972). The guest of honor, Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, had honored her commitment to attend despite nursing a broken leg and her inspiring speech was the highlight of the evening. She lamented the sorry state of public education in Nigeria and encouraged ongoing efforts by the Old Boys to wrest control of the school from the Federal Government.

Ms. Mohammed was presented with the Chief A.A. Ibegbulam Award for a Lifetime of Distinguished Service. The Rex. E.O. Akpofure Award for Outstanding Achievement went to Toby Olowofoyeku, Musical Composer, Performer and Producer (Harman's House, 1964-1968). Sir Victor Eka, Corporate Executive and Former KC Teacher (Hyde-Johnson's House, 1960-1966) was awarded the Chief R.S.G. Agiobu-Kemmer Award for Professional Excellence.

As guests ate, MC Buchi (Onyebuchi Okeke, Pane's House, 2000-2006) regaled the audience with his inimitable humor and moved the evening's agenda along at a comfortable pace. Yele Aluko, Chairman of the KCOBANA Board (Hyde Johnson's House, 1966-1972) made a passionate call for donations to the KCOBANA Scholarship Fund that resulted in new pledges of \$22,000. We are grateful to all who pledged and encourage them to fulfil their pledges in a timely manner as promised.

Ade Dosunmu, KCOBANA Secretary (Pane's House, 1982-1988), presented awards to the graduating class sets that distinguished themselves last year by making meaningful contributions to King's College. These included the 1988, 1991, 1992, 2005 & 2006 sets. Valentine Odife, KCOBANA Vice President (Pane's House, 1982-1988), provided an update on the operations of the Scholarship Committee and introduced guests to the inaugural winner of the Scholarship Fund. Dr. Seun Sowemimo (McKee Wright's House, 1982-1988) presented an early viewing of the trailer to *The Milk Maid*, a movie directed and financed by King's College Old Boys that is about to be launched as we go to press. Following a raucous rendition of *Floreat Collegium*, the leash was removed from DJ Biodun and, until 1:00AM, guests danced to pulsating mixes of Afrobeats and Old School dance hits.

A fun evening was enjoyed by all. KCOBANA would like to thank everyone who supported the dinner in one way or another, with special mention to our distinguished awardees, our generous donors, our Development Consultant, Ericka Consin-Mosheshe, and the Marriott Hotel staff.



PHOTOS & VIDEO CLIPS BELOW:

H.E. AMINA MOHAMMED AT THE DINNER https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=-b8jTUNR5E0

PRESIDENT BAYO OYEWOLE'S OPENING REMARKS https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgriEVcKpoY

MILIKI Time https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VI9rjUPgu8

OLD BOYS' REFLECTIONS https://www.youtube.com/watch? time_continue=1&v=QSyBs-icLHs

Do you know a KCOB resident in North America that you think is deserving of one of the awards in 2020? If so, please send his name and a brief case for his nomination to inbox@kcobana.org

Do you have a business? Expand your reach to KCOBs and their networks by placing ads at KCOBANA events. Contact inbox@kcobana.org for details.

MUYIWA IDOWU McKee Wright's House, 1973-1977 Vice President, KCOBANA





KCOBANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The annual KCOBANA Gala offers us an opportunity to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM). During the 2019 AGM several signposts were erected to take us into 2020:

Scholarship fund pledges hit \$90,000 mark: The treasurer, Mr. Fred Udochi announced that after only 1 year, pledges to the fund have exceeded \$90,000 or about 90% of the \$100,000 target. Donors are urged to make good on their pledges at the earliest opportunity.

Scholarship disbursed to first recipient: Mr. Chika Duke-Eze was the winner of the inaugural edition of the KCOBANA Annual Scholarship Award of \$1,000 (more below). Reach out to Vice President Val Odife about the Scholarship Fund.

KCOBANA works with class sets on projects: KCOBANA has worked with some class sets to facilitate remittances to Nigeria for their give-back projects. Reach out to Fred Udochi, KCOBANA Treasurer for more information to help with transferring funds for your set projects taking advantage of KCOBANA's tax exempt status. Class of 91's Tayo Okusanya gave a talk about his set's borehole and water supply project of 2016.

*KCOBANA efforts to take the Old School back: The AGM urged the Executive to develop a roadmap for review by the Board for supporting ongoing efforts to take ownership of the school back from the Federal Government. Reach out to @KCOBANA GGA on WhatsApp with your comments and ideas.

Now even easier for you to pay annual dues: PayPal and other easy means are now available for members to pay their annual dues online. Pay your dues or donations now at https://www.kcobana.org/members/pay-dues.php

ADE DOSUNMU

Pane's House, 1982-1988

Secretary, KCOBANA



2019 KCOBANA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

On Friday July 18- 2019, the first recipient of the KCOBANA Scholarship Award, **Chika Dueke-Eze**, was officially presented with his \$1000 award in a colorful ceremony at the King's College main campus. In attendance were his father, Engr. Hyacinth Eze; his mother, Dr. Cordelia Dueke-Eze; KC Principal, Mr. Andrew Agada; KCOBs Engr. Emeka Oragwu and Mr. Muhammed Shaibu; and KC teachers and students. KCOBANA President, Bayo Oyewole presented the award and reiterated the commitment of the organization to providing an award to a deserving graduating senior at KC every year. In accepting the award, Chika thanked KCOBANA for the honor bestowed upon him and promised to maintain the high academic standards and ideals expected of him.

Chika has been accepted to a BSc program in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Lagos. He is also awaiting an early decision admission from Stanford University based on his excellent SAT score. A perfect 800 score in mathematics and 740 in verbal reasoning put him in the 99th percentile of all test-takers. We are truly proud of him and couldn't have chosen a more deserving student to carry on the traditions of KC and set the initial standard for the KCOBANA Scholarship Fund.

VAL ODIFE, MD Pane's House, 1982-1988 Vice President, KCOBANA



Chika Dueke-Eze receives KCOBANA Scholarship Award from Bayo Oyewole, President KCOBANA



From L: Bayo Oyewole, Chika Dueke-Eze, Emeka Oragwu, Muhammed Shaibu



Chika Dueke-Eze gives inspirational acceptance speech to KC student body at Assembly



KCOBANA SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONORS



When the call was sounded - thank you for joining KCOBANA's growing list of committed and generous donors.

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NETWORKING KINGSMEN

Continuing KCOBANA networking initiatives, KCOBs met in formal and informal settings during the year. Highlights are provided below.

IB DISCOVERS AMERICA

New York investment banker Iberedem ("IB") Ekure, '05, met with fellow Old Boys in Charlotte and Washington DC on a cross-country road tour during the summer.



Yele Aluko, MD, '72 IB Ekure,'05, Obinna Eruchalu, MD, '72 and Tunde Ayodele, MD, '72 in Charlotte, NC, August 2019



Muyiwa Idowu, '77, Donald Odogwu, '99 and IB Ekure '05 in Washington DC, August 2019. Not pictured are numerous other attendees at the Happy Hour event which was also open to non-KCOBs.



CELEBRATING WITH KINGSMAN ATEDO PETERSIDE, '75: SEVILLE, SPAIN

Distinguished Kingsmen at wedding of industry icon Atedo Peterside's son in Seville,
Spain in September 2019. From L: Arnold Ekpe, Ibrahim Dikko, Olusola Pearce,
IK Osakwe, Senator Udoma Udo-Udoma, Dr. Muyiwa Bakare, Dr. Folarin Smith,
HRH Ebitemi Banego, Okey Udezue, Atedo Peterside, Bayo Ogunlesi, Senator Sola
Akinyede, Dr. Obinna Eruchalu, Dr. Ayo Ahonkai, Bayo Oyewole, Dr. Chuka Nwokolo,
Dr. Yele Aluko, Junaid Dikko, Hakeem Belo-Osagie.



SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

KCOBANA Board Chairman Dr. Yele Aluko with Nigeria Higher Education Foundation Board Chairman, Wale Adeosun at Annual Gala. **New York, September 2019**



Class of '97 Old Boys, Akin Rotimi, Siji Alabi, Alex Irune and Ayo Ayodele.

Other KCOBs in attendance at the event were Ebuka Uyanwa '04, Labi
Williams, '93, Kunle Anjorin '93, Ade Dosunmu '88.

DISCUSSING POLICY, FINANCE & INVESTMENT ISSUES IN THE BIG APPLE



KCOBANA dinner, New York, September 2019.

From L: Silva Umukoro, '73, Ebuka Uyanwa '04, Akintoye Olorode of Bloomberg, Cecilia Oyediran of Acreage Holdings, Ade Dosunmu '88, Ejiro Emorhokpor '94, IB Ekure '05, Nnaemeka Eke of Goldman Sachs, Chizitere Obioha of Bank of America/Merill Lynch, Babawole Akin-Aina '98, Adora Asonye, former Special Adviser to Minister of Finance Kemi Adeosun.

DONATION OF BOOKS TO KING'S COLLEGE LIBRARY





KCOBANA donates books to King's College Library, July 2019. Bayo Oyewole, President KCOBANA with Andrew Agada, Principal KC, Librarian and other KC staff.

NETWORKING IN CHARLOTTE, NC



From L: Dr. Obinna Eruchalu '72, Bayo Oyewole '72, Dr. Yele Aluko '72, Ayo Oyewole '82

NETWORKING IN LAGOS



KCOB '68-'74 Set meeting at residence of Bayo Oyewole, President KCOBANA, Lagos, Nigeria, August 2019. From L: Fola Arthur-Worrey, Akin Osho, Taiwo Fadina, Bambo Ademiluyi, Bola Adefope, Nigel Lardner, Bayo Oyewole, Lekan Adams, Bola Olatunde



KCOB Class of '69 50th Anniversary Dinner, Lagos, Nigeria, August 2019. From L: Bayo Oyewole, President KCOBANA, '72; Bambo Ademiluyi, Ex-Officio KCOBA, '72; Kashim Ibrahim-Imam, President KCOBA; Lucky Idike, Vice President KCOBA

KC LIONS - ROAD TO THE PRINCIPAL'S CUP FINAL, 1975

I had always had a talent for football from a very early age as far back as my primary school days at Capital School Kaduna. When I got to Kings College my dream was to make the school's first eleven and play in the Principal's Cup which was a big deal among secondary schools in Lagos. As a kid I had watched many matches at the old Onikan Stadium in the early 70s and aspired to play there some day.

I developed my football skills in the junior "Mosquitoes" team from Forms II to IV. My dreams were at last realized when I reached Form V in 1975 and was called to the Principals' Cup squad. This meant being called to "Camp," a huge honor and boost to one's popularity. What even made it more special was that, at only 15 years old, I was the youngest member of the squad.

The Camp was a very large room at the ground floor of Hyde Johnsons House, right next to the dining hall, which was turned into a special dormitory for the squad. The Camp was the beginning of the preparation for the 1975 Principals' Cup campaign and a coach was hired to train the squad.

My experience at the Camp was amazing. Our schedule was different from other students', and so was the diet which made all the other boys envious. We began daily training very early in the mornings and continued until classes started. The morning practice sessions, focused on strength and stamina, were very exhausting. Our special breakfast diet, consisted of cereal, eggs, bread, tea and glucose. We attended classes after breakfast. Our classroom schedules were shifted but not disrupted. Lunch was with the other students but because of our special diet we sat at specially designated tables. We had supper later than the rest of the school to accommodate the evening practice sessions and Lights Out was also extended.

The squad made Camp a lot of fun. As the youngest member, I had to do chores for my seniors. However, we

shared many laughs and jokes and I learned a lot from my fellow squad members who always coached me on how to improve my play. The evening practice sessions were always a delight for me because the squad would be divided into two teams and we would play against each other. This was the time to display your talent and prove that you deserved to be selected to play in the next match while also entertaining the student body.

The really good days were when we won matches and progressed in the tournament: celebrations lasted late into the night. But God help you if you had an obvious mess-up in the match. You became the brunt of playful abuses until you make amends. There was no mercy with these guys. Match days were special and as we progressed towards the final, they became more special and highly scrutinized by various stakeholders, including KC old boys and former principals and teachers. This just added to the already tense conditions.

On match day there were the customary encouraging words by the Principal (PKC) at morning assembly. Then early lunch and rest before the bus ride to the stadium. By this time the atmosphere in the school would be filled with high expectations, and chants of "KC Ove. Oye, Oye" would reverberate throughout the school. The energy level was high and sweat would drip down our faces and backs as we dressed for battle while listening to a last-minute pep talk from the coach. As we climbed into the bus, the students would cheer loudly. I always got nervous before a match but was able to relax once the match was underway. When the bus arrived at the stadium we were met with cheering by well-wishers and jeers of "aje butter" (butter-eating softies) by opposing school students and fans. KC was always looked at by other schools as the softie school of the privileged.

On this particular day we played in the semi-final against Baptist Academy and I was fortunate to score the second and winning goal that put the KC Lions into the final of the Principal's Cup, the second time in the history of the King's College Lions. I had to play a feint against two defenders with my speed and body movement to shoot the ball past the rushing goalkeeper with my left foot. This was by no means an easy feat because to be the complete forward and striker, you must be proficient with both feet. Not many are but I was, and I got the job done.

PKC, the coach, faculty staff and other KCOBs present were very happy men that evening. Now it was time for celebrations. The noise in the bus on the ride back to school was deafening. We sang and chanted all the way back to school where we were met by cheering students. Supper was a glorious event. The praises and toasts by the prefects were mind-blowing. Back at the Camp the celebrations continued and went on throughout the night as we all relived the match. Our captain commended me for my performance and for scoring the winning goal which made me very happy. It was now official -- I had made my mark in the history of the KC Lions football program and earned my spot in the team.

We lost in the Finals, but we had had a good run. The 1975 Principal's Cup tournament was indeed a memorable one.

OBAFEMI DOHERTY Hyde-Johnson's House, 1971-1977 Board Member, KCOBANA



King's College, Lagos (Founded in 1909)

WHEN THE CALL WAS SOUNDED IN ZARIA

One of the most memorable moments of my time in KC was when I travelled to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (ABU) as part of a contingent of young performers invited by the institution's KCOBA chapter. So far, it is the only time I have ventured north of the Rivers Niger and Benue, within Nigeria's borders. The troupe included members of the school choir, *The Hotspots* (KC's pop music band in those days) and the string orchestra. We were supposed to travel to Zaria by road, but due to some logistical problems, plans for our journey were constantly reviewed and amended. At one point it seemed as if the whole project was going to be shelved. Strings were pulled behind the scenes and out of the blue, we found ourselves flying to Zaria in a Nigeria Air Force plane. The pilot for the journey was a younger brother of General Yakubu Gowon (who was still Nigeria's Head of State at the time).

On arrival in Zaria, we were taken to the ABU campus. It was exciting to see some familiar faces amongst the students – old boys who had only left KC a year or two before. We had no expectations regarding the demographics of the audience for our concert. It was probably the only time that all the music-driven groups from KC of that era performed together outside of school. Bearing in mind that this happened over 40 years ago, my memory of the sequence of events is hazy. I do remember, however, that we were not particularly well-received. The choir got a lukewarm reception, but the string orchestra and The Hotspots went down with the audience like lead balloons!

On the morning after the show, we heard reports that campus journalists had written scathing reviews of our presentation. Much of the criticism was apparently focused on the symbolic suggestiveness of the string orchestra and The Hotspots. These groups were regarded as signs that our minds were being conditioned into embracing neo-colonial values. Needless to say, we journeyed back to Lagos under a cloud. We were psychologically strong enough as individuals to put the experience behind us, but I wonder if I might have been interested in travelling to Northern Nigeria more frequently if my experience had been different on that occasion.

The KCOBA chapter in that university did a good thing when they invited us to perform. I don't know whether or not other chapters have presented similar events in the years that followed. If any group of Old Boys wishes to draw inspiration from the idea, to provide an extra-curricular experience for boys currently attending the school, perhaps they should incorporate into their plans the idea of providing safe spaces for the young people, with opportunities for them to flourish as their authentic selves, regardless of any modish political views or mindsets.

JUWON OGUNGBE

Pane's House, 1973-1977

www.twitter.com/@jimvon

www.juwonogungbe.com

KING'S COLLEGE SLANG AND ITS USE OVER THE YEARS				
slang	MEANING	POSSIBLE ORIGIN	USE	PERIOD USED
Clearer	Person who loves the dining hall food, thus never missing their meals	Clearing	Francis always has a spoon in his pocket because he is a clearer.	60s -Present
Shallo	To fake/ portray falsehood	Falsehood	The shallo Abraham gave of the house master's approach made everyone hide under their beds.	90s -Present
Nass	Nigerian Association of Stabbing Students/ to miss classes	Stabbing	l am going to nass English class because l have not done my assignment.	90s -2000s
Cast	To snitch/report	News casting	The bullies were flogged during assembly after the junior boys casted their names.	60s - Present
Pump	Corporal punishment where one repeatedly squats and stands up with hands pulling the ears		The junior student was told to pump a thousand times by the senior's apartment.	90s - Present
Ewa	Punishment requiring victim to write several pages of a certain phrase repeatedly or a tough comprehension as dictated by the punisher.	' '	We wrote an ewa because we ignored a prefect's entrance into the labor room.	60s - Present

RASHEED OJUKO

Hyde-Johnson's House, 2003-2009

Deputy Treasurer, KCOBANA

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



NEWTON OWI MCKEE WRIGHT'S HOUSE, 1972-1973

Where do you live? Tampa, Florida.

How long have you been in the US? 37 years.

What memories of your time at KC do you cherish most? Initiation -- I avoided brine. Friends, still trying to locate a few -- Ezeani, Boyd, Bayo Ajayi, Opreye Princewill. The diversity of the student body. Evening swims at Onike. Chemistry lab. Karika (principal). The organ playing Floreat Collegium at Assembly. Sessions with former principal Rex Akpofure at the Thinkers Club. Violating lights-out rules to stay up late to chat.

What are your expectations as a KCOBANA member? Stay in touch. Learn. Share what I know.

Tell us a little bit about your work in the US.

After a past with AT&T, IBM and Price Waterhouse, I now work as a management consultant in project management, process transformation, and finance. I currently spend a third of my time in Nigeria on various projects including succession planning for Nigerian firms.

How do you like to spend your spare time?

Going to the beach, watching football or baseball. I'm starting a blog on football.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

Married to Dr. Yemi Owi. Two kids: Tari (girl) and Akin (boy).

Who inspires you? My wife.

What's a fun fact about you that not many people know? I go to church but only for the organ music, the sermon, and friends.



IBEREDEM EKURE HARMAN'S HOUSE, 1999-2005

Where do you live? New Jersey.

How long have you been in the US? 13 years.

What memories of your time at KC do you cherish most? The camaraderie of the class of '05. The 2005 inter-house sports meet that featured the legendary Sarumi Gbenga in a sprint against my friends who shall remain unnamed and were left in the dust.

What are your expectations as a KCOBANA member? Networking opportunities and ability to meaningfully contribute to the old school.

Tell us a little bit about your work in the US.

I work in structured products trading at Goldman Sachs where I cover equity derivatives for retail and institutional clients.

How do you like to spend your spare time?

I play soccer and attend boxing fights across the country. If there is a big fight in your city, I might be close by.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

My wonderful parents are based in Lagos. My older sister, a QCOG, is in Europe and my younger brother in Nigeria.

Who inspires you? Alfred Adler...look him up.

What's a fun fact about you that not many people know?

I fell off a plane once. I had boarded with a group and one of the group members did not make it through security in time. As group leader, I volunteered to wait with the straggler for the next flight. Unbeknownst to me, the connector between the terminal and the plane had been pulled back and as I walked out the door I found myself on the ground. Luckily, I landed on my feet from a 7-foot drop.

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