

Savouring the Seasons of Strength, Service, Sacrifice *into* SATISFACTION

Some Personal Notes on the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan
MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 Homecoming 40th Anniversary and Reunion



Welcome Home Class of '85!

40th Anniversary & Reunion
MBBS & BDS Class of 1985
College of Medicine, University of Ibadan

Ibadan, Nigeria
Sunday, 8 June – Thursday, 12 June 2025



WEL COME

"If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast." – Ernest Hemingway, A Moveable Feast

When Professor Olayinka Omigbodun walked into our office conference room that late afternoon in early April to speak about the upcoming reunion of her class, it was not just another planning meeting in our office schedule. There was something in the way she shared it, something that stirred memory and meaning. As she spoke, Hemingway's words about Paris came to mind. Not because we were planning anything remotely Parisian, but because the metaphor of the moveable feast lingered.

There was irony in the comparison. We were not in Paris. This was Ibadan. But the mood was familiar. Planning such a gathering felt like curating a feast of stories, faces, and shared histories. It was not a meal of courses, but of seasons and decades, each one rich with experience and layered with service, sacrifice and strength. She kept reminding us that it was also a season to usher them into **satisfaction**. Truly, this was no ordinary event. The CoMUI MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 was returning after forty years, not merely to reunite, but to reinhabit the spaces where their journeys began. They were coming back to Ibadan, back to the College of Medicine and the University College Hospital Ibadan, to walk again the corridors that had witnessed their becoming. For Ibadan stays with you. Indeed, Ibadan has stayed with them.

It felt surreal in the chair where I sat that day, taking it all in. My thoughts wandered. I considered the passage of time, the resilience of memory, and how places hold meaning long after the people have passed through them. That was my Paris. My own moveable feast moment.

The Call to Prepare

Let me be honest. Planning was tough.

Experience had taught us that if Professor Olayinka Omigbodun was doing anything, it must carry energy, excellence, poise and impact. That means attention to detail, a clear sense of purpose and an expectation that everyone must give their best. I have observed several events from the front row under her leadership, even during her time as Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. A distinguishable hallmark of her style is the ability to welcome multiple ideas and push everyone towards shared brilliance.

Immediately, Professor Omigbodun set up a team, later to be known as the Ibadan Local Organising Committee (LOC), to support the Class LOC. Our goal was to translate ideas into reality and provide strong on-ground coordination from within the University community.

We were divided into teams: Media, Finance, Logistics, Catering, Programmes, Liaison with Students, Accommodation, Transport and even Adire (team to organise the uniform outfits). Although everyone had a clearly defined role, we had the opportunity to collaborate, consult and support one another across functions. Each team had to come up with its own workplan and present it at the Ibadan LOC meetings, where our ideas were interrogated, refined and improved before we proceeded to implementation. It felt like real work, and rightly so.

On my part, drafting the Communication Strategy, preparing slide decks, developing timelines and thinking through sequencing and tone meant, like everyone else, I had to bring my A-game. It was both demanding and invigorating.

As planning progressed, Professor Omigbodun made it clear that we could not organise an event that would directly benefit students without involving them in the process. She insisted that student voices must be part of the planning. From then on, subsequent meetings included representatives from the student leadership. These included the executives of the University of Ibadan Medical Students' Association (UIMSA) 2024/25, the University of Ibadan Association of Dental Students (UADS) 2024/25, the leadership of Alexander Brown Hall (ABH) 2024/25, and the current leadership of the University of Ibadan Students' Union. Their presence brought fresh perspectives and energy and helped ensure that the reunion activities also reflected the needs and aspirations of the current student body.



A cross-section of team members in one of the many Ibadan LOC meetings towards the planning of the Reunion Week in our famed SUCCEED Africa office conference room

By the time we eventually settled around the media plan, logistics and programme schedule for the reunion, it was clear that everyone had thought deeply, contributed their insight and chipped in with enthusiasm. We were trusted to take ownership of our work, and we did. That expressed confidence came with the silent anxiety of not wanting to disappoint.

After several weeks of planning, design sessions, edits, reviews and returning home very late, we finally had a programme draft ready to share with the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 LOC Chair, Dr Abib Olamitoye.

And to Academy Suites, we went.

In the Shadows of Countdown

I remember walking into Academy Suites, the venue of our meeting with Dr Abib Olamitoye, and being struck by the scale of renovation underway. The dust, the noise, the flurry of construction workers. It was clear something significant was in motion. I learnt that Dr Olamitoye had personally invested a great deal to renovate the hotel space, including expanding the Event Hall, now named the Olubadan Hall, into a gigantic venue that could accommodate over 700 attendees. It was a lot by any standard, but for me, it was a powerful signal. Hosting the reunion was not just a task to be done. It was a deliberate commitment, anchored in generosity, foresight and a desire to create something memorable.



Prof. Omigbodun and Dr. Olamitoye pose in front of the Oduduwa Hall during the renovation of the Oduduwa Hall at Academy Suites

We sat through the meeting, going through costs, options and possible adjustments. I recall feeling a bit anxious as we reviewed some programme items that had taken considerable time and thought to develop. The thought of cutting anything felt like letting go of a part of the collective effort. But we knew we had to balance vision with practicality.



The LOC team meeting with Dr. Abib Olamitoye in his office to discuss the proposed plans and activity schedule for the reunion week at his office at Academy Suites, Old Ife Road.



Professor Omigbodun giving report of the Ibadan Sub-LOC Team as Dr. Abib Olamitoye listens with rapt attention



MBBS & BDS Class of 1985
College of Medicine, University of Ibadan

40th Reunion Anniversary

Ibadan, Nigeria
Sunday, 8 June – Thursday, 12 June 2025

One of the fruitful outcomes of our interaction during the planning was coming up with the Reunion logo – it is indeed a symbol of vision, resilience and the collaborative effort it took to bring this mission to life.

Once we agreed on the key structure and logistics, our provisional programme schedule took shape as follows:

Sunday, 8th June 2025

Arrival Day / Cocktail Evening

- A relaxed evening of gratitude, reconnection, and light-hearted fun to ease into the reunion.

Monday, 9th June 2025

A Day for Students and Legacy Sharing

- A student-focused event where members of our class will engage medical and dental students through talks, mentoring sessions and experience sharing.
- Launch of our Electronic Yearbook, capturing stories and moments from the past four decades.

Tuesday, 10th June 2025

Day of Leisure & Reflection

- Breakfast with scholars and sponsors of the Global Sponsor-A-Student Programme at Academy Suites.
- Sightseeing, relaxation and informal networking.

Wednesday, 11th June 2025

Celebrating Impact

- A special event to honour contributions by members of the Class of 1985 to the development of our alma mater – including the building of the Alexander Brown Hall gate & perimeter fence 10 years ago, scholarships to 50 indigent students since the onset of the Sponsor A Student Programme, Support to the University College Hospital, donations to the Student Hostel project.
- Commissioning of the Philip O. Ozuah block (Block C) and a guided tour of the hostel site.
- Dinner & Dance – an evening of celebration and camaraderie.

Thursday, 12th June 2025

Departure Day

The Feast Unfolds

I remember waking up on Sunday morning, 8 June 2025, with the adrenaline of a man preparing for a personal milestone. You'd think it was my class, or even my family, organising something extraordinary that week. That morning, I forgot the fatigue and pressures of the weeks leading up: the emotional toll of last-minute document reviews, the late-night edits, and even tense moments when we got reprimanded for not handling details properly. There had been times when we had to rewrite drafts under pressure, make repeated visits to venues, and work through weekends. We even missed celebrating the birthday of our talented comms team member because we were all neck-deep in planning.

We were visibly drained, but Prof Omigbodun had sold this vision so well that we could only feed off her energy. Her commitment, leadership and quiet grace were the fuel that kept us going. It became a privilege to partner with her.

And what better feeling than watching something you've nurtured finally take form, almost effortlessly; like a birth that surprises you with its ease.

The Reunion Week was finally upon us, and I was super pumped for the days ahead.

Sunday: Arrival Day/Cocktail Evening



I spent most of the evening with the media team, trying to capture authentic moments, speaking informally to class members and asking how it felt to be back after so many years. But more than anything, I watched. I watched the wide grins, the hearty laughs, the embraces that carried four decades of absence. Some hadn't seen each other since the last reunion; many hadn't met since they left medical school in 1985.

The room was alive with emotion. The greetings were loud. The joy was pure. And the hugs, tight and teary, said more than words ever could.



The congenial moment of laughter as class members arrived at the reception of Academy Suites. They were received by Dr. Abib Olamitoye, the Class LOC Chair for the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985's 40th Anniversary and Reunion

The purpose of the evening was simple: to eat, drink, reflect, and thank God for life, family, work and all the years gone by. The atmosphere was charged with gratitude, helped along by the soulful sounds of the **Ablaze Music** band: an ensemble assembled by the hardworking LOC Secretary. They led us into a time of heartfelt praise to God, and that led eventually to the time of prayers and testimonies sharing.

I was particularly moved listening to class members share stories of divine interventions. Some spoke about surviving near-death experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Chief Dr Sir Nwajagu, Johnson Nworah, and Associate Prof Edward Oforka spoke candidly about the toll it took on their bodies and families.



Dancing mode full activated: Professor Olayinka Omighodun and Mrs. Nwani leading the class in a time of thanksgiving

As they recounted their recovery journeys, it became impossible not to think of all that the class members had individually survived over the years: illnesses, career setbacks, family struggles, personal loss. But they were still there and standing.

One of the most moving moments of the night came when Dr Olumuyiwa Olufemi Oso instinctively took the mic, led the room in worship and prayer to key into the palpable moment of spiritual worship. There was something sacred about it, like an invisible thread of shared spirit connecting us all. It felt like a fitting, solemn way to open the reunion week.

It just felt right that we had started on the right note.



The Class LOC Secretary, Prof. Olayinka Omigbodun, acknowledging and introducing the Ibadan LOC team to class members, as she appreciates their commitment to planning the reunion event



Chief Dr Sir Nwajagu, Johnson giving his testimony at the opening night of the event



Dr Olumuyiwa Olufemi Oso leading everyone during his unscripted moment of worship and prayer



The MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 members who were at the opening night of the reunion



Members of the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 present with their spouses and loved ones who attended with them

Monday: A Day for Students and Legacy Sharing



Monday came with doses of learning and wisdom sharing.

One of the quotes that echoed through the hall, capturing the essence of the gathering, was shared by Dr. Adeyemi Omolara Osiyemi, a paediatrician practising in Bishop's Stortford, England: "Luck is when your preparation coincides with opportunity." And in many ways, that quote perfectly summed up what this day represented—preparing young medical and dental students to meet their future with wisdom, perspective, and purpose.

The day began with a warm welcome by Dr. Abib Olamitoye, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee of the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 40th Anniversary and Reunion. He shared how members of the class have continued to do well globally, impacting the fields of medicine, entrepreneurship, public service, and philanthropy. This was followed by a goodwill message from Professor T.O. Ogundiran FAS, Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, delivered on his behalf by Venerable Professor S.B. Olaleye. The Provost praised the Class of 1985 for their remarkable achievements over the past forty years, highlighting their leadership in healthcare, education, research, entrepreneurship, and their generous contributions to the institution. He specifically mentioned notable members like Professor Olayinka Omigbodun, Dr. Abib Olamitoye, Professor Philip Ozuah, who made a historic \$1 million donation to the College, and Dr. Olabisi Oshikanlu for her transformation of the Global Sponsor A Student Program (G-SASP). His message, delivered in clear and grateful tones, affirmed that the legacy of the Class of 1985 is not only deeply felt at CoMUI but continues to shape its future.

Then came the keynote session by Dr. Tony Rapu, the Senior Pastor of House of Freedom and Chairman of the Freedom Foundation. His address, "Seasons of Life: Start Strong, Stay Steadfast, Shine Bright," was both timely and deeply stirring. He spoke about life as a journey marked by seasons:

morning, afternoon, and night, each with its own purpose, demands, and rewards. What made his session more profound was not just the eloquence or philosophy, but the life he's lived backing every word. I've followed Pastor Rapu's work for years, particularly his life-changing efforts through the House of Refuge, a place where individuals battling addiction are rescued, medically cared for, rehabilitated, and supported to rebuild their lives. He helps people find their way back from the streets to stability, from shame to self-worth. And in a poetic twist of fate, I once worked with a boss in Lagos who was deeply involved in street and homeless children's welfare, and who found life clarity while volunteering quietly at Rapu's church. That single moment helped launch initiatives that would go on to impact thousands of children.

Tony Rapu's reception by class members upon arrival at the venue of the event:



So as Pastor Rapu spoke that morning, I couldn't help but wonder what seeds were being planted in the heart of a student in that very hall. Sometimes, it's just one moment that changes everything.

He began by painting life as a journey divided into three seasons: morning, afternoon, and evening, each with its own lessons and responsibilities. The morning of life, he said, is for building foundations. It's the season for education, discipline, and planting seeds of purpose. "This is the time," he urged the students, "to build resilience, integrity, and empathy... the time to pay the price." He spoke candidly about his own morning, from a first degree in Zoology to his father encouraging him into Medicine, to discovering his passion for Psychiatry during rural and psychiatric postings. This morning season, he explained, is when "your passion becomes your GPS," and when values and vision must be formed. "People look for fruits when they have not planted seeds," he cautioned. "Imagine going to a bank and asking for returns on an investment, but they can't find your name on the system."

At one point, he paused and looked around the hall. "I'm not speaking to your age," he said, "I'm speaking to your season." It was a gentle reminder that seasons don't always follow age. Some people grow quickly, others slowly. What matters most is recognising your time and using it well.

As he shifted into the afternoon and evening of life, Pastor Rapu challenged everyone to walk in step with their season. The afternoon is for productivity, when the seeds planted begin to yield results. It's the time to refine your purpose, build influence, and give back. The evening, on the other hand, is about legacy. It's the time to mentor, to "refire" rather than retire, and to make peace with one's journey. But those who miss or misread the seasons, he warned, risk becoming "disoriented in time," trying to relive moments that have already passed. Quoting Solomon, he reminded the audience: "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven."

His final words were a powerful blessing to every listener, young and old: “May we all find joy and satisfaction in each season — morning, afternoon, and evening — of our lives.”

It was more than a speech. It was a compass.

You can watch the Keynote Address here: <https://youtu.be/M6j9Eju3ZEM>



Welcome Address being delivered by the Chairman, MBBS & BDS Class of 1985 40th Anniversary and Reunion Local Organising Committee, Dr Abib Olamitoye



Address by the Provost, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Prof. T. O. Ogundiran, FAS, being delivered by the Deputy Provost, Venerable Professor S.B. Olaleye



Goodwill message being delivered by the President, Ibadan College of Medicine Alumni Association WorldWide (ICOMAA-WW) - Emeritus Prof. S. I. Omokhodion, FNAMed



Pastor Tony Rapu, the Keynote Speaker, delivering his lecture titled: Seasons of Life: Start Strong, Stay Steadfast, Shine Bright



Goodwill message by the Chief Medical Director, University College Hospital, Ibadan Prof. J. A. Otegbayo, FNAMed being delivered by the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Professor Bukola Adesina



*Goodwill message being delivered by the Secretary to the College, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan,
Mr. A. E. Odedele, ACIPMN, MNIM*

The rest of the day was filled with equally impactful stories and wisdom from a host of brilliant minds during the Students and Legacy Sharing Event. The panel sessions were rich with testimony, advice, and lived experience

- Dr Akin O. Ayodeji, Endocrinologist, Miller County Hospital, Colquitt, GA and SHA Diabetes Center, Dothan,
- Dr Tomina George, Consultant Family Dentist; Head of Department, Department of Dentistry, Rivers State University Teaching Hospital
- Dr Bola Kehinde, Senior Anaesthetist, Warrington and Halton Foundation Teaching Hospital, Warrington; Director, Redeemed Christian Church of God Amazing Grace Parish, Leicester
- Prof Edward C. Oforka, Consultant Emergency Physician, University Hospitals of Derby & Burton NHS Trust; Associate Professor of Medical Education, Leicester Medical School
- Dr Babatunde Okewale, Chairman and Group Medical Director, St Ives Healthcare Group; Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist and Fertility Specialist
- Dr Omobolanle Olowu, mni, Managing Director/Consultant, Rosandy-Jon Ventures; Former Director, Public Private Partnership and Diaspora Department, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria
- Prof Rev'd David Olayiwola Soile, Consultant Family Physician/Principal GP and Senior Partner, Gravesend Medical Centre, Kent, UK; Founder & Minister, The Ministry of Summer Babies of Light International UK.

The Panel discussants with the Masters of Ceremonies speaking at the event:





Dr. Akin O. Ayodeji shared how his career took him through endocrinology in the UK and US. Dr. Tomina George, now a consultant family dentist and Head of Department in Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, also runs a fashion brand and serves in ministry. Dr. Bola Kehinde traced her journey from UCH to a UK fellowship, then to academia and ministry leadership. Prof. Edward Oforka opened up about navigating medical school with ADHD and shifting from plastic surgery to emergency medicine, an incredibly vulnerable and inspiring moment that underscored the need for neurodiversity support in COMUI. Dr. Babatunde Okewale chronicled his return to Nigeria and his pursuit of purpose through St. Ives Healthcare and the founding of Nigeria's first women-focused radio station, WFM 91.7. Dr. Omobolanle Olowu narrated her pivot from ophthalmology to policy leadership after personal loss, and Prof. Rev'd David Olayiwola Soile brought humour and sincerity as he shared about balancing faith, medicine, and a fulfilling life in the UK emphasizing the incredible role his mother had played in determining his trajectory into service and ministry.

Following these, a dynamic panel titled *'85 to '25: Leadership Across Times* brought the past and present together. Dr. Abib Olamitoye (Alexander Brown Hall Chairman 1984 to 1985 and Class of '85 Class Captain), Rt Hon Sir Dr Chief Felix Nwani (UIMSA President 1984 to 85), and student leaders Inioluwa Joshua (UIMSA President), Kehinde Omotoso (UADS President), and Ayotunde Oni (ABH Chairman) had an honest, intergenerational conversation. Dr. Olamitoye stressed reading as a gateway to leadership, saying every problem has a book written about it. Dr. Nwani recounted leading UIMSA with political backing and how he built a thriving private medical centre. The students responded with energy, asking questions and sharing their own aspirations.

The event was nothing short of transformative. Beyond knowledge and networking, it created a moment for at least one student, perhaps more, whose life direction may have just changed forever.

And that was always the hope, that in creating space for stories and wisdom to meet youthful searching, something lasting would be born.



A significant highlight of the event was Professor Omigbodun praising Professor Edward Oforka, in the company of his wife, for his courage in disclosing his struggle with managing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) through medical school and in advancing as a specialist.

As we closed the Legacy Sharing Day, what stayed with many was this: we are not only the sum of what we've achieved, but also of what we've inspired. And on this day, the Class of 1985 inspired a new generation to walk boldly into the seasons ahead, strong, steadfast, and shining bright.

The full video of the event can be seen here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXhpLbUMV4o&t=4780s>



Tuesday: Day of Leisure & Reflection



Tuesday began with a breakfast hangout with the Global Sponsor-A-Student Programme (GSASP) scholars, who are the student beneficiaries. It was more than a casual meet-and-greet. The setting was intimate, heartfelt, and deeply moving. This was a deliberate effort to promote intergenerational connection and impact.

Professor Bukola Adesina, GSASP Co-Chair, spoke passionately about the tangible impact of the support on students' academic performance. She noted that these kinds of engagements are more

than financial interventions. They are symbols of continuity and hope, a bridge between generations, and an anchor for student well-being. Her remarks underscored the power of alumni involvement in shaping academic journeys and inspiring commitment among current students.

The idea of the meeting was simple yet profound. It was to provide a space for the students to meet, learn from, and engage with their sponsors and other members of the Class of 1985. These alumni represent a wealth of experience, professional wisdom, and personal stories. The breakfast created room for reflection, exchange, and mentoring in a setting that was relaxed but purposeful.

The scholars came bearing gifts: poems, songs, art, and heartfelt gratitude. Some students recited poems so beautifully that the room fell into a hushed silence. Some others presented a painted portrait to their sponsor, evoking misty eyes and long hugs. Some also sang in angelic and majestic voices. One could sense that this was a moment of meaning, not obligation. There were no speeches of grandeur, just quiet, powerful expressions of thanks and shared humanity. As I watched the interactions unfold, I could not help but reflect on what impact truly looks like. At this point in life, many of these alumni are not chasing promotions or recognition. They are looking for ways to give back, to uplift others, and to reconnect with a generation in search of self and meaning. This kind of service is not transactional; it is restorative. It fills both giver and receiver with renewed purpose.



Dr. Yetunde Aarinola Shitta-Bey in an emotional embrace with a scholar after delivering an evocative, heartfelt poem to appreciate her sponsoring his medical education through GSASP



Dr. Chinyere Ngozi Obasi, a renowned neurosurgeon in Kearney, Nebraska USA, being presented with a portrait by his scholar



Scholars of the Cecilia Oshikanlu Scholarship presenting an artwork to Dr. Olabisi Oshikanlu, GSASP Global Chair and member of the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985

That spirit of reflection followed us as we journeyed to the University of Ibadan for a nostalgic tour. Our first stop was the Institute of African Studies, which, interestingly, is where I am currently a doctoral student. We walked into the foyer, where stunning artworks were on display. One of the installations was curated by Dr. Ayo Olujohungbe, the brother of a late class member, Dr Adebayo Babajide Olujohungbe, who passed away twelve years ago. The exhibition, titled “Creative Centrifugal,” featured magnificent live-edge wood furniture and sculptural pieces by BFFS, a company co-founded in Dr. Olujohungbe’s memory.

The artworks told stories of resilience, creativity, and rootedness. From the raw grain of the timber to the curves of the sculpted seats, each piece stood like a memory made tangible. There was something almost spiritual about it. One of the class members approached Professor Sola Olorunyomi, Director of the Institute, and playfully remarked on his striking resemblance in gait and hair to Professor Wole Soyinka. It was a light moment in a place steeped in artistic seriousness.

From the foyer to the adjoining museum space, we encountered elegant wooden tables, chairs, and décor carved from native hardwood. These works were statements. To include this exhibition as part of the itinerary was deeply thoughtful. It offered a tribute to a fallen classmate while connecting past, present, and future through craft and culture. It reminded us that memory is not just kept in photos but can be carved, painted, and displayed as living testimony.



After the Institute tour, we visited every hall of residence at the University of Ibadan to relive individual memories. At each entrance, we paused to take pictures, share laughter, and reminisce about the everyday moments that shaped years gone by. The class eventually made its way to Agodi Gardens, a beautiful, green expanse where the day ended with food, music, games, and unfiltered joy. There was dancing, plenty of it, and the mood was uninhibited. Nobody seemed bound by age or expectations. The local dishes served were intentional—hot swallows, spicy soups, and fresh palm wine—all adding a layer of cultural authenticity to an already grounded experience.

The visit to Agodi Gardens was an emotional release. People danced not just to music but to memories. There was laughter, open-heartedness, and a kind of freedom that came from shedding the roles and titles of everyday life. It was not a performance, because in my view, it had presence.

I left the Garden a bit earlier than most, but I left with thoughts swirling in my mind. I thought about ageing. Not as a loss but as a rhythm. As a return to what really matters. I longed for more spaces where nature meets memory, where freedom is not a reward but a right. Spaces where we can all be just people, gathered together in joy, reflection, and connection. I really admired how the class celebrated with palpable childlikeness.



A group picture of class members at the Institute of African Studies venue of the exhibition, titled "Creative Centrifugal"

Quick stopovers at various halls of residence at the University of Ibadan:



Pictures from the Trip to Agodi Gardens















Wednesday: Celebrating Impact

This was Wednesday, 11 June, 2025. The day began at the site of the new hostel block, where the Class of 1985 gathered for the commissioning of the Philip O. Ozuah Block. There was something deeply moving about watching members of the class, now accomplished professionals and elders in their own right, stand and walk in-between venues with such visible pride and commitment. I was especially struck by their energy and willingness to follow the flow of the programme, even though the start was delayed and they had to move between the lecture venue and the building site. It truly showed their support and how they deeply care for the success of the day.

Their enthusiasm was unmistakable. At one point, several of them joined in the welcome dances performed by an Igbo cultural troupe in honour of Dr Ozuah, who is not just the project's major donor, but also a proud member of the class.



Dr. Philip Ozuah in a warm embrace with Dr. Ikoedem Joseph Ibang, a member of the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985, as he arrives at the venue of the Philip Ozuah Hostel Block Commissioning



Dr. Philip Ozuah acknowledging and appreciating his class members as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Prof. K. O Adebawale FAS mni, claps on



Dr. Aderemi Waheed Adewuyi, a class member, in active participatory dancing with the Igbo Cultural Dancing Troupe at the venue of the Commissioning site

More members of the class joined in the celebratory dances with their spouses:





Members of the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 joined the College Management Team to welcome the Honourable Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM)

Following the commissioning, the class and guests returned to the Paul Hendrickse Lecture Theatre for a keynote lecture titled “A Medical Journey,” delivered by Dr Philip O. Ozuah. His address recounted his milestones as a medical doctor in the United States, but it was first an honest and inspiring narrative of his journey from Ibadan to the United States. He spoke of rejection, mentorship, divine moments, and resilience, and there were points when the entire room held its breath, drawn in by the intimacy and weight of his story. The presence of classmates, university leadership, students and friends made it all the more poignant. A fuller report on the day's events can be read [here](#).

The MBBS and BDS Class of 1985 has remained a committed and generous partner to the College of Medicine and University College Hospital over the decades. Their contributions include the construction of the Alexander Brown Hall gate and perimeter fence during their 30th anniversary, the launch and continued support of the Global Sponsor-A-Student Programme which now supports over 250 students, personal scholarships from more than 50 classmates, and the renovation of critical hospital spaces such as the Abib Olamitoye Foundation Ward and the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinic and Ward. Their total contribution to the Students' Hostel Project stands at ₦36,260,110, \$30,110, and £6,320.33, in addition to the personal \$1 million donation by Dr Philip O. Ozuah.

The afternoon continued with a more relaxed gathering in the AOK Johnson Boardroom, where the College Executive Committee hosted the class to lunch. Conversations flowed easily as classmates took photos in their school groupings and shared memories. A light-hearted moment came when an early birthday cake was presented to Rt Hon Sir Dr Chief Felix Nwani, whose birthday was the following day. The evening ended on a graceful note with a dinner in the newly built and commissioned Olubadan Hall at the Academic Suites. It was an opportunity to unwind, reflect and connect with conversations that touched on family, friendship, and the gift of time.

Members of the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 came to the day's event in a class adire costume:





Pictures from the post-event lunch at the AOK Johnson Boardroom





MREES & BOGOS Chair of the CUMU South Reunion



Pictures from the Class Dinner at Academy Suites





Thursday: Departure Day

This final day was marked by gratitude. A closing thanksgiving service, farewells, reflections, hugs, and the cutting of another cake for Rt Hon Sir Dr Chief Felix Nwani, President of UIMSA (1984/85), founder of Nwani Medical Centre, as he celebrated his birthday.



A group picture by class members with Rt Hon Sir Dr Chief Felix Nwani before they all set on their ways.

What We Took with Us

First, gratitude. To God. For making the entire week a great success, keeping people safe through their journeys, to and fro, and making every event that week a great hit, back-to-back.... And gratitude to the entire class and planning committee for the opportunity to serve them.

Two, fulfilment. We read the feedback of the experiences of the class during the reunion, and I am sharing some of them below verbatim with permission from the LOC Secretary:

Ernest Onyema Class Of 85

Ibadan 1.0 was good but 2.0 was at another level. I have always felt Ibadan 2.0 would have something special to offer and it sure did in 'bucket loads'

What a fantabulous and priceless 40th reunion. Kudos to the LOC. It was nice to see my biggest fan...J.J. Nwajagu 🥳🥳

22:37

Preye Zuokumor

Ernest Onyema Class Of 85

Ibadan 1.0 was good but 2.0 was at another level. I have always felt Ibadan 2.0 would have something special to offer and it sure did in 'bucket loads'

I couldn't have explained the 4/5 days in Ibadan better. Thank you Ernest. You forgot to add how well you danced throughout. Ibadan 2.0 was exceptional. Thank you Yinka Omigbodun and the LOC. Special thanks to Abib for providing such great logistical support. We are grateful to you all.

16:42



2

Good morning, my brethren. It was a great pleasure to see you all at the 40th reunion. The short period I spent was memorable and beautiful. My special appreciation to our dear Yinka, Habeeb, their staff, medical students, all of us who made it, and those who could not come physically. Also, I appreciate Philip for putting the class of 85 in an enviable height, May God's favour and divine blessings never seized on you, your family, and all of us. 🙏. Our diaspora brothers and sisters, I wish you all journey mercy back and more blessings. My Nigeria brothers and sisters, May God continue to bless you abundantly for your sacrifices and resilience to our fatherland. It was a really remarkable and wonderful quality time we had together. 💖 you all. Happy fathers to our brothers and our spouses.

08:16



8

Olukayode Oyefule Class Of 85



Patrick Olomu Class Of 85

An Ode to the Class of 1985

Forty Years of Healing Light

PathooO.....Pathogenesis!.

This is "Wole Soyinka-like poetic paraphrases."

Thanks for the encouraging write-up, which not only reviewed the very foundation of our togetherness, our individual contribution, to humanity in relation to the practice of our profession and our collective give back achievements as a Class.

We missed your physical presence but happy that it was a noble cause that held you back.

I also wish to use this opportunity to thank our wonderful Prof. Yinka Omigbodun, Dr. Olamitoye and the rest of the LOC members for hosting us, with an incredible perfection!.

.....it really couldn't have been better!

I also want to thank all our classmates who attended for making it worth our while.!

It was a wonderful reunion!.

I pray that God will spare our lives to attend our next reunion anytime and anywhere we so decide. Amen. 🙏...

09:08



Ibadan 1.0 was good but 2.0 was at another level.

I have always felt Ibadan 2.0 would have something special to offer and it sure did in 'bucket loads'

Kudos to LOC.

The detailed attention to the programme of events was unparalleled.

Monday keynote address by Tony Rapu

was listened to with rapture and we are enriched with the concept of Morning, Afternoon and Evening life perspectives.

Panel presentations and discussion were very impactful.

Tuesday breakfast with GSSP benefactors was inspiring. The acknowledgement stories, art presentation gestures, poems and singing were stirring.

A tour of UI, halls of residence and stop-over at the department of African Studies to view some work of Bayo Olugongbe's brother was very thoughtful of LOC.

In that department too, I saw for the first time the walking stick of Sir William Fyfe, Vice-Chancellor of University of Aberdeen, leader of a delegation sent by the Inter-University Council for higher Education in the colonies. Having walked through an undergrowth in the bush a few miles north of Ibadan he placed the walking stick on the ground and said 'here shall be the University of Nigeria' in December 1946.

The day ended with a jamboree in Agodi Gardens where a professional Games Crew got us really excited and integrated. The music was top notch, enjoyable local food was at our service.

Wednesday

Philip Ozua's attendance was an icing on the Cake for three and half days of tremendous fun.

Philip you have definitely put class 85 on a high pedestal. Thank you so much for all do.

The day I am afraid ended with too much eating during late lunch in the College of Medicine Board Room and late dinner/dance and dance group performance in the Oluban Hall at Academy Suites.

Oh we did not forget to celebrate Felix Nwanni's Birthday in style.

Yinka Omigbodun you definitely have an eye for details, I salute.

Hey I have heard that Re-Unions can be where lasting memories are made.

We have surely done that in abundance at Ibadan 2.0, No disappointments.

21:59



11

Now that the celebrations have ended and the College has returned to its usual calm, we, too, have returned to our routines, grateful for the memories made. The feast has been served, the stories savoured, and it is time to let the words find their own rest too.

The work is done, and so is this reflection.

Oluwaseun Abimbola

Media Team, Ibadan Sub-LOC Team

For the MBBS&BDS Class of 1985 Reunion

Postscript

Local Organising Committee (LOC) – Class Reunion

Chairman:

- Abib Olamitoye

Members:

- Adegboyega Tayo
- Chinyere Obasi
- David Soile
- Yetunde (Akinsipe) Shitta-Bey
- Aderemi Adeosun

Secretary:

- Olayinka (Banjo) Omigbodun

Sub-LOC Teams [Ibadan]

Media Team

- 'Seun Abimbola
- Chuka Ononye
- Timothy Ibe
- Okeoghenteno Ikime
- Tirenoluwa Omigbodun
- Michael Siyanbola
- Soji Ojoawo

Finance Team

- Busola Adeyeye
- Adeola Afolayan
- Esther Omole
- Esther Ogunsola
- Mary Aladelua
- Iyeyinka Kusi-Mensah

Logistics Team

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- Oluyinka Adedayo
- Rita Tamambang
- Timothy Ibe
- Tomisin Ogunmola
- Tosin Ogundipe
- Simeon Olaoye

- Tijesunimi Adebisi
- Olayinka Bamidele

Catering Team

- Busola Adeyeye
- Ifeyinwa Ogbogu
- Esther Omole
- Feyi Oladunni-Taiwo
- Kehinde Onioloke

Programmes Team

- Iyeyinka Kusi-Mensah
- Oluyinka Adedayo
- Ifeyinwa Ogbogu
- 'Seun Abimbola
- Tomisin Ogunmola
- Eunice Umoren
- Bunmi Fola-Bolumola