Name: Emmanuel Hakizimana

School: Art and Science

Major: Petroleum Engineering

Country: Rwanda



When it was time for me to come to Yola- Nigeria, I was scared of so many things, uncertainty filled my heart. My first day was quite doubtful as to if am at the right place at the right time. Communication was a great challenge at that moment, words like ‘how far, chilling, waiten dey’, were not only entirely new to me but confusing and irritating.

Surprisingly, those challenges faded away like mirage in a short time. AUN’s accommodating nature quickly absorbed and transformed me. I met lots of good friends from different places.

I've always enjoyed my classes, the instructors are world class, super helpful if you reach out to them and they really do like it. As a university student who don't only need education from the classroom, AUN also offers me a chance to meet the host community through community services, where I learn various type of skills like communication skills, problem solving skills, to name but a few. I've loved everything I've learnt. Although I'm a Petroleum engineering student, my entrepreneurship, Economics, and writing classes were also fascinating. I really enjoy being at AUN, I am happy to be a part of AUN community.

-Enjoyed probably isn't a strong enough word-.



Names: Besong Pascaline Manyi

School: Business and Entrepreneurship

Major: Accounting

Country: Cameroon

Viewing AUN as an international student, I want to boldly say that this is an institution like no other that I know of. In terms of academics, well educated and trained professors, method of lecturing, and the system upon which the school operates on. My coming to AUN was not even planed, but within the very short period I had to come here and what I heard about the school really set my expectations high that I didn't think AUN can really meet up. I am a junior now, from my arrival here, activities, and the experiences I have had so far, I am proud to say that my expectations have been met. AUN does not just teach, but train feature leaders to go out and make difference, identify opportunities where others cannot, succeed where many have failed. If there is one big gift my parents have given me that I have to keep saying think you, is the fact that I was opportune to come study at the American University of Nigeria (AUN). It has been an experience being here and still it is. AUN is a place to be, a place where you realize within yourself that you can do more than you think. AUN is a place where dreams becomes reality.

Name:Conrad Bukenya



Major: Information Systems

Classification: Information Security

Country: Uganda

In my perspective, being here at AUN is a completely new experience in my life. It is quite far away from home as the environment is entirely new ranging from the weather, meals, culture among others. Personally, I have never lived outside a city or Capital and so the location of the campus is a little perturbing as we are 100% confined to campus.

Despite all this, I am very grateful for being here because I have met very extraordinary people here at AUN. Both students and faculty are very welcoming and hospitable. I am looking forward to interacting with as many more people as possible and so, I am enjoying my stay here.

Cheers to everyone here at AUN!!



Name: Phethile Nkwanyana

School: Art and Sciences

Major: NES( Nature and Environmental Sciences)

Country: South Africa

A place that is so diverse in terms of culture, race and ethnicity is always a nice place to be. American university of Nigeria is just one of such few places! Here you get to learn and explore different styles, customs and behaviors of other people. As a young African woman I am so very fortunate to be part of this exciting environment and I will always thank God for that.

I only came to Nigeria last year, end of January 2013. I can say that I've had a great experience in terms of learning, anyone from my birthplace can ever wish for. Firstly, it is the climate conditions and food. I am from the southern part of the continent and the way of living there is super different with this one of the western part. The weather I am used to is warm and very cold during winter time which is totally opposite with Yola's. Here in Yola it is nearly always warm all year through. As for food, it is totally different but fortunately I have grown to love it! So I have learnt to adapt even though it was tough during the first four months.

Secondly, what I have experienced and learnt is to be able to live along and work with people of different backgrounds, culturally and socially. In AUN we have people from different African countries like Nigeria of course, Rwanda, Ghana, Cameroon and other countries not forgetting those who come from overseas states. That alone gave me a new perspective of life because I had a chance to learn and understand the ways of all thAese wonderful people. Most importantly is that so far they've made impact in my life, they are kind, nice people and have touched my life positively. This is because AUN is such a great living- Learning environment, you learn inside and outside the classrooms, something I have noted that it is very unique encouraging.

As a person, even though it has been one year, all this has broadened my mind and changed my way of thinking. I have been part of community development/service programs. That alone gave me an idea of what it is to be there for others and to play a role in their lives. I had to go help in clinics, primary schools and right now am taking a course on community development. It increased my knowledge of the meaning of UBUNTU (humanness) which our father Nelson Mandela stressed out to be practiced by all Africans. Where I come from few schools takes that initiative if not none.

I never thought Nigeria can be so comforting and exciting to live in. I am thankful for this opportunity to be a student and part of AUN Community. A big Kudos also to my most talented Instructors for their patience, understanding and effort as we learn all that is needed to be learnt by their guidance.



**Siyabonga Nxumalo**

**A00016321**

**School of Art and Science**

**Petroleum Chemistry (Petroleum Engineering)**

According to the 2nd edition Oxford South African Dictionary, a university is a high level educational institution in which students study for degrees and where academic research is done. Unfortunately, one would contend the dictionary gives a stereotypical or at least an incomplete definition of what a university is and should be. From my experience in the American University Nigeria a university goes beyond the dictionary meaning above and I have surely acquired more than I bargained for as an aspiring individual here in AUN.

The American University of Nigeria is the home of multicultural, multilingual and multiethnic societies which all have one main thing in common: the quest for a bright future and AUN has proved to be a successful and guaranteed stepping stone to a one. However, I have to admit; before I came to AUN I had many fears regarding the university and Nigeria as a country due the incomplete and uninformed stereotypes many South Africans have about Nigeria. Fortunately, a year in AUN has enlightened me about the many misconceptions I had of Nigeria.

Being in AUN for a year has had its challenges and rewards. Moreover, the greatest challenges I have experienced in AUN is firstly the different structure of education: South Africa uses a British style of education while AUN introduced me to the American style. However, I personally feel the American style of education, to a certain extent, is better than the British style of education and has given me the comfort of more well rounded education rather than a qualification.

Another challenge was adapting to a multicultural, multilingual and multiethnic society. However, it has also matured me as a person and has taught me how to understand and live in harmony with different people from different background which is also preparation for the diverse working environment I will enter. Furthermore, to quote from Randa Abdel-Fattah, “In a multicultural, diverse society there are countless ways in which people learn to negotiate the everyday lived experience and reality of diversity,” and umuntu ungumuntu ngabantu which means a person is a person by people, in my language, isiZulu.

In conclusion, if education was the most powerful weapon to change the world like Nelson Mandela believed, the American University of Nigeria would be the arsenal and I feel very honored, grateful and privileged to be in this wonderful environment, where student's dreams become Africa's future.

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