UG CONNECT

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

July 2025



InAD Hosts Inaugural Conference for Alumni in Industry

The University of Ghana hosted the inaugural UG Advance Conference at the West African Genetic Medicine Centre (WAGMC) Auditorium, bringing together alumni in industry under the theme: "Executing Excellence: Navigating Strategy and Operational Mastery".

Organised by the Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD), the conference served as a platform for knowledge exchange, professional networking, and strategic collaboration among UG alumni in industry.

The event featured a keynote address by Kimathi Kuenyehia, Managing Partner at Kimathi & Partners, a presentation by Prof. Dartey-Baah, Director of Institutional Advancement, and a special guest address by Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana. They inspired attendees with insights on leadership, innovation, and the role of alumni in

In this newsletter you can expect:

Campus Updates

Opportunity Desk

Alumni Success Stories

UGAAL Launches Strategic Plan

5-Step Guide to Financial Freedom

Give to UG

shaping the future of the university and the nation.

Prof. Kwasi Dartey-Baah, Director of InAD, emphasised that "the Institutional Advancement Directorate is committed to strengthening connections with the University's alumni through impactful initiatives that deliver value both to alumni and the organisations they represent." He added that by bringing together professionals from academia and industry, the conference sought to deepen alumni engagement, foster strategic partnerships, and create avenues for sustained financial support, whether through donations or paid services tailored to professional needs.

In his keynote address, Mr. Kimathi Kuenyehia, Managing Partner at Kimathi & Partners, detailed the importance of transparency, accountability and sound governance in shaping effective strategies and operations.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo reiterated the University's commitment to its alumni and called for greater investment and collaboration from stakeholders to advance the institution's long-term vision. She noted that investment from alumni and strategic partnerships, particularly in the form of scholarships and infrastructure support, will drive UG's vision, highlighting the critical role alumni and stakeholders play in advancing the goals of the University's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan.

A highlight of the day was the panel discussion on "Breaking Down Silos: Enhancing Cross-Functional Collaboration for 21st Century Business Success." Moderated by Ms. Ama Cromwell, a PR executive and media personality, the panel featured Prof. Justice Bawole, Dean of the University of Ghana Business School, and Ms. Esther Gadagbui Ba-Taa-Banah, Sector Head, Multilaterals & Institutions, Zenith Bank. The discussion offered practical strategies for fostering collaboration across departments and industries, emphasising the importance of agility, communication, and shared vision in today's business landscape.

Participants also engaged in breakout sessions, interactive discussions, and vibrant networking moments, all designed to empower alumni to lead with purpose and drive impact in their respective fields. The event was moderated by Christabel Success Treve, an alumna of the university who is currently working as a journalist, voice-over artist, and professional MC.





UGAAL Launches Strategic Plan to Strengthen Alumni Engagement



The University of Ghana Alumni Association of Liberia (UGAAL) has officially launched its Five-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2030), setting a bold agenda for institutional growth, academic collaboration, and alumni empowerment across Liberia and Ghana.

The launch ceremony, held at the RLJ Kendeja Resort in Monrovia, brought together over 150 alumni, academic leaders, and dignitaries. The event was chaired by Amb. Medina A. Wesseh, Esq., and featured a keynote address by Prof. Edison D. Pajibo, Vice President for Administration at Margibi University, Liberia. His address centred on the theme: "Tragedy and Triumph of History: From Bloody Wars to Knowledge Wars in Building Strong Nations and Institutions."

Dr. Agnes Taylor, Vice President for Administration at the University of Liberia, represented the university's president. Also in attendance were faculty from the University of Liberia, representatives from the Ghana Embassy in Liberia, the Ghana Professionals Association in Liberia, representatives from neighbouring universities in Liberia, and members of the broader alumni community.

Delivering remarks on behalf of Professor Kwasi Dartey-Baah, Director, Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD), Madam Adwoa Abrokwa, Head of Alumni Relations, emphasised the significance of the occasion:

"This event marks a bold step forward in UGAAL's journey to deepen alumni engagement, foster academic collaboration, and drive social impact across Liberia and Ghana."

UGAAL President Mr. Daniel Blamoh Nah reflected on the association's journey since its inauguration on June 3, 2023, and highlighted the progress made, including the development and official endorsement of the strategic plan by the University of Ghana.

Introducing the Five Strategic Goals (2025–2030)

The strategic plan is anchored in UGAAL's mission to unite alumni as a transformative force and is guided by the core values of integrity, loyalty, respect, and commitment. The five strategic goals launched are:

- Strengthening Institutional Foundations
- Fostering Internal Cohesion
- Cultivating Collaborative Partnerships
- Launching Impactful Initiatives
- Enhancing Fundraising and Financial Sustainability

Mr. Nah praised the leadership of Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, the first female Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, for her consistent support and personal visits to Liberia. He noted that her commitment places her among Liberia's celebrated female leaders. He also highlighted the University of Ghana's institutional capacity and its potential to make a meaningful contribution to Liberia's academic development.

Among the distinguished guests were Maud Ashong Elliot, President of the Internet Society – Ghana; Bahijah Danladi Sheibanee, Vice President of the University of Ghana Alumni Association of North America (UGAANA); and Akorfa Ama Akoto, Head of Marketing and Communications at InAD, each representing key pillars of the global alumni network and institutional advancement.

The launch of the UGAAL Strategic Plan marks a new era of alumni-led academic partnership and regional collaboration.



Campus Updates



UG Alumni Association (UGAA) Constructs First Hotspot Comfort Zone Under VC's Digitalisation Initiative

The University of Ghana has taken a bold step toward enhancing students' experience with the commissioning of its first Hotspot Comfort Zone, a pioneering initiative designed to provide students with a safe, relaxing, and tech-enabled space on campus.

The facility was made possible through the generous support of the University of Ghana Alumni Association (UGAA). Strategically located to serve students between lectures, the Comfort Zone features a modern seating area, internet connectivity, and washrooms, with a snack bar soon to be added to the amenities.

At the official commissioning, Vice-Chancellor Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo expressed her appreciation to UGAA for their commitment to the University's advancement through their support for key university initiatives. She emphasised the importance of shared responsibility in maintaining the space, noting that the Comfort Zone reflects the University's broader vision of creating an innovative, student-centred campus environment.

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UG Student Financial Aid Office Hosts National Conference to Mark 20th Anniversary

The Student Financial Aid Office (SFAO) of the University of Ghana has hosted a national conference to commemorate its 20th anniversary, bringing together key stakeholders from tertiary institutions across the country to deliberate on strategies for promoting equity and improving student aid administration.

The two-day conference, held under the theme "Promoting Equity, Expanding Access and Enhancing Aid Administration in Ghana's Tertiary Education," focused on building an inclusive and sustainable support system for financially disadvantaged students.

Delivering the opening address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo reaffirmed the University's commitment to equitable education, acknowledging the significant impact of the SFAO over the past two decades. "The Office has supported thousands of students, some of whom have to become valedictorians and internationally recognised scholars," she noted. She called for stronger partnerships and more sustainable funding sources to meet the growing demand for financial assistance.

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Campus Updates



UG Breaks Ground for Ghana-Korea Centre of Excellence for ICT Startups and Asian Research

The University of Ghana has held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the commencement of construction of the Ghana-Korea Centre of Excellence for ICT-Based Startups and Asian Research (GK-IMPACT), signalling a major step forward in the collaboration between the two institutions.

The ceremony was performed jointly by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs), Prof. Gordon Awandare, representing the Vice-Chancellor, and the Korean Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ghana, H.E. Park Kyongsig. The event took place at the designated construction site on the University's Legon campus.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the growing diplomatic and international cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Ghana. It also reflects UG's broader commitment to leveraging strategic partnerships to achieve global impact through a technology-driven and people-centred approach.

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Three UG Students Receive Maiden Thesis Innovation Awards

Three University of Ghana students were officially awarded during the climax celebration of the Day of Scientific Renaissance of Africa as the first-ever recipients of the UG-RID Thesis Innovation Awards.

The awards, presented by Prof. Felix Ankomah Asante, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Development, recognised students who have demonstrated exceptional creativity. originality, feasibility, market potential, and strong business models transforming their thesis projects into viable ventures.

The awards were launched in April 2025, attracting fifteen (15) applications across undergraduate, master's and PhD categories. After a rigorous selection process involving shortlisting, interviews and presentations before a four-member panel, three students were chosen for their outstanding work.

Wisdom Mensah's undergraduate thesis on plant-based meat analogues inspired the business Magna Foods, focusing on ready-to-eat soybean chunks.

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Opportunity Desk



Apply via Email: ahi_cop@ug.edu.gh **Deadline:** Friday, August 8, 2025

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Funded programme with the World Intellectual Property Organisation

Apply: WIPO YEP Programme Website **Deadline:** Thursday, August 14, 2025

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Apply via Email: miasa@act.uni-

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IPOPI Jose Drabwell Research Grant Programme

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The Social Shifters Global Innovation Challenge 2025

Apply: Social Shifters Website **Deadline:** August 29, 2025

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Call for Projects: Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

Apply: AFD Website

Deadline: August 31, 2025

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Alumni Success Stories

At the University of Ghana, we don't just graduate students, we shape leaders, innovators, trailblazers, and change-makers. From boardrooms to classrooms, and bustling cities to underserved communities, UG alumni are making their mark across Ghana and around the globe. In this section, we shine a spotlight on some of the remarkable individuals whose journeys after Legon reflect not only personal success, but the values, resilience, and spirit that define the University of Ghana. Whether they are building businesses, influencing policy, driving social impact, or excelling in their fields, these stories remind us that the Legon legacy is alive and still unfolding. Read on and be inspired by the paths our alumni have carved, the challenges they've overcome, and the difference they continue to make. **After all, once a Legonite, always a Legonite.**



Kimathi KuenyehiaManaging Partner, Kimathi & Partners

Kimathi Kuenyehia, who is the Managing Partner at Kimathi & Partners, is an accomplished lawyer whose career exemplifies the power of ambition, excellence, and global vision. A proud alumnus of both the University of Ghana and Harvard Law School, Kimathi helps all the major Global Multinationals with their most challenging tax issues, most significant business transactions, and most complex disputes and arbitration. He is well known for his significant arbitration victories and closing complex deals. Under his leadership, Kimathi & Partners has risen to become the most prestigious, and one of the largest law firms in Ghana.

Beyond the courtroom, Kimathi serves as President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ghana, an influential organisation that promotes trade, investment, and commercial cooperation between the United States and Ghana, and serves as the voice of American businesses operating in the country like Google, Coca Cola, Newmont, and Kosmos Energy.

A passionate advocate for inclusive education and national development, he actively supports his alma mater through targeted grants for Persons with Disabilities, library development, and academic excellence awards at the University of Ghana.

His contributions reflect a deep commitment to equity, excellence, and the transformative potential of education. Kimathi Kuenyehia stands as a shining example of what it means to be a University of Ghana alumnus – leading with purpose, giving back with heart, and shaping a better future for generations to come.

Alumni Success Stories



Jane Okyere-Aduachie
General Secretary, AMCHAM

Jane Okyere-Aduachie is a distinguished alumna of the University of Ghana, where she earned an Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) in Marketing. She currently serves as the Acting Executive Secretary of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ghana, bringing a wealth of expertise and leadership to the organisation.

She leads strategic efforts to strengthen partnerships between American businesses and local entities, championing trade and investment opportunities while fostering strong U.S.–Ghana relations. She engages with a broad range of stakeholders, including government officials, international organisations, and the private sector, to support American companies operating in Ghana and advocate for favourable conditions and a conducive business environment for them.

Jane's dedication and impact continue to shape the business community in Ghana, making her a prominent voice in promoting cross-border collaboration and sustainable economic development.



Isaac Okpoti Adjei (Esq.)General Manager, Mövenpick

Ambassador Hotel Accra

Isaac Okpoti Adjei, Esq., a distinguished alumnus of the University of Ghana (UG), has made history as the first Ghanaian to be appointed General Manager of the Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel Accra since its reopening in 2011. This milestone marks a significant achievement in the hotel's legacy and a proud moment for the UG community.

With over two decades of experience within the Accor network, Mr. Adjei has held strategic roles across Africa and the Caribbean, spanning Operations, Commercial Strategy, Learning & Development, and International Brand Training. A member of the hotel's original pre-opening team, his return to Ghana is a full-circle moment - now leading the country's premier five-star hotel with a deep understanding of its heritage and future vision.

Mr. Adjei holds a Master of Philosophy in French Language and Literature from the University of Ghana, as well as qualifications in law and leadership. A fully bilingual executive and accomplished operational change leader, he brings a wealth of expertise in training, trade, and investment. His leadership spans both Francophone and Anglophone Africa, making him uniquely positioned to drive excellence and innovation at Mövenpick.

Alumni Success Stories



Dr. Naa Adzoa Adzeley **Boi-Dsane**

Medical Doctor, Researcher & Advocate

Dr. Boi-Dsane, a proud alumna of the University of Ghana, is a medical doctor and researcher whose work is transforming the landscape of inclusive healthcare in Ghana. Her passion for medicine is closely tied to her advocacy for the Deaf community, bridging critical gaps through the integration of sign language in health education and service delivery. During her time at UG, Dr. Boi-Dsane distinguished

herself through groundbreaking research at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, contributing to studies on neonatal hypothermia, vaccine safety, and gastrointestinal cancers. Her case report on pediatric intussusception garnered international recognition, while her findings on colorectal cancer helped fill a critical knowledge gap in Ghana's medical literature.

Beyond academia, she launched SignWithAdzeley, a YouTube platform that delivers vital health information in both voice and Ghanaian Sign Language, empowering persons with hearing impairment to take charge of their health. Her commitment to inclusion extends into education, where she introduced abacus training at the Demonstration School for the Deaf, Mampong and continues to champion sign language in healthcare curricula.



Christabel Success Treve Journalist, Voice-over Artist & MC

Christabel Success Treve, a proud alumna of the University of Ghana, is a versatile media professional currently working with TV3 Ghana and 3FM 92.7. Treve is a journalist, voice-over artist, and professional MC with a flair for storytelling and hosting.

She is passionate about using media to inform, inspire, and spark conversations that matter, and she brings energy, empathy, and excellence to every platform she graces. Her academic background in Human Resource Management and Sociology enriches her storytelling and audience engagement.

Whether uncovering impactful stories as a broadcast journalist or captivating audiences on stage and behind the microphone, Christabel is passionate about using to inform, inspire, and ignite meaningful conversations. She is a shining example of the dynamism and impact UG alumni continue to make across industries.

Celebrate Your Legacy with a Gown and a Gift from InAD



We are pleased to share a special part of our work that connects tradition with impact. At the University of Ghana's Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD), we are responsible for selling academic gowns to graduating students. This initiative helps us raise funds to support the University of Ghana's development priorities.

Our gowns are made with high-quality fabric and tailored for comfort, ensuring that every graduating student feels confident and proud on their special day. Each gown proudly carries the University of Ghana brand, making it a lasting symbol of academic achievement and institutional pride.

When graduating students purchase their gowns from us, they are preparing for a proud milestone while also supporting the university's long-term development. The proceeds from gown sales directly fund initiatives that align with the University's strategic priorities, particularly enhancing a transformative student experience and strengthening institutional sustainability.

InAD also offers a growing collection of University of Ghana-branded souvenirs. These include laptop bags, tote bags, cosmetic bags, laptop cases, keyholders, ties, and brooches. Each item is a meaningful way to celebrate your connection to Legon or to share it with others.

How to Buy:

You can purchase gowns and souvenirs by visiting our office inside the Alumni Building on the University of Ghana, Legon Campus. Our team is ready to assist you with your selections. Thank you for being part of the University of Ghana family. Your continued support helps us grow stronger together.



When we crossed the gates of Legon many years, months and even decades ago as fresh-faced students, almost none of us imagined how quickly 'real life' would demand more than the theories and formulas we memorised for examinations. Today, as alumni juggling careers, families, side-hustles, or retirement planning, we know: 'managing money well is not a nice-to-have but a matter of survival'.

Yet, too many of us are flying blind. The World Economic Forum in 2024 reaffirmed claims by Standard & Poor (2014) and Forbes (2015) that only "one in three adults is financially literate globally". This number is much lower across Africa.

Many of us left the University of Ghana able to analyse complex texts, crunch numbers, or debate ideas - but budgeting, investing, saving for retirement, or even negotiating fair salaries? Not so much.

So, what does financial literacy really mean?

In simple terms, it is knowing how money works:

- It is knowing how to earn it, save it, grow it, protect it and use it wisely.
- It is understanding the difference between good debt and bad debt.
- It is understanding the difference between compound interest and simple interest.
- It is knowing how to read the fine print before signing a loan.

Here's a quick guide:

• Good debt vs bad debt: Good debt helps you build long-term value. Examples include a student loan that increases your earning potential or a mortgage that builds equity in a home. Bad debt, on the other hand, drains your future income. They include such things as high-interest credit cards that are used to purchase things that do not appreciate in value, and payday loans that trap you in a cycle of repayments. Before taking any debt, ask: Will this grow my wealth or shrink it?

• Simple interest vs compound interest: Simple interest is calculated only on original amount you invest or borrow. An example is when you take a personal loan with a fixed interest. Compound interest is more powerful: it means you earn interest on both your original amount and the interest already earned. The sooner you start saving or investing, the more time compound interest has to work for you, or against you if you are the borrower paying it. Albert Einstein supposedly called compound interest the eighth wonder of the world for a reason.

Why does this matter now?

Because the world has changed: We simply can no longer rely on a single job or expect a comfortable pension to magically appear at 60. Inflation, rising living costs, sudden emergencies – all these can wipe out years of hard work if we are not prepared.

Many of us have watched relatives lose retirement savings through bad investments, or businesses fail because of poor financial planning. Some of us are quietly battling debt while projecting "I'm fine" to the world. The truth? You are not alone. And you are not and should not feel helpless.

Black Tax - The Elephant in the Room

Black Tax is a term commonly used in African and diasporic communities to describe the financial responsibility that many working professionals feel towards supporting extended family beyond their immediate household. This support often includes paying for siblings' or cousins' school fees, contributing to parents' living expenses, covering medical bills for relatives, or helping unemployed family members meet basic needs. In many cultures, it is not just an expectation; it is a deeply rooted social obligation driven by community, gratitude, and a sense of duty to 'give back' once you earn an income.

While supporting family is honourable and can help lift entire households out of poverty, the reality is that Black Tax can sometimes strain personal finances and delay wealth creation for the giver. Key points to consider about Black Tax:

- It often fills the gap left by weak social safety nets.
- It can create silent financial stress and guilt when balancing your own needs and family expectations.
- It is not always spoken about openly, yet it heavily influences spending and saving decisions for many young professionals.

How to manage Black Tax responsibly:

• Budget realistically: Factor family support into your monthly budget, just like rent or utilities, so it doesn't derail your entire plan.

- Communicate boundaries: Be honest with family about what you can afford and stick to it.
- **Empower where possible:** Support education or skills training for relatives so that they can become financially independent over time.
- **Secure your foundation:** Remember, you cannot pour from an empty cup. Build your emergency fund, retirement plan, and investments first.
- **Plan together:** If you have siblings, could you agree on how to share the load rather than shouldering it alone?

Black Tax is a reality for many, but it doesn't have to be a barrier to your financial freedom if managed thoughtfully and openly.

Ready for Financial Freedom? This is where to start:

- Budget like your future depends on it because it does: You should know where your money goes each month. You cannot manage what you cannot measure. Free apps or a simple spreadsheet can help you track spending. Remember: Small leaks sink big ships.
- Save and invest no matter your income: There is a saying that "you should not save what is left after spending, but rather spend what is left after saving." Commit to saving a percentage of your income first, before allocating it to expenses. Learn about mutual funds, treasury bills, and/or low-risk investments. Even GHC 50 a week compounds over time. Remember: You should utilise high-yield savings accounts or low-risk investments to save. Money merely sitting in the bank loses value over time.
- Avoid 'get-rich-quick' traps: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Ponzi schemes still thrive because people want shortcuts. Do not hand over your hard-earned cash without verifying the basics, such as who regulates it. How does it make money? Where is the contract? Remember that the benchmark for a relatively safe return in any market is the Treasury bill (T-bill) rate. Higher promised returns above the treasury bill rate almost always mean higher risk, and you should know precisely how the returns are made before investing.
- Plan for the unexpected: Emergencies are inevitable; their timing, however, is uncertain. Build an emergency fund covering at least three months of your expenses. If possible, obtain basic insurance, such as health, life, or property coverage. One health crisis can wipe out your savings.
- **Teach your children (and yourself):** Money habits are learned early. Discuss saving and spending with your children. Be open about mistakes you have made we all have. Learn together if you must. It is never too late to get better.

So, why does this matter to us, the UG alumni community?

Because we owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to be wise stewards of what we earn, our degrees opened doors; financial literacy helps us keep them open. Whether you are thriving or just surviving, your money story can change. And it begins with one decision: to learn, ask questions, and take action. If you haven't yet, talk to a licensed financial advisor. Join a financial literacy group. Read a book. Share tips with friends. And remember: the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is today.

May we all grow and stay growing.

Your Financial Literacy Starter Plan: A Realistic 5-Step Guide

Reading about money is good. Doing something about it is better. Below is a simple, realistic action plan to financial freedom you can start today, no matter your income or age:

- Write down your 'real' money picture: Awareness is the first step to freedom. Open your bank app, your mobile money account, your loan statements everything. Write down: (1) How much you earn (monthly take-home); (2) How much you owe (loans, credit cards, family borrowing); and (3) How much you spend (typical month).
- Create a Basic Budget: Decide your 'needs', 'wants' and 'savings'. A simple rule is 50-30-20: 50% of income for needs/essentials (rent, food, bills), 30% for wants (entertainment, treats), 20% for savings/investment. Adjust as needed but always pay yourself first. Savings and investments are how you pay yourself first.
- Open a Separate Savings Account: If you don't have one, open one this week.
 Automate a small transfer into it the moment you are paid. Out of sight, out of mind works wonders.
- Cut one 'money leak' immediately: Identify one thing you waste money on. It could be daily airtime top-ups, impulsive takeaways, or subscriptions you don't use and plug them. Redirect that money into your savings or debt repayment.
- Build your emergency fund, bit by bit: Start with GHC 50 or GHC 100 a month. Put it where you won't touch it. Call it your 'sleep well' fund you will thank yourself when life happens.

Join the UG Alumni Network

Stay connected with industry insights and breakthrough research. Sign up to unlock exclusive opportunities for growth and collaboration.



Join our Alumni Associations Around the World:

- UG Alumni Association Ghana (UGAA)
- UG Alumni Association North America (UGAANA)
- UG Alumni Association United Kingdom & Ireland (UGAA UK & IE)
- UG Alumni Association Liberia (UGAAL)
- UG Alumni Association Francophone Africa (UGAAFA)
- UG Alumni Association The Gambia (AUGAG)
- UG Alumni Association Sierra-Leone (UGAA SL)
- UG Alumni Association Nigeria (UGAAN)

Sign up to join our global alumni network here.

Learn more about the UG Alumni Network and its benefits here.

If you're interested in joining any of the alumni associations mentioned, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement through the communication channels provided. We are also eager to establish associations in additional countries, so let us know if you'd like to see an alumni association in your area!

Thank you for reading!

Institutional Advancement Directorate	+233 548 7070 70
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