

## Nigerian professor not impressed with US

by Shante' Elliott  
Voice Web/Copy Editor

The only knowledge most people have of the West African country, Nigeria, is that of bomb attacks, poverty, and the former dictatorship style of government before the country returned to a democracy in October 1995.

In spite of all of the negative images that surround Nigeria, Dr. Emmanuel Odozi, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in the Fayetteville State University Communication Department, affirms that Nigeria is a prosperous country that offers more than the media portrays.

Dr. Odozi has been at FSU as a Fulbright scholar since August 2011 and will remain at the university for one academic year.

The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R) program assists higher education institutions in expanding programs of academic exchange. The program supports non-U.S. scholars through grants for teaching at institutions that might not have a strong international component," according to the Fulbright Scholar website.

Dr. Odozi brings a vast array of international knowledge to FSU's Communication Department. He also brings a vast array of scholarly research. He is the author of seven books. His most recent book is being published by an American publishing company, Publish America, out of Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Odozi also has six peer-reviewed journal articles.

He is the chair of the Department of Communication, at Bingham University in Karu, Nigeria. Dr. Odozi received his doctorate degree in Media Arts from the University of Ajuba and Master's in Mass Communication from the University of Nigeria, according to online reports.

Dr. Odozi lectures FSU students in the Communication Department on a variety of topics including the differences between communication practices in Nigeria and the U.S.

Dr. Odozi said there are several differences between Nigerians and Americans in terms of the structure of higher education.

Nigerians place a high value on education, Dr. Odozi said. Approximately 1.3 million youth apply annually to college. However, only 300,000 students are selected because of the higher education funding structure. In Nigeria, education is owned by the government. It is not as expensive as a college education in the United States, but the number

of students who can attend is limited.

Nigerian students are selected to attend college based on several criteria, which include criminal background checks. Children with single parents are frequently overlooked because they lack an intact traditional family structure, which indicates irresponsible behavior.

Students who are not admitted remain with their families and re-apply the following academic year. Dr. Odozi said American children are "spoiled" in a sense because they have more opportunity to receive a college degree and do not have to rely on a lottery system for admittance.

Three of Dr. Odozi's children have graduated from college. One of his children is currently in medical school.

Dr. Odozi's travelled to the United States for the first time to teach at FSU, accompanied by his wife, who incidentally likes the U.S. and would like to remain here for a while. However, Dr. Odozi said he has no plans or desire to live in the country that prides itself on the "American dream."

Americans have an "individualist lifestyle," he said.

When asked why he wouldn't want to live in America, Dr. Odozi listed four reasons. The first is that he is "fearful of Americans." "Americans are infested with violent crime because of the circulation of guns," he said and questioned the rationale for allowing U.S. citizens to own weapons.

Dr. Odozi also pointed to the "rate of accidents by car" in the U.S. as another reason that deters him from living in the states. Further, Dr. Odozi said he thinks it is too difficult in the U.S. to travel short distances for daily activities. He pointed to the limited number of taxis and public transportation. The fourth reason Dr. Odozi said he prefers his homeland is that he feels America is a very sexually oriented country.

That said, Dr. Odozi said he enjoys the sense of security he has in the U.S. because "society is under full surveillance, with active citizens."

Dr. Odozi explains that the lack of American "media literacy" shapes negative judgments about Nigeria. Nonetheless, Dr. Odozi is a proud Nigerian.

Although Dr. Odozi has no plans to remain in the U.S. permanently, if his wife has her wish, the U.S. address may one day belong to him.

## FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



### BRONCO DEBATE TEAM

## Blue Blooded Contenders: The Debate Team Rising Fast and Strong in the Collegiate Debate Realm

by Jennifer Lucas  
Voice Editor-in-Chief

The Fayetteville State University Debate Team under the leadership of William "Greg" Thomas, has had an amazingly successful year of debates. The teams most recent additions to the trophy case in the Telecommunications building came from the Collegiate Forensic Association (CFA) Winter Tournament.

The tournament took place on Jan. 27-28 at the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C. Colleges and Universities competing in the tournament included, the host college (College of Charleston), Alderson-Broadus, West Virginia-Parkersburg, Shepherd University, Bloomsburg University, Randolph-Macon College, Furman, University of North Carolina-Charlotte and Fayetteville State University (FSU). Debators in competition for FSU were Ashley Leary, Anyka Williams, Adam Baker, Chris Belew, Ketsia Mason and Jalynn Jones (Voice News Editor).

After an extensive debate FSU brought home the awards for 1st place in Informative Speaking, 5th place in Communication Analysis and 4th place in Persuasive Speaking. Informative Speaking and Communication Analysis were captured by Jalynn Jones

while Persuasive Speaking was captured by Anyka Williams.

This was the fourth tournament of the year for the Debate team which is actually two teams. The two teams are Policy Debate and Parliamentary Debate. The teams of two compete in four rounds and every member of the team is required to participate in an "IE Event" like Impromptu, Extemp, Communication Analysis, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Single Dramatic Interpretation, Poetry, Duo Interpretation, etc.

Among the more recent trophies brought back to the university were Single Dramatic Interpretation, Communication Analysis, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking and two trophies in Parliamentary Debate. In order to have a large debate record as the Debate team has traveled to Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and South Carolina.

Currently the team is in preparing for the next debate. This is to be the 2nd Annual Frederick Douglass Debate Series scheduled for Monday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. in the Shaw Auditorium. The debaters for the event will be Akang Udofia on Immigration, Anyka Williams on Voter Rights and Jalynn Jones on Censorship. The team's final debate of the year will be held on March 2-3 in Ocean City, MD.

#### CONTACT US:

**NEWS, STORY TIPS:** 910-672-2210, [TheVoice.FSU@gmail.com](mailto:TheVoice.FSU@gmail.com) or Come by and see us: Rudolph Jones Student Center Room 241.

#### CHIEF EDITORIAL STAFF:

**Editor-in-Chief** Jennifer Lucas, [jlucas2@bronzos.uncfsu.edu](mailto:jlucas2@bronzos.uncfsu.edu)  
**Managing Editor** Chamell Harris, [chari29@bronzos.uncfsu.edu](mailto:chari29@bronzos.uncfsu.edu)  
**Advertising Director:** Sabrina Spencer, [sspence5@bronzos.uncfsu.edu](mailto:sspence5@bronzos.uncfsu.edu)  
**Adviser** Dr. Andrea Baker, [abaker15@uncfsu.edu](mailto:abaker15@uncfsu.edu)

#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

**Feature Editor:** Shirley Townsend, **News Editor:** Jalynn A. Jones,  
**Sports Editor:** Aaron Williams, **Photo Editor:** Antonio Monroe, **Design Editor:** Stacey Robinson, **Web/Copy Editor:** Shante' Denice Elliott

#### MEET THE STAFF:


**Writers** John Caldwell, Matt Campbell, Douglas Howard, Erin Lawson, Desean Lawson, Tiffinei Lee, April Love, Shanita Manuel, Alisha Murphy, Daniel L. Prater, Nathalie Rivera, Cimmeon Terry, Marcus Uzzell


**Photographers:** Eldon Alford, Jr., Jarred Harris, Brittany Hunter, Robert Johnson, Zachary Johnson, Brandon A. Melvin, Jeffery Pearson, Aaron G. Williams

**Illustrator:** Jovian Turnbull, **Designer:** Nicole Ford

#### JOIN US ONLINE:

 **Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/fsuvoice>

 **Facebook:** Fayetteville State University's The Voice Newspaper

 **Issuu:** <http://issue.com/fsuvoice>