**Exploits of FUOYE's “Star Boy” in foreign land**

An alumnus of Federal University Oye Ekiti (FUOYE) Mr Ridwan Ademola Adelu popularly called “Star Boy” among his peers has secured full Scholarship worth $48000 from the University of Alabama, United States of America for his Doctoral Degree.

According to an offer letter to him from the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies of the University, Dr Williams Evans, which was made available to FUOYENews by the National Universities Commission (NUC) Accreditation Team Leader to Faculty of Agriculture, Prof M.K Yahaya, the FUOYE graduate of Agriculture will enjoy graduate Assistantship while in the United States.

“I am pleased to offer you a Graduate Assistant position to support you in your Doctoral study with us…... On behalf of our Graduate Faculty, I thank you for your interest in our programme. I look forward to hearing from you”, Dr Evans wrote.

Earlier, another Faculty member of Alabama University, Dr Jameson Haves had written to announce the good news. “I just met with Zhou and Adelu. I am supportive of offering both. Both have great attitudes and are excited about what our programme will offer” he wrote, in an exciting recommendation to his Board of Post Graduate Studies.

Continuing, he said, “Adelu is definitely more interested in being an Advertising and Public Relations (APR) Scholar who applies his knowledge in Agriculture than the other way round….”Haves further stated and added that, “I was explaining to him that he would probably work with us and our focus would be to place him in a research institution.

Haves further stated that his agriculture background which he acquired in FUOYE and later University of Ibadan would be an avenue to go after great work as a professor.

The package worth $48000 includes waiver of Tuition Fees throughout the duration of his Doctoral Programme, Monthly Stipend of $1500, Health Insurance of $2600 and other details.

In another letter dated Feb 26, 2021 by Williams Evans who is the Associate Dean of the College of Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Alabama is pleased to offer you a 0.50 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Graduate Assistantship in the amount of $15000 for the 2021-2022 Academic Year payable monthly beginning from August 11, 2021 through May 15, 2022”. Each spring he added, “You may apply for renewal of this assistantship”.

Adelu himself wrote on his motivation for pursuing an inter-disciplinary research in Communication and Information Science giving that he read Agriculture in FUOYE for his Bachelors Degree and University of Ibadan for his Masters Degree.

“My motivation for pursuing an interdisciplinary research in Communication and Information Science is premised on a plethora of reasons. Prominent among these include the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which has warranted the need to unlock the potentials of digital operations in all spheres. Also, agricultural extension services in Nigeria are plagued with a weak link between information providers and farmers/agribusiness owners. However, the advent of emerging digital platforms and the rising involvement of digital-savvy youths in the agricultural value chain have warranted the need to leverage these platforms above for access to timely information that could help agribusinesses scale.

Continuing he stated further that “despite the fact that I was one of the best pioneering students in the department of Crop Science and Horticulture, my desired area of specialization was not fully unveiled until after the completion of my undergraduate programme. Although my interest in the relevance of ICTs in agriculture was first sparked during my undergraduate studies when I took an introductory course on Extension Communication in 300 level. However, my Masters programme in Agricultural Extension at the University of Ibadan became a redefining experience in my academic pursuit. In line with my specialization in Rural Communication, I was exposed to courses communication-inclined courses like agricultural journalism, Behavioural communication and Development Communication which broadened my horizon and further rekindled the fervour of my interest in Agricultural Communication.” “

Inspired by the need to proffer grievance redress mechanisms to the unending farmers-herders crisis in Nigeria, my Masters research was premised on the contributory effects of the Nigerian media to the rift. I completed my programme with an impressive performance (CGPA of 5.9/7.0). In addition, Iwas privileged to work as Research Assistant under tutelage of my amiable supervisor, Prof MK Yahaya who has been my mentor and an indispensable source of inspiration academic sojourn”.