

Hauled into a boarding house at five-just months off breast milk, cast my bones tough rather early in life. And from the consequent denial of parental counsel at that early age, my incipient sense of self sprouted and gave me a tremendous capacity for independent thought and work. Evolving into a tough-minded, bold-spirited and self-motivated lad, I walked the road alone making resounding success of my “banishment”. Head boy of elementary school, Best French student in class, Senior Prefect of High School, School’s prize for Character and Learning, National French Competitor, Nigeria’s best Science Student, National Chemistry and Mathematics Prize winner, Team Member to two International Olympiads-Mathematics and Physics, National Merit Scholar, Actor, Debater, Writer, etc. So much that, when at 21, I won overwhelming majority to preside over the 27,000-member Students’ Government of my College, my family’s applause from the sideline was not for their great son: they were only admiring a great kid, brimming with promise but who was mind set on his direction in life: Scholarship. Their opinion notwithstanding!

Hence despite its immense challenges, graduate education is the singular path to my life ambition- that which would imbue me with the skills and attitudes requisite to being a first-rate academic. Bowling Green’s especial quality in being a thriving ground for this dream is its close Faculty-Student interaction, as well as the potentials to enable students have fun and an exhilarating time while in pursuit of a degree.

My choice of Chemistry, not Chemical Engineering-my undergraduate major, is influenced by my interests in fields, which are in the domain of Theoretical and Physical Chemistry. And though pushed out as the frontiers of Science have become, topics which interest me such as, understanding the role of conformation in determining the rotational behavior of molecules are in the domain of the Natural Sciences. I am thus beating a retreat to the enclave of Chemistry to become a creator rather than an applicator of basic concepts.

Proof of my commitment to a Chemistry career is my redeployment to a High School from my initial National Youth Corps posting to a bank. Despite the poorer remuneration as a tutor! On this current beat, fascination has been my greatest weapon in stimulating the minds of my students. Awestruck, they have watched me bleach purple permanganate and “magically” turn orange dichromate green. Both Cana-like miracles, done with an innocuous speck of metal-granulated zinc. Our catch phrase has become “In the Chemistry lab., there is fullness of wonder”.

In that same realm of magic, I look forward to standing aside, seeing my models, concocted with the meager luxury of pencil and paper, predict results of exotic laboratory experiments.

Alongside the experience as a tutor, supervising laboratory sessions and grading examination papers are my love and promises shown in Chemistry and Mathematics and most importantly, my planned research internship with UNESCO’s Kalinga Prize-winning Professor Peter Okebukola before enrollment. So that in addition to my horde of

self-cultivated strengths, I would arrive at Ohio loaded; earnest and enthusiastic, primed and prepared for work at Bowling Green in the head ,the mind and at heart!