



CANDIDATE PROFILE FORM

Name: Kobbina Awuah _____
Class Year: 2009 BSc, 2009 M.Eng _____
College and Major: Engineering, Mechanical Engineering _____
Membership status (ie. annual or lifetime): Annual _____
CBAA Executive Position Sought: VP for Scholarship and Fundraising _____

1. Please tell us why you would like to serve on the CBAA Executive Board?

To leverage my background in various leadership, mentorship and fundraising roles to bring value to the Scholarship and Fundraising position and continue to serve CBAA's members and key constituents.

2. What experience, skills and/or qualifications do you possess that will help you serve effectively in this position?

Throughout my time at Cornell and after graduation, I strived to make a positive impact not just among the black student body but also the general student body. For instance, while at Cornell, I raised in total \$100,000 (as a 3rd and final year student) to execute a number of humanitarian projects in Africa. My team that executed these projects was diverse consisting of students of various ethnic backgrounds and from the various colleges. Through this I was able to give these students exposure to international work in Africa. I am proud to say that 30% of members of that team currently live and work outside the US working on various social projects from India to Liberia.

In addition, I served as a TA for various engineering classes in which I held extra tutoring sessions for several minority students. After Cornell, I still remained a mentor to several of these students and in some cases helping recruit them to be part of my Company. I was also invited a number of times to speak at various events ranging from Minority Engineering Programs to African cultural events.

My passion to drive social impact and serve would help drive various initiatives within CBAA.

From a professional standpoint, I have held various leadership roles managing large scale projects in the oil and gas industry in which I had to internally raise the capital required for these projects and then successfully execute them. This experience has provided me with the important skill of effective fundraising and capital allocation which I hope to leverage and add value to the CBAA board

After having worked for 3 years in the US and in Africa, I enrolled at Harvard Business School for my MBA to further hone my management skills. During my time at Harvard I was involved in various initiatives and held leadership roles with a focus on providing more international exposure for the student body. I also developed more leadership traits which

Post Harvard (2014), I have worked primarily in the UK and in 3 African countries as a mid-level Tech Executive and I have been heavily involved in the respective alumni chapters of these countries. Through this, I have organized programs in Ghana (Accra), South Africa (Joburg) and Tanzania (Dar Es Salaam) to help bring the various Cornell alumni together and engage them with the future of the University over the long term.

My ability to bring our alumni together in various regions across the world would come in handy as CBAA tries to fundraise for the various projects and scholarships it plans to have.

3. Please tell us your vision and goals for CBAA and how your role in this position will help the organization achieve these goals?

The current student body of Cornell has become more international over the past couple of years. Consequently, the alumni student body is also changing with an increasing percentage of non-US alumni. This phenomenon could be extended to CBAA's key black alumni constituent. There is a significant shift to black alumni currently working overseas especially in Africa. Over the past 5 years I have spent a lot of time interacting with black alumni within the US, UK and several African countries. The involvement within Africa especially is low. However these alumni have shown a strong desire to engage more with the University in various ways. Leveraging my existing network and relationships with the black alumni within and outside the US, I would like to bring in more geographic diversity (US+Africa) to our fundraising and engagement pool. As a second generation Cornell Alumni growing up on 3 continents, I spent lots of my childhood growing up around Cornell alumni from my father (Class of 85) and uncles to cousins that attended this institution. I am really excited about the opportunities to tap into this growing black international alumni resource in addition to the US base and look forward to working more to drive geographic diversity

4. Please tell us about your other Cornell volunteer activities?

I served as an active CAAAN member as part of the NYC club meeting with and sharing my experience to several prospective students. I also carried out similar activities informally in Ghana and Tanzania.

In addition, I have been involved in various lectures and speaking engagements on campus sharing my post-Cornell experience to students and providing mentorship and career advice to several black students.

5. What thoughts or other information would you like to share with the CBAA general body?

I currently spend about 20% of my time in the US, 30% in the UK and 50% of my time in 3 African countries: Ghana, Tanzania and South Africa. I am a National of both the US and Ghana. I am extremely passionate about giving back to Cornell and I hope to channel this passion to the VP of Scholarship and Fundraising role