

## BEDC HORIZON VOLUME 3



#### **Our Mission**

Building business leadership through cutting edge entrepreneurial and innovative mindset, impacting society for positive changes.

#### **Our Vision**

First class faith-based Entrepreneurship Development Centre building business leaders to transform the world positively.

#### Words in Marble

Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in him, and He shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37:5

# FROM GARAGE TO GLOBAL

Showcasing Startups from Babcock (2.0)

#### **FEATURING**

#### **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

Inspiring interviews with Babcock Student Startups

#### MEET THE VISIONARIES

Babcock Student Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC) Executive Team Driving Innovation and Entrepreneurship

#### **DIRECTOR'S DESK**

#### **BEDC HORIZON**

The Babcock Entrepreneurship Newsletter

**Editor in Chief** Dr. Ayodeji Ajibade

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**Photographer** Opeyemi Sambo

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Vice President (Student Development) Dr. Sunday D. Audu

Insights and
Inspiration From
BEDC's Leadership



AYODEJI T. AJIBADE(PHD)

Welcome to the third edition of entrepreneurship magazine, continuing the theme "From Garage to Global: Showcasing Startups from Babcock. (2.0)" This edition shines a light on the thriving entrepreneurial spirit within Babcock University and highlights the student-led initiatives that are shaping the future of business innovation. We are excited to showcase more of the startups emerging from our community, building on the momentum of previous editions and further demonstrating the boundless creativity and potential that our students possess.

At the Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Centre (BEDC), our commitment to fostering

entrepreneurial dreams remains as strong as ever. We strive to provide our students with the necessary resources, guidance and support to turn their ideas into reality. The theme "From Garage to Global (2.0)''captures essence of this journey—a journey that often begins with a simple idea and evolves into ventures that transcend our campus, markets far reaching beyond our borders.

In our previous edition, we proudly spotlighted

some of the most promising startups, showcasing their journeys and accomplishments. Building on that momentum, this third edition continues the narrative, introducing more inspiring of student-led businesses. stories These edition highlights the resilience, creativity, and passion driving our student entrepreneurs, and aiming to inspire and educate the next generation of business leaders.

This edition also shines a spotlight on the Babcock University Student Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC), a vibrant community of student leaders dedicated to fostering collaboration and innovation. BUSEC plays a pivotal role in guiding peers through their entrepreneurial journeys, offering support, and creating

#### **DIRECTOR'S DESK**

an environment where ideas can thrive.

Beyond showcasing student ventures, this edition showcases two successful programs designed to enhance the entrepreneurial growth of students and also other members of the Babcock University community; The Digital Growth Workshop, and The Entreprise Colloquy Series 2.0.

Digital Growth workshop The provided a valuable platform for businesses promoting online. ensuring that our entrepreneurs are well-positioned to compete in the digital age while The Enterprise Colloquy Series 2.0 focused on the development of an entrepreneurial mindset among our students and provided practical insights into the mindset shifts necessary entrepreneurial success. The seminar encouraged students think creatively, embrace challenges, and build resilience all essential traits for thriving in today's business landscape.

Both of these programs have significantly contributed to the entrepreneurial growth of our students and the broader community, empowering participants with knowledge and skills crucial for success in the modern world. We encourage our readers to look out for more

initiatives like these, as we remain dedicated to providing platforms that enrich the entrepreneurial journey.

As we look ahead, our vision Babcock University remain a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship. From the Babcock Entrepreneurship Week (BEW) to the Babcock Innovative Enterprise Challenge (BEIC) and partnerships with leading industry experts, we remain committed to providing students with the tools, guidance, and opportunities they need to succeed. These programs, alongside initiatives like the Babcock University Student Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC), are at the heart of our mission to cultivate a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem at Babcock.

The stories in this edition are another chapter in a journey that is far from over. We are inspired by what we see and excited for what is yet to come. We are confident that our entrepreneurs will continue to challenge conventions, push boundaries, and make a lasting impact on the world. As they do, we will be here to support them, celebrate their successes, and share their stories with the world.

Special thanks goes to all who contributed to this edition—to the students who shared their

entrepreneurial stories, to the faculty and mentors who provided guidance, and to the readers who continue to support and celebrate this community of innovators.

May this edition inspire and inform all who read it, as we look forward to the next wave of groundbreaking ideas and ventures that will emerge from Babcock.

Warm regards,
Ayodeji T. Ajibade (PhD)
Director, Babcock Entrepreneurship
Development Centre (BEDC)
Babcock University





# Inspiring Interviews with more Startups From Babcock University

A t Babcock University, the spirit of entrepreneurship is more than just a buzzword—it is a driving force behind the remarkable achievements of our students. Here, the campus buzzes with creativity and ambition as young entrepreneurs work diligently to transform their innovative ideas into thriving businesses. These students truly embody the theme "From Garage to Global," demonstrating that great ideas can grow from humble beginnings to achieve far-reaching impact.

In the previous edition of our magazine, the Spotlight section featured some of these groundbreaking startups, showcasing their journeys and accomplishments. Building on that momentum, this edition brings you even more inspiring stories from Babcock's entrepreneurial community. Each startup featured here represents the next wave of talent, showing what is possible with determination, resourcefulness, and a vision for the future.

Join us as we continue this exploration of our student innovators—individuals who are not only dreaming big but making those dreams a tangible reality.

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#### **INTERVIEW WITH VESKEE**

### Can you tell us a bit about vourself?

My name is Ngozi Uchenna. I studied Computer Science at Babcock University, where I graduated in July 2024. Currently, I am working as a software engineer specializing in backend engineering, currently taking some time to visit tech top companies, like Ziess, google and some others, and learn from them as I focus on growing my startup, Veskee, which is a financial platform. The cofounder of Veskee is EMMANUEL.

#### Tell us about your startup.

The name of our startup is called Veskee. It was founded in April 2024, so we have had it for about six months now.

Veskee is a software development company that has financial

technology platform designed to simplify financial transactions. It helps users manage their funds and make payments, providing features like secure deposits and facilitating transactions within trusted communities.

# What was the inspiration behind having a startup even while a student?

We saw a gap in how financial transactions were managed within various communities, particularly in educational settings and realized that students and vendors alike faced challenges in managing payments efficiently. That

is when we decided to create Veskee, to provide a solution that could ease financial operations in a community setting, starting with universities.

# What was the reason or the idea behind choosing this niche to base your startup?

We chose this niche because we saw an opportunity to address the financial challenges that both students and small vendors face. A platform like Veskee can streamline payments, increase trust, and offer a seamless experience for both parties. Additionally, finance is a sector that has a broad impact, and we wanted to create something meaningful that could grow and scale.

## What steps did you take to turn your idea into reality?

First, we started by mapping out the

problem and researching how to build a solution that fits the needs of the market. After gathering insights, we worked on developing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), which included the key features users needed. I also reached out to trusted advisors and mentors for feedback and secured a few early connections to test and refine the product.

How easy was taking those steps to turn your ideas into reality?

It wasn' t easy; every step came with its challenges. From building a reliable platform to ensuring regulatory compliance and user trust, we faced numerous hurdles. However, each challenge

was an opportunity to learn and adapt. We have built a resilient product, but the journey has definitely required patience and perseverance.

How did you balance the demand of academics with that of your startup. And what was your motivation to keep going?

Balancing academics and running Veskee was difficult at times. There were moments when we had to sacrifice sleep or personal time to ensure both my academic responsibilities and the growth of the startup were being managed. Thankfully, we were able to find a rhythm by setting priorities and using effective time management. There were moments when both academics and the startup faced some setbacks. During such times, I focused on the bigger picture. My passion for Veskee and my long-term goals kept me motivated. I would re-evaluate my priorities and refocus my efforts to ensure



neither was completely neglected.

What resources have been most helpful to you in your startup journey?

Mentors have played a huge role in my journey. They' ve provided insights and guidance, especially during tough decision-making times.

What role do you think the school and Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Centre (BEDC) play in supporting startups?

The school and the Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Centre (BEDC) have been instrumental in offering foundational support, such as providing access to resources, networking opportunities, workshops and even funding. They helped us build this and start this by giving us the opportunity. Going ahead I think they can provide more opportunities and more funding to startups after they have left the ideation stage.

Looking back, how much progress would you say your startup has made?

Veskee has come a long way. From the initial concept to the functional platform we have now, we have made significant progress in product development and establishing early partnerships. We are now

mapping out our growth strategy and exploring expansion into new markets.

What strategies did you find effective in growing your startup and managing your academics?

Effective time management was key. I learned to prioritize and focus on high-impact tasks, both for Veskee and my academics. Surrounding myself with the right people, who could take on roles within the startup, helped me share the load.

What personal qualities do you believe have been essential to your success?

Resilience and adaptability have been critical. The startup world is full of uncertainty, and being able to bounce back from setbacks has been important. My ability to stay focused, even when things get tough, has also been essential to my progress.

# What is the vision of your startup and the interim goals in achieving it?

The vision for Veskee is to become a leading financial platform that bridges the gap between secure digital payments and community-focused financial management, starting with universities and expanding globally. In the short term, we aim to solidify our presence in key communities, build strategic partnerships, and refine our product to meet the needs of a broader audience. We are also working on expanding our user base.

# What are some goals or milestones you have achieved in your startup and what have been some rewarding aspects of the journey?

One of our major milestones was launching the platform. It has been rewarding to see our users engage with the platform and receive feedback on how we could improve.

Do you think that your perspective to business,

#### academics, or life in general has changed since you began your startup? Do you approach things the same way you did before?

Definitely. Running Veskee has taught me the importance of resilience and patience in business. I now approach problems with a long-term mindset and a strategic focus. It has made me more disciplined and adaptable, qualities that have also influenced how I handle other aspects of my life, including academics.

#### The theme for this edition is FROM GARAGE TO GLOBAL. How do you envision your startup making a global impact?

I see Veskee scaling beyond what it is now to become a global platform for secure, community-based financial transactions. As we expand, we want to build partnerships with educational institutions and establishments globally, offering a solution that is adaptable to different environments.

# Is your startup open to collaborations and what kind of collaborations would you be interested in?

Yes, Veskee is definitely open to collaborations. We are particularly interested in partnerships with fintech companies, educational institutions and large

establishments.

# How can readers learn more about your start-up and get involved?

Visit our website at https://veskee.com to learn more about our platform. You can also connect with us on social media, to follow us on our journey and stay updated on new features as well as opportunities to get involved.

- LinkedIn: https://www. linkedin.com/company/ veskee/
- Twitter: https://www.x.com/ veskeehq
- Instagram: https://www. instagram.com/veskeehq?igsh=NXh2bjVnZmNqaTll

# Any last words or pieces of advice to share with the readers?

My advice is to never shy away from starting something new, even if it feels daunting. Challenges will come, but if you are passionate and committed, you can turn your vision into reality. Surround yourself with the right people and always keep learning.

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#### INTERVIEW WITH VOYAGER

### Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

My name is Camille Joseph. I am the founder of Voyager. I studied Computer Technology at Babcock University. My background is in technology and I have always loved computers. I also have a degree in data science from the University of Texas. That introduced me to concepts like supervised learning, and machine learning, which was useful when I was creating Voyager.

Tell us about your startup. My startup is Voyager, and I' ve been working on it since November 2023. Many people, including students and workers, are familiar with Al. It is a helpful tool that has infiltrated every industry today. Voyager is an Al Machine learning product built using supervised learning.

What was the inspiration behind having a startup even while a student?

The main inspiration was just to solve a problem I had. Traditional AI was giving me too many problems and I believed I could make a better one.

What was the reason or the idea behind choosing this niche to base your startup?

Students especially, rely heavily on AI to complete their assignments, projects, coursework, and things of that sort. Traditional AIs are often vague, at best, they can give you a piece

of incorrect information, and at worst, they might give you completely wrong information that would lead to a failing grade as a student. Voyager is meant to be the best possible solution that solves this problem. It is trained with the university curriculum. Permission was taken from the lecturers to train the AI with their slides and information on what they teach, using supervised learning. This in turn gives students accurate information and precisely states what material the information can be found. This is what differentiates Voyager from other Als, the contextual insights.

## What steps did you take to turn your idea into reality?

Having It all started with a Word document that included various possible ways in which the ideas listed could be actualized. But our final

decision was to leverage models that already existed, majorly Large Language Model (LLM) of OpenAi which made one of the most popular GPTs in the world, Chat GPT. Hours of supervised learning were spent training the product using the curriculum of the university to tailor it to suit our needs as students. However, since the National University Council (NUC) standardizes the curriculum across all universities in Nigeria, our product can be used by any student in Nigeria.

# How easy was taking those steps to turn your ideas into reality?

I wish it was easy. OpenAi did the hard part for us as we were able to leverage their Large Language Model (LLM) as a foundation. The real work came into tailoring the AI specifically for education. Al is meant to be a jack-of-alltrades, master of none, I wanted to make it a master of one. Getting the knowledge base was difficult because it was very broad. Supervised learning also was difficult, if during the testing something wrong was detected, changes had to be made, and we kept guiding it until it was where we desired it to be.

# How did you balance the demand of academics with that of running your startup. And what was your motivation to keep going?

I was in a unique position in which what I was building was helping my academic journey. The assignments or projects I had to do as a student, I could just put into the product, and it will specifically help me. That was why I had the idea in the first place. So it was not so difficult balancing it with my academics.

# What resources have been most helpful to you in your startup journey?

Generally speaking, not everyone has access to the same resources. Advantages and opportunities may vary for different people. I would say it is important to hook into your network specifically, and you' II find people who can bring you closer to your goals. When I was building this product, of colleague of mine had a strong background in machine learning, and he helped a lot in the area of supervised learning for the project. The major resource for me was the OpenAi Large Language Model (LLM) which made it easy for me. My background in Computer Technology, my lectures, and many other online resources were useful resources for me.

#### Whatroledoyouthinktheschool and Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Centre (BEDC) play in supporting startups?

The role they played was quite significant, and in fact, they are still playing an active role in the growth of my startup. Just recently, we talked with people internationally about how we can get mentorship to get our products to a place where foreign investors can come in and invest.

#### Voyager

YOUR ACADEMIC ALLY

This is extremely helpful, playing an active role long after the Babcock Entrepreneurship Week (BEW) had passed. And of course, I give them kudos for organizing the Babcock Entrepreneurship Week (BEW) to begin with. It is very helpful and I would love to see many more seasons of the Entrepreneurship Week. In my case, there was a monetary reward, courtesy of Dr. lyke who was visiting from the University of Glasgow, and he rewarded some of us who pitched during the Entrepreneurship Week. But if the school could also invest monetarily into programs like this, it would be great, this might motivate more people to pursue entrepreneurship.

# Looking back, how much progress would you say your startup has made?

The product exists now, which means we have developed from the word document that was just a list of ideas and possible steps to actualize them, to having a real and useful product and help students from day-to-day. So, I will say we have come quite far. We are trying to take it to the next level in the sense that we do not want to limit it to the education sector alone. I believe alongside with the people I have spoken to, that it can be used in various industries. If people are going to us Al, why not just use the best possible AI

they can.

# What strategies did you find effective in growing your startup and managing your academics?

For me, there was not a lot of strategy applied, since my academics was closely tied to my startup as well. So I would say, it is not in even scenario you have to sacrifice one for the other. If you can find a way for them to co-exist, please do it. You would be better off for it.

## What personal qualities do you believe have been essential to your success?

Creativity and being dissatisfied with the norms. Be a disruptor. If something is not working for you the way you want it to, try to make it better, find an alternative, and try to solve it for yourself, you will never know, it might lead to something beyond you. You might just end up solving the problems of thousands of people. And that is how startups are born. Being competitive is also a quality that I have.

## What is the vision of your startup and the interim goals in achieving it?

My vision for the product is to to make it something that is not just limited to the education sector alone. Even though that was what it was initially developed for, we are looking forward to going beyond that and help in various industries. My goals towards that is to continue to meet with potential investors, mentors, locally and internationally, and to gather resources that would help develop the product further.

What are some goals or

#### milestones you have achieved in your startup and what have been some rewarding aspects of the journey?

To have big companies in Nigeria ask me about the product, for example, Interswitch asked how it can work in their company, is very validating and rewarding. Because, it means the product works and people want it.

# Do you think that your perspective to business, academics, or life in general has changed since you began your startup? Do you approach things the same way you did before?

Yes, my perspective on business has changed. Making a product is one thing, finding a way to market is another thing. There are a lot of challenges and hurdles that come with monetizing a product that I had not experienced before. The legal hurdle was one of them. So, now I have to take into consideration a lot of factors that I did not usually think of at the time I started this journey. Another perspective change is in the area of collaboration and teamwork. I realize now you cannot go far alone, and thus far that I have come as a result of collaborating and sharing ideas with people at different points.

# The theme for this edition is FROM GARAGE TO GLOBAL. How do you envision your startup making a global impact?

The AI market is huge and there is

a lot of publicity and demand for it making it a niche that holds a lot of potential, and I would love to be a part of this niche. This is why I am trying not to limit the product to one sector, and trying to make it one that is generally beneficial.

# Is your startup open to collaborations and what kind of collaborations would you be interested in?

We are very much open to collaborations. As aforementioned, the Babcock Entrepreneurship Week (2.0) led to meeting a lot of great minds from both within our campus community and other campus, including Covenant and Adeleke University and ideas were shared and exchanged on how to make the product better.

I am interested specifically in collaboration revolving around the technical aspects, that would help make this bigger than it currently is, especially the knowledge base. The knowledge base would require a lot of resources and time, and I am open to learning on how to make that achievable.

# How can readers learn more about your start-up and get involved?

You can get in touch with me on any of these, and I will be happy to respond.

- Twitter X: @Cammizy
- **Instagram**: @Cammizy
- Linked: Joseph Camille

#### Any last words or pieces of advice to share with the readers?

Be Competitive. Be Disruptive. Be Creative.

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#### INTERVIEW WITH EASE

## Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Mynameis David Ezeh Ifeanyichukwu. I studied Computer Science at Babcock University, graduating with first-class honors. I left school in 2024, and I am currently working on a product, Ease, which was started during my time as a student. I am preparing for our private beta launch in October 2024, while also continuing my work as a Software Engineer.

Other founders in our startup include;

- i. Dada Stephen Olamide Co-Founder and Mobile Engineer
- ii. Fagbohun Victor Frontend Developer and Cybersecurity expert
- iii. Famoyegun David Backend

Engineer

- iv. Ariyo Taiwo Product Designer
- v. Ibe Praise Product Designer

#### Tell us about your startup.

The name of our startup is "Ease". We have been working on Ease since October 2023.

Ease aims to make commerce more efficient and convenient across all channels of distribution in Africa and beyond. We identified that the way purchases are made, especially in this region, can be improved through the right technology. Additionally, many SMEs in Africa lack the tools to gain insights into their businesses, leading to poor decision-making and potential losses. Ease aims to solve both problems by providing these tools.

# What was the inspiration behind having a startup even while a student?

The inspiration came from observing the inefficiencies in commerce, particularly the challenges students face when trying to purchase items on campus. We saw an opportunity to improve this through technology, making it more convenient and accessible. Additionally, we wanted to provide SMEs with tools to help them make informed business decisions.

# What was the reason or the idea behind choosing this niche to base your startup?

This niche was a natural choice because it directly addresses two major gaps we saw: the lack of convenience in purchasing goods and the lack of data-driven tools for SMEs to manage their businesses. With Ease, we aim to solve both problems in a practical and scalable way.

## What steps did you take to turn your idea into reality?

The first step was identifying the pain points and designing a solution around them. We interviewed a number of businesses around us with the aim of validating our observations. We also participated in the Babcock University entrepreneurship pitch competition, where we won and secured a seed fund of N700,000.

With this funding, we were able to develop an MVP and work towards our upcoming private beta launch in October 2024 at Babcock University.

# How easy was taking those steps to turn your ideas into reality?

It was far from easy. Securing funding and building a functional product came with its challenges, but we kept pushing. One of the main challenges then was balancing academic commitments with startup responsibilities, but having a clear vision and team support helped us stay on track.

# How did you balance the demand of academics with that running your startup. And what was your motivation to keep going?

It required strict time management and sacrifice. Whenever one aspect, like academics, started to suffer, I would recalibrate my schedule to give it more focus. What kept me motivated was the vision I had for Ease — knowing that what we were building could positively impact both students and businesses.

# What resources have been most helpful to you in your startup journey?

The entrepreneurship club at Babcock University has been incredibly helpful. Winning the pitch competition provided us



with seed funding.

#### What role do you think the school and Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Centre (BEDC) play in supporting startups?

Babcock University, through its Entrepreneurship Development Centre, has been supportive by offering opportunities like pitch competitions and mentorship programs. However, they could do more by creating a structured incubator program for startups and providing greater access to capital and industry connections.

# Looking back, how much progress would you say your startup has made?

We have made significant From winning progress. the pitch competition and securing N700,000 in seed funding, developing our MVP, we are now gearing up for our private beta launch in October 2024 Babcock University.

# What strategies did you find effective in growing your startup and managing your academics?

Clear goal setting and task delegation were key strategies. I ensured I maintained a balance between my academic and startup responsibilities by sticking to a strict schedule.

# What personal qualities do you believe have been essential to your success?

Perseverance and resilience. Starting and running a business while still in school was challenging, but staying committed to the vision and being adaptable has been essential to our success so far.

# What is the vision of your startup and the interim goals in achieving it?

The vision for Ease is to make commerce in Africa and beyond more efficient and convenient across all channels of distribution. interim aoals include Our launching the private beta at Babcock University, gathering feedback. and iterating product to make it more robust for a wider rollout. Securing seed funding and developing the MVP have been major milestones, and it is rewarding to see the product finally getting ready for users.

# What are some goals or milestones you have achieved in your startup and what have been some rewarding aspects of the journey?

Securing seed funding and developing the MVP have been major milestones, and it is rewarding to see the product finally getting ready for users. Do you think that your perspective to business, academics, or life in general changed since began your startup? Do you approach things the same way you did before?

Yes, my perspective has changed significantly. I have learned that business is about problemsolving, and there is always a solution if you are willing to look for it. Academics, while important, have to be balanced with practical, real-world experiences to fully prepare for life after school.

# The theme for this edition is FROM GARAGE TO GLOBAL. How do you envision your startup making a global impact?

We envision Ease scaling beyond local markets by partnering with SMEs across Africa and integrating more advanced features that make commerce seamless. Our goal is to

expand to other universities and, eventually, commercial platforms in multiple countries.

Is your startup open to

# collaborations and what kind of collaborations would you be interested in? Absolutely. We are open to collaborations with other tech startups, educational institutions, and businesses that can help us improve and expand our services. Collaborations that focus on technology, distribution, or funding

# How can readers learn more about your start-up and get involved?

would be especially welcome.

You can visit our website at easecommerce.xyz.

Connect with us on Twitter [X] (easecommerceinc) to stay updated on our progress and find out how to get involved.

# Any last words or pieces of advice to share with the readers?

Do not be afraid to start. Every big idea started as a small step, so if you have an idea, take that first step today. The road may be challenging, but the journey is worth it. Also ensure you seek to please God in everything because in the end, that is what will matter most.

# Introducing BUSEC

# **Empowering The Next Generation of Entrepreneurs**



#### Introduction

The Babcock University Students Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC) is a platform where passion meets opportunity and is dedicated to nurturing entrepreneurial spirit and fostering business innovation among students.

Having the right skills to navigate and thrive in the business is the more important than ever. Therefore, BUSEC steps in to equip students with the tools, knowledge, and network they need to turn their ideas into reality, from conception to execution.

Our core focus areas include:

- Business Development: We organize workshops, seminars, and competitions that teach students how to build and grow sustainable businesses.
   Our Best Innovation Competition challenges students to think creatively and develop solutions to real-world problems.
- Networking and Mentorship: BUSEC connects students with successful entrepreneurs and professionals who offer mentorship and guidance. This allows students to learn from realworld experiences and get practical advice on their entrepreneurial journeys.
- Skill Development: From leadership to financial literacy, our programs are designed to enhance students' entrepreneurial skill sets. We ensure

that BUSEC members gain valuable experience in areas such as business planning, marketing strategies, and customer relations.

Our vision at BUSEC is simple; to be the hub for entrepreneurship at Babcock University.

As we grow, we are excited to introduce a variety of programs and initiatives aimed at helping students turn their business dreams into successful ventures. Some of our upcoming plans include:

- Career Talk Day, where industry leaders will share insights on building a business and navigating challenges in today' s economy.
- Business Incubation Programs to provide a support system for budding entrepreneurs, giving them access to mentorship, funding opportunities, and business development resources.
- Pitch Competitions that will allow students to present their ideas in front of potential investors and receive feedback to refine their projects.

Through our initiatives, we aim to cultivate business leaders who are not only prepared to succeed in the marketplace, but also contribute meaningfully to society.



#### Meet the Visionaries: BUSEC Executive Team Driving Innovative and Entrepreneurship

This edition proudly introduces the dynamic leaders behind the Babcock University Student Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC). These visionary students are at the forefront of fostering, innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurial growth within the university. With a focus on empowering students and driving a culture of creativity, the BUSEC Executive Team is paving the way for the next generation of business leaders.

Meet the minds guiding this vibrant community toward success!

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Senior Vice President (Management Services) Prof. Yacob Haliso

**Vice President** (Financial Administration) Dr. Folorunso I. Akande

Vice President (Student Development) Dr. Sunday D. Audu

Inspiring interviews with BUSEC EXCOS



#### AGUOCHA-OHIAGBAJI UCHENNA U.E

## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is Aguocha-Ohiagbaji Uchenna Uzoma Ezeigbo. I am known mostly as "Uche Aguocha" . I am a 600l Medicine & Surgery student.

I currently serve as the President of the Babcock Student Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC).

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

I have been an entrepreneur for over a decade. I believe entrepreneurs make society better. I took up the role of BUSEC's President to inspire the spirit of entrepreneurship in Babcock University students while providing proper mentorship and education.

# What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

My primary goal is to provide structure for BUSEC. I am already working with the other BUSEC Executives to create a foundation that future members of BUSEC can build on.

We are currently working on educational seminars/ webinars, fundraising initiatives for businesses & startups, networking opportunites for Babcock students

Our goal as a team is to accomplish all our out objectives by the end

laid out objectives by the end of the current administration.

How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

I try to create specific time slots for different parts of my life. BUSEC is now a part of my life. The BUSEC executives and I have worked on certain structures that will enable us to carry out our responsibilities within impeding our academics. We have fixed times for meetings and training sessions. Sacrifices have to be made when you want to do something as amazing as grooming young entrepreneurs. Some social life usually has to be

given up. However, I believe that doing what you truly enjoy doing with people you respect is worth it.

## What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

BUSEC feels like home to me. I enjoy the inspiring conversations. Being in the company of forward thinkers is refreshing. I look forward to all the businesses and start-ups that will be birthed by BUSEC members. Perhaps the next start-up to attain unicorn status will come from BUSEC.

"Do not graduate from Babcock University with just your degree. Join BUSEC."

# What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

Frankly, this is the best time to join BUSEC. BUSEC

has a very efficient and effective executive team and a very supportive sponsor in the person of Dr. Ajibade Ayodeji Temitope. Do not graduate from Babcock University with just your degree. Join BUSEC to gain the essential skills to thrive in a world that rewards entrepreneurs!

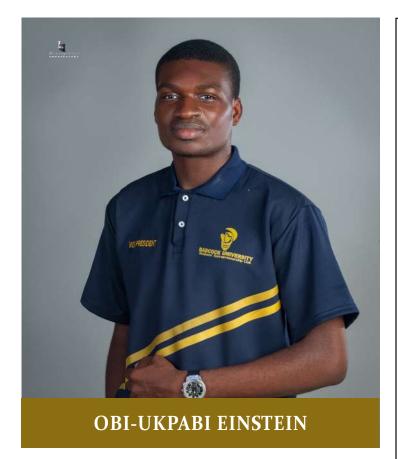
## How can members benefit from being part of the club?

BUSEC is an exclusive community of young and budding entrepreneurs. As a member of BUSEC, you will get to enjoy the following and much more;

- Access to funding for your business or start-up,
- Simplified education on setting up, running, and growing your business.
- Access to accomplished entrepreneurs.
- Access to exclusive entrepreneurship and startup events both inside and outside of Babcock University.
- Access to potential collaborators and team members for your business or start-up.

#### **FUN ZONE**

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## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

I am Obi-Ukpabi Einstein. I am a 300L Nursing Science Student. I currently serve as the Vice President, Main campus, of the Babcock Student Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC).

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

There was not really a platform to push Entrepreneurship in Babcock, considering that a lot of students own businesses of some sort, so that spurred my inspiration to take up this role.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

My plan basically is to push the club and reach out to students and propagate the club.

## How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

I plan out everything I will be doing for the day and in order of priority, I set goals and a "to-do list" that I stick with.

#### What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

I enjoy being in the capacity to impact the students on the benefits and skills they would obtain from the entrepreneural landscape in the outside world.

## How can members benefit from being part of the club?

They will have access to successful entrepreneurs in their field, meet with peers, opportunities to Network and collaborate and attend seminars where they will learn the necessary skills to be a successful entrepreneur.

# What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

It is a great platform for young entrepreneurs.



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is Fasusi Temiloluwa, and I am a 400-level Law student at Babcock University. I am honored to serve as the Vice President (Iperu Campus) of the Entrepreneurship Club.

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

I was inspired by the club's mission to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among students. As a law student, I saw an opportunity to apply my skills in a unique context, promote creative problem-solving, and empower fellow students to turn their ideas into reality.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

This year, I aim to:

- Organize workshops and seminars on

entrepreneurship fundamentals (pitching, funding, marketing).

- Collaborate with industry experts, entrepreneurs, and investors for mentorship and networking.
- Develop a mentorship program pairing experienced entrepreneurs with club members.

## How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

To balance academics and club responsibilities, I:

- Prioritize tasks and delegate responsibilities to team members when needed.
- Schedule dedicated time for my academics.
- Make time for self-care and relaxation to maintain productivity.

### What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

I enjoy:

- Witnessing members' innovative ideas unfold
- Connecting with like-minded entrepreneurs and industry experts
- Learning from failures and successes
- Seeing/Anticipating the club's positive impact on members' entrepreneurial journeys.

## How can members benefit from being part of the club?

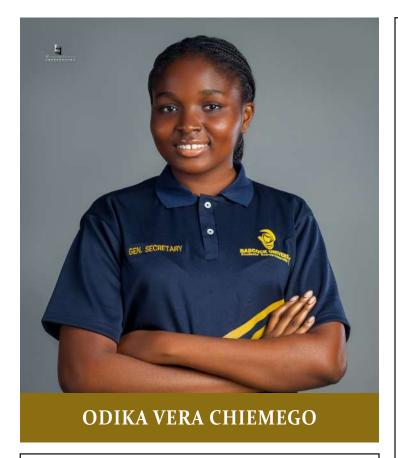
Members can benefit from:

- Networking opportunities with entrepreneurs, investors, and peers.
- Access to workshops, seminars, and mentorship programs.
- Pitch competitions, hackathons, and startup showcases.
- Collaborative community and support system
- Enhanced resume and career prospects in entrepreneurship.

### What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

To prospective and new members, I would say:

- Be open to learning, experimenting, and taking calculated risks
- Attend events, participate in activities, and engage with members
- Share your ideas, and do not be afraid to ask for feedback
- Leverage our resources, mentorship, and network to fuel your entrepreneurial journey



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is Odika Vera Chiemego, and I am studying medicine and surgery and I am currently in my 4th year. I am the General Secretary of the Babcock University Students' Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC).

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

Generally, my curiosity on entrepreneurship and how the business industry works. I wanted to be a part of this club as the secretary because it allows me to learn new things while applying my own organizational skills.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

This year, I plan to ensure all activities related to BUSEC run very smoothly, I aim to present BUSEC in a very positive, appealing light to the general populace of Babcock students and to make deliberate and consistent effort into achieving all our club goals.

## How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

I mostly try to create a schedule, just so I will not get overwhelmed with the things I have to do. I also like to do things as early as possible, so I get a fast grip on my tasks and tackle them at hand, that way, I will not get overwhelmed and most importantly, I make sure my relationship with God is very intact, to keep me sane in all of it.

### What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

I like that I am in a community of a group of promising people, I like that we all share similar interests, whilst in the club and we can symbiotically grow together. I also like that I am taking on a leadership role, because it is stepping out of my

comfort zone.

#### How can members benefit from being part of the club?

Members get to engage and interact in a group of young entrepreneurs, they also have numerous chances to showcase their own projects, they could get funding for said projects and they could learn from industry figure heads. So, they gain a decent number of amazing things.

### What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

I will say they should take time out to really think about it, because passion drives a lot of things forward and without passion, it is like a waste of time, so once again, I will say they should take time out, think about it, pray on it and if they still want to get involved, they should just do it. Honestly, planning something is not half as good as actually doing the thing. So, do not overthink anything and just start, from wherever you are. I guarantee you will not regret it.



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is Idiong Elizabeth and I am a 400lvl of Medicine and Surgery. I am the Chaplain of the Babcock University students' Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC)

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

The need to combine the faith factor with finances. Making people understand that God is very interested in the success of their endeavours.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

Alot! The team and I have come up with great plans to bring to Babcock University, so "watch out!" Thats all I' Il say.

## How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

It's quite easy to be frank. Being organised by planning my schedule ahead of time. Also, limiting procrastination.

## What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

The benefits that comes with being a member such as free mentorship, programs, competitions, possible business investments e.t.c.

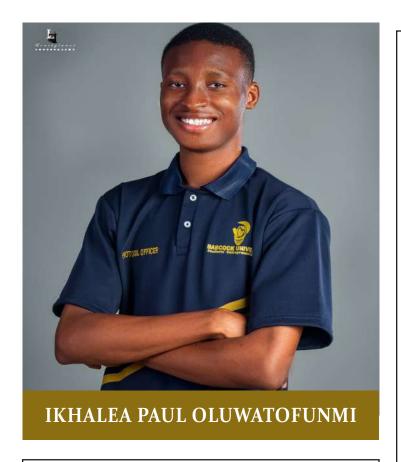
Being an executive is even better because I get to plan and coordinate events (which I enjoy doing).

#### How can members benefit from being part of the club?

There's so many benefits but to list a few; networking, improve social skills, learning and gaining skills in different areas in the field of finances, getting information first hand, being able to attend an array of conferences for free.

## What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

Be calm, put your best foot forward and bring forth excellence.



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is Ikhalea Paul Oluwatofunmi and I am a student of Computer Science, 300 level. I am also the Protocol Officer of the Babcock University Students' Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC).

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

I have always been passionate about ensuring events run smoothly from been the teens president in my church back home to been the assistant head usher in Babcock University chapel, when the opportunity came to serve as a Protocol Officer I knew it was a perfect fit for my skills in organization and coordination.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

As the Protocol Officer I plan to implement more structural procedure for events and meetings. Additionally, I hope to foster better communication between the club's leaders and members ensuring everyone feels respected and heard, it also makes the club more effective in whatever they are doing.

## How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

This is a very important question. And my answer is that it is all about time management, I have learnt to prioritize my task. I set clear boundaries and goals to be able to perform my academic duties and also my club duties. This makes my contribution to the club very effective.

#### What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

I mostly enjoy the support we have for each other in the executive team, it makes everyone feel heard. I also love the vision each executive has for the club. Being able to know that each member is playing their role in taking the club to a point where the sky would not be the limit is exhilarating.

#### How can members benefit from being part of the club?

Members of the club can benefit in so many ways, from building their leadership skill and networking with other students to gaining knowledge and sharing experience. The club is a platform where students can optimize their business and further establish their career path. The members of the club also have the chance to be in many impactful projects and events that will contribute to personal and professional development.

## What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

I my advice to prospective and new students is to take part in getting involved with the club as much as possible in order to gain as much knowledge as possible. Do not be scared to take part in activities, volunteer to do tasks for the club, do not hesistate to ask questions if you do not understand something, also share your knowledge if you feel it would be beneficial for others. Joining this club



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is OgheneFejiro Akalamudo, and I am studying Public Health. I am in my 400Level in Babcock University.

I hold the position of Welfare Director in the Babcock University Student Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC).

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

I was inspired to take on this role because I believe in the importance of creating an environment where entrepreneurs can thrive, both mentally and professionally. My passion for business and public health drives me to focus on the well-being of our members while also promoting innovation and leadership.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

Iamaiming to introduce mental health and wellness initiatives specifically tailored for entrepreneurs, such as stress management workshops and mentorship programs. Additionally, I plan to encourage more female entrepreneurship and create supportive programs that will help women thrive in the business world.

## How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

I manage my time carefully by setting priorities and using a schedule to ensure that I can meet both my academic and club-related commitments. I find that staying organized helps me balance everything without feeling overwhelmed.

## What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

I enjoy the sense of community and the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who are passionate about entrepreneurship. The

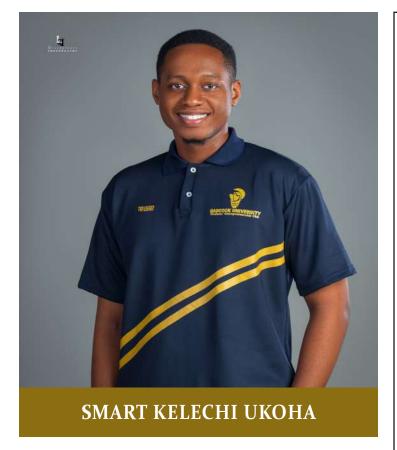
collaboration, the exchange of ideas, and the support we offer each other make the experience fulfilling.

## How can members benefit from being part of the club?

Members benefit through access to mentorship, networking opportunities, and hands-on entrepreneurial workshops. The club provides a platform for personal and business growth, and members can learn valuable skills, gain confidence, and build important connections in the business world.

# What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

My advice would be to take initiative and get involved as much as possible. Engage with others, share your ideas, and make use of the resources the club offers. The more you put into the club, the more you will gain from it, both personally and professionally.



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is Smart Kelechi Ukoha, I am a 500-level medical student and I am the treasurer for BUSEC 24/25

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

I have always had an interest in entrepreneurship and did not want to miss a chance to be with likeminded people.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

I plan to make sure the school knows about this new association and ensure a steady flow of income.

How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

It is not easy especially since I am a medical student. But I have noticed we have a lot of time that we take for granted. I make sure every second counts.

### What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

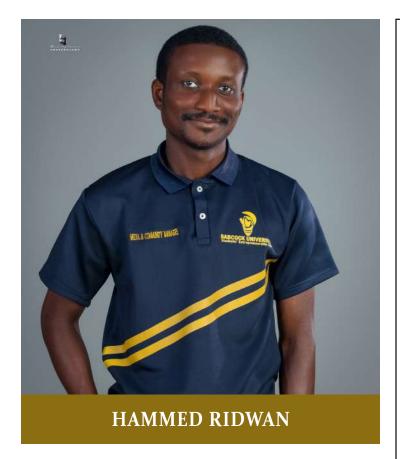
I enjoy being among fellow entrepreneurs. It's a prime place for people trying to solve the problems out there and making a name for themselves.

## How can members benefit from being part of the club?

Where do I start? You first have a community of people with different skills you can tap from. You can find your next business partner. You get special perks of interacting with some of the big shots out there. It is too many...

# What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

I would advice that as you join, you come with the aim to not only learn but also give out what you know as well. It is a place to share knowledge and build.



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is Hammed Ridwan and I am a 300 level Computer Science student. I am the Media and Community Manager of the Babcock University Students Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC).

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

I was inspired to take up this role as I wanted to use my experience in Media and entrepreneurship to help out as much as I can.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

I plan on working with my fellow executives in ensuring that we are able to groom student entrepreneurs, create a thriving ground for Babcock Entrepreneurs to grow and become great.

## How do you balance your academic life with your leadership position at the club?

Hmmm, with God all things are possible. Like our President says, we should always contribute to BUSEC everyday so I ensure to set a to-do list everyday with a contribution I am making to the Club. Some days are tough, yes, but with God and proper time management I have been able to manage it effectively.

### What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

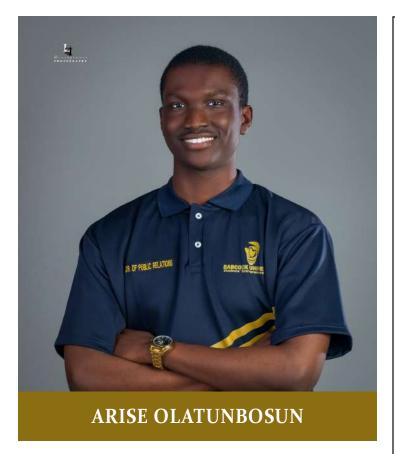
The Community, the bright minds and support from everyone means a lot to me.

## How can members benefit from being part of the club?

That is an endless list, there is so much to gain from joining BUSEC. There is support, networking, mentorship, There is just so much to gain.

# What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

I would advise you to join ASAP and not miss out on such a massive opportunity that Babcock University Students Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC) grants our members.



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the position your hold?

My name is Arise Olatunbosun Joseph, and I am currently studying Software Engineering in my 400 Level. I am the Director of Public Relations.

## What was your inspiration to take up this leadership role?

I have always been passionate about communication and creating opportunities for people to connect. I believe that entrepreneurship is not just about having ideas but about building networks.

## What plans or changes are you hoping to bring to the club this year?

This year, I am focused on improving our external communications by leveraging social media and other platforms to promote our events and opportunities more effectively.

How do you balance your academic life

#### with your leadership position at the club?

It is all about time management and setting clear priorities. I make sure to stay organized, plan ahead, and allocate specific times for both academic and club responsibilities.

#### What do you enjoy most about being part of the BUSEC club?

I enjoy the sense of community we have built. It is amazing to see so many driven individuals coming together to share ideas, collaborate, and grow. Being part of a space where everyone is passionate about innovation and entrepreneurship is truly inspiring, and it motivates me to keep pushing the boundaries.

#### How can members benefit from being part of the club?

Members can benefit in a variety of ways. First, the club offers numerous networking opportunities with like-minded individuals, mentors, and industry professionals. We also host workshops and training sessions that help develop key entrepreneurial skills such as business planning, marketing, and leadership. In addition, members can gain real-world experience through our projects, competitions, and collaborations with local startups.

# What advice would you give new and prospective members looking to get involved with the club?

Do not hesitate to jump in and get involved! Take advantage of every opportunity the club offers, whether it's attending events, volunteering for projects, or networking with fellow members. The more you put into it, the more you'll get out of the experience. Also, don't be afraid to share your ideas, as this is a space where creativity is encouraged. Lastly, stay curious and open to learning because entrepreneurship is all about continuous growth.

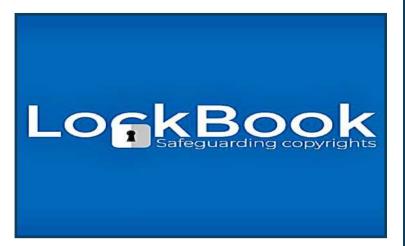
#### SPECIAL FEATURE

## BABCOCK ALUMNUS BRINGS DIGITAL INNOVATION TO A NATIONAL STAGE:

Lockbook Competes on Fund It Forward.

We are pleased to announce that **Lockbook**, a startup founded by an alumnus of our very own University, Mr. Kehinde Israel, has made it to the national stage by competing in the renowned Fund It Forward competition, a reality TV show focused on young entrepreneurs making societal impact across Nigeria.

Lockbook, which was featured in the previous edition of the **BEDC HORIZON**, is making a significant impact in the education sector as a digital distribution hub foe electronic textbooks and learning resources. By providing students with affordable access to essential learning materials, Lockbook is helping to bridge the gap in digital education, empowering students to reach their full potential.



The Fund It Forward competition which runs for a period of 9-weeks, features some of Nigeria's brightest social entrepreneurs, with contestants undergoing a series of business challenges designed to test their business acumen and drive for social change.

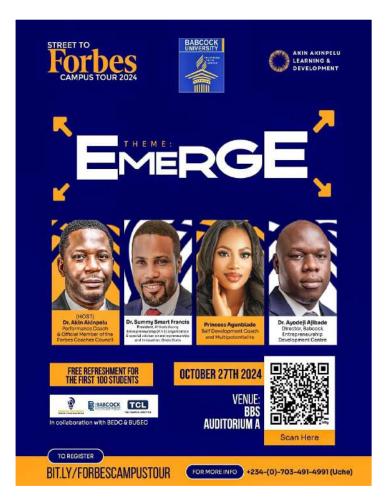
As a University that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, Lockbook's success represents the impact of Babcock represents the impact of Babcock University's programs and the potential of our students and alumni. It is a testament to the values we instill; turning ideas into real-world solutions that address societal challenges.

We invite you to rally behind Kehinde Israel. Tune in to Fund It Forward on Channels TV to watch their journey unfold, and do not forget to follow and share Lockbook on social media.

Let us show Nigeria what Babcock innovators can achieve!



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



We are excited to announce that Babcock University will be hosting the "STREET TO FORBES CAMPUS TOUR" on October 27th, 2024. This dynamic event is designed to inspire and empower young Africans to rise above limitations and unlock their full potential. It captures the chronicles of Dr. Akin Akinpelu, an official member of Forbes Coaches council and a foremost performance coach and consultant in Nigeria.

The "STREET TO FORBES CAMPUS TOUR" is an inspirational and educational initiative with a mission to ignite the potential of young Africans who are striving to overcome societal limitations.

Whether you are a student, budding entrepreneur,

or young professional, this tour will equip you with knowledge and the mindset to;

- Break free from limitations.
- Elevate your goals and vision.
- Connect with opportunites.

#### **Event Details**

**Date:** October 27th, 2024 **Venue:** BBS Auditorium A

REGISTER NOW: tally.so/r/w8KZar. (Registration

is simple and free)

Do not miss out on this transformative experience.

Join us on the "STREETS TO FORBES CAMPUS TOUR" and take the first step on your journey from street to success.

## Get Ready for the Babcock Enterprise Innovation Challenge (BEIC) 2.0!

The Babcock Enterprise Innovation Challenge (BEIC) 2.0 is coming soon, and it is bigger and better than ever! **BEIC** is a competition that showcases the brightest minds and most innovative ideas from across the university. Whether you are an aspiring entrepreneur or student with passion for problem-solving, **BEIC** 2.0 is your chance to shine, gain mentorship, and compete for exciting prizes!

Stay tuned as more details will be communicated soon.

Prepare to innovate and inspire!

#### DIGITAL GROWTH WORKSHOP

Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Centre (BEDC), in collaboration with FlyMyAds, hosted the Digital Growth Workshop from the 29th, July till the 28th, August 2024. The Workshop was designed to equip entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge needed to harness the power of social media and digital marketing to increase their online visibility, engage effectively with their target audience, and ultimately drive sales through digital channels.

By the end of the workshop, participants had developed;

- Basic Content Creation Skills
- Stronger Brand Identities
- Stronger Online Presence
- Effective Social Media Strategies

All of which are actionable skills that would help them overcome difficulties they might experience in promoting their business online especially through social media and drive long-term business growth.







## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

#### **ENTERPRISE COLLOQUY SERIES 2.0**

The Babcock University Students' Entrepreneurship Club (BUSEC), in collaboration with the Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Center (BEDC) on the 1st of October, 2024, hosted a colloquial event themed "The Entrepreneur' s Mindset – Techniques for Generating Winning Business Ideas."

The speakers for the event were Dr. Ajibade Ayomide, Director of Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Center (BEDC) and Mrs. Oladapo Oyebola Sulaiman, Founder, Ronzul Accountants Ltd.

The event aimed to equip students with strategies for cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset and generating business ideas that can thrive in today's market.



Dr. Ajibade Ayodeji, Director of Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Center, shared his insights on skills required to identify gaps in information assymetry in new markets to be



ventured into. He began his talk by emphasizing the role of resilience in entrepreneurship, noting that failure is part of the journey to success.

To mention a few, some of the skills include;

- Ability to identify market opportunities.
- Ability to be innovative and adaptable to new trends and consumer demands.
- Ability to build a strong network.
- Financial literacy.



Mrs. Oladapo Oyebola Sulaimon, Founder, Ronzul Accountants Ltd., shared the inspiring story of her entrepreneurial journey, as well as key points on how to develop an entrepreneurial mindset that would set the path for a successful entrepreneurial journey.

To mention a few, some include;

 Choose a cause bigger than yourself, to remain continually motivated throughout the journey.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

- Be irreplacable by providing unique solutions and becoming a valueable problem solver.
- Treat people right to build strong relationship across every front.
- Be consistent in self development and personal growth as this would drive business growth.
- Replicate yourself by helping others emulate yourself. This ensures continuity and success of your business in your absence.



The seminar also included a question and answer session. This provided a platform for students to gain valuable insights from the facilitators on challenges and areas they find unclear.



The seminar concluded with a series of interactions between facilitators and participants, offering students a valuable opportunity to network and engage directly with the experts. This segment allowed participants to ask specific questions and receive personalized advice. The one-on-one interactions enriched the overall experience, serving as a meaningful extension of the general sessions and deepening the participants' learning.



The seminar was a resounding success, providing students with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive in their entrepreneurial journeys. Through insightful sessions and personalized interactions with experienced facilitators, participants gained a deeper understanding of what it takes to build a resilient and adaptable mindset and were inspired to pursue their business ideas with renewed vigor.

#### **EVENTS GALLERY**















