



ABUAD

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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Inside this edition



Looking Ahead

The Alumni President highlights exciting plans for the association in the months ahead, from expanded mentorship initiatives for current students, to greater engagement with alumni across the diaspora, to more opportunities for members to

connect, collaborate, and contribute to one another's journeys.

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Exclusive feature



From NUESA President to Patent Innovator:

The Khalifa Shu'aib story is one that current students and recent graduates should find both inspiring and instructive.

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WELCOME



FROM THE DESK OF THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Alumni,

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you to the maiden edition of the ABUAD Alumni Newsletter, our shared space for connection, celebration, and community. Whether you graduated last year or over a decade ago, whether you are in Lagos or London, Abuja or Atlanta, this newsletter is created for you and sustained by you. It is a platform to keep us united, to celebrate our achievements, and to strengthen the bonds that make the ABUAD Alumni Family truly special.

Looking Ahead

We have exciting plans for the association in the months ahead from expanded mentorship initiatives for current students, to deeper engagement with alumni across the diaspora, to more opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and contribute to one another's journeys.

A key part of this vision is the creation of alumni chapters in major cities, which will serve as hubs for networking, support, and shared growth. In addition, we are laying the groundwork for the erection of an Alumni Building at ABUAD, a landmark that will stand as a testament to how far we have come and the strength of the community we continue to build.

I encourage every alumnus reading this to play their part: share your story, nominate a fellow graduate for a spotlight, attend our events, support the students who will walk the same path we have walked. The strength of this network is only as great as the participation of its members and, with these new initiatives, I believe we are building something truly enduring and special here.

Thank You

To the editorial team behind this newsletter, to every alumnus who has shared their story, and to every reader who continues to engage with what we are building, thank you! Your contributions, your voices, and your support are what give this platform life. ABUAD gave us our foundation, but it is through our collective effort that we are shaping something greater. What we build upon that foundation is ours to define, and together we are creating a legacy that reflects the strength, spirit, and unity of the ABUAD Alumni Family!

Timothy Atasie

Warm regards,
Barr Timothy Atasie
President, ABUAD Alumni Association
Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti



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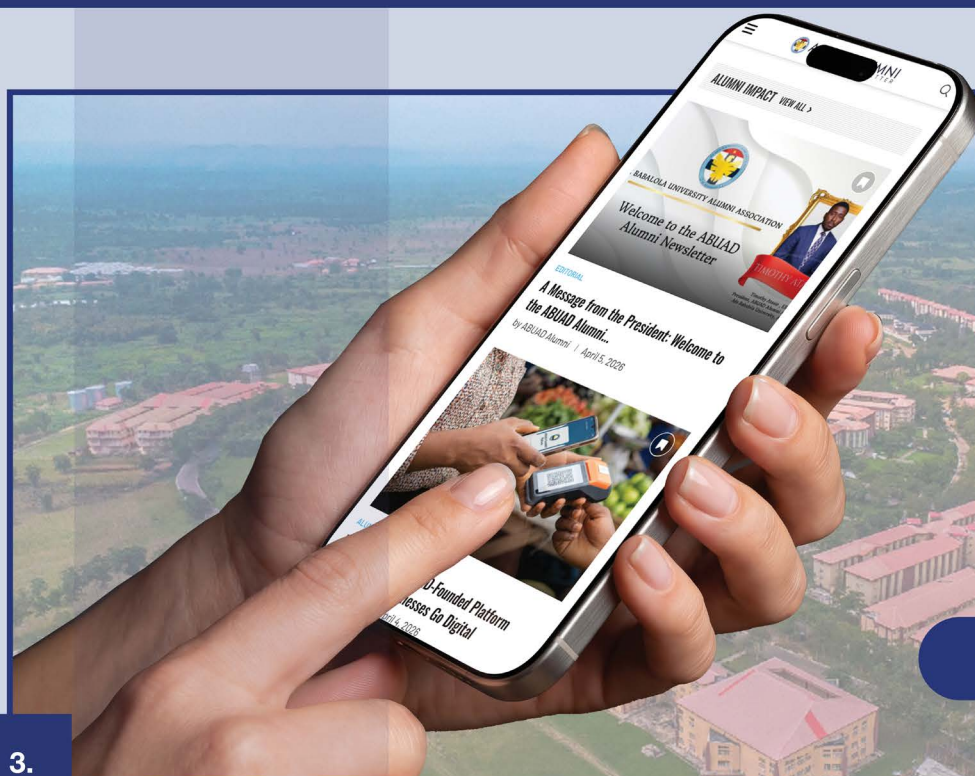
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ALUMNI IMPACT

Unity in Action: ABUAD Alumni Surpass ₦25M Target for Baby Jasmine's Life-Saving Surgery

ABUAD Alumni Editorial Team | May 2026



In a remarkable display of community spirit, the ABUAD Alumni Community rallied together to support a fellow alumna whose daughter, Baby Jasmine, requires urgent heart surgery in India. Members and supporters responded with incredible generosity, raising ₦34,500,000, surpassing the initial ₦25,000,000 target by 38%. This heartwarming story is a powerful testament to what the ABUAD Family can achieve when they come together. Full story in our next edition.



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MILESTONE

ABUAD Marks 16 Years of Excellence and Hosts Over 500 International Delegates at ILA Conference

ABUAD Alumni Editorial Team | April 2026



Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti recently celebrated its sixteenth anniversary, a milestone that marks not just institutional growth, but sixteen years of consistently producing graduates who are making their mark across professions and industries on the African continent and beyond.

The anniversary celebration coincided with the hosting of the International Law Association (ILA) Conference at ABUAD, which drew over 500 delegates from across the world. The convergence of these two event underscored ABUAD's growing standing on the international academic and legal stage.

Speakers at the event reflected on the university's journey from its founding by Aare Afe Babalola, SAN, to its current status as one of Nigeria's most reputable private universities. Several noted the remarkable pace at which ABUAD has developed its infrastructure, academic programmes, research output and global partnerships.

For alumni, the sixteenth anniversary was a moment of collective pride. Those who were among the earliest graduates now occupy senior positions across law, medicine, engineering, business, and public service, a living testament to the quality of the education they received at Ado-Ekiti.





MILESTONE

Fingertips: The ABUAD-Founded Platform Helping Small Businesses Go Digital

Wemimo Oke | April 2026



When an ABUAD graduate looked at the challenges facing small businesses in Nigeria's growing digital economy, they didn't see an insurmountable problem; they saw an opportunity. The result is Fingertips, a platform designed to make digital transformation accessible and affordable for business owners across the country.

Critically, it is built with the Nigerian small business owner in mind: simple enough for first-time users, powerful enough to scale with growing enterprises.

The platform emerged from a real gap in the market. While large corporations had the resources to build custom digital infrastructure, the vast majority of Nigerian SMEs were being left behind. Fingertips changes that equation, offering enterprise-grade tools at a price point accessible to market traders, boutique owners, artisans, and service providers.

For the ABUAD alumnus behind the venture, the journey from student to founder has been defined by the same values the university instilled: problem-solving, resilience and a commitment to making a tangible impact.

"We didn't build Fingertips to be a tech company, we built it to help people build real businesses."



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



The former NUESA President at ABUAD in 2023 has since launched a smart fish farm, built a portfolio of innovation projects, and recently submitted two patent applications for inventions that tackle food security and healthcare accessibility, two of the most pressing challenges facing Nigeria and the wider continent.

FUTURE FISH FARMS ENGINEERING MEETS AQUACULTURE

At the heart of Khalifa's entrepreneurial journey is Future Fish AgroTech, a data-driven aquaculture venture using IoT automation to transform fish farming in Nigeria. The company was founded shortly after his graduation in 2023, and has since expanded to farms in Abuja, Lagos, Oyo, and Kaduna.





Some graduates leave university with a degree. Khalifa Shu'aib left with a mission.

The Khalifa Shu'aib Story

We sat down with Khalifa to hear the story in his own words: how ABUAD shaped him, what drives his relentless building, and where he's headed next.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

From NUESA President to Patent Innovator: The Khalifa Shu'aib Story

Sharon Addy-Williams | April 2026



Get to know Khalifa

Can you tell us about Future Fish Farms, when did you start it, your reasons, and how are you coping with the economy at the moment?

Future Fish AgroTech is the data engine for African aquaculture, focused on bringing practical, scalable technology to local farming. The company was founded shortly after my graduation in 2023, when we built our first prototype of an IoT-based modular aquaculture automation system that handles the heavy lifting of commercial farming, specifically automating water chemistry management and feeding systems for high-yield African catfish (*Clarias*) production. By continuously capturing critical data points on water quality, feeding behaviours, and environmental triggers, we are building a predictive engine that gives farmers total control over their operations, reduces

mortality, and guarantees predictable yield.

The economy makes things a bit tougher, especially because accessibility is very important to us. For now, we are building for the local market, so our product must reflect local realities in terms of cost, ease of use, and functionality. Since our first version, we have continued to innovate, making several improvements to ensure those values are upheld without compromising on quality.

Where do you see your company in the next five years?

We envision a future where every fish farm in Nigeria is an automated one. We already have farms running in Abuja, Lagos, Oyo, and Kaduna, and over the next five years our goal is for Future Fish to become synonymous with Nigerian aquaculture as we grow our coverage across the country.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



Two Patent Applications, Two Major Problems

Beyond his farm, Khalifa has submitted two patent applications for inventions targeting food security and healthcare accessibility, reflecting a philosophy that engineering should serve society at its most foundational level. His portfolio of innovation projects continues to grow, and 2026 is shaping up to be one of his most ambitious years yet.

Do you have any other projects we should be expecting from you?

There will always be projects to expect from me! 2026 is my year of properly venturing into robotics. I am currently working on an automated conveyor line for material sorting and building an industrial-grade 6-axis robot arm. I chose these projects for two reasons: first, they represent classic use cases of robotics in an industrial and manufacturing setting; and

second, I strongly believe it is high time we took our industrialisation goals seriously in Nigeria. Young engineers should do what they can to contribute, working on projects that solve real, local problems for Nigerians.



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**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**

Can you tell us about Future Fish Farms, when did you start it, your reasons, and how are you coping with the economy at the moment?

The next decade is shaping up to be a genuinely exciting time for engineers, and I think a few forces are converging in a way that is hard to ignore.

The first is industrialisation. We are watching it happen in real time. Projects like the Dangote Refinery, already the largest single-train refinery in the world and now being expanded toward becoming the largest refinery anywhere on the planet, are proof that Africa is capable of world-class industrial output. That scale of ambition demands engineers, and it creates demand for automation, precision systems, and smart manufacturing that mechatronics engineers are uniquely positioned to deliver.

The second is AI. For a long time, AI was the bottleneck that held robotics back. Perception, decision-making, and real-time inference were all too limited or too expensive for widespread deployment. That barrier is pretty much gone now. AI is now infrastructure and no longer a novelty feature. With the explosion of open-source models and frameworks over the last couple of years, tools that were once the exclusive domain of well-funded research labs are now accessible to anyone with the skill to use them. The robotics space today honestly reminds me of the early internet era: a lot of open platforms, a lot of diverse use cases being explored in parallel, and real uncertainty about which paradigms will dominate. Just as the dot-com bubble eventually gave way to the companies and infrastructure that define our digital world today, I believe we are laying the foundations for a similarly transformative robotics industry.

The third is opportunity for Nigerians specifically. The demand for engineers is only going to increase, and I genuinely believe this is one of our greatest advantages as a country right now. We have the talent; what we need is more people willing to apply it to hard, physical problems.

Building a Company as a Young Nigerian

When did you get the motivation to open your company and how was the process?

Even though we had been operating since 2023, we only officially registered in 2024. By that point we had been gaining a lot of traction, and it became important to obtain the necessary certifications and compliance to build customer trust and qualify for grants and competitions. Registering with the CAC was actually quite straightforward, easier than many people expect, especially with their updated registration portal. I genuinely urge young people to take advantage of it and formalise their businesses. It is the most responsible way to manage your finances and establish your presence with the government.

“The next decade is shaping up to be a genuinely exciting time for engineers, and I think a few forces are converging...”



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

As a young Nigerian, what difficulties did you have building your company?

Working with corporate entities, and especially government, often comes with a great deal of bureaucracy, sometimes for understandable reasons. Navigating that red tape was a real learning curve for me. Stakeholder management is a skill every business owner must develop, because it only becomes more complex as you grow.

What ABUAD Built in Him

His role as NUESA President gave him experience in advocacy, coordination, and student governance, skills that have clearly translated into how he builds and leads his ventures today. His story is one that current students and recent graduates should find both inspiring and instructive.

Can you tell us the most memorable moments while you were studying at ABUAD?

Commissioning the renovated College of Engineering lobby back in 2023 stands out most to me. It was a facelift the college desperately needed at the time, and staff and students alike were genuinely pleased with the fresh look it gave the building. There was an uplifted energy you could almost feel walking through those halls.

I am very big on capacity and skill development, so organising ABUAD's inaugural Engineering Summit and Internship Registry, where students gained insights from real industry trailblazers and over 50 direct internship placements followed, is something I remember fondly as well.

And how could I forget the final year basketball tournament? A five-game series that went all the way down to the wire. The rush when we claimed our gold medals was like nothing else I experienced during my time in university.



Khalifa and the Future Fish AgroTech Team



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

What experiences did you have at ABUAD that were pivotal in your career?

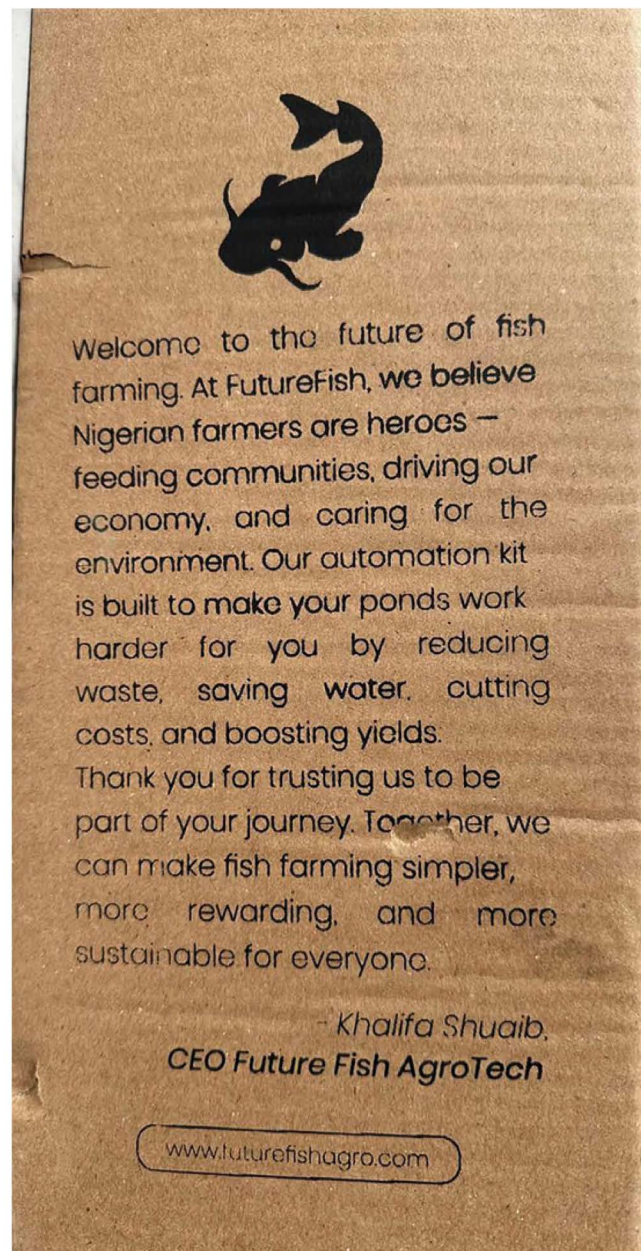
Serving as NUESA president in my final year gave me first-hand leadership experience that no course could teach. Being responsible for the outcomes of 2,000+ students made the responsibilities I encountered later in my career feel more familiar and less daunting.

In my third year, I developed a location-tracking attendance system that was later adopted by the College of Engineering for that academic year. It was my first experience building for real-world use, and it taught me a lot about prioritising what actually works and managing user feedback constructively.

A Builder's Blueprint

Khalifa Shu'aib's story is not just one of individual achievement. It is a blueprint for what is possible when engineering education meets ambition, community leadership, and a deep belief that technology should serve real people solving real problems.

From the engineering halls of ABUAD to patent filings and automated fish farms across four Nigerian states, Khalifa is writing a chapter that the entire alumni community can point to with pride, and that the next generation of ABUAD engineers can build on.



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ABUAD Alumni Editorial Team | April 2026



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Applications are currently open. Prospective candidates are encouraged to identify their research interests, review the programme's entry requirements, and reach out to the ABUAD Business School's admissions team for guidance. For those with the ambition and academic foundation to pursue a PhD, this is a rare opportunity in a world-class Nigerian setting.



PARTNERSHIPS

ABUAD Engineering Students to Gain Free Aviation Training Under New United Nigeria Airlines Partnership

ABUAD Alumni Editorial Team | April 2026



In a significant development for students in ABUAD's College of Engineering, Afe Babalola University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with United Nigeria Airlines that will give engineering students access to free aviation training, opening a runway into one of the most technically demanding industries in the world.

The MOU represents a landmark collaboration between one of Nigeria's leading private universities and one of its fastest-growing domestic airlines. Under the agreement, eligible ABUAD engineering students will gain access to technical and operational training within the aviation sector, with exposure to the specialised engineering expertise the industry requires.

For ABUAD's engineering community, the partnership provides something invaluable beyond the classroom: real exposure to an industry at the cutting edge of mechanical, electrical, and systems engineering. The aviation sector has long been identified as a key area of opportunity for Nigerian engineers, and this agreement places ABUAD students directly in line for those opportunities.

The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from both institutions and marks another step in ABUAD's deliberate strategy of building industry partnerships that translate directly into career-enhancing opportunities for its students and graduates.



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