Tolu Omotoso
From: Lagos, Nigeria
Studies: Civil Engineering

Why did you choose Purdue?
I chose Purdue because of 2 main reasons - the reputation as a top engineering/research school and the diversity (I have met people from all over the world here). Purdue was ranked #3 in my major, Civil Engineering, by the U.S. News College Rankings when I applied. Also, I found a lot of interesting research were being carried out at Purdue.

What is your favorite fact about Purdue?
There is a nuclear reactor on campus. Very few people know about this.

Please briefly describe your research:
By 2050, the world will need to fed 9 billion people. This will require 60% increase in agricultural production; 40% increase in water demands and 30% increase in energy demands. Most of these demands will come from developing nations like Nigeria. Water, energy and food resources are intrinsically linked and these links are becoming more evident due to a changing climate. To sustainably manage demands for these resources, policy makers need to understand how they are linked and the possible trade-offs associated with their developmental decisions. The Nigerian government is planning to intensify agricultural production and build a new hydropower dam in Niger state. Both projects are in direct competition for available freshwater resources. These trade-offs are not properly understood. This project aims at improving knowledge on the nexus and trade-offs between water, energy and food resources using this important food and energy producing state in Nigeria as a case study.

Name one to three words that best describes your work?
Sustainability, Interlinkages, Trade-offs.

Where do you spend most of your time on campus?
I spend most of my time in 2 buildings at Discovery Park. I do my research at the Hall of Discovery Learning & Research and carry out my duties as Special Projects Coordinator to the Energy Center in Mann Hall.

If you have free time, how do you choose to spend it?
I try to use my free time for professional development. I am currently studying for the Project Management Professional certification. I also do some volunteering in the community. During the Spring 2016 semester, I joined a couple of Purdue students to distribute water and other supplies to the residents of Flint, MI. It was an awesome experience.

Current mobile device/computer:
Samsung Galaxy S6 Active; Samsung Galaxy Note.

What apps, software, or tools can’t you live without?
Alarm clock, OneDrive, MS Word & Excel, Google Chrome, MS Outlook for emails and calendaring.

What’s your workspace setup like?
Since my research is mostly simulations, all I need is a computer and I’m ready to go. My research office is set up with a desktop and two screens and I have a third screen which I use with my laptop; headphones; a cloth painting of a lion; print out of favorite motivational quotes; a shelf where I keep essential stuff like research articles and snacks.

Besides your phone and computer, what gadget can’t you live without?
Probably my stove. I cook my meals myself most times.

I’d love to see President Barack Obama answer these same questions. Being the first African-American President, I’ll like to know how he did it. I hope I meet him someday.

What are you currently reading, or what is the last thing you read (aside from academic reading)?
The last book I read is Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell. I am currently reading Thinking in Systems: A Primer by Donella H. Meadows.

What’s your sleep routine like?
I am an early riser. I sleep for about 5.5 hours on weekdays so I usually go to bed around midnight and wake up latest by 5:30 am.

How do you recharge physically and/or mentally?
Playing soccer, talking to or hanging out with friends and of course sleeping.

What’s the best advice you’ve ever received?
One of my teachers in high school once told me “it is not he who starts a project that matters but he who finishes it”. I consider this as one of the best advice I have received because it keeps me going when I encounter difficult times and think about quitting.

What is (are) your career goal(s)?
Short term career goals: work with a global consulting firm as an environmental consultant. Long term goals: go into politics. Maybe become President of Nigeria one day.
WHY CHOOSE PURDUE?

CENTRALLY LOCATED

TOP 25 UNIVERSITY IN U.S.

LIVING EXPENSES ARE 10% LOWER THAN AVERAGE COST OF LIVING IN U.S.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Economics
Agronomy
Animal Sciences
Biochemistry
Botany and Plant Pathology
Entomology
Food Science
Forestry and Natural Resources
Horticulture
Youth Development and Agricultural Education

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Curriculum and Instruction
Educational Studies

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Aeronautics and Astronautics
Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Engineering Education
Industrial Engineering
Interdisciplinary Engineering (Distance Education)
Materials Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Nuclear Engineering

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Consumer Science
Health and Kinesiology
Health Sciences
Hospitality and Tourism Management
Human Development and Family Studies
Nursing
Nutrition Science
Psychological Sciences
Public Health
Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
Anthropology
Communication
English
History
Languages and Cultures
Philosophy
Political Science
Sociology
Visual and Performing Arts

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Industrial and Physical Pharmacy
Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology
Pharmacy Practice

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Computer Science
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences
Mathematics
Physics and Astronomy
Statistics

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Aviation Technology
Building Construction Management
Computer and Information Technology
Computer Graphics Technology
Technology Engineering Technology
Technology Leadership & Innovation

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Basic Medical Sciences
Comparative Pathobiology
Veterinary Clinical Sciences

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS
American Studies
Biomedical Sciences*
Comparative Literature
Computational Life Sciences*
Computational Science and Engineering*
Ecological Sciences and Engineering*
Food Science*
Gerontology*
Information Security*
Ingestive Behavior*
Life Science (PULSe)*
Linguistics
Nutrition*
Women's Studies*

FUNDING OPTIONS:
The two most common for international students are grants and assistantships.

- Grants: Free money which you do not have to work for or repay the funds. Fellowships are a common example.
- Assistantships: A position where you teach, do research, or perform other administrative/professional duties in exchange for free tuition and a stipend. Medical insurance is sometimes included.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!
The Graduate Contact is the individual assigned to a program who you can email with questions.
purdue.edu/gradschool/requirements/