

MCGILL BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, November 2016

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

During our first webcast, on Saturday, November 5, MBAA shared its mission, planned activities, and long-term roadmap. Below is a summary of our long-term plan; slides can be found [here](#).

1-Year Plan

- Establish the organizational structure
- Complete the alumni map
- Become a member of the McGill Alumni organization
- Create an opportunities list
- Build a website

2-Year Plan

- Establish Board of Directors
- Sponsor black-led events on McGill campus
- Host one conference

Long-Term Plan

- Provide scholarships to black students
- Organize black-alumni events in collaboration with other universities

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON: DR. TIMIEBI AGANABA-JEANTY



Timiebi Aganaba-Jeanty holds a PhD (2016) and LLM (2011) in aviation and space law from McGill University. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for International Governance Innovation where she is focused on innovation policy and climate change governance. Her hard work and determination have led her to be recognized by La Fete au Village (a Quebec cultural organization) as one of 16 women for "significant contribution to Quebec society" in celebration of International Women's Day 2016. When asked about her motivation for joining MBAA, Timiebi stated "Your network is your net worth. Groups such as MBAA are an excellent way to keep in touch with people like you who can help each other along the way."

To learn more about Timiebi's background, experience and motivation, check out to the complete interview on page 2!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We are currently looking for people who have interest in the following activities to join our team:

- **Black History Month Coordinator** - We are looking for someone to spearhead Black History Month engagement
- **Chapter leads** – Do you want to bring MBAA to your city? Chapter leads will help us expand and bring MBAA activities to cities outside of Montreal. Let us know if you would like to get one started!
- **Opportunity Coordinator** – This role involves managing the lists of alumni and compiling a list of full-time employment, internship, academic, and volunteer opportunities

If you are interested in participating in the organizing committee or in the logo competition, please send us an email at:

communications.mbaa@gmail.com

Calling all graphic designers!

MBAA is looking for branding materials that we can use for all future communication and materials. We will be hosting a design competition for a logo, color scheme, and font combination that will speak to our mission and elevate the caliber of this group.

If you are a designer looking to grow your portfolio, the new scheme will be used in our forthcoming website, all marketing materials and social media platforms. If you have any questions reach out to us via the communications email below.

Key Dates:

Nov. 28 - Start accepting submissions
(That's today!)

Dec. 31 – Announce the winner

GETTING TO KNOW MBAA: DR. TIMIEBI AGANABA-JEANTY

1. How long has it been since you graduated from McGill?

I did my masters in 2010-2011 and I graduated from my PhD in November 2016.

2. Describe what you do/ what is your role is today?

I am a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for International Governance Innovation where I am focused on innovation policy and climate change governance. I am also the executive director of the World Space Week Association and coordinate the response to a UN declaration that world space week should be celebrated October 4th to 10th every year.

3. Since graduating, what has been your most difficult experience? – or your most memorable one?

I just graduated this month but my most difficult experience was last year. Unfortunately, my son was sick and eventually passed away while I was writing my thesis. I kept working through because I was hopeful that I could teach my son a lesson when he grew up; that even in the face of adversity, you should never give up on your objective. It's only God that saw me through that time, and my thesis is very special to me because it is in his honour.

4. Why be a part of MBAA– what makes it exciting for you?

Your network is your net worth. It is incredible if we look back on all the places we have been and all the people we have met but did not keep in touch with. It's only when you get older that you realize these relationships that you form along the way will take you to greater heights. That's not to say that you form relationships to use people. These relationships are a two way streak where you bring joy to others while also having a more fulfilled life through others. Groups such as MBAA are an excellent way to keep in touch with people like you with shared experiences who can help each other along the way.

5. Adulting is not easy, and we need to do things that take us out of our comfort zones. Describe how you do this on a daily basis or give an example of one time that you did this over the last year.

It is very easy to just say ok I know this one thing and I am going to stay within my comfort zone. I am constantly trying new things and it is really scary because we are all afraid of failure. One of the hardest things that I tried to do last year but failed was preparing for my interviews with McKinsey & Co, the leading global management consultancy. My experience with McKinsey was one of the best experiences that I have had with an organization. They were so supportive and really did everything that they could to help me get hired. They have a very intense recruitment process. I worked really hard, had several sessions with McKinsey consultants to prepare, but alas it wasn't meant to be. This was really the first time that I put my all into something and didn't get it. But I learnt so much about myself, my strengths and weaknesses, the importance of building relationships and being someone that people want to work with, interact with and assist. It was this latter ability that got me as far as it did in the process, so my advice is as brilliant as you may be, you just have to work on being someone that people want to be around!

6. Share a personal fun fact or something people wouldn't know about you.

I'm embarrassed to say I lived in France and Montreal and my husband is also francophone but alas "*je ne parle pas bien français*". I need to work on this because we all have a responsibility to work towards meeting people halfway to the best of our ability!

7. What was your best experience at McGill that positioned you for your current career?

McGill gave me a lot of opportunities. The Institute of Air and Space Law where I did my Masters and PhD has a very good relationship with the International Civil Aviation Organization that regulates international air transportation. Through this connection I was able to be selected by the Nigerian delegation to represent Nigeria as the Next Generation Aviation Professional during the Model Council Event in celebration of 70 years of the Chicago Convention. My working paper for Nigeria was voted as the best paper out of the 36 member states participating in the Model Council. This gave me great diplomacy experience. I was also recommended by McGill to work on projects with the Canadian Space Agency, particularly in support of development of the Canadian Planetary Protection Policy.

8. What advice would you give to your 19 year-old self?

Have confidence in yourself. You don't need to know everything before you step out. Don't be afraid to fail, it's not so much the failure that people look at but how you get back up when you fail or when you are down. Also, be careful how you treat everyone, you need them all.

9. Who or what motivates you?

My son's legacy motivates me to want to do more. He is my guardian angel, but I could do nothing without my wonderful husband Jean-Moise Jeanty who believes in me so much and will never let me give up on my dreams!