



## 2015-2020 UCL IMPACT AND OVERVIEW REPORT

February 2021

Dear UCL Institutional Partners, Stakeholders, Sponsors, Alumni and Friends:

On behalf of the UCL Board of Directors, I am pleased to present to you a 5-year High-Level Impact and Overview Report on the University Consortium for Liberia's (UCL) Institutional Partners and "Where are They Now" UCL Alumni Student Success Stories.

We are proud to announce that we have **18 Institutional Partners** who have provided leadership and support to Liberia over the past 6 or more years and for this, we are truly thankful. As we look to the future together, we want to thank our partners, stakeholders, sponsors, alumni and friends for their generous donations and sponsorships to help UCL scholars to further their educational dreams and goals. We are also pleased to announce that **Dr. George T. French, President of Clark Atlanta University**, will be joining our leadership team as the Honorary Chair and **Dr. Michael Best, Georgia Tech Professor** with the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and School of Interactive Computing will serve as an advisor to the UCL on IT solutions, interactive computing, and e-learning.

As we embark on our fundraising goals for 2021-2022, during this difficult time of the Coronavirus pandemic, we hope that you will join us for some unique fundraising activities including our **Virtual Auctions, and Special On-Line Events/Webinars to help raise funds** to help support our UCL Scholarship Program.

We look forward to seeing you soon and please feel free to reach-out to us at 404-565-1154 or by e-mail at [cblandford@UCLiberia.com](mailto:cblandford@UCLiberia.com). You can also visit our website at [www.UCLiberia.com](http://www.UCLiberia.com) for the latest information.

Wishing you a safe and prosperous New Year!

*Cynthia Lynn Blandford*

Cynthia L. Blandford  
President and Board Chair

## INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER'S SUCCESS STORIES

### African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU)



UCL's Institutional Partner Savannah State University collaborated with AMEU to launch a new School of Social Work at AMEU in Liberia. AMEU just appointed President Blandford as a member of the

AMEU Board of Trustees and she will work to strengthen the partnership moving forward along with AME Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr., of the 14<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and other members of the Board of Trustees.

### Alabama State University (ASU)



Dr. Emmet Dennis, President of the University of Liberia, and the former President of ASU Dr. Gwen Boyd, sign an MOU in 2015 with a focus on STEM, faculty and student exchanges and the environment. In 2019, UCL Board member Dr. B.K. Robertson, Professor and Executive Director, Programs in

Biology and Microbiology at Alabama State University hosts the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Liberia site-visit and Climate Change Workshop. President Blandford attends and extends greetings and provides overview of the UCL in 2019. Dr. Robertson is the UCL Scholarship Committee. ASU and UCL partnership discussions will resume in 2021.

### Clark Atlanta University (CAU)



The University Consortium for Liberia (UCL) in collaboration with CAU celebrated the graduation of two (2) Liberian students who received PhDs in Chemistry in May 2020, Dr. Saki Golafale and Dr. Varbah Sorsor. Also, working with the Dean of the College of Business to launch a Young African Leaders Mandela Fellows (YALI) curriculum at UL where I hosted the

CAU Dean and YALI Director in Liberia in 2018. Meetings were held with former UL President Weeks, the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia and USAID staff and YALI Fellows from Liberia **The MOU between UL and the UCL has been signed and authorized.** CAU and UCL are celebrating 8-years of collaborating. **Dr. George French, President of CAU, will be the new UCL Honorary Chair in 2021.**



*Dr. Saki Golafale, Ph.D in Chemistry, Clark Atlanta University, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Kennesaw State University and conducting E-learning Training at UL.*



*Dr. Varbah Sorsor, Ph.D in Chemistry, Clark Atlanta University. Currently pursuing a Post-Doctoral position to acquire more hands-on experiences.*

## Cuttington University



In January 2020, the UCL President visited Cuttington University and met with Dr. Herman Browne, President, Dr. Charles Ford, Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Ms. Precious M.

Marshall-Feury, Associate Vice President, to discuss a new educational partnership between UCL and Cuttington University to provide Faculty and Student Exchange, Study Abroad and Experiential Learning. The UCL President held a follow up discussion with the President, Provost and Vice

President to discuss key areas of interest including faculty development, on-line collaborative teaching, research, capacity building, and short-term visits. In addition, the development of doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate programs in Technology and programs in areas of rehabilitation and psychosocial counseling are also key areas of collaboration. Consequently, in March 2020, Cuttington University became the newest member of the UCL making 18 Institutional Partners.

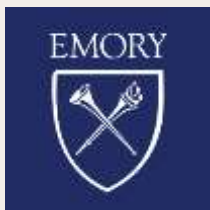


Figure 1 (L-R) Dr. Herman Browne, Hon. Blandford, Dr. Charles Ford, Jr., and Ms. Precious M. Marshall-Feury, at Cuttington University campus



Cuttington University Main Entrance

## Emory University



Emory University was the host to the Inaugural UCL Scholarship dinner in 2015 where over 200 were in attendance and where Emmy Award winning actor Louis Gossett, Jr., received Honorary Citizenship as a man of Liberian descent. The UCL President hosted a trip

to Liberia with Emory and the CDC and helped to facilitate a partnership between the Government of Liberia to establish a National Institute for Public Health and a CDC Liberia. Emory has worked with the Liberian Nurses Association USA in helping to build capacity. UCL will explore future opportunities for collaboration moving forward.



Louis Gossett, Jr. with President Blandford at UCL Scholarship Dinner - Emory University

## Georgia Institute of Technology



In 2015, Georgia Tech, LIBTELCO, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, and the Liberian Consulate in Georgia sign a historic Agreement to help strengthen Technology Training, Advisory and Research Services, National Centers for Excellence, etc. We are having on-going discussions with Georgia Tech about e-

Learning and capacity building. Georgia Tech also hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UCL Scholarship Dinner in 2016 where former Vice President of Liberia H.E. Joseph Boakai, was the keynote speaker. **Dr. Michael Best, Professor with the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Tech, will serve as an advisor to the UCL on IT solutions, interactive computing, e-Learning and more.**



*UCL receives \$5,000 donation from former VP of Liberia Joseph N. Boakai to support the UCL Scholarship Program. From right to left Dr. B.K. Robertson, Dr. Judith Little, Vice President, Fundraising, VP Boakai, UCL President Blandford, Saki Golafale, UCL Finance Chair and Dr. David Smith, UCL Board member.*

## Georgia State University (GSU)



GSU was the host of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual UCL Scholarship Fundraising event in 2018 where Honorable Alton V. Kesselly, Deputy Minister for Planning Research and Development, Ministry of Education in Liberia was the keynote speaker on Early Childhood Education. In 2019, GSU College of Education faculty Associate Dean Dr. Gwen Benson, Susan L.

Ogletree, and Professor Julie Washington, made a visit to Liberia for consultations with the University of Liberia, the Ministry of Education, USAID, and others. In 2020, UCL facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between *Georgia State University's College of Education* and the University of Liberia to strengthen Early Childhood Education in Liberia. Discussions underway on the way forward.



*UCL celebrates Scholarship program at GSU with CAU former President Johnson, Brussels Airlines Christophe Allard, Consul General Brussels William De Baets, President of the Liberian Association of Metro Atlanta, Dr. Somo Bashir-Hubbard, President Blandford, former Mayor of East Point Patsy Jo Hilliard, Joseph Reeves, LAMA, UCL Board members and other friends, staff, and guests.*

## Kennesaw State University (KSU)



**KENNESAW STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

In 2013, Kennesaw State University and the University of Liberia hosted President Emmet Dennis from the University of Liberia and signed an MOU to further faculty and student exchange programs, study abroad and strengthen educational achievement of students, to

name a few. KSU faculty and staff also visited Liberia to further discussions on the partnership. KSU and the UCL are revisiting the partnership to discuss next steps. Dr. Saki Golafale, a graduate of CAU and UCL Finance Chair, is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry is currently on faculty at KSU.

## Morehouse School of Medicine



In 2015, Morehouse School of Medicine hosted a Post-Ebola Discussion with the former Vice President of Liberia H.E. Joseph N. Boakai, Sr., of Liberia in collaboration with the Liberian Nurses Association of Georgia, UCL Honorary Chair and President of Savannah State University Dr. Dozier, Emory University faculty and other partners. In 2017, Morehouse School of Medicine was the host of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual UCL Scholarship Fundraising event held on the

campus of Morehouse School of Medicine. Honorable Tolbert Nyenswah, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Health and Managing Director, Institute for Public Health Liberia, was the keynote speaker. In addition, Morehouse School of Medicine Office of Global Health Equity will focus on strengthening collaborations in Liberia in the healthcare arena.



*Former East Point Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard, Mistress of Ceremonies Aungelique Proctor, Emmy Award Winning Reporter Channel 5 Fox News, President Valerie Montgomery Rice, Morehouse School of Medicine, Cynthia Blandford, President UCL and Savannah State University Dr. Cheryl Davenport-Dozier at UCL Scholarship Dinner at Morehouse School of Medicine*



*Dr. Emmet Dennis, President Emeritus, UL, Dr. B.K. Robertson, UCL Scholarship Chair, Dr. Ophelia Weeks, former President, UL, Sedia Beysolow, UCL Scholar, Dr. Cheryl Davenport-Dozier, former President SSU and President Blandford presenting scholarship check*



## Savannah State University (SSU)



Savannah State University and the University of Liberia signed in 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding and co-developed the first School of Social Work at University of Liberia. SSU facilitates annual faculty and Study Abroad programs between UL and SSU. SSU provided scholarships to two Liberian students. Mr.

Randolph Glee received his MSW in 2016 and Ms. Roberthalyne Kollie, received her undergraduate degree in Mass Communication in 2017. Both received UCL educational scholarships to further their studies. Ms. Kollie also completed a Master's in Public Administration from SSU in 2019 and Mr. Glee is also currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration at SSU. On-going collaborations are underway.



*Terry Clay at SSU preparing a shipment of textbooks and other educational materials to be sent to UL and AMEU on behalf of the partnership*

## The Carter Center



The Carter Center has been a long-standing partner in the areas of Mental Health, Access to Justice and Access to Information in Liberia and have graduated over 300 mental health clinicians. The Carter Center has co-hosted events with the Liberian

Consulate and the Liberian Ambassador to the U.S. on Ebola, and President and Mrs. Carter hosted President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and President Blandford in 2018 at the Carter Center. The UCL leadership will engage the new Carter Center CEO to help strengthen their partnership in 2021.

## University of Georgia (UGA)



In 2018, Dr. Ophelia Weeks, former President of the University of Liberia, and Dr. Amrit Bart, former Assistant Dean and Director of the Global Programs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental

Sciences at the University of Georgia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen work in the agribusiness with a specific focus on a Model Hatchery program for women and youth. Future collaborations are underway to include capacity building and training.

## University of Liberia (UL)



Dr. Emmet Dennis, President Emeritus of UL, helped to establish the UCL in 2015. Over the years, UL Presidents have worked with the UCL to establish and strengthen partnerships with UCL Institutional Partners. In collaboration with former UL President Ophelia Weeks and her faculty, the UCL held a Scholarship Workshop for Honor's Scholars where over 100 students from the UL, African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU), Stella Maris Polytechnic and other institutions of higher learning attended the event on the Fendell Campus on May 22, 2018. President Blandford and Saki Golafale, UCL Finance Chair, facilitated the workshop. An outcome of the 2018 scholarship workshop was that two Liberian students gained admission at South

Dakota School of Mines and Technology and the University of Rochester. One of the students, Safiatu Barrie, a candidate for Master of Science in Mining Engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology received a UCL scholarship in 2019. An indirect outcome of the workshop was the ability of Liberian students to network with UCL institutional partners. UL's new President, Dr. Julius Nelson, is actively engaged in working with UCL to develop new programs and initiatives for faculty and students to strengthen the partnership and recently was a co-signatory on the CAU/UL MOU. Dr. Nelson also participated on the UCL e-Learning webinar speaking to the strengths and challenges and seeking additional support.



*UCL President Blandford and Saki Golafale, Finance Chair, presents Periodic Table and Books to UL on behalf of the UCL Board of Directors to help strengthen education at UL*



*Student Abersua Bake Speaks about the F-1 Visa and challenges students face as they apply to U.S. Colleges and Universities*

## COVID-19: LIBERIA RESPONSE Webinar



The UCL joined forces with the Liberian Consulate in Georgia to host the "COVID-19: Liberian Response" Webinar September 9, 2020. Ambassador George S.W. Patten, Sr., Liberia's Ambassador to the USA in D.C. was the keynote speaker. Other panelists included Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr. of the 14<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young. The Liberian Nurses Association joined forces to raise funds to support the eradication of COVID-19 in Liberia in collaboration with the AME Church and the

Andrew Young Foundation donated 100,000 selenium tables to the Ministry of Health in Liberia for frontline workers. The webinar reached 71,400+ people and 6,000+ active video views. [Link to webinar](#)

## Winning in Education during COVID-19 Webinar



The “Winning in Education during COVID-19 Webinar” was held December 9, 2020, with distinguished panelists including the University of Liberia’s President Dr. Julius Nelson, President of Clark Atlanta University, Dr. George French, and other distinguished personalities to discuss e-Learning at the University of Liberia. The webinar also highlighted “Where are they Now” UCL alumni success stories. The webinar had 54,700+ people and 2,000+ active video views. [Link to webinar.](#)

## UCL President Hosts Liberia’s former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Elias Shoniyin



*From left to right, Dr. Joe Beasley, Hon. Aisha Musa, Consul General Nigeria, Hon. Shoniyin, Hon. Cynthia Blandford, Paula Fares-Harvey, National Black MBAA, Paula Guzman, Mayor’s Office, and Titus Olowokere, U.S. Africa Trade Council*

In April 2019, the UCL President hosted a visit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Honorable Elias Shoniyin, who is a big partner and supporter of the UCL and who also has a keen focus on higher education and institutional partners. Former Deputy Minister Shoniyin has hosted UCL partners in Liberia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the importance of working with Liberia’s youth to give them educational enrichment and opportunities, which UCL has accomplished over the years.



## UCL SCHOLARS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**Varbah Sorsor** graduated from Clark Atlanta University in 2020 with a PhD. degree in polymer chemistry. She is currently searching for postdoctoral opportunities to gain experience in industry.



**Roberthalyne Kollie** received full scholarship from SSU, one of our Institutional Partners. She graduated from Savannah State University with a B.S. in Mass Communication and Journalism in 2017. Ms Kollie furthered her education and graduated from SSU with a Master's in Public Administration in 2019.



**Randolph Glee** graduated from Savannah State University with a Master's in Social Work in 2016. Became a faculty at the University of Liberia and AMEU from 2017-2019. He is currently attending SSU to pursue a second master's degree in Public Administration.



**Joshua Kulah** graduated from John Marshall Law School in 2018 with a Juris Doctorate Degree and is currently working as a lecturer at the University of Liberia and a Part-Time Lecturer at United Methodist University.



**Sedia Beysolow** is currently a Junior majoring in Public Health and Pre-Med at the University of Georgia. Sedia is currently a Health Promotion Intern at Mercy Health Center.



**Destinee Marsh** Vanderbilt University Undergraduate Student Studying Neuroscience



**Assatu Wiseh** is a doctoral fellow studying film and media studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. UCL's generous funding enabled Assatu to conduct archival research at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City.



**Safiatu Barrie** is a candidate for master's degree in mining engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines.



While Saki Golafale is not a direct recipient of UCL Scholarship funding, Saki received a scholarship and academic support from Clark Atlanta University, a UCL Institutional Partner, through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between CAU and the University of Liberia. Saki received a PhD in Chemistry from Clark Atlanta University in March 2020 and will return to the University of Liberia in the next few years to teach Chemistry. He is now an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Kennesaw State University and the UCL Finance Chair.

**University of Liberia (UL) Student Government Leaders**  
**Training and Capacity Building October 26-November 11, 2016**

The UCL Board of Directors, in collaboration with the University of Liberia, designed and created the UL Student Government Leaders Training and Capacity Building program to help strengthen UL Student Leaders in leadership development, program management, skills development, administration, team building and fundraising.

The UCL Board approved transportation, housing and meal support for the program which took place from October 26-November 11, 2016, in Atlanta, Georgia. Seven student government leaders and 1 faculty from UL participated in a full program with UCL Institutional Partners. In addition, financial and In-kind support was also provided by the UCL Institutional Partners including Georgia State University, Emory University, Clark Atlanta University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and others in support of this educational program. Each student also received a UCL stipend during their visit to assist with other needed support. UCL Board hopes to revisit this program with the President of UL Dr. Nelson in the near future.

UL Student Government Leaders

(University of Liberia Assistant Dean Mr. Stevens hosted the students during their visit to Georgia)

1. Student Daniel T. Wourt, President, Economics major (Male) Maryland County
2. Student K. Moses James, Vice President, Public Administration major (Male) Nimba County
3. Student Keifala F. Kanneh, Student Representative to the UL Council, Economics major (Male) Lofa County
4. Student Jerome D. Barnard, General Secretary, Public Administration major (Male) Grand Bassa County
5. Student Dickson G. Goffa, Financial Secretary, Accounting major (Male) Grand Bassa County
6. Student Nyenewle M. Dennis, Representative to Student Assembly, Management major (Female) Maryland County
7. Student Patience Reeves, UL Scholar Program, Geology major (Female) Bong County. Received a scholarship from Savannah State University to study Marine Science.