ASE New Academic Year
Opening Ceremony
September 4, 2015
ASE Celebrates Opening of the 2015-16 Academic Year

On September 4th, ASE students, faculty, and staff gathered for the opening ceremony of the 2015-2016 academic year. The ceremony kicked off with a speech from President and Founder of ASE, Leonard Wantchekon, in which he not only congratulated students and other members of the ASE community on the incredible progress the school made during its first year, but he also spoke of the potential for success of the upcoming academic year.

Professor Wantchekon encouraged students from the first cohort to continue working hard, and he noted how impressed he was already by the motivation and determination shown by the second cohort during pre-academic courses such as the English and Math Summer Camps. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of students, whether in the MMES or MBA program or in their first or second year, working together and collaborating through activities such as study groups.

Responses ranged from the great opportunities ASE provided for research, preparation for employment opportunities, to the drive to work towards a greater goal of pan-African development. Numerous students noted that they truly believed that, ASE, by equipping young leaders with both technical training and critical thinking skills, is shaping the continent’s future.

After Professor Wantchekon’s speech, a number of other staff members, including Interim Dean David Gbaguidi and Manager of Academic Affairs Clementina Alamou, spoke about the upcoming year with excitement and welcomed new students into the ASE community. Following the faculty and staff speeches, students introduced themselves and described their motivation for attending ASE.

Following speeches and student presentations, the ceremony shifted gears and continued with food, music, and dance late into the night. Certainly, students, faculty, and staff will carry the positive energy from the ceremony into the first week of classes and beyond for a successful and productive academic year.

The first term officially started on September 7th.
Agenda

Welcome / Social Hour

Speeches

• Léonard Wantchekon, ASE President and Founder
• David Gbaguidi, Interim Dean and Professor
• Clementina Alamou, Manager of Academic Affairs
• Appolinaire Appalo, MMES Class of 2016 and Student Delegate

Impromptu Remarks:

• Markus Olapade, Professor
• Nadia Adisso, Director of Finance
• Hyacinthe Boko, Director of Operations

Student Introductions

Dinner and Dancing
Photo Highlights

From left to right: Interim Dean David Gbaguidi; ASE Founder and President, Leonard Wantchekon; Manager of Academic Affairs Clementina Alamou; Student Delegate, Appolinaire Appalo.
Prof. Markus Olapade addressing the audience

Group of attendees to the ceremony
Faculty, staff and students gathered to welcome the new academic year.

Food was served as part of the celebration.
Students and staff celebrated together the start of the new academic year at ASE.

Class of 2017 students
The path to innovative leadership

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