

Funmi's Story...

Olufunmilayo “Funmi” Olopade, M.B.B.S., is a Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics and the Director of the Cancer Risk Clinic of the University of Chicago Medical Center. This ELUM is an international leader in breast cancer research and a highly skilled hematology oncologist with proven expertise in cancer risk assessment. She conducts comprehensive evaluations of family history and other risk factors for patients in the Cancer Risk Clinic. Once she identifies a person at high risk, Dr. Olopade designs an individualized prevention plan that may include periodic screening, preventive drugs or other options for risk reduction.



Dr. Olopade continues to help scientists gain a greater understanding of the disease. Her current research interests include

identifying the source of ER-negative breast cancer—an aggressive form of the disease, which is resistant to hormone therapy. Dr. Olopade aims to improve screening standards and early detection for moderate- and high-risk populations. She has a special interest in women of African descent, who are at higher risk for the more aggressive breast cancer and more likely to be diagnosed at a younger age. Dr. Olopade has lectured on topics such as breast cancer and cancer genetics at national and international conferences.

In Funmi's own words:

“I remember my ELAM experience fondly. ELAM in one word, Liberating! It was liberating for me. I finally knew what I wanted in academia and how to get it! ELAM has allowed me to manage my professional career in ways that I could never have imagined.

During this economic downturn and at a time of great uncertainty, I have used ELAM Principles to launch a new University-wide Global Health Initiative. As Associate Dean and Director, I have unfettered access to the University President and have been able to gain entrance into another cadre of leaders of academic medicine throughout the Globe. I have the best job on the planet.

“ELAM was liberating for me.”

I give to ELAM because through this program I learned how to be a Change Agent and, more importantly, began to truly understand the critical role of women leaders in successful organizations. We must support this program in order to provide more opportunities for other women to benefit from the ELAM experience.”



...supporting a legacy of women's leadership

Thank you, Class of 2003



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*"ELAM deserves our support and I am pleased to contribute." -Lisa Tedesco
(ELAM Class of 1997)*

**Class of 2003: Cumulative giving of \$20,995 and
93% participation in ELAM stewardship.
Wow! Thank you for your continued support.**

The ELAM® Program was established as a legacy of women's leadership rooted in the first medical school for women. **This legacy of women's leadership now continues with YOU.** Many ELUMs have described their experience in ELAM as life changing, transformational, empowering and affirming. Others have called it priceless and a gift. Participating in ELAM requires a significant commitment. We ask for your continued commitment and support, to ELAM and to advancing the legacy of women's leadership, through your gift.

As we celebrate the successes of ELUMs, we recognize that our work remains far from done. Along with preparing women for roles as leaders and change agents, we are committed to provide continuing stewardship of your leadership journeys. With your help, we will begin to plan a range of activities focusing on ELUMs by:

Building the ELAM Community: expanding support for national and regional face-to-face meetings of ELAM alumnae with seed grants from our new Legacy Fund as well as more powerful virtual connections

Sustaining Successful Leadership and Transitions: reaching out to address all aspects of the leadership continuum, from changing roles to moving to new positions within or beyond their institution

Developing Post-ELAM Educational Opportunities: creating a portfolio of advanced modules to further your professional development beyond ELAM

INTRODUCING THE LEGACY FUND

In April 2009, the graduating ELAM class raised more than \$20,000 in donations and pledges, with the goal of establishing explicit support for ELAM alumnae programming. With their generous initial contribution of \$7,000, ELAM has initiated the Legacy Fund aimed at providing support for community building within and across classes and learning communities. Once the Legacy Project funds reach \$25,000, ELAM will establish a process for ELAM alumnae to apply for seed grants to sponsor class reunions, regional ELUM gatherings and similar events. In the Legacy Fund's initial phase, a portion of your gift will go to building this fund.