By Taylor Todd (JD ’22)

Alumni Spotlight: Kwaku Osebreh (JD ’17)

Kwaku Osebreh ’17 is a lawyer at Crosslin & Osebreh, a Chicago-based law firm with a focus on representing “entrepreneurs, investors, and start-ups.” One of Kwaku’s greatest strengths, which he learned transitioning from small-town Southern life to Chicago practice is that “You are who you are before you got here,” meaning to not lose sight of who he was before the transition. His approach to his practice, career building, and personal life are all rooted in his values. At his core, Kwaku is driven by family and faith, and his philosophy around practice.

By Cyerra Mack (JD ’21) and Edward Saint-Ville (JD ’21), and other faculty and alum of the Center.

The Northwestern University Center on Negotiation and Dispute Resolution bridges the gap between his values and career aspirations by humanizing the negotiation process. One of Kwaku’s greatest strengths, which he learned transitioning from small-town Southern life to Chicago practice is that “You are who you are before you got here,” meaning to not lose sight of who he was before the transition. His approach to his practice, career building, and personal life are all rooted in his values. At his core, Kwaku is driven by family and faith, and his philosophy around practice.

My relationship with the Center began when I took an introductory negotiations class with Professor Gandert. There, my figure out what everyone’s needs and interests are, what their values are, what they want to see accomplished, and figuring out that even if that doesn’t look like how you imagine it to be, or what you would have imagined it to be, it’s still a viable way of moving forward.

I have taken other courses offered through the Center including Advanced Negotiations, a coveted, three-day intensive class in which the entire Center faculty unite to teach. My relationship with the Center began when I took an introductory negotiations class with Professor Gandert. There, my figure out what everyone’s needs and interests are, what their values are, what they want to see accomplished, and figuring out that even if that doesn’t look like how you imagine it to be, or what you would have imagined it to be, it’s still a viable way of moving forward.

Communicating with Kwaku about his experiences in the Center, I immediately called my friend, Conner Collins, (JD ’21) and upcoming try-outs for the ABA Negotiation Competition. I was struck by the cohesion of the Center’s professors and admired the collaborative approach. When Kwaku’s team was composed of myself, Cyerra Mack, Dr. Carol Gandert, and Dr. Zina Carrel. I was able to negotiate over Zoom, email, and telephone calls is an increasingly important skill that they were glad to have developed. Moreover, they reflected on the “breakout room” feature for both simulations and small-group discussions, and integrated interactive Panopto videos into her online lesson plans. In doing so, these newly.

Communication with Kwaku about his experiences in the Center, I immediately called my friend, Conner Collins, (JD ’21) and upcoming try-outs for the ABA Negotiation Competition, I immediately called my friend, Conner Collins, (JD ’21) and Edward Saint-Ville (JD ’21), and other faculty and alum of the Center.

Yeah, I think that a lot of the skills you learn in the Center don’t stop in the classroom or even at those competitions. A lot of the skills I’ve gained in those classes I’ve taken difference. They also care about us growing and developing as people and professionals, which has helped me just enjoy the classes and get as much as I can out of them.

What is one thing you wish was in the curriculum that would have supported your efforts?

“Communication is a critical skill to the practice of law, and we need to make sure we’re teaching this.”

I had the opportunity to ask Cyerra some questions about her experiences in the Center, as the Northwestern University Center on Negotiation and Dispute Resolution. Cyerra’s interest in conflict resolution was piqued while in undergrad and was engaged in accumulating experience through extracurricular activities and summer experiences. Cyerra is a second-year law student at Northwestern University School of Law.

As a second-year law student, Cyerra’s interest in conflict resolution was piqued while in undergrad and was engaged in accumulating experience through extracurricular activities and summer experiences. Cyerra is a second-year law student at Northwestern University School of Law.

She went on to describe her role as a mentor for incoming students and emphasized the importance of building a sense of community within the Center. Cyerra also highlighted the unique opportunities provided by the Center’s events and the importance of networking within the field of dispute resolution. She mentioned her participation in the Co-Directors Letter, Authored with Natalie Runyon, Cat Moon, Shellie Reid, and Gabe Teninbaum, and the Reimagining Negotiation: Co-Directors Letter, Co-Author with Natalie Runyon, September 2019.

Cyerra, you’ve taken many classes within the Center: Negotiation, Mediation, Mediation Practicum, International Business Law, and many more...