

# Onajite Shemi

**Hometown:** Warri (Nigeria) and Queens, NY

**Status:** PhD Candidate

**Department:** Chemical Engineering

**Undergraduate Institution and Major:** University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)/Chemical Engineering

**Current Activities/Hobbies:** I am the current co-chair of UM's Annual College of Engineering Graduate Symposium. It allows me to exercise my organizational and leadership skills by planning the gathering of engineering graduate students, prospective students, faculty, entrepreneurs, and industry sponsors, where graduate students across the college of engineering share their research and accomplishments. My current hobbies outside of graduate school include swimming, biking, and taking road trips.

**Involved with NSBE in the past?:** Yes, I was a member of the UMBC NSBE chapter when I was an undergraduate. As a graduate student, I have recruited for UM at multiple NSBE Conventions.

**Why did you choose to attend Graduate School?:** One of the reasons I chose to attend graduate school was to develop new skills as a chemical engineer. I enjoyed my research internships as an undergraduate and I wanted to explore what I could contribute to the field.

**Research summary:** My research aim is to improve on the advancements of complex fluids and colloidal science, which greatly benefit sectors within industry looking to exploit formations already utilized in consumer products such as coatings, paints and other household items. My current projects involve fabricating anisotropic colloidal particles, specifically metallodielectric Janus particles, to interrogate the driving forces behind their induced self-assembly and mobility, thereby expanding the utility of engineered colloidal particles.

**Career goals:** I hope to work for a chemical or pharmaceutical company after receiving my PhD. As I develop my training, skill sets, and credibility, I hope to transition into managerial roles that will eventually lead to an R&D director position. I want to be able to address identified consumer needs on a global scale, with a focus on developing countries.