Prof-Files:

Asuagbor: Serious Teacher

By Beth Klima

Style Editor

A relatively new staff member at EMU, Greg Asuagbor is the associate professor of Political Science. Asuagbor was born in Cameroon. In 1983 he traveled to the United States in order to pursue his education. Although he did have other options, he chose the States. “I could have gone anywhere, such as Britain or Nigeria, but I had friends in the United States,” said Asuagbor.

Asuagbor chose to pursue a career in education after first considering law school. He decided against becoming an attorney due to the heavy price of law school and the fear that he would be tempted to accept too much pro-bono work, and thus be unable to support himself. “If I had become an attorney, I would have been a poor one,” said Asuagbor.

Asuagbor is deeply committed to his field. He is passionate about people; and believes that understanding is indeed key to promoting change in our world. “When you understand human beings, you can solve some of the conflicts that we have today,” Asuagbor says.

Like many people around the world, Asuagbor has given a significant amount of thought to the situation between the United States and Iraq. He believes that there is not one single thing that a student should learn at college. “Most everything is important,” he says. “When asked if he considers himself a pacifist, Asuagbor views Saddam Hussein not as a madman, but as a leader who is strategically making decisions based on his goals for his regime. “All of his calculations are political,” says Asuagbor.

He feels that it is appropriate for the U.S. to take action following the events of Sept. 11. However he does not think that waging war is the solution to the problem. “I don’t condone the Sept. 11 attacks but at the same time, our government cannot afford to copy them and act like terrorists,” said Asuagbor.

Asuagbor is excited about teaching and enjoys working with the many different students at EMU. He arrived on campus in 2001, after teaching at both the University of Nevada Reno and Bluffton College. He believes that there is not one single thing that a student should learn at college. “Most everything is important,” he says. When asked if he finds EMU to be significantly different from the other schools that he has worked for, Asuagbor stated: “EMU, like every institution looks at the world differently, shaped by the philosophy of the institution.”

Asuagbor takes his role as an educator very seriously. It is important to him that students take responsibility for themselves, take school seriously, and become involved. He sees himself as a facilitator of knowledge and is willing to help students find answers to their questions, even if he does not know all the answers himself. “If I don’t know, then I will direct them to someone who does. I’m supposed to be a bridge between the student and knowledge,” Asuagbor said.

When he is not pondering global and local issues, Asuagbor can be found giving thought to things that are of a more personal nature, such as his wife and children. His son Taker is 15 and his daughter Ale is three and a half. When time permits, he also enjoys a few select hobbies, such as sewing.

He also enjoys soccer, and although not a huge fan of television, he enjoys documentaries. Traveling will always remain one of his favorite things to do, too, and he wishes that he had the opportunity to travel more. “There are lots of things I would like to do, but can’t afford,” he said.

Pro-f is a new weekly feature on the Style page. Know a prof we should profile? Send nominations to wvane@emu.edu.

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