

*Miss Nigeria Independence 2009, Feyi Ogunfemi, is a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in Computer Science Engineering and minored in Engineering Entrepreneurship. Currently, she is an Analyst at Accenture, a technology consulting firm. She enjoys keeping herself busy, so besides her pageant responsibilities, she is the President of the NYC Alumni Extension chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the Parliamentarian of the Region 1 NSBE board, an Activities Coordinator at her church, CAC and involved in the Women's and African American networks at work. Her platform for Miss Nigeria Independence is about education, so she is planning to have a scholarship ball for a student with entrepreneurial aspirations as her signature community service project for this year. She believes that proper education is the answer to many of Nigeria's problems and that entrepreneurship is the way to fix our economy, so she is giving this scholarship to help a student gain his/her education and eventually move on to make an impact in Nigeria.*

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*Feyi Ogunfemi  
simply brilliant*

**What do you think is the most attractive thing about you?**

I've been told that the most attractive thing about me is my smile. I try to smile when I speak to people to show a sense of openness towards them.

**What do you find most attractive in a man?** I find determination and direction most attractive in a man. There's nothing more attractive than a man who knows exactly what he wants, and goes after it whole heartedly.

**What are you most proud of about being a Nigerian?** I am most proud of being part of a people who are extremely proud of where they came from. As much as the media tries to portray us as scammers who are always at war with each other, even with all of our cultural differences, we are a united people who love our country and are not afraid to show it. Our past Independence celebration was a show of this, because even in the pouring rain, we marched on and stayed the course because we believed that much in celebrating our heritage. I am very proud to be from such a patriotic country.

**Have you ever been stereotyped because you were Nigerian/African or Black?** I have been stereotyped because of all 3. Some people believe that Africa is a country and that I can speak African, and some others believe that I made to UPenn just because of affirmative action since I am Black. Things come at me every now and then, but I choose to never let those things define me.

**Are you a Day or Night person?** I am definitely becoming a morning person. I generally do stay up late, but I am most productive in the mornings. I generally am able to do morning devotions, core training exercises and send a few emails before 7:30am on most days, which I think that qualifies me for the morning category.

**Do you see yourself retiring to Nigeria later in life?** I would LOVE to have the opportunity to return to Nigeria and to have a work arrangement that allows me to go back and forth between here and there.

**Your favorite Nigerian food?** I love Iyan and Efo. It just warms my soul. I smile everytime I think about it. The vegetable, and the pepper and the iyan, especially when it's made from fresh yams. Wow, it's just amazing. I'm a foodie, and I love me some iyan and efo.

**What is your proudest accomplishment to date?** My proudest accomplishment to date is graduating from the University of Pennsylvania. Computer Engineering was a very new space for me in which I struggled for a while, but I thank God for somehow bringing me out in four years with a job in hand. I would be remiss if I did not mention that being crowned Miss Nigeria Independence was one of my proudest moments as well. It was definitely a very different experience, and challenging in that we all had to figure out ways to stand out among the other great girls who entered. I was very honored and grateful when I won.

**Who is your favorite Nigerian (Fashion) Designer?** I am a big fan of many of the designers that we have here in the US. I love looking through Oyato's portfolio of work, and at the pieces that she makes for people's events. She is actually working on a piece for me right now that I can't wait to see. I also am a big fan of Eldimaa fashion, and it's great to see how her style reaches both the US and the UK.

**Tell us something no one knows about you?** Very few people know that I am able to read and write Yoruba.