



BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

Graduate Academic Advising and
Engagement

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MEET FOLA AYOBAMI

ABOUT FOLA:

Afolashade "Fola" Ayobami is originally from Nigeria and moved to the United States in January 2025. She is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Accounting with a major in Corporate Financial Reporting here at Bentley. Before coming to Bentley, Fola worked with Access Bank in Nigeria and also gained experience with an AI-focused company, where she explored emerging technologies and their business applications.

Fola is actively involved in the Bentley community and was recently elected Vice President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA). She is passionate about student engagement, leadership, and building meaningful connections among graduate students.

Most recently, Fola attended the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Conference, where she connected with professionals and students from across the country and gained valuable insights on networking, professional development, and investing in personal growth.



Q

Why did you choose Bentley?

“When I was exploring graduate programs in the United States, I applied to several universities, but Bentley stood out to me for two main reasons. First, I connected with current students and alumni who spoke highly of their experiences at Bentley. Second, the scholarship support offered by Bentley made a significant difference in my decision.

Since arriving, my experience has reinforced that choice. What has stood out most is how willing faculty, staff, and fellow students are to support one another.”

Q

What conference did you recently attend, and what were your biggest takeaways?

“I recently attended the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Conference with support from Bentley’s Falcon Explore Fund, where I had the opportunity to connect with professionals, recruiters, and students from across the country..

One of my biggest takeaways was the importance of investing in yourself through continuous learning, networking, and professional development. Another lesson that stood out to me was the value of authenticity and knowing that you belong in any room you enter.

I also learned the difference between being delayed and being denied. Sometimes setbacks are actually opportunities for growth and preparation for what's ahead.”

**Q**

How did your Bentley coursework help prepare you for this experience?

“One of the biggest ways Bentley has helped me is through group projects. I've worked with classmates who have different professional backgrounds and experiences, and learning from them has helped shape the way I think and approach challenges.

That mindset carried over to the conference. Whether I was attending networking sessions, CPA preparation workshops, or Excel training sessions, I was open to learning and gaining new perspectives.

Overall, Bentley has encouraged me to stay open-minded, continue learning, and take advantage of opportunities to grow both personally and professionally.”

Q

As the newly elected GSA Vice President, what are you most looking forward to, and what is your vision for the year ahead?

“As Vice President of the Graduate Student Association, I am looking forward to supporting and advocating for graduate students while helping create a stronger sense of community across campus.

Community is something that is very important to me. When students feel connected, they know they have people they can reach out to for advice, support, and guidance.

I am excited to meet new students, reconnect with current students, and help create meaningful experiences through GSA events throughout the year. Ultimately, I want to help foster a graduate student community where everyone feels welcomed, supported, and involved.”

**Q**

How do you balance academics, leadership involvement, and working on campus?

“Staying organized is what helps me the most. I use planning tools to set goals, manage my responsibilities, and prioritize what is most important each week.

I also make sure to rest when I need to and remember that I don't have to do everything myself. My leadership style is collaborative, so I value teamwork and delegation.

Overall, staying organized, maintaining a positive mindset, and prioritizing my academics help me balance my commitments successfully.”