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## Midwife Angela Sojobi teaches Titans from experience

By Alec Calvillo

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Angela Sojobi joined the Titan family as an assistant professor of nursing and shares her passion of midwifery with her students. (Alec Calvillo/Daily Titan)

Angela Sojobi, assistant professor of nursing at Cal State Fullerton, said she's delivered so many babies as a midwife that she stopped counting after 5,000.

Sojobi grew up in Nigeria, where most deliveries are done by midwives. She worked there for many years as both a midwife and nurse, and moved to Southern California in 1985, where she thought she might have to give up midwifery.

"I didn't think I could work as a midwife again because I didn't think the United States used midwives," Sojobi said. "I loved being a midwife."

Wanting to return to practicing her passion, Sojobi applied to San Jose State University to become a certified midwife in the U.S. and got her degree in 1994. She said midwives are similar to nurses, but specialize in caring for women physically, from childbearing age until death.

“I enjoy taking care of people, but I really, really enjoy taking care of women,” Sojobi said. “I really want women to understand themselves, their body and what’s going on with their body, and really take charge and take care of themselves.”

Sojobi began her life’s work of taking care of others early, starting with her three younger siblings after her mother passed away when she was 14. She was only 15 when she graduated from high school and her father decided that she was going to be a nurse.

“I don’t remember ever thinking that it was a bad decision. I remember being excited and looking forward to the adventure,” Sojobi said.

Both of Sojobi’s parents were teachers who valued education. Her father decided nursing was the right fit for her because he knew it was compatible with her character, she said.

“They always said they had nothing to leave me, no inheritance; the only gift they could give me was the gift of education,” Sojobi said.

Midwifery is a rising profession in the United States, which led Sojobi to teach nursing and midwifery at CSUF.

Two of Sojobi’s students, Cambria Tuttle and Valerie Gomez, said they enjoy her class because she’s approachable and has a strong belief in her students’ success.

“When we learn material, she can relate that back to her experiences and work, which is nice. It gives us a bigger picture of what it’s going to be like,” Tuttle said.

Sojobi said she enjoys teaching, but will never truly lose her love for midwifery.

“I want to empower women,” Sojobi said. “The one way I know to do that is to just teach them about themselves — what’s going on in their life, their body, how to handle things and how to reach out and seek help.”