

Reach Society

Building Connections

Patrons: Lord H. Ouseley, Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer, Prof. T. Williams & John Budu-Aggrey

2017 Recognition Awards & QAVS Report

On Saturday, 21 October, more than 220 guests at Reach Society's 6th Recognition Awards celebrated the Society's national honour, The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service or QAVS (which is also known as the MBE for volunteer groups) which was won last June. This was a historic achievement because Reach Society became the first social enterprise, led by a team of male professionals in the Black community, to win this national honour.

The Society's Patron, Professor Sir Geoff Palmer welcomed everyone to the Society's signature event; and three Deputy Lieutenants of Greater London - Mrs Mei Sim Lai, OBE; Thomas Chan and Piers Storie-Pugh, OBE – spearheaded the QAVS celebration.

Professor Bill Leahy, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Brunel University London, gave a heartwarming tribute to the Society for winning this national honour. He reminded the audience that this is the highest honour available to any voluntary group. The keynote speaker Rene Carayol, MBE, the founder and CEO of Inspired Leaders Network, congratulated the Society for the work it is doing with young people; and highlighted the importance of taking responsibility for ourselves in order to make the community more robust and resilient.

Another Patron, John Budu-Aggrey, the founder of Alpha BSE Training, presented the Society's 3 founders and members of the management team with QAVS badges in recognition of their outstanding leadership of the Society since 2010; and for winning their historic national honour.

The Group Chairman of Grace Foods, Don Wehby; and the MD of Grace Foods UK, Adam Reader, presented a recognition trophy to **Rio Reveira**, who became the first recipient of the **Grace Foods and Reach Society Scholarship** for a British young man of Caribbean background who enrolled at Brunel University London in September. This new scholarship package covers the funds needed to pay all tuition fees for Rio's first degree; it provides a paid internship during a summer break; access to the mentoring programme at Brunel University London; and the offer of employment with Grace Foods on graduation.

History was also made when four Champions Awards, sponsored by Victoria Mutual BS were presented to Dr Ashton Barnett-Vanes, Dr Nira Chamberlain, Paula Roque, and Ritchie Neil. All were extraordinary contributors to the inspirational work of the Society with young people, over many years.

Four employers - Brunel University London, Grace Foods UK, KPMG, and the RAF - won the Corporate Champion of Reach Society awards for their contributions as outstanding collaboration partners of the Society. Brunel UL and Grace Foods are the funders the new scholarship package; the RAF has sponsored a set of 12 Fellows Awards for professionals who have demonstrated exceptional support of the Society; and KPMG has engaged fully in every large event rolled out by the Society in the last 12 months.

Dean Blackstock became the fourth recipient of the Index of Cultural Esteem (ICE) Books Reader Award which is sponsored by Alpha BSE Training. It is awarded each

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year to a young adult for reading a few of the books shown in the list of ICE Books (see the ICE Books page on www.reachsociety.com).

Continued close collaboration with the Caribbean Women's Standing Conference culminated in their presentation of an achievement award to Pius Abitegeka, a final year undergraduate at Brunel UL, who has been the face of the university in many outreach events.

Each of the guest presenters John Budu-Aggrey, from Alpha BSE Training; Mei Sim Lai, OBE, DL; Piers Storie-Pugh, OBE, DL; Thomas Chan, DL; Adrian Burns, Air Commodore, RAF; Leighton Smith, CRO, Victoria Mutual BS; Cynthia Eubanks, OBE; and Daniel Norris, City & Islington College also paid tribute to the many award winners for their compassion and for reaching back to connect with and inspire our young people.

On the night several professionals, slightly less than 20, were honoured with Supporter of Reach Society awards for their unselfish work on 4 April for reaching back to encourage, motivate and inspire roughly 1000 young people, and their parents, at the 6th Careers Conference that was rolled out at the Royal National Hotel in Russell Square.

Five professionals – Betty Joseph-McIntosh, Pastor Trevor Adams, Paula Neil, Rianne Palmer, and Sonia Palmer - picked up Fellow of Reach Society awards for their sustained high levels of contribution to Reach Society. Betty led the Council of Leaders (the COL) as the executive director with distinction; and Pastor Adams served on the COL Trinity for 3 years. Paula, Rianne and Sonia continued to play central roles in the last Careers Conference and outreach events.

Corporate Supporter Awards were picked up by two employers the Ministry of Justice and Southside Young Leaders Academy. In addition, six corporates picked up Corporate Fellow of Reach Society awards for their exemplary commitment to the work the Society is doing to inspire young people. They are Alpha BSE Training, High Speed 2, Kick It Out, London Black Teachers' Network, Network Rail and Victoria Mutual Building Society.

There were four employers who achieved Corporate Champion of Reach Society awards namely: Brunel University London, Grace Foods UK, KPMG and The RAF. This is the first time these corporates have won this distinction.

This report would not be complete without an expression of thanks to the master of ceremony, Rob Neil, for his skillful and timely handling of the programme, and to Leslie Primo for his candid, reflective interlude which touched everyone who heard it. The Society is also grateful to the Ralph Lewars Jazzmen and the DJ Ray Morris crew for keeping everyone in the right mood.

The full list of professionals honoured is given below; and we shall know them as the Professional Class of 2017.

Dr Dwain A. Neil, Chairman, Reach Society

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Professional Class of 2017

Below are the names of the 84 professionals, from the community, who gave time to encourage, motivate and inspire our young people in April; we thank them all for reaching back.

Honouree	Profession
Angela Clarke	RAFFA, National Director & COL Trinity Deputy
Betty Joseph-McIntosh	Teacher, NUT Sec, LBT Network, & COL
Brenda Jules-Carbon	Reach Society Volunteer
Brian Mitchell	Grace Foods UK, Chief Financial Officer
Caleb Bakare	LSE, ACS & Undergraduate
Captain Glen Morean	British Airways Pilot, Captain
Cherry Jumbo	RAFFA & Pullman Project Volunteer
Cynthia Eubanks, OBE	Former Exec. Head, Primary Schools
Daniel Oluboyede	Amos Bursary Alumnus, Undergraduate
Demani Jules-Carbon	UCFB, Undergraduate, ISB Degree
Dr Ashton Barnett-Vanes	Imperial University, Medical Undergraduate
Dr Koye Balogun	Public Health England, Clinical Scientist
Dr Leon Smith	Transport for London, Project Manager
Dr Marcus Newton	Southampton University, Research Physicist
Dr Nana Anokye	Brunel University London, Health Economist
Dr Nira Chamberlain	Professional Mathematician, CMATH & FIMA
Edmond Jacobs	Ministry of Justice, Civil Servant
Elise Palmer	Reach Society Volunteer & Actress
Eric Sterling	Secondary Sector, Teacher,
Ewart Blackstock	B2 Consultancy, Owner
Ezra Ben-Yisrael	Criminal Justice System, Substance Abuse Manager
Felix Obadaki	KPMG, Manager
Fitz Thomas	Property Expert & Former City of London Broker
Frank Munro	DEFRA, Civil Servant
Giles Spied	Transport for London, Manager
Glaister Anderson	Unilever, Former Company Secretary
Grace Mansah-Owusu	Chartered Psychologist & Trainer
James Frater	Amos Bursary Alumnus, Medical Undergraduate
John Budu-Aggrey	Patron & Alpha BSE Training, Director
Kenaz Moore	Network Rail, Graduate Engineering
Konrad Yearwood	Transport for London, Engineer
Koral Neil	Actress & Psychology Graduate, Leeds University
Kweku Hagan	KPMG, Manager
Larry Dinnall	Transport for London, Chartered Building Engineer
Lee Xavier	CartwrightKing, Solicitor
Leroy Kraku	Prospects, Careers Advisor
Leroy Lovell	Transport for London, Planning Expert
Lord Herman Ouseley	Patron & Kick It Out, Chairman

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Mark Lomas	High Speed 2, Head Equality
Mark Martin	UK Black Tech, Founder & ICT Teacher
Marva Rollins, OBE	Primary School, Head
Matthew Ubogagu	Corporate Governance
Michael Fuller	Music Sector, Lawyer
Michael Lemoru	LSE, ACS President & Undergraduate
Michael Peters	Tertiary Education, HR Manager
Michael Williams	BIS Productions, Founder
Mrs Mei Sim Lai, OBE, DL	Lai Peters & Co. Accountancy, Founder
Nasif Mugisha	Network Rail, Project Manager
Oliver Williams	State Street Bank, Manager & Diversity Council
Olu Odubajo	KPMG, Manager
Osita Madu	High Speed 2, Diversity Team
Ovie Kedo	Silverline Marketing, Owner
Pastor Dr. Trevor Adams	Church of God of Prophecy, Pastor & COL member
Paul Armstrong	Secondary Sector, Maths Teacher
Paula Neil	Author, Ex Social Worker & Society Volunteer
Paula Rocque	KPMG, Corporate Affairs
Peter Denis	Educator, Senior Leadership Team
Phillip Wright	BNP Paribas, Manager
Prof. Ben Chigara	Brunel University London, Professor in Law
Prof. Donald Palmer	RVC, Immunologist & senior lecturer
Prof. Frank Chinegwundoh, MBE	NHS, Consultant Surgeon
Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer	Patron & Herriot-Watt University, Emeritus Prof
Reinold Arye	Network Rail, Graduate HR Division
Rene Carayol, MBE	Inspired Leaders Network, Founder, CEO & Author
Rianne Palmer	Secondary Education, Teacher & RS Volunteer
Ritchie Neil	Software One, IT Commercial Expert
Rob Neil	MOJ, Civil Servant & Equality Training,
Roland Azor	Innovation At Work, Founder Director
Rolston Dennis	Maintenance Surveyor
Rudi Page	MCW Consultancy, Founder
Sahil Afari	Ministry of Justice, Civil Servant
Sean Mclean	Transport for London, Staff & Property Entrepreneur
Shadia Anderson	Secondary Sector, RE Teacher
Shaun Odili	Amos Bursary Alumnus & Undergraduate
Simon Dowson-Collins	HarperCollins, Director
Sonia Palmer	Primary Education, Teacher & RS Volunteer
Teryl Ojinta	KPMG, Manager
Toluwa Agboola	London School of Economics, ACS & Undergrad
Tomisin Awe	EDF Energy, Accountant
Travis Stewart	Ministry of Justice, Manager
Treasure Oyelade	Amos Bursary Alumnus & Undergraduate
Tyrone Davids	Just IT, Operations Manager

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Winston Bygrave	Faith Sector Leader, Ex Deputy Head
Yane Amos	Amos Bursary & Secondary Education Teacher