

Reach Society

Building Connections

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

2018 Recognition Awards & MBC Celebration Report

On Saturday, 20 October, in Russell Square, a capacity audience of 260 guests attended Reach Society's 7th Recognition Awards and 70th anniversary celebration of the modern Black community (or MBC) in the UK.

This Black community 70th year milestone brought together representatives from several prominent community groups such as the British Foundation for the University of the West Indies (or BFUWI), the Windrush Foundation, Every Generation Media; and guests from cities outside of London such as Leicester, Luton and Birmingham. Guests heard about the Society's collaboration with Durham University that is designed to give Black students access to their SP summer school programme; and they honoured a cohort of recent graduates present at the event.

The Society's Patron, Professor Sir Geoff Palmer opened proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Society's Awards event. Leroy Lovell picked up the first **Ambassador in the Community award** from John Budu-Aggrey, Patron, for his extraordinary support and promotion of the Society.

And the recently retired assistant director of City and Islington College, Daniel Norris, received a surprise award from the Society's chairman, Dr Neil, for building a viable and productive relationship with the Society which impacted more than 2,500 CANDI students.

In his talk Dr Patrick Vernon OBE, honoured the Windrush Generation by sharing an evocative poem - Our Parents Did - which involved everyone, in call and response; and he shared the story of the community campaign that led to the Windrush Day announcement in June.

Dr Victor Olisa QPM retired chief superintendent, Metropolitan Police, gave an upbeat talk about achieving his ambition of becoming a doctor despite the doubts expressed by his school teacher who advised him to set his sights lower.

The commercial and community manager of Grace Foods, Robert Walker presented the Scholarship Trophy to **Jordan Barrett**, who became the second 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 Jordan'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.

This year just one **Champion Supporter Award** was presented to Lee Xavier, a lawyer. He has been an extraordinary contributor over seven years to the inspirational work of the Society with young people.

Three employers - Grace Foods UK, High Speed 2 and the RAF - won the **Corporate Champion of Reach Society awards** for their contributions as outstanding collaboration partners of the Society. Grace Foods is one of the sponsors of the scholarship package; the RAF is the sponsor of a set of 12 Fellows Awards for professionals who have demonstrated exceptional support of the Society; and HS2 has engaged fully in every large event rolled out by the Society in the last 12 months.

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Each of the **guest presenters** John Budu-Aggrey, from Alpha BSE Training; Group Captain Will Dole, the RAF; Joyce Osei, associate, Voice at the Table; Chris Nix, assistant director, London Transport Museum; Cynthia Eubanks OBE, former executive head teacher; and Sebastian Wilson, group programme strategist, HSBC 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 18 professionals were honoured with **Supporter of Reach Society awards** for their unselfish work on 4 April for reaching back to encourage, motivate and inspire roughly 1100 young people, and their parents, at the 7th Careers Conference that was rolled out in Russell Square.

Four professionals picked up **Fellow of Reach Society awards** for their sustained high levels of contribution to Reach Society. They were Koral Neil, Rianne Palmer, Sonia Palmer ensuring the April event ran smoothly; and Ritchie Neil for his interaction with young people, while being shadowed by a colleague.

In addition, twelve outstanding professionals picked up the **RAF Fellows Awards**. They were: Dr Ashton Barnett-Vanes, Dr Marcus Newton, Dr Nana Anokye, Elise Palmer, Eric Sterling, Fitz Thomas, Frank Munro, Giles Speid, Prof. Ben Chigara, Prof. Dame Elizabeth Anionwu, Prof. Frank Chinegwundoh and Sean McLean.

Corporate Supporter Awards were picked up by seven employers: Carnaby Erp, East London Business Alliance, Enfield Caribbean Association, Insight Education, Metropolitan Police, Royal Veterinary College and V Jay Theatre Productions – five of whom were first timer winners.

In addition, four 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 were Alpha BSE Training, Durham University, London Black Teachers' Network and Network Rail.

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 Victor Richards for sharing his evocative videos about the experiences of the Windrush Generation.

The Society is also grateful to the Ralph Lewars Jazzmen and the DJ Ray Morris crew for keeping everyone in the mood. The full list of professionals honoured is given below; and we shall know them as the Professional Class of 2018.

Dr Dwain A. Neil, Chairman, Reach Society

Professional Class of 2018

Below are the names of the 72 professionals, from the community, who gave time to encourage, motivate and inspire our young people in April; we thank them all for reaching back.

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Honouree	Profession
Anton Phillips	Theatre & creative arts
Brenda Jules-Carbon	Reach Society volunteer
Carl Burton	Fire fighter
Claudine Reid MBE	Director, PJ Services
Curtis Thompson	Turner Lovell, Director
Cynthia Eubanks OBE	Retired executive head teacher
Daley Brooker	Asset manager & mech. engineer, TfL
Demani Jules-Carbon	IFB graduate & UCFB scholarship 2015
Denise McLaverty	Educationalist & RS volunteer
Dr Ashton Barnett-Vanes	Medical doctor & research PhD
Dr Donald Palmer	Immunologist & senior lecturer
Dr Koye Balogun	Clinical scientist, PHE
Dr Marcus Newton	Physicist, Southampton University
Dr Nana Anokye	Health economist, Brunel
Dr Nira Chamberlain	Professional mathematician
Dr Sunday O. Popo-Ola	Senior lecturer, Imperial College
Dr Susie Mitchell	Prog director, Glasgow City of Sci & Inno
Ed Quildan	Manager, Transport for London
Elise Palmer	Actress & forensic science graduate
Eric Sterling	History teacher
Ewart Blackstock	Director, B2 Consultancy
Fitz Thomas	Property entrepreneur
Frank Munro	Manager, Ministry of Justice
George Opoku-Gyimah	Accountant, KCL
Giles Speid	Financial Investigator, Westminster Council
Glaister Anderson	Retired company secretary, Unilever
James Frater	Medical undergrad & Amos Bursary alumni
Jean Mbadi	Self employed
Junier Browne	Director, JBEL Environmental Services
Kalm Paul-Christian	Social Investment Consultancy
Karl Murray	Director, FW Business
Keith Fraser	Ex West Midland Police Service
Ken Okoroafor	CFO Business Investment, Edge
Kenaz Moore	Graduate engineering, Network Rail
Koral Neil	Actress & psychology graduate
Larry Dinnall	Chartered building engineer, TfL
Lee Xavier	Solicitor, CartwrightKing
Leroy Kraku	Manager, Prospects
Leroy Lovell	Planning division, TfL
Les Bowman	Fire fighter

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Leslie Primo	Art historian
Lianne Page	PR sector expert
Lukman Agboola	Ex Manager, Transport for London
Marva Rollins	Executive head teacher
Matthew Ryder	Deputy Mayor, GLA
Michael Williams	BIS Publishing, self employed
Mohammed Ahmed	Fire fighter
Nyree Chambers	Marketing expert re Caribbean produce
Olayemi Adeyemi	Financial controller
Ovie Kedo	Self-employed, marketing business
Owen Clarke	Consultancy leader
Patrick Reid	Director, PJ Services
Paul Armstrong	Maths teacher
Paula Neil	Retired social care practitioner & author
Rianne Palmer	Music teacher
Peter Denis	Teacher, senior leadership team
Phillip Wright	Senior executive, BNP Paribas
Prof. Ben Chigara	Professor Law & Convenor, Brunel
Prof. Dame Elizabeth Anionwu	Author & Patron of the Sickle Cell Society
Prof. Frank Chinegwundoh	Consultant surgeon, NHS
Rasheed Ogunlaru	Author & coach
Reinold Aryee	Graduate HR, Network Rail
Richard Cooper	Retired corporate manager, LBG
Ritchie Neil	IT Commercial Expert, Salesforce
Rob Neil	Equality & Training, Civil Servant
Sahil Afari	Manager, Ministry of Justice
Sean Mclean	Entrepreneur & TfL Driver
Shaun Bailey	Assembly Member, GLA
Solomon Elliott	Founder, The Student View
Sonia Palmer	Teacher & RS volunteer
Tony Tiyou	Solar Energy entrepreneur, RiA
Winston Bygrave	Ex SLT teacher & church minister