

# Reach Society

## Building Connections

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

### 2019 Recognition Awards Report

On Saturday, 19 October, in Kensington a capacity audience of roughly 200 guests attended Reach Society's 8th Recognition Awards dinner. This annual event in the Black community once again attracted guests from places outside of London such as Kent, Leicester and Birmingham. Guests heard about the Glasgow University plaque for commemorating the people who suffered enslavement which was unveiled by Professor Sir Geoff Palmer; the impact of the Society's collaboration with Durham University that is set to transform the lives of a group of Black students who impressed during their SP summer school; and they heard a tribute to Rolston Dennis who passed suddenly last November.

The Society's Patron, Professor Sir Geoff Palmer opened proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Recognition Awards evening; and he talked about the plaque that commemorates all those who suffered trans-Atlantic enslavement. **Nasif Mugisha** picked up the first **Rolston Dennis ICE Books Reader's Award** from John Budu-Aggrey, director, Alpha BSE Training. As a tribute to the Society's former team member this award now includes his name. **Solomon Akinmoluwa** won the inaugural **Alpha City & Guild Scholarship**, which funds a diploma in electronics and sets him on his way to self-employment. It was presented by Lily Sun, director, Alpha BSE Training.

Brian Mitchell, the chief operations officer in Grace Foods UK presented the 2019 Scholarship Trophy to **Alex King**, who became the third recipient of the **Grace Foods and Reach Society Scholarship**. He is the latest British young man of Caribbean background to win this scholarship for study at Brunel University London from September this year. The scholarship package covers the funds needed to pay all tuition fees for his first degree; it provides a paid internship during a summer break; and access to the university's mentoring programme.

In his address Professor Alan Houston, Vice-Provost Education, Durham University highlighted the importance of high value universities doing more to attract undergraduates from the Black community, and he expressed a strong desire to build on the good work currently underway with Reach Society.

In his address Martin P. Griffiths DL, Consultant Trauma Surgeon in the NHS talked about his diverse responsibilities as a lead trauma surgeon, clinical director for violence reduction and as a new Deputy Lieutenant in Greater London. He also shared that everyone can help to make a better and safer community.

This year four **Champion Supporter Awards** were presented to Marva Rollins OBE, Paula Neil, Winston Bygrave, and Ritchie Neil. Each was outstanding in different ways. Marva has been a constant promoter of the Society over many years and a regular volunteer at large events. Paula has co-authored all of the Society's 4 books and is a longstanding volunteer at events across the UK. Winston has been a role model for several years and has hosted several of the Society's training sessions in his church. And Ritchie has been a role model over several years in events across London and across the country.

Five employers - Alpha BSE Training, Brunel University London, High Speed 2, Network Rail, and the Royal Air Force - received the **Corporate Champion of Reach Society Awards** for their contributions as outstanding collaboration partners. Alpha

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BSE Training has supported the Society for many years and is the sole sponsor of the Rolston Dennis ICE Books Readers Trophy. Brunel University London is the major stakeholder of the GFRS Scholarship and a long term corporate supporter. High Speed 2 has once again engaged fully in every large event rolled out by the Society in the last 12 months; as have Network Rail. The Royal Air Force is the sole sponsor of a set of 12 RAF Fellows Awards for professionals and have demonstrated exceptional support of the Society's work over several years.

Each of the guest presenters Lily Sun and John Budu-Aggrey, from Alpha BSE Training; Group Captain Will Dole, the RAF; Paula Rocque, KPMG; Veronica Heaven, Heaven Company; Conrad Peters, Black Cultural Archives; and Fitz Thomas, property entrepreneur also paid generous tributes to the scores of award winners for their compassion and for reaching back to connect with and inspire our young people.

On the night 19 professionals were honoured with **Supporter of Reach Society Awards** for their unselfish work on 9 April to encourage, motivate and inspire roughly 1700 young people, and their parents, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Careers Conference that was rolled out in Russell Square.

In addition, 11 outstanding professionals picked up the **RAF Fellows Awards**. They were: Angela Clarke, Demani Jules-Carbon, Giles Speid, Howard Bowen, Kenaz Moore, Sonia Palmer, Leon Neil, Martin P. Griffiths DL, Peter Denis, Professor Clive Fraser and Rianne Palmer.

**Corporate Supporter Awards** were picked up by 7 employers: Amos Bursary, Deloitte LLP, Glasgow University, Imperial College London, Kilburn & Strode LLP, Lloyds Banking Group and Zurich Commercial Insurance - two of whom were first timer winners.

In addition, 7 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 Durham University, Enfield Caribbean Association, King's College London, London Black Teachers' Network, Metropolitan Police Service, RAFFA and V Jay Theatre Productions.

This report would not be complete without an expression of thanks to all of the corporate donors of prizes for the raffle; to the master of ceremony, Rob Neil, for his skillful and provocative handling of the programme; and to Dr Donald Palmer for both supporting the MC and for highlighting the many successes of our young people.

The Society is also grateful to the musicians and DJ - Ralph Lewars Jazz Duo and the DJ Ray Morris and his FASS 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 2019.

Dr Dwain A. Neil, OBE, Chairman, Reach Society

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### Professional Class of 2019

Below are the names of the 24 professionals, from the community, who gave time to encourage, motivate and inspire our young people in May at the **Leicester Employability Day**; we thank them all for reaching back.

Honouree	Profession
Andrew Fortnam-Tomlinson	Former Business Owner & Director
Angela Clarke	National Director, RAFFA
Annette Durant MD	General Practitioner
Ashiedu Joel	Leader Somalian Church, Leicester
Bishop Dr Delroy Hall	Bishop, Black Majority Church
Brian Simmonds	Director, Leicester Black History Consortium
Camille London-Miyo	Educator & President Teacher's Union
Curtis Thompson	Recruitment Business Director
Dr Adeola Obadina	Youth Leader, Black Excellence Group
Dr Ayodeji Akiwowo	Leader, Black Excellence Group
Dr Donald Palmer	Immunologist, Royal Veterinary College, London Univ.
Dr Melrose Stewart	Chartered Physiotherapist, University of Birmingham
Dr Nigel James	Minister, New Testament Church of God
Gail Pringle	Adult Learning Manager, Leicester County Council
Gavin Young	Manager, Lloyds Bank
Greg Smith	Director, Kaine Management
Karl Brown	Leicester Warrior, Ex Basketball Player
Learie Gonsalves	Director, One Building Solution
Martin Forbes	Youth & Community Manager
Minister Maxine Douglas	Minister, Church of God of Prophecy
Musa Yusuff	Loughborough University
Pastor Dr Trevor Adams	Pastor, Church of God of Prophecy
Pauline Matturi	Loughborough University
Ritchie Neil	IT Commercial Expert, Salesforce

Below are the names of the 79 professionals, from the community, who gave time to encourage, motivate and inspire our young people in April at the **Careers Conference in London**; we thank them all for reaching back.

Honouree	Profession
Ahmed Idris	Politics Undergrad, York University
Alem Gebru	Global Relationship Leader, Zurich Com. Ins.
Andy Forbes	Ex Principal, City & Islington College
Angela Clarke	Director, RAFFA & Ex Director, The COLL
Anthony Osijo	Global Head, Debt Sales, Credit Agricool Bank
Anton Phillips	Theatre & Creative Arts

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Brenda Jules-Carbon	Volunteer, Reach Society
Claudine Reid MBE	Director, PJ Services
Curtis Thompson	Director, Turner Lovell Recruitment
Demani Jules-Carbon	UCFB graduate & Scholarship Winner
Dr Daniel O'Connor	Pediatrician, University of Oxford
Dr Donald Palmer	Immunologist & Senior Lecturer, RVC, UoL
Dr Faith Uwadiae	Imperial College & Crick Institute
Dr Frank Douglas	MD, Caerus Executive
Dr John Ndikum	Medical Doctor
Dr Melrose Stewart	Chartered Physiotherapist, Univ of Birmingham
Ekanem Mfonobong	Electrical Engineering, Arup
Elise Palmer	Actor & Reach Society Volunteer
Enrico Smith	Asset Management, Close Brothers
Eric Sterling	History Teacher
Ewart Blackstock	Self-employed Telecom Sector
Frank Munro	Ministry of Justice, Manager
George Opoku-Gyimah	Accountant, Kings College London
Giles Speid	Financial Investigator, L.B. of Westminster
Glaister Anderson	Retired Company Secretary, Unilever
Howard Bowen	Taxation Expert, Local Government
Jean Mbadi	Sales Executive, Automobile Sector
Jeremy Jatau	Graduate Engineer, HS2
Jessica Phillips	Director, Broadcast Media
Jim Lenga-Kroma	Manager Human Capital, Deloitte
Jordan Barrett	Brunel Undergraduate & Scholarship Winner
Kai Williams	Community Investment, Deloitte
Karl Kareem Melaimi	Computer Sci & Eng Undergrad, Imperial College
Keith Fraser	Ex West Midland Police Service
Kenaz Moore	Engineer, Network Rail
Kevin Anang	Real Estate Legal Indemnity, Zurich
Kweku Andrew Bimpong	Pharmacy Undergrad & BPSA Media Officer
Lee Xavier	Solicitor, CartwrightKing
Leon Neil	HR Expert, Department of Health
Leroy Kraku	Student Careers Consultant
Lohan Morrison	Economics Undergrad, Warwick University
Loraine Martins, MBE	Director Diversity & Inclusion, Network Rail
Lukman Agboola	T&D Manager, Bexley Council
Malcolm Weston	Former BT Senior Project Manager
Martin P. Griffiths DL	Consultant Surgeon, Barts. NHS Trust
Marva Rollins OBE	Executive Head Teacher
Maxine Goddard	Head of Sales & Planning, Zurich Insurance
Michael Fuller	Solicitor, Music Sector

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Michael Williams	BIS, Self Employed
Nadine Dyer	Respect & Inclusion Manager, Deloitte
Olayemi Adeyemi	Financial Controller
Ovie Kedo	Self-employed, Marketing Business
Patrick Reid	Director, PJ Services
Paul Armstrong	Mathematics Teacher
Paula Neil	Retired Social Work Leader & Author
Peter Denis	Schools Improvement Leader
Phillip Wright	Manager, BNP Paribas
Prof. Clive Fraser	Professor of Economics, University of Leicester
Prof. Frank Chinegwundoh	Consultant Surgeon, Barts. NHS Trust
Reid Ebanks	HR Graduates, Network Rail
Reinold Aryee	Graduate HR, Network Rail
Rianne Palmer	Teacher
Richard Cooper	Retired Corporate Manager, Lloyds Bank
Richard Reid	Watch Manager, LFB Firefighter
Rio Riviera	Brunel Undergraduate & Scholarship Winner
Ritchie Neil	IT Commercial Expert, Salesforce
Rob Neil	Equality & Training, DfE, Civil Service
Ron Sewell	Public Sector Manager
Roxanne Anderson	Social Worker
Sean Mclean	Entrepreneur & TfL Driver
Shay Owode	Manager, Lincoln Pensions
Sonia Palmer	Teacher
Sulle Alhaji	Lt. Colonel, British Army
Terrel Douglas	Para-legal
Tony Tiyou	Engineer & Solar Energy Entrepreneur
Tyreese Hinds	Biomedical Sciences Undergrad, Durham University
Wilfred Obeng	IT & Computing Sector
Winston Bygrave	Ex Deputy Head & Baptist Church Minister
Winston Phillips	Engineering & BAME Network, BBC