Caribbean Board Award

The Caribbean Board have awarded the Amos Bursary £3,000.00 to develop opportunities, new skills and work experience within the private sector for students. Supt. Leroy Logan MBE, Chair, The Caribbean Board said “We are pleased to make this award to The Amos Bursary to support the advancement of outstanding young men of African and Caribbean descent”. Baroness Amos, who was on a short visit to the UK said “We are delighted to receive this award, it will make a difference to the support provided to our most talented students”. The Caribbean board was also represented by Howard Jeffrey and Rudi Page.

Lequan Johnson meets top CEO’s at Network

Lequan said “The Inspired Leaders Network profiled the excellence of two different businesses Wonga.com and Metro Bank and in particular the two CEO’s who worked extremely hard to make them a success.

Craig Donaldson, CEO Metro Bank explained how it was difficult at first setting up Metro from scratch, for example his first day of work was spent buying office equipment at IKEA. Errol Damelin, CEO Wonga.com had a similar theme of building a new culture; he said for him it was all about using technology to its fullest.

Both companies interestingly didn’t have a dress code, however Metro wasn’t as relaxed as Wonga because they still had business attire.

The final message from both Errol Damelin and Craig Donaldson was about giving the customer what they want. They both were very big on customer feedback. Therefore as times and the culture of business is changing the power is definitely coming back to the customers.

It was an insightful and invaluable evening, fantastic for networking and most importantly the opportunity to learn the skills for becoming a leader.”

Inspired Leaders Network

The Inspired Leaders Network is an opportunity for bursary students to learn about leadership and networking. The network attracts the best from private businesses to the public sector; from huge multi-nationals to exciting start-ups, from chairman to managers.

It is a unique and highly personal chance to listen to, observe and take on board what some of the finest leaders around the globe have to offer.

The Network seminars are held at the prestigious BPP Business School and are hosted by René Carayol, world renowned speaker, facilitator, moderator, host, chairman and presenter. A special thank you to René Carayol for allowing bursary students to attend.
Bursary students meet Britain’s most influential black people

Representatives of The Amos Bursary attended the Powerlist 2011 reception for Britain’s most influential black people, which was held at The offices of JP Morgan.

Bursary students, Ashley McFarlane and Dorian Peake and Peer mentors Tola Oladapo and Neil Hawthorne, met many inspirational leaders from different professions. They were introduced to Tidjane Thiam, Group Chief Executive of Prudential plc who was recognised as the most influential man of the year. Prudential plc is an international Financial Services Group with significant operations in Asia, the US and the UK.

Dorian found the experience “inspirational”. He said “being in the same room as successful black people was amazing”. One thing he took away from the event was the words of Tidjane who said whatever else you do, do not make any decisions you will regret.

Ashley felt that having attended the House of Lords event earlier in the year, he had the skills to network professionally at the event adding it was good to put the skills into practice.

The Amos Bursary would like to thank Michael Eboda for inviting the students to the event and for his generous gift of complimentary copies of the publication.

Superintendent Leroy Logan MBE joins the bursary

Three times a year the Amos Bursary holds supporters meetings which are open to anyone interested in the bursary.

At the last meeting our Inspirational speaker was Leroy Logan MBE. He shared with us how he started his career as a research scientist joined the police force and became the superintendent in charge of safety and security for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games.

Leroy shared with us his life story and tips for success. He called them The Seven C’s - Courage, Clarity – of purpose, Choices – making the right ones, Commitment – adhere to one’s principals, Capability – identifying your natural talents, Capacity – to deliver what the right attitude, Conscientious – true to one’s word.

Leroy has now joined the bursary as one of our professional mentors.
Meet Yansé Cooper: Teacher and Peer mentor

Peer mentors form close relationships with their mentees. They act as advisor, critical friend, mentor, supporter and friend. They also have careers. Meet Yansé Cooper. She graduated with a first degree from Durham University and she has just begun her career as a teacher. This is her story....

“Monday 6th September 2010 is going to be a success. You will rise to every challenge. For today is the day when all of your hard-work, determination and Coach Carter inspired daydreams will finally culminate in a composed and inspiring teacher. You will be respected and loved across every classroom, computer room and playground. You will transform lives through the medium of French, Spanish and Religious Education alone; and you’re going to transform those lives today...”, said my inner voice oozing with confidence.

Meanwhile, I stood; a lonely spectator to a scene not dissimilar to the opening battle scene of Saving Private Ryan. Unfortunately, the show I was watching was not an artistic dramatisation of an epic WW2 battle. No, this was my bottom set year 9, I was to teach them French for two hours a week and during that time they were entirely my responsibility. Yet I was powerless to stop the shrieking, the shoving and the inevitable demise of my homemade worksheets...

I have just begun my second term of teaching and the experience has been the greatest challenge of my life. The school has nearly 1,500 students, over 30% of which are eligible for free school meals. It is ethically and socially diverse with just 3% of students registered as ‘White British’. Some of the student body hail from Stonebridge and Harlesden estates whilst others come from affluent suburbs.

My journey has been as gratifying as it has been soul-destroying. It has also been good, old-fashioned, hard work. As I would not describe my time-management as my greatest asset, I have found it particularly tough to: plan 17 hours of lessons a week, mark my 250 students’ books regularly, complete my PGCE essays, prepare for frequent lesson observations, and attend parents’ evenings, open evenings, information evenings, and training evenings.

My over-riding feeling is one of profound respect and gratitude to teachers. I would like to track down every one of my teachers and thank them for all of their hard work and sleepless nights. As for my daily tests (academic, professional, personal), there are some I fail and some I pass. In order to survive in this job, I must ensure that I draw positive lessons from those failures yet, I must admit, as a glutton for success, this does not come easily to me.

I believe that through continued hard work I can eventually become the competent, effective teacher that my inner voice is championing. I will have to, after all; those who can teach.

Yansé

Saad’s second year less daunting

Saad Noor is now in his second year at City University studying Journalism. In this report he talks about his second year which has been less daunting than the first. As trainee journalists, we are developing our skills as reporters, and our news writing skills. We have also been working on photography and radio which has broadened our horizons and given us more ideas about what we may want to go into.

I have been lucky enough to spend a week on the Guardian’s Sports desk covering football games and building vital contacts that will help me in the future. It seems I made a good impression as I have been asked back during the Easter period.

I have also taken up Arabic as a minor as I have always wanted to learn the language and I am thoroughly enjoying the classes so far.
Highlights from the House of Lords

Leo Franco

"Personally I found going to the House of Lords a very daunting prospect. Especially knowing that the main reason we were going there was to “network” and this was something that I had never done before. Upon arrival I immediately felt a sense of importance, which I suppose was the reason for the House of Lords as the venue, to inspire and to show us that it is possible to become some of the most successful people in Britain. As the evening progressed, the more comfortable I became. Eventually I was able to approach some very affluent people and not feel out of place. In many cases I was able to negotiate a work placement of some sort as well as some good advice. On the whole I found the evening a very pleasurable experience as everyone was willing the mentees to success and knowing that so many people believe in me, fills me with a great empowerment to do the best that I can."

The Amos Bursary

In association with Excell3

( left) Pamela Clarke, Brian Lloyd and Sarah Ebanja discuss the presentations given by students
( right) Juliet Alexander Course Leader (below) Shannon Gayle

Shannon Gayle: Hints and tips give confidence

The development day was very insightful and gave me good tips and hints when coming to do speeches or announcements. I found the session useful as it was an area I needed to work on. At school I am required to make announcements in front of hundreds of faces and sometimes my nerves get the best of me.

Thanks to the development day I have been able to hold my nerves pretty well because now I plan what I am going to say before I actually say it. The debating was also a great success with good arguments from everyone - some a bit more heated then others because of the topic that was being debated.

It helped by giving me a view of how well I am able to present a speech to an audience and how to prepare for a small turn out of people or a large hall room full of people.

Development days like this with small classes as we had makes it very effective and helpful so I will be looking forward to having another one of these tutorials.

Shannon

Beijing internship for Lequan Johnson

Lequan is in his second year at Royal Holloway University where he is studying Biomedical Sciences. He has secured an Internship in China, Beijing and he is working hard to raise £2000 to take the placement. We know that internships are invaluable for students entering competitive careers. Help Lequan by giving generously. To make a donation please go to the Amos Bursary Just giving page.

http://www.justgiving.com/excell3

Public speaking

Be prepared

- Keep the message clear
- Be prepared
- Keep the message simple
- Be vivid when delivering the message
- Be natural
- Keep the message concise

That was the advice Juliet Alexander gave the students as she took them through their paces at the student development day in February.

Juliet is a former television presenter and producer who is now a media trainer and lecturer in journalism at Roehampton University.

She trains and prepares the students for public speaking, presentations and debating.