



Celebrating  
ten years of excellence

**Impact report 2019**

# AMOS



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2019 was a remarkable year for the Amos Bursary (AB). We celebrated our 10th anniversary, saw our number of Alumni students reach over 50, achieved our independent charitable status after 10 years under the stewardship of Excell3 and leadership of Professor Cheron Byfield and I was honoured to be awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2019.

## Introduction



**Colleen Amos OBE**, CEO The Amos Bursary

Ten years is a milestone for any organisation and I look back with a great sense of achievement for what my family, friends, volunteers and supporters have achieved; the bond we have created as a group of people with a shared vision and set of values for the future and the impact we have made on so many young lives. We continue to challenge the current narrative of underperformance, underemployment and crime for our young men. We know that a community cannot thrive without positive role models who will support and encourage their peers to make better choices.

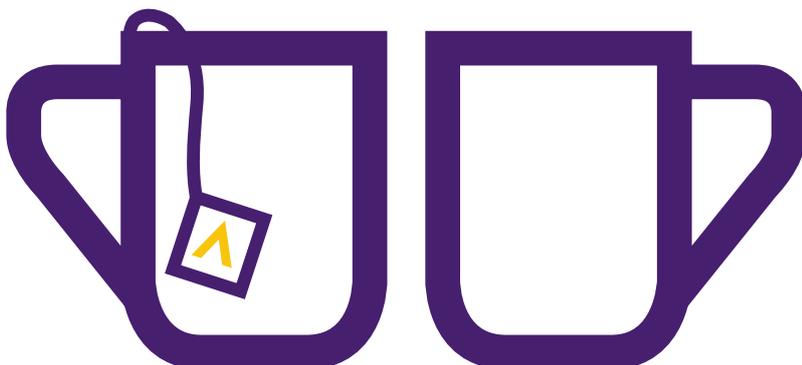
To mark our ten years, the students selected the theme, 'It takes a village'. This year, we will reflect on, think about and thank everyone who has supported the Amos Bursary and our students. We will continue to populate 'our village' with everyone who is committed to championing young men who have worked hard while at school. Young men who deserve the right to understand the systems at play, acquire the skills required, have access to experiences and be given the opportunity to progress in the careers of their choice.

We recognise the selflessness of the hundreds of people who since 2009 have ensured that our 'village' is populated with people from every race, religion and creed ready to support our young people. We celebrate the achievement of the students who continue to demonstrate that given the right level of support, access and opportunities they can outperform their more socially affluent counterparts in the UK.

As we start a new chapter in our life as an independent charity, it is only befitting that we end 2019 with a few words from Dr Cheron Byfield, Chairperson, Excell3:

*Congratulations on obtaining charitable status. Excell3 were delighted to be the parent charity for the Amos Bursary scheme over the past ten years. Every parent wants its child to grow up and be successful and Excell3 is proud to have witnessed the Amos Bursary grow from strength to strength to the stature it is today.*

*We sincerely wish you all the best and look forward to our continued excellent relationship. God bless you all.*



## The future

We will continue to strengthen the Amos Bursary by:

- > Maximising our use of Alumni and Undergraduates
- > Maximising networking opportunities and focussing on developing future leaders and role models
- > Embedding the Associates Programme as a tool to upscale the bursary
- > Exploring the potential to support schools, universities and organisations using our approach to raising attainment of students and explore alternative funding opportunities

**Finally, the Amos Bursary has been successful in supporting young men of African and Caribbean descent and will be extending our work to young women of African and Caribbean descent who also have needs in relation to their educational and career development.**

Thought and consideration is being put into the form(s) of this support to ensure the specific needs of these young women are met without affecting the existing provision for our young men. Our intention is to recruit students in 2020/2021 and start the introduction of girls in 2021.

**As we move into 2020 – a new decade with new challenges and an abundance of successes, we face the future with excitement.**

## Our mission

- > To change the negative narrative and perceptions of African Caribbean young men in the UK
- > Promote diversity and opportunity
- > Build effective partnerships
- > Prepare young men to achieve their full potential
- > Provide the pipeline for universities and corporations
- > Prepare our young men to give back to their communities

**We are the Amos Bursary - helping Britain's talented young men of African and Caribbean heritage fulfil their academic potential, attend top universities, secure good professional jobs in which they can excel and give back to society.**

## Developing skills



Actor Colin Salmon, runs presentation workshops for students

Many students have excelled supported by the guidance of our volunteers, facilitators, speakers and mentors. As part of their personal and professional growth and development, the students have used the information, tools and techniques provided, to assist them during their time at university to gain greater insight and prepare them for the world of work where many of them are now fully embarked on developing their career journey.



Practicing presentation and public speaking skills

### Self-belief

This year the Bursary has had a significant impact on both my academic and social development. The development days have provided me with opportunities to enhance my public speaking abilities, giving me the confidence to believe that I am able to succeed in a professional environment.

In particular, the commercial awareness workshop at Linklaters allowed me to consider the importance of wider issues on individual business, while also helping me to develop my personal brand. The transition from being an Associate to a full AB scholar offered me the chance to fully engage with the programme and appreciate the brotherhood that the AB provides.

**Spencer Bailey**, 2019 Cohort

### Self-awareness

Being an Amos Bursary Scholar has been instrumental in me gaining a greater awareness of self. From the very first development sessions I attended during which we used Lumina Spark to create individualised character profiles, I knew that the bursary was willing to invest time and effort in helping me to not only progress in the area of academia but to also become a better person.

Becoming an AB scholar has enabled me to increase my social capital in terms of fostering meaningful relationships with leaders of business such as Antoine Forterre of Man Group as well as contributing to the development of my cultural capital through sessions on how to carry myself in certain settings which may call for etiquette previously unbeknownst to me. But most importantly, the solidarity amongst AB Scholars is something which I hadn't previously experienced and is something that motivates me to strive to reach my full potential.

**Michael Kolawole**, 2019 Cohort





Volunteers help students with skills development

## Workplace etiquette

Being a member of the Amos Bursary has enabled me to meet and interact with like-minded young black men who are ambitious and success driven. The atmosphere created by the Amos Bursary has encouraged me to work harder to pursue success in every aspect of my life as I see inspirational men whose traits I can identify with and try to emulate.

Furthermore, AB has access to seasoned professionals in various fields of work, who are more than willing to share their years of experience and instil their hard-earned wisdom with us. For example, the 'How to behave in the workplace' workshop featured corporate workers and a personal trainer who educated us about workplace etiquette. Ultimately, these events ensure that I leave any AB event inspired, driven and more informed than before I attended.

**Samuel Omiye**, Bristol University

## Perseverance

I joined the Amos Bursary as an Associate, but I didn't allow not being a fully-fledged AB scholar to deter me. During this last year, I attended as many events as I could and gained a huge amount of exposure to various sectors in the corporate world. Visiting firms such as Linklaters and Schroders has been amazing and opened my mind to the different pathways I could pursue.

More importantly, the development days built my confidence through the many interactive activities. I am grateful to the Amos Bursary for seeing my dedication and transferring me from the Associate programme to the main AB programme.

**Kai Wamala** – Transferred from Associate to main programme December 2019, Cohort 2019

## Expanding perspectives

Joining the Amos Bursary has been very impactful on my life. It has helped with giving me a perspective on the corporate world and opening my mind to networking. One of my favourite events was when we learnt about networking and practiced our pitch. Another was the ten-year Anniversary Dinner where I got to practice all the skills that I learnt from the various development days including Dine Like a Diplomat and the networking events.

**Olamide Olorunfemi**, 2019 Cohort



Career coaches at commercial workshop

## Save time reading

**Students are often challenged by the huge amount of reading required to keep up with studying.**

**Sean Deer, Regional Development Manager for Excell3 shared speed-reading techniques to develop students' skills to read more quickly and digest information more efficiently. Daniel Brown explains why the session was so important to him.**

This development session focused on speed reading, an element of which young academics can incorporate into their everyday lives to save time reading. I particularly enjoyed the methods that our coordinator shared with us involving how to use the most of our natural eye span to quickly and efficiently scan over pieces of text. Analysing which parts are deemed important or not. I can confidently say that I am a testament to the excellent teachings of Sean Deer. As a result of his session, my comprehension skills increased up to 80%.

Growing up, I did not have the privilege of discussing scholarly articles and work over the dinner table with my family, however, the Amos Bursary has opened a new door for me to read and discuss my opinions with others. Being able to read at a fast pace is such a versatile and essential tool to have in the world of work and education and I can confidently say that this session boosted my productivity and accelerated my ability to consume more information.

**Daniel Brown**, University of Essex

I particularly enjoyed the methods that our coordinator shared with us involving how to use the most of our natural eye span to quickly and efficiently scan over pieces of text.



After a day learning speed reading techniques, students visit the Linklaters exhibition of outstanding black women, which included their Patron Baroness Amos

## Students leading by example



Joseph Simeon leading a session on interview preparation

University students are committed to helping younger students achieve their ambition. They share their experiences and resources with young students and guide and support them for success.

### University careers hub for Kent University

Along with four other students Jeremiah Balfourth founded a society, The CareersHub UKC for BAME students to help promote the importance of networking and exploring career opportunities whilst at University of Kent.

Jeremiah said: *Co-founding 'The Careers Hub' was important to me because I wanted to help students at my university realise their full potential. Whilst attending internships and insight days I often found I was the only student who was not attending a Russell Group University. This prompted me to set up the Careers Hub as a way of addressing the under-representation of non-Russell group students in corporate spaces.*

*The Careers Hub aims to provide support and increase awareness about the opportunities available for students on campus as well as externally and to give students at the University of Kent the confidence to make applications and grab hold of all opportunities available to them.*

**Jeremiah Balfourth**, University of Kent

### Career lead

Joseph's goal is to become an investment banker. He said:

*I did not have contacts in any professional services industry, let alone investment banking. I have had to learn lessons the hard way. From preparing CVs to perfecting case studies at final round interviews, it has been a journey.*

*I am grateful to the Bursary, my mentors and other programmes for getting me to where I am today and helping to guide me through the processes. I am grateful that I can be that 'one stop' guide for my brothers on the bursary. I believe that the students on the Amos Bursary are bright and ambitious but similarly, do not have someone to guide them through this process.*

*I see my role within the Bursary as an unofficial 'career lead'. This has included me running mock interviews that have resulted in job offers and sharing unique opportunities into our WhatsApp group chat. I am most proud of running the Psychometric Tests workshops for my brothers. I feel that this is an area of anxiety for a lot of the boys and I am fortunate to have done 60+ of these tests and can help.*

*I am thankful that I can give back and help my fellow brothers win. I look forward to continuing and expanding my efforts as I graduate to become an Amos Bursary Alumni.*

**Joseph Simeon**, UCL

Jeremiah Balfourth, Co-founder, The Careers Hub, University of Kent.



## Mentoring opens doors

André Deen-Swaray and Keadeish Morrison share their experiences of being mentored.



Mentoring partnerships models of good practice



André with his mentors Jesse and Stephanie

The Amos Bursary's mentoring scheme opened a door for me which I can only describe as an invaluable experience. A vital part of the programme has been my mentor, Stephanie Edwards, who has helped me overcome some of the many hierarchical barriers which I have faced as I work towards becoming an architect.

Her position in the world of architecture has given me access to competitive work placements and allowed me to meet personnel of key influence. In addition to the quality advice and guidance also provided by my peer mentor, Jesse Williams (a former AB student), their patience and humility has given me an insight into how to develop my own way of thinking and understanding in such a competitive sector as well as life.

Engaging each other in conversations which could range from family life to architecture to Brexit – getting to know my mentors on a human level has created a functional and supportive bond which has instilled trust and a great understanding of each other's personality.

Nevertheless, their weekly support and constant evaluation of my finalised work and my approach to work, has enabled me to overcome my weaknesses, thereby increasing my confidence in everything that I do and inspire me to always challenge myself with every hurdle I face in life. I am grateful to both as well as to the Amos Bursary for providing me with a life changing opportunity.

**Andre Deen-Swaray**, Reading University

My journey with my mentor Olu Shaw S&P Global Platts, has been a vigorous, yet purposeful one. From helping me decide which course would be best for me to study, to giving general advice which helped me get through challenging situations. During the early stages of our mentor-mentee relationship, some of our ideas were not aligned; however, our open-mindedness and respect for each other allowed us to progress together.

Ultimately, the relationship that my mentor and I have built together has inspired me and helped raise my ambitions. I took the information he imparted with reverence – skills such as networking, learning how to dine in a professional setting and how to pitch myself effectively.

The progress that I made from having a mentor has inspired me to also become a mentor and provide the same assistance to others coming from similar backgrounds to myself.

**Keadeish Morrison**, University of Leicester



Keadeish Morrison, Leicester University

## The university experience

AB students are always encouraged to attend the University which they feel will suit them best. The university that will offer them the best course, learning and social/ career based experiences.



Senior students lead a university preparation session



Preparing personal statements with Qasim Alli



Senior students preparing 2018 cohort for university

This year all our students have been offered university places, with eight offered Oxbridge places for 2020. It is common knowledge that the selection process is extremely rigorous and we are proud of what they have achieved.

We also know that regardless of the outcome in August 2020 all our students will go to the university that is for them, and we will support them as they make the transition to University. The next 3 or 4 years will be critical where not only their academic ability but the opportunities, experiences and internships will be crucial for their transition to the world of work.

### The University Experience - BPP Years

Since 2012 our students have benefitted immensely from the scholarships provided by BPP. The students are all from challenging backgrounds and the scholarships enabled them all to attend university and leave debt free.

They all made the most of their university experience and this article provides an insight into the activities and experiences whilst attending BPP.

### BPP the professional university

The BPP experience is very different from that of other universities. The social life and students tended to be older however; this was a price worth paying for the experience and access they gained. The students said that they enjoyed their time and did their best to contribute and at any request would return as an alumnus to give back.

## BPP Scholars

Eight AB students have benefitted from the sponsorship of BPP to date. Their performance highlights the impact BPP has had on their futures:

1. **Kenny Imafidon**  
(Law graduated) 2014  
Founder Research company – Clearview Research Ltd
2. **Burphy Zumu** (Law) - 2:1,  
Accelerated LLB Programme  
graduated in two years  
Director at Clearview Research
3. **Dumebi Dumaka**  
(Business) graduated 2014  
Associate Director –  
International Corporate Banking
4. **Paul Egunjobi**  
(Law) graduated 2014  
Worked for 2 years in a law firm  
and returned to BPP on a part-  
time evening LLM Legal Practice  
(Solicitors) programme
5. **Kenny Dumaka** (Law) 2016  
Works in the law department  
at Ofgem and studies part time  
LPC at BPP (scholarship)
6. **Daniel Beckley**  
graduated 2018  
2019 returned to BPP to pursue  
the Bar professional training  
course (BPTC)
7. **Paul Karma** (Business)  
graduated 2019  
Employed at the Forward  
institute
8. **Oshotse Aliu**  
(Business) graduating 2020

## Paul Karma – graduated from BPP in the Summer of 2019

### Finance Operations Administrator, The Forward institute

Whilst at BPP I was a member of the BPP Beginning University (BU) Mentoring Scheme for Undergraduate Students, which connected new undergraduate students in their first and second semester to undergraduate students in their second or third years.

In 2018 I was one of five BPP students to promote the mentor scheme to students. One of the many highlights at BPP for me was receiving an achievement award for gaining the highest mark in Audit and Assurance and I was awarded the highest Achievement certificate granted by the BPP School of Business and Technology.

In December 2019, I was awarded the Dean of Business scholarship to study MSc Accounting & Finance at BPP University. This Masters is unique as I will be exempt from the final four ACCA papers, therefore, I will be exam qualified from ACCA and hold an MSc in accounting and finance.

BPP has given me a start I could never have dreamed of whilst the Amos Bursary recognised my potential all those years ago. I am now a step closer to achieving my dream of becoming a Chartered Certified Accountant.



Paul Karma – graduated from BPP summer 2019

## Paul Egunjobi – graduated from BPP University, Law 2:1

When I joined the Amos Bursary in 2011, I was a shy reserved young man with aspirations of studying Law. During my time at BPP I was able to develop my public speaking skills, my self-confidence increased and more importantly, the Amos Bursary offered me an extended family who I was able to reach out to whenever I encountered a problem.

As a social care student, I had to work throughout my time at university and immediately after graduation. I worked for two years at a reputable criminal defence solicitors' firm to save enough to fund my dream to become a Lawyer. My participation in university life was minimal, however BPP gave me the academic grounding I needed.

In 2017 I applied and received an offer from BPP to study the LLM Legal Practice commencing in January 2018. A combination of student finance and financial support from my foster mother and sponsorship by two very reputable barristers allowed me to pay for the course. I completed in November 2019 and now look forward to the next stage of my career. Having successfully completed my Masters combined with the Legal Practice Course, I am now one step closer to becoming a qualified solicitor, a profession choice that was merely a dream when I first joined the Amos Bursary.

## Social and emotional wellbeing

In 2019 we ran several workshops on emotional, physical and mental wellbeing for students. This culminated in summer counselling sessions for students over 18.

### Care and support

**Kymerlie Andrew, High Impact communications consultant has been instrumental in providing experiences and opportunities for AB students. In the summer 2019 she arranged for a qualified psychotherapist Guidance Officer to support the students.**

*She said: sometimes it starts with just a conversation – we're listening. I understand that life can feel a little overwhelming from time to time and I get that sometimes the expectations of school, work, relationships and family is just too much. The good news is you are not alone, and the better news is we want to help.*

This summer she provided two services. The first, supporting some students by offering them private counselling sessions and the second was by way of a Telephone Advice Line to offer guidance for their educational and personal needs.

One of the students who made use of the service said, *2019 was a life changing year for me. It was full of joy and a lot of tears too, especially whilst studying for my A levels. If it wasn't for the Amos Bursary and the workshops on mental health which helped me to calm my nerves and the support of the alumni I would've struggled so much more.*



Kymerlie Andrew (centre) at AB conference

## Mental health awareness

Students and committee members attended a workshop sponsored by Barings and led by Lynette Charles, Chief Executive Officer of Mind in Haringey. The course addressed what mental health is and how to challenge the stigma that surrounds it.

They received a basic knowledge of some common mental health issues, an introduction to looking after their own mental health and maintaining wellbeing and the tools to offer support to someone in distress or who may be experiencing a mental health issue.

At the end of the workshop the students were all awarded a certificate of attendance to say they are Mental Health Aware.

*Cori said: the Amos Bursary has enriched me with comprehensive knowledge about mental health awareness, which has been an increasing headline. Since attending the workshop, I now understand what mental health is and how to challenge the stigma. I have gained the confidence to be able to offer support to someone who is in distress or may be experiencing a mental health issue. Mental health awareness is an important topic and an awareness that should be taught in schools and the workplace.*

**Cori Clarke**, Gap year student

Mental health awareness course run by Lynette Charles



## Making the most of opportunities

The ability to access UK and international opportunities and experiences is crucial if students are to fulfill their potential.



Students in New York with Dame Karen Pierce (centre)



Visit to the UN

### New York, New York

The New York Experience took place in August this year, with the students spending three weeks shadowing staff at Linklaters, Adjaye Associates and KPMG and learning about life and work in New York City.

They shared many firsts together including meeting UK Ambassador to the UN, Dame Karen Pierce; being given a tour of Harlem by Author Reggie Nadelson and Curtis Archer; being shown around the renowned Apollo Theatre by Billy Mitchell, the resident historian and official tour guide; having lunch and playing golf at one of the best-known golf courses in Westchester County, NY, the Hampshire Country Club, which was organised by Lizzie Massey and spending a weekend in Washington, with Robbie Jacque which culminated with a visit to the celebrated Howard University.

Lizzie Massey organiser of the Golf day said:

*Yet again, a wonderful day with the Amos Bursary boys. They were delightful, engaged, talkative, sharing and wonderful. We had such a great time hosting them and enjoyed having them pick up a new skill in a supportive environment. What an inspirational group with big plans for the future - we look forward to being part of that journey!*

*The Amos Bursary was set up to transition the lives of young black men through exposing them to new opportunities and one of the most memorable opportunity for me was the New York Experience in 2019. This event was the most beneficial for me because in addition to enjoying the corporate and cultural exposure, I was compelled to work on areas of personal development where I was lacking. I was able to work on myself, my story my future.*

**Tyrell Gabriel**, Oxford University

*The New York Experience was a life changing experience which enhanced my cultural and commercial experience by exposing me to a range of opportunities. Having the opportunity to intern abroad allowed me to expand my network internationally and meet some incredible people. The experiences that I have had changed my viewpoint on life and has encouraged me to look beyond my horizons for new opportunities.*

**Nana Osei Kofi**, Warwick University



Raheem Coombs, veterinary student

### Training to become a vet

The Amos Bursary supports students studying a wide range of disciplines. As part of his application to the Bursary in 2018 Raheem Coombs gave this account:

*I have taken steps to secure a future in veterinary by immersing myself in voluntary work at The Urban Farm during my free time. Here, I had to present different species of animals (from Boa Constrictors to Chickens) to the general public which included people of all ages and abilities.*

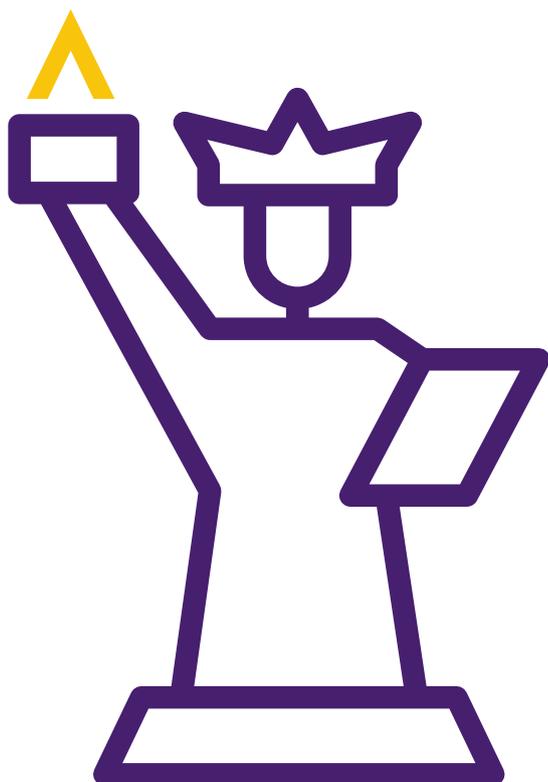
*My interest in wildlife began with my dad who always watched wildlife documentaries. My earliest memory was as a four-year old watching one of those documentaries with him and becoming fascinated with the anatomy of animals from then on.*

*Looking retrospectively on the journey I have had to embark on to become a student at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), it is without a doubt that the Amos Bursary has been key to aspects of my success so far. I have benefitted from learning about various opportunities such as the chance to apply to a Sutton Trust Summer School in the summer of 2018. Attending the summer school, at the RVC allowed me to gain an invaluable insight into the life of a veterinary student along with the chance to study on the Gateway course.*

*I have also been given two mentors who have been crucial to my journey so far, helping me to set goals, widen my network and most importantly, given me advice about how to tackle obstacles, which I have encountered and will encounter as a student and a professional at work. I am sure that the Amos Bursary will continue to enable me to acquire many more experiences whilst being a student at university.*

In 2019 Raheem Coombs became the first AB student to study Veterinary Science.

**Raheem Coombs**, Royal Veterinary College





Solomon Adu interns at Balfour Beatty



Chatham House meeting with Stacey Abrams, an American politician, lawyer, and author

### Tideway site visit - Balfour Beatty

As part of our ongoing partnership with Balfour Beatty, for the second year running a site visit was arranged in August, for 18 AB Students to visit Tideway West in South West London. This is one of the main excavation sites for London's new 'Super Sewer' – a £5billion infrastructure project aimed at reconnecting London with the River Thames. The students were hosted by an AB student who was currently on a summer placement, Solomon Adu, Tom Lane of Morgan Sindall and Lilia Frunzo of Tideway-West.

This was an excellent opportunity for students already studying engineering and for those interested in the subject. They were able to gain insight into the world of large-scale construction, and network with world leading infrastructure firms including Balfour Beatty, Bam Nutall, Jacobs and Morgan Sindall all of whom had representatives attend the visit and give presentations about the project whilst answering any questions the students had.

Although for health and safety reasons, the students were unable to tour the underground tunnels, they were able to experience walking through the tunnels and cutting through the ground via use of virtual reality. By creating a virtual model of the project, students were placed directly inside the virtual environment so that they could experience a full immersion into the virtual space.

*It was very insightful to note the potential career paths that are available to us with either mechanical or civil engineering degrees.*

**Daniel Babalola**

*It gave me a very good insight into the application process for engineering and industrial placements which was relevant as I am currently applying for work placements. I also made several connections and was able to get great advice from Solomon Adu another Bursary student who was on a summer placement at the time.*

**Reece White**, Southampton University

### The opportunity to network

When it's done well, networking will help you build relationships. It will give you a competitive edge throughout every stage of your career.

Through networking at the Amos Bursary's 10-year Anniversary Dinner, Michael Kolawole met a managing partner at a major consultancy. With this contact, he was able to conduct a week long work placement at the firm. This opportunity helped him to get an idea of the kind of career he would like to pursue.

On another occasion Michael was alerted by AB alumni Wilfrid Obeng to an opportunity to attend the One Africa Global Summit at Google where he met Anita Henry who works at Google Start-Ups and visited the Google Campus where he met some start-up companies. This was an enlightening experience that taught Michael not only about start-ups but also about Africa's youth dividend and why investing in Africa's youth is critical.

**Michael Kolawole**, 2019 Cohort



Michael Kolawole (centre)

## Broadening your horizons

According to Kwabena, the most beneficial part of his Amos Bursary experience so far was when he attended an Al Jazeera Television Debate. He enjoyed the topics that were being discussed and expounded on them further in his personal statement.

He said, 'I feel that the Amos Bursary is great at sourcing opportunities that would otherwise be closed to young people like me. As a result of being a part of the AB 2019 cohort, I feel my cultural and commercial awareness skills have improved greatly'.

**Kwabena Osei**, 2019 Cohort



Kwabena Osei

## Knowledge of the Arts

The Boster Group provides the Amos Bursary with opportunities for our students particularly in the Arts. In addition they offer an internship to students interested in marketing.

In 2019 Gabriel Amida spent two weeks and in that time he provided high-quality research which was used in discussions with BMW. Kayla Marks, Senior Account Executive said 'thank you for the hard work you did over the summer, because it is definitely helping us now!'

The Boster Group also introduced the Bursary to the BNP Paribas' Access Art 25 programme. 11 AB students had a night out to the Anthony Gormley exhibition. This was a fun evening where students were able to explore Gormley's early works, learn about Art and try their hands at various skills including zine making, clay workshops and iPad drawing classes.



Meeting leaders: Vivian Hunt, McKinsey MD (centre)



Trevor Phillips, Colleen Amos and Kwaku Boateng

Kwaku Boateng (right) is a budding film producer and he was busy networking at the Green Park launch of the Top 100 BAME Business Leaders Report at Somerset House. Kwaku met Trevor Phillips OBE ARCS FIC a British writer, broadcaster, company director and former politician.

*Kwaku said: I got to volunteer as Director of Photography during the filming of a short film by the London Filmmakers programme for the Mayor of London called, 'To Carry'. Working with the LDN Filmmakers project was just a steppingstone for my creative ambitions.*



## Kenny Imafidon secures brand refresh

**In 2018 Frank Bright & Abel worked with AB to refresh the AB Brand Pro Bono. In 2019 the new brand was revealed and implemented across all communication channels and promotional materials. Kenny Imafidon AB alumni who arranged the partnership with Frank Bright and Abel said, 'the new AB brand is lively, colourful, edgy yet mature and it is representative of who we are today.'**

Investing in a proper brand refresh was well overdue and I knew this would always be expensive. Given our financial position, I knew that it would have been difficult for us to invest in one. So, I was very grateful and appreciative when Rebecca Price who heads up creative agency Frank, Bright & Abel agreed that her team would do our brand refresh as part of our 10-year anniversary. They have done an exceptional and professional job in helping us create a brand that we can all be proud of.

Katie Smith and Alexandra Boylan worked on the project.

Katie said, 'I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the Amos brand - it's a project I'm very proud to have managed'.

Alex said, 'it's brilliant to see the brand come to life'.

Rebranding by Frank, Bright & Abel

The  
**AMOS**  
Bursary

# AMOS

## Community engagement



Graduate Wilfrid Obeng (left) leading the AB panel of students speaking at the Reach Society Careers conference

Our Graduates and students are 'real' models of what can be achieved regardless of your background or ethnicity. They are encouraged to share their experiences with their peers and educate anyone willing to hear about life as a millennial in the UK. They are guest speakers and run workshops on a range of motivational and career-based topics.

Each term we hold an open 'Ambition Event' where the public get to meet AB students, network and hear from outstanding speakers on a range of subjects.

Our young men also give back to the community, by supporting the Amos Bursary and other charities of their choice.



Reaching out: Franklyn Nnodi, Manchester University, presenting to year 12 students

### Year 12 Conference attracts 150 students

The two-day Kings College/Amos Bursary Conference for Year 12 Students takes place every year in April. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to attend a morning workshop.

During this conference students learnt everything they needed to know about the transition from school to university and how to select the best universities, understand their finances and begin to write their personal statements. This year, over 150 students and parents attended the weekend long programme.

Winston Graham said, 'attending the conference was eye opening - it gave me a view into the world of higher education from the perspective of people I can relate to.

I initially thought that simply making it to university would solve the social issues I may face as a black man.

However, through various discussions with people on the Kings College African and Caribbean society, I learnt that there is still a lack of diversity in higher education despite what university websites display. I was inspired to do further research into clubs and societies at university which will give me the necessary space to meet and communicate with new people, whilst bringing me out of my comfort zone. I was encouraged to embrace my blackness at university rather than hide it, in order to fit in'.



Winston Graham front in the picture.

**AB students dress for success**



Organisations contribute in numerous ways. This summer, Dentons LLP provided 30 suits for AB students so that the young men would look the part as they embarked on their internships.

**AB annual residential conference**  
 ‘The power of versatility’

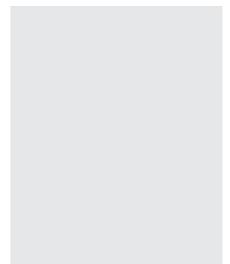
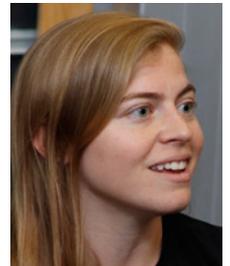
This three-day residential conference was organised by student leaders Isaiah Lynn and Jeremiah Balfourth for like-minded young people of African and Caribbean descent between the ages of 16 – 25 years old. This was a free event which took place at The South Kensington Campus of Imperial College London and saw around 150 young people attend.

Students benefited from incredible networking opportunities with their peers while learning from exceptional speakers who are distinguished professionals and successful entrepreneurs. From the experiences of those who have gone before, they gained insight into the complexities of the world today.

**Speakers included from top left:**

Waqās Ahmed – *Author of the Polymath*, Michael Timilehin Omoniyi – *Inspirational Speaker and Consultant*, Paul Forrest – *Head of Research at the West Midlands Economic Forum*, Wendy Ginsburg – *Googlemind*, John Prideaux – *US editor at the Economist*, Darrel Adjei – *Googlemind (AB Alumni)*, Jonathan Oloyede – *Goldman Sachs (AB Alumni)*, Baroness Amos, Dowshan Humzah – *Digital Consultant*, Chris Cain – *Director in PwC Academy, Middle East Region, United Arab Emirates, Professional Training & Coaching* and Lord Michael Hastings.

**Amos Bursary conference speakers**



Conference



Each year the Bursary holds three events open to the public to help raise aspirations and encourage networking. Young people, mentors, parents and supporters attend and share a lively social evening in inspiring environments. This year PA Consulting, UCL and Barclays hosted three ambition events.

### Spring ambition event at PA Consulting



#### First Ambition Event - hosted by PA Consulting.

Theme: 'UK in the world today'.

Led by Charlotte Warburton, Member of PA's Management Team with guest speakers Paul Adamson, Member of PA's Management Team, Global Head of Rail; Dr Stephen Hopgood, Professor of International Relations and Pro-Director (International) at SOAS; and Dawid Konotey-Ahulu Entrepreneur in Financial Services, Technology and Elderly Care.

Our speakers explored and explained current global trends from a political/human rights and economical perspective to give insight to young people trying to understand the UK's place in the world today.

### Unilever representatives at the summer ambition event



#### Second Ambition event - hosted by UCL.

Unilever presented workshops entitled 'Brands and You' which was all about gaining an insight into the world of a fast-moving consumer business and the importance of 'you' the consumer as a customer or employee.

It was an opportunity for students to find out about career opportunities and learn about different parts of the Unilever business. Katherine Gray, the UK & Ireland Consumer and Market Insight Director for Unilever, spoke about the importance of insight into consumers' needs, motives and attitudes.

### Tim Campbell and Kwazi Afum at the Autumn ambition event held at Barclays



#### Third Ambition event - held at Barclays and was all about Financial management.

In Conversation with first winner of the BBC's Apprentice, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist Tim Campbell MBE and Vice President of Regulatory Impact Assessment for Barclays Kwasi Affum.

The Evening was hosted by Lohan Morrison, an Amos Bursary 3rd year undergraduate student at Warwick University.

During this event student AB student Michael Adjei announced the launch of the Amos Bursary 2020 recruitment campaign.

## Effective partnerships

23 students received internship opportunities in the UK with Barings, Balfour Beatty, Unilever, Boster Group, Webster McNeal, Schrodgers and Linklaters.



Renell (front) and Jesse Williams with representatives from Law Firm O'Neale Webster (UK) LLP

### The Linklaters experience

Linklaters have been partnering with the Amos Bursary for over 5 years, providing a range of support activities including the week-long Linklaters Residential Placement. This year the programme allowed two students to spend time at the prestigious Linklaters Office and explore law as a career.

*My week-long Internship at Linklaters was without a doubt about my own self-development. Learning about the firm itself, the world of law from experienced lawyers and shadowing a trainee solicitor for a day, I found it all very insightful. It has given me a real understanding of the work of corporate and litigation lawyers and what it's like working at a magic circle firm. Another great takeaway for me was that constructive criticism is given not as a negative but to help with one's own development. It is given as a positive and therefore we should use it to reflect and better ourselves.*

**Tyrese Cunningham-Neil**

*The Linklaters residential was an opportunity for me to expand my knowledge on Law as a career. The residential allowed me to practice my networking skills as well as build good relationships with others. Several activities were jam-packed into one week, but I was pleased that I was able to employ all the skills that I have developed during my time with the bursary.*

*I now understand how challenging and mentally demanding it can be to work in such a highly productive environment, knowing the different types of personalities one must work with, and in some cases lead. This shows that such settings require maximum focus, minimum inefficiency and very good organisational skills.*

**Samuel Olajugba**, Year 13 student



Samuel Olajugba, Year 13 student



## Barings see the possibilities breakfast meeting

Global financial services Barings has partnered with the Amos Bursary to fund two Associate students who did not make the 2018/2019 Selection process. Students Adam Aboim and Spencer Bailey who showed great dedication and commitment to their development were chosen to benefit from this endowment. In the last year Barings have also made huge steps to continue to engage with the Amos Bursary, through the dedicated engagement of Rob Knight, Managing Director, Global Head of Guideline Management & Transaction Reporting.

From offering AB students paid summer internships which included social events, involvement in the community, and training, to extending networking opportunities to interact with senior investment staff and clients.

In October, Barings hosted a See the Possibilities Student Breakfast meeting and workshops for students from the various faculties: Business; Computing; Digital Technology; Finance; Maths; STEM and Strategy and once again, the invitation was extended to AB students to attend.

The programme featured panel discussions with Barings' investment heads and other business leaders, along with keynote speaker Sir Gerry Grimstone, who has held significant roles in the global financial services industry and government departments.

*The sessions were very interactive and insightful. I was most impressed with the way the host kept us engaged throughout and probed us for ideas to the running questions. The group mentors were extremely friendly and more than happy to give insight into their day jobs. It was a great experience and I have a fantastic first impression of Barings Investments.*

**Franklin Nnodi**, Manchester University

*I was given the opportunity to attend a client cricket day to watch the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 – England v South Africa hosted by Stephen Burns, Head of Private Equity EMEA and Head of Strategic Investment Capital for the Strategic Investment Capital team. This was a day well spent with the Private Equity and Sales Team especially and a great opportunity for me to familiarise himself with some of the team as I was due to spend the summer as an intern with Barings.*

**Oshotse Aliu**, Law Student

## Russell Investments leads on CV writing

In September, the CV writing session for AB students was held at Russell Investments and led by Scotland Jacobson (Head of Talent Development and HR Operations) who was visiting the UK from America, and Kerry French (Head of EMEA Human Resources).

The session was designed to help improve our young people's understanding of how the labour market works, whilst assisting the students to create a CV with transition skills that will stand out and get them noticed.

It was an interactive session which included presentations and breakout sessions, where they had the opportunity to focus on specific aspects of their CV as well as obtain valuable advice and feedback from experienced Russell Investments associates. Our thanks to Sonia Ayton and Jihan Dihosa for arranging the session.

Two lucky students are also modelling a new way of mentoring with peer and professional mentors provided by Russell Investments.



CV session at Russell Investments



# The Unilever eleven

In 2018 we established a three-year partnership, with Unilever which provides AB students with internships and offers insight events. This partnership has already made a significant impression on our students.

In 2018 Courtney Mikely was the first AB student to be employed by Unilever and in 2019, eleven students secured paid summer internships. Below are two of their stories:

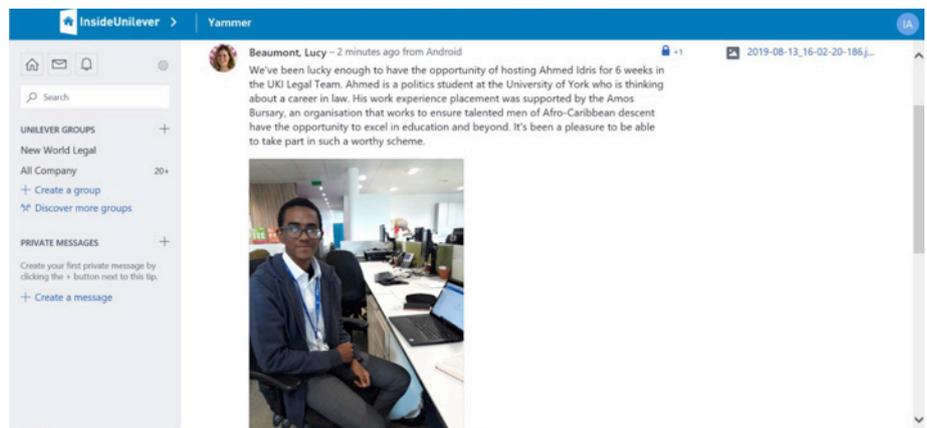
*I was astounded by the level of approachability shown by everyone at Unilever. As an employee on floor 6, I knew that I was surrounded by very busy people but regardless, everyone met me with hospitality and a helping hand. I was lucky enough to work alongside Risya in Corporate Strategy and my time mainly consisted of data entry and using this data to make forecasts and predictions.*

*Risya managed to make it an incredibly informative experience for me. Furthermore, my mentors Will and Kate afforded me the opportunity to get invaluable insight into the business by allowing me to speak to a variety of different people in a variety of sectors. Finally, as an environmentalist, it is really inspiring to see a company with sustainability at its core. I believe that this experience has given me a true appreciation for the work that they do to support the environment.*

**Kamaal Busari**, UCL

*My experience at Unilever was invaluable. Amongst other skills learnt, I gained professional experience using excel to monitor the pension payroll. I was able to apply my academic knowledge to strengthen my understanding of the role and I was exposed to various departments which allowed me widen my insight on how multinational companies operate.*

**Ahmed Idris**, University of York



Students at Unilever

## Schroders BAME network are champions

Jennifer Kuntuala and Gillian Walters have been championing the Bursary students within Schroders. As a result, students have had access to a range of opportunities this summer. They attended A Taste of Africa and the Caribbean, an event hosted by the Black Professional Network at Schroders for all Schroders staff. This is a great networking opportunity and the students met Philippe Lespinard, the Chief Investment Officer and Head of Fixed Income.

Year 13 and first-year university students were invited to attend a work experience day giving them an insight into the financial sector and Schroders. During this visit, two year 13 students secured paid work experience placements for two weeks (their stories are to follow).

In September an *Insight into Asset Management* workshop was held for University students. This event was focused around giving the students an insight into the various careers at Schroders. They heard from staff from varying parts of the business who ran small talks/activities with groups of students.

## Two weeks at Schroders

In July 2019 Schroders offered the Amos Bursary two 2-week internship opportunities for students who were about to enter year 13 or were due to go to University in 2019. The response to this opportunity was very rapid, with some undergraduates asking to be considered.

Amos Bursary students John Collins-Koomson (end of year 13) and Efosa Buckman (end of year 12) participated in the programme.

*Overall, my experience at Schroders was overwhelmingly positive. I had a great time learning and being exposed to the financial sector. During the internship I was assigned various tasks including market research, collating data and creating presentation slides which helped me improve my presentational skills and enhance my ability to deliver pitches to clients. I also improved my excel skills and the ability to present data in different formats.*

**John Collins-Koomson**

*It was great to gain the knowledge and experience that simplified the complicated process of a trade being confirmed from a fund manager all the way to a custodian. It also highlighted the power of asset managers as they trade on a higher volume than an average citizen, so the magnitude of their trade can shift the market in the way they hope in order to make a profit. That is an understanding which I have only received by being directly exposed to the process.*

**Efosa Egharevba-Buckman**



AB students in discussion with Philippe Lespinard, the Chief Investment Officer and Head of Fixed Income, Schroders.

## Reward and recognition

Amos Bursary members are frequently recognised for their academic ability and work in the community. Below are a few examples.



Lohan Morrison and Donald Palmer (AB Mentor and adviser) both recipients of awards at the Jamaican National Awards evening.

### **Congratulations to AB student leader Lohan Morrison who was awarded the Jamaican National Inspirational Youth Award.**

In October, Lohan was invited to the 2019 Association of Jamaican Nationals Local Heroes & Be Inspired Youth Gala and Awards.

He said 'At this event, I heard from incredibly talented and reputable Jamaican professionals who have been doing amazing work all over the world. To my surprise, I was called up to receive the Be Inspired Youth Award for 2019.

This award was for my academic and career-related performance, along with contributions I have made to my community through charity work. It was an honour to collect an award among these Jamaican heroes who are truly inspiring to me.

I would like to thank Stephen Brooks, AB Committee member, for informing the Association of Jamaican Nationals about me, along with continuously supporting me throughout the process'.

**Lohan Morrison**, Warwick University

## Award winners at the Amos Bursary Summer gala dinner and dance 2019



Ose Pedro



Simon Taylor-Robertson



Cynthia David



Joachim Maiye



Jeremiah Balfourth



Stephen Brooks



Kenny Imafidon



Ahmed Idris



Wilfrid Obeng



Stephen Brooks collects AB award at the Reach society Dinner.

## Great to see AB scholars featured in the Sunday Times Magazine

**What a pleasure to see two of our scholars featured in the December edition of the Sunday Times Magazine. The feature covered the journey of Victor Azubuike former student at Warwick University, now a sales analyst at JP Morgan and Isaiah Wellington-Lynn, student at UCL with ambitions to become a tech founder, product designer and eventually to set up his own school.**

The article talked about the challenges these young men have faced, the people who motivated and inspired them and their hopes for the future.

As well as working for JP Morgan Victor has set up a book club called My Brother's Keeper up along with four other young professionals like himself, in the hope that it will help disadvantaged black boys enjoy the same cultural capital middle-class teens take for granted. He said in his interview: *with these kids, the aim is to stick with them, because they're used to being abandoned. I remember one of the other leaders missed a session once, and then he came back the next week, one kid was, like, 'Yo, you came back, I didn't think you would'.*

*A lot of them are used to being disappointed, to people not being present in their life. Or people who come one time.*

Isaiah, who is no stranger to launching campaigns and setting up initiatives. His journey has seen him raise £64,000 to enable him to study at Harvard for a year as a visiting undergraduate; he also launched his own initiative in the summer of 2018 the 'Redefining Boundaries fellowship' – set up with a friend from Harvard – with an aim to 'tackle imposter syndrome' by giving black techies from the US and the UK the opportunity to visit Silicon Valley and raising more than \$10,000 to take 15 fellows to meet black executives there. He says, *until we see more examples of people doing non-traditional degrees (such as tech), the mould of what it means to be a black person, working somewhere like a bank, will continue. But we can do so much more.*

Isaiah also took part in a discussion for the Financial Times Hosted by June Sarpong. The topic was 'Is Race and Class discrimination hurting business.' Also participating was AB sponsor Ric Lewis.



James Frater is the recipient of the main Medical Akindole Scholarship Award.



Isaiah Lynn



Victor Azubuike

## Fundraising

Throughout the year the Amos Bursary attends and holds community events to raise the profile of the Bursary, inform and educate the community about the charity and encourage AB students to promote the bursary and foster an ethos of giving back and becoming role models. Students support the bursary and charities of their choice.



George Imafidon, Chair of the 1million campaign

### Campaign underway

George Imafidon wanted to create opportunities at every juncture for himself and his community. He is currently leading a team of AB alumni and scholars who are aiming to raise £1million for the Amos Bursary to ensure the sustainability of the charity for the next 5 years.

He said, 'The Amos Bursary has normalised success for me through every event and has been a support network to keep me grounded in pursuing my dreams to set up an engineering consultancy within 5 years'.

In 2015, he co-founded Motivez, the UK's 1st personalised event-discovery app for young people. Motivez is an award-winning venture comprised of eight students who have raised over five figures in seed funding.

In 2017, he was recognised as one of the 'UK's Top 10 Black Students' for independently re-designing a component for Rolls-Royce aircrafts' and saving them over £50,000,000. Following this, he was invited to visit HM The Queen in February 2018. In the summer of 2018, he undertook an internship at Google in a semi-technical role. He is now back at UCL completing his final year.

**George Imafidon**, UCL

### The Chicago Marathon

AB Mentor Paul Henry ran the Chicago Marathon for the Amos Bursary. A Civil Engineer, he leads an innovation lab for one of the Caribbean's largest real estate developers. Prior to his current role he worked as a Management Consultant with EY in their London office. Paul has been a professional mentor with the Amos Bursary since 2015 helping students with their career selection and assisting with other professional development programmes.

Paul is an avid runner and regularly takes part in long-distance events. However, this was the first time he has taken on the marathon distance. Chicago Marathon is one of the six World Marathon Majors and is the fourth-largest race by number of finishers worldwide. Paul is attempting to run all six over the coming years.



The 1million campaign team meeting at Facebook.



Paul Henry runs the Chicago Marathon

## **Renell Harding Crowdfunds for Law Conversion Course, University of Law (Bloomsbury Campus)**

21-year-old Renell, from Colindale, North-West London, graduated from Swansea University in 2019 and raised £18,000 to cover his tuition fees for his graduate diploma in a Law conversion course. He raised the funds by a combination of crowdfunding, scholarship from the University of Law, The John Bennett Trust Foundation and an individual donor.

Renell, who was diagnosed with autism at a young age, says he had a difficult upbringing, and was homeless during his teen years. 'During that time, I realised I had to give my education my all if I wanted to make something of myself.' He also said, 'Becoming an Amos Bursary scholar has been a life-changing, positive and permanent experience for me. It has built my confidence and self-belief and introduced me to like-minded, hard-working, intelligent black boys, who are all doing fantastic things'.

Initially, Renell was rejected for scholarships and hardships funds, however his determination was relentless, and he turned to crowdfunding supported by his 'brothers in the Bursary'.

*I could not have done it without them particularly Tyreese. He is a legend and created the videos that told my story. In the end I was happy because I gave it my all and I felt very grateful for it. I never thought I would be where I am today.*

Renell has now started reading for the graduate diploma in Law (GDL) at the University of Law.

## **Congratulations to AB 1Million Riders. They completed the 46k Prudential Ride London. Riders were Kwarteng Sarfo, Remel Anno-Barnieh, Karl Melaimi, Daniel Agard, and Jesse Williams**

Kwarteng Sarfo, Imperial College London said, *I volunteered to participate in the ride to help raise money for the Amos Bursary, a charitable organisation I have been a part of and benefited from since 2015. As 2019 marks 10 years of the Amos Bursary, my fellow scholars set the target of raising £1 million to ensure the sustainability of the Amos Bursary for the next five years. My contribution towards this goal was to cycle in the Surrey 46.*

Remel Anno-Barnieh, Chemical Engineering at Nottingham University said: *the Prudential RideLondon Surrey-46 was an exhilarating experience that I thoroughly enjoyed and would do again. From stocking up on energy bars and caffeine gel shots, to riding in groups as big as 50 riders. This was my first cycling event ever and the entire experience was exciting and one that I would recommend.*

*I volunteered to participate in the ride to help raise money for the Amos Bursary. I have been a part of and benefited from the AB since 2015 and it was a way of giving back and marking its 10th anniversary'.*

*Completing the ride in the respectable time of 02:49:40, boosted my self-confidence, demonstrated the importance of persevering (especially uphill) and remaining committed to a goal. The most rewarding thing to me whilst on the ride was witnessing the immense amount of support that we got from the general public along the entire route.*



Prudential riders Kwarteng, Remel, Karl, Daniel and Jesse



**Giving back in his own way  
AB artist Kes Tchaas  
Ecclestone, donated this  
portrait 'Strange Fruit' to  
the Amos Bursary summer  
auction and raised £400.00.**



### The Power of self belief

**As one of the youth advisors for the Big Change Charity, I was asked to fly to Switzerland to take part in the annual charity fundraiser - the Strive Challenge. So, in September 2019 I took part in the Alpine Strive Challenge 2019.**

This involved a five-day hike, swim, cycle, climb and paraglide through the Alps. Sounds tough? Well it was. Very tough. So tough in fact, I almost gave up. Supported by several world class entrepreneurs, business minds and educationist, I was fortunate enough to meet the likes of Sara Blakely, Adam Grant and Richard Branson himself.

Through all my interactions, I learnt the power of belief in an idea and the conviction to see it come to life. As part of my invitation I was asked to speak about my story. How a good education changed my life, limited my peers and how I built a social enterprise to help solve some of those problems. Big Change is a charity that funds social enterprises with opportunities to reimagine education so that every young person can thrive in life not just exams.

I believe and support their mission because the education system needs to change to remain fit for purpose for our young people. The children who will benefit the most if we get this right, will be the ones who need it the most - just like me when I was younger.

Being part of the Amos Bursary prepared me to see this challenge through and feel comfortable building relationships with extremely successful individuals. The intangible confidence that the Amos Bursary instils in every young man, is what makes the programme so successful and what has made the difference in my life.

Today, I am in my penultimate year at London's arguably best Medical school - UCL. I also run the product team of a digital health company called Suvera. We build technology to allow GPs to virtually follow up with patients with long-term conditions.

**Ivan Beckley**, UCL Medical Student



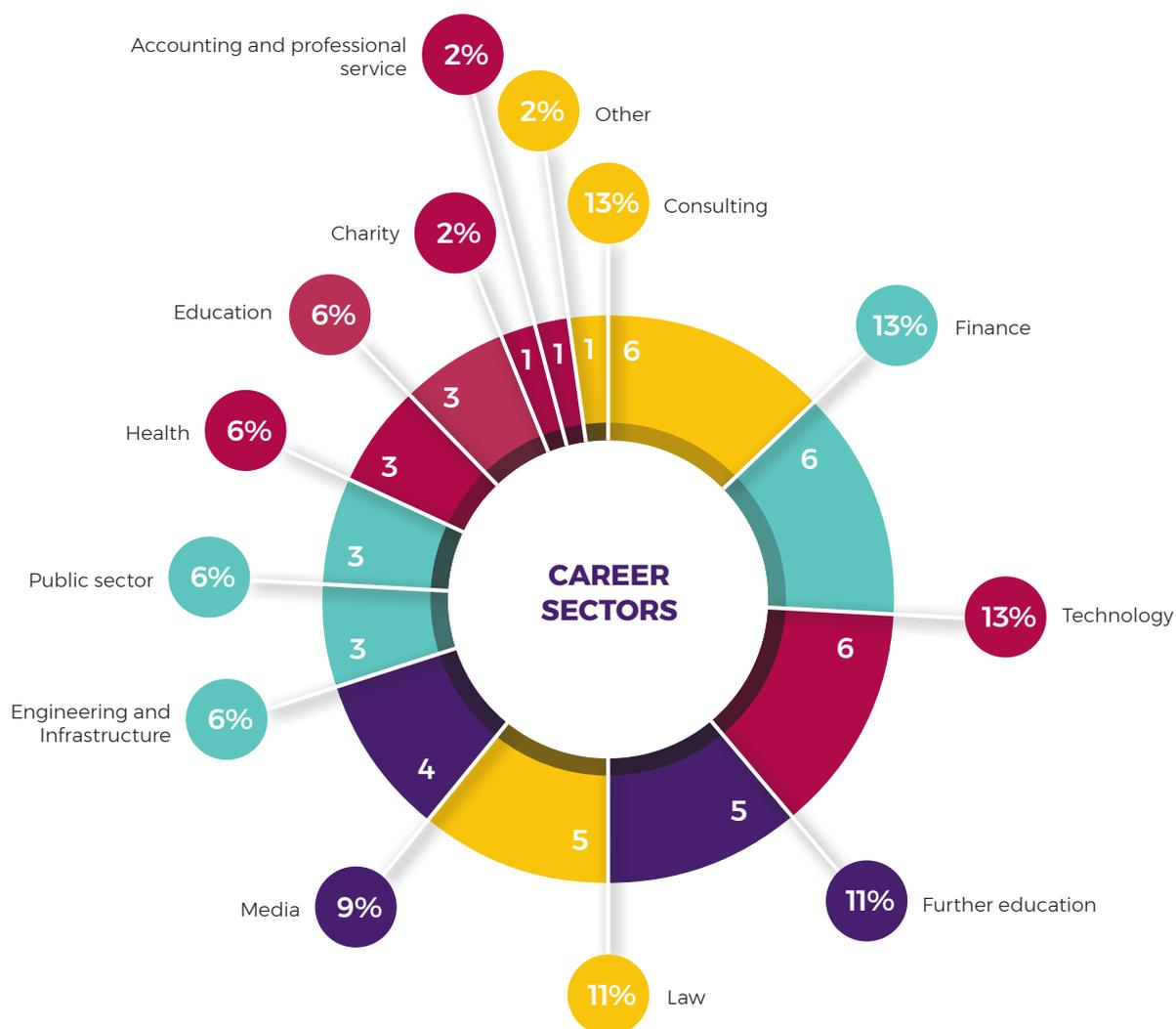
Ivan Beckley with Richard Branson at the annual charity fundraiser for the Big Change charity

## Alumni setting the standards

In 2019 we had 47 alumni in a wide range of career sectors.

### Preparing for the world of work

Career sectors for graduates



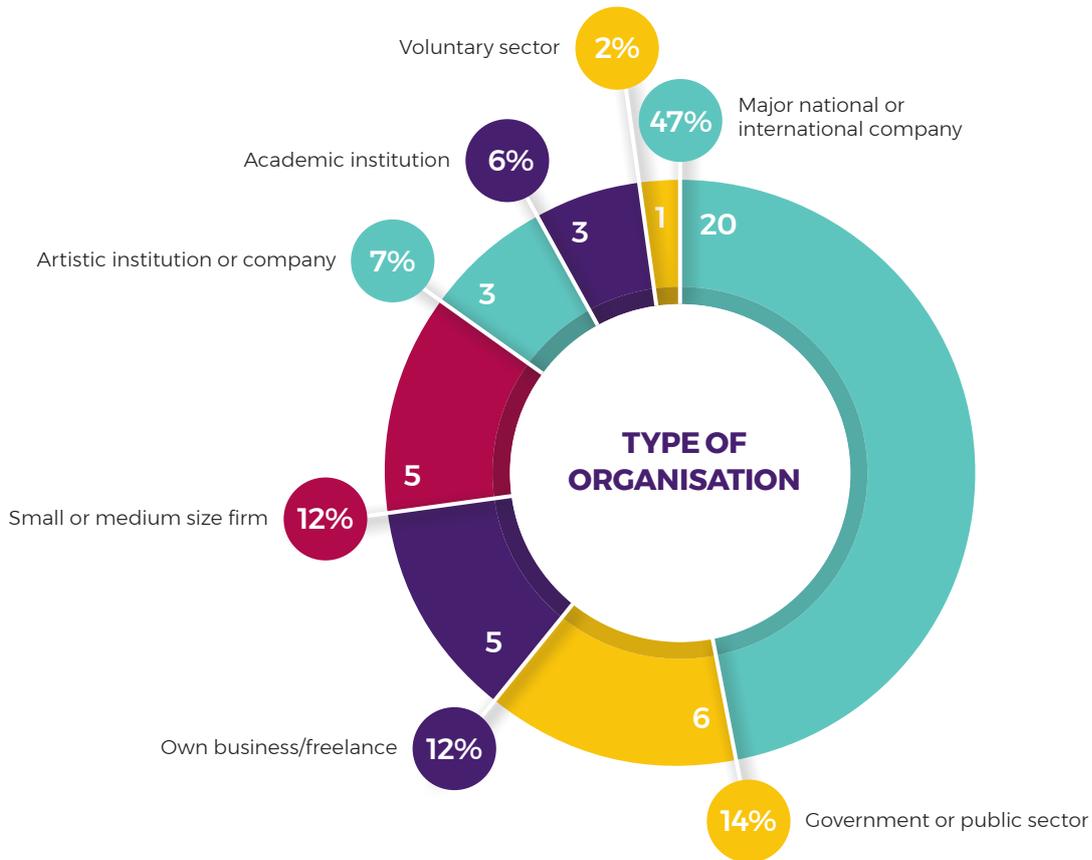
**Graduates:** 47

**Employed:** 43 (One as a bank of England higher apprentice)

**Further education:** 4

## Entrepreneurship

9 people have set up their own company, while at University or while at work.



Faustino MCalla

### Be purposeful and diligent in self improvement

The Amos Bursary has played a key role in, and left an indelible mark upon, the past six years of my growth and development from an A-level student, to becoming a Warwick graduate in Politics, International Studies and French and now a Graduate Fellow at Informa - the world-leading events, publishing and business intelligence organisation.

Having completed the program, it is clear to me that the unique combination of developing both hard and soft skills such as negotiation, presenting, interview techniques and revision and reading methods, coupled with the facilitation of placements at institutions such as NYU, Unilever

and the Cato Institute in DC, served to help form a firm yet flexible foundation for my future. Indeed, this consistent, highly invested and culturally tailored care and attention that the Bursary pays to the future of its scholars stands as one of its greatest merits.

This said, my pointed exhortation to all current and future AB scholars must be that they are purposeful and diligent in their efforts of self-improvement and make sure to lean on the rapidly expanding repository of knowledge and experience held within the Bursary. Just as this has served me well for the past six years, I do not doubt that it will serve me well for sixty to come.

**Faustino MCalla**

## Building bonds – Brotherhood Night



Organisers of the Brothers Movie Night Daniel Anjorin, and Isaiah Wellington-Lynn

To commemorate the end of 2019 and the AB's 10th year Anniversary, student leaders Isaiah Wellington-Lynn (final year UCL) and Daniel Anjorin (Alumnus) organised a Brotherhood Night – a hangout and private cinema screening where they watched Black Panther, ate, laughed and reflected on the year.

Isaiah Lynn said, *It was a space for us as brothers to relax and get to know each other in a chilled way. No formalities, no dress-code, just positive vibes.*

Daniel who hosted the event said, *I do not want them to just dream, I want them to see what can be possible.*



Talented alumnus, Solomon Adebisi, Artist and future Architect donated this portrait of Fela Kuti to the Amos Bursary. He said, The New York Experience was a pivotal moment in my career.

The time spent at Adjaye associates made me understand the significance architecture has in shaping our world. This lit a fire in me and a resolve to become an Architect that can make a difference and inspire others, not just through my achievements but also through the journey itself.



Receiving a scholarship from the Amos Bursary to complete my Bachelor of Law at BPP allowed me to study at a top law school without the financial pressures associated with studying Law.

The Amos Bursary also provided me with the polish, determination and knowledge to excel as a future leader in my chosen field. I was given lots of networking opportunities and embarked on internships. The New York Experience was undoubtedly the best international opportunity I have received so far.

**Daniel Beckley**, BPP Law school



Victor Azubuiké 'The Amos Bursary provided me with the unwavering confidence to believe my voice matters. This has stood me in great stead when interacting with clients.'

**Victor Azubuiké**, JP Morgan

**AMMOS**

**CELEBRATING**

**10 YEARS**

shaping futures

## The Amos Bursary celebrating 10 years of excellence



Mike and Dolly Amos

What started as a tribute to my parents and their passion for education has become an amazing legacy to them in just 10 years. The Amos Bursary was born out of their belief in young people and the power of education to transform lives. They understood the importance of being aspirational, of nurturing talent and of building confidence.

**They also understood the pernicious and sustained negative impact of discrimination and prejudice on young people and they fought it through instilling pride in and understanding of black history and culture and the desire to be the best.**

They were strong, determined and unflinching in their pursuit of excellence. They believed in family and community and were generous and welcoming.

The Amos Bursary is built on their values. We are successful because our students understand the challenges they face and are determined to overcome them. They are prepared to work hard and to give and receive support. We are a huge extended family. Thank you everyone for believing in us and for your amazing support. You have all made this possible.

**Baroness Valerie Amos**, Patron of the Amos Bursary



Baroness Amos with Jonathan Sorrell, President at Capstone Investment Advisors and AB students at a reception in Central London

## Our timeline



## Shaping futures

**The aim of every student joining the Amos Bursary has always been to achieve success. We knew that they would have difficult times we also knew at times they would have to step back to move forward and we knew they would encounter challenges like never before. The bursary has been with them through the bad times and the good, encouraging them to develop a positive attitude and overcome self-doubt.**

Since 2009 we have held over 200 development workshops and offered hundreds of networking and professional development opportunities with a brotherhood formed of 107 AB students, 58 Alumni, over 40 Associate students, 250 Mentors and 35 committed Volunteers all working towards the same goal.

However, the total of 204 students and alumni does not truly reflect the impact that the bursary has made. We know that thousands of young people have benefited since our existence. Students who applied to the programme and were turned down but have kept their eye on the prize determined to prove that we made the wrong decision by not selecting them;

the thousands of students and their families who over the years have attended our events and networked with AB students; other influential people who have gained valuable insight which has helped them with their personal development or progression in their careers; the thousands of students who have listened to the words of advice and guidance provided by AB students and graduates as they go around the country, indeed around the world visiting schools, speaking at conferences and seminars.

In our ten years of operation, 100% of our graduates have embarked on postgraduate study or are currently employed at leading organisations such as JP Morgan, Google, Goldman Sachs, Atkins Global, Barings Global, Wayra (Telefonica), Linklaters LLP, The Home Office, The NHS, Unilever – among others. Some graduates have further embarked on entrepreneurial journeys, starting their own businesses.

Currently over 50% of our students' study at a Russell Group or Ivy League university; 70% of whom study at the top 10 universities in the UK according to 2019 rankings – mastering subjects from Architecture to Aerospace Engineering.

### Four of the original students

Jolade Olusanya  
Aaron Wright  
Richard Butler  
Lequan Johnson

Missing in the picture below are  
Saad Noor,  
Xavier Hamilton  
James Lewis



## 10 memorable student achievements 2009-2019



AB 2012 - students

1. Richard Butler - our first student to graduate and is now a member of the Amos Bursary Board and working for Allianz Global
2. Ashley Mcfarlane - our first Doctor who qualified in 2017 now working at Charing Cross Hospital
3. Wilfrid Obeng - since he joined the bursary as a 17 year old, he has developed, maintained and managed our website, developed our social media strategy and has been working for Google for the last 3 years
4. Lequan Johnson - our first student to go on an international internship to China
5. Daniel Agard - who ran the London Marathon so that future AB students could participate in the New York Experience, a life changing experience for him . He is now employed at Linklaters LLP
6. Ivan Beckley - A Medical student at UCL. The first student to convince Google Deepmind to give him a scholarship to do his Masters and intern with them for a year. He is now back at UCL completing his medical course
7. Isaiah Lynn the first AB student to raise £65,000 in a month to go to Harvard for a year
8. Kenny Imafidon - The first AB student to set up his own Research Company - ClearView Research Ltd - employ AB students in senior roles, and is on a number of national boards including Children in Need
9. James Frater studying medicine at Kings College London who has worked with the University widening participation team to turn around the University BAME student intake.
10. Victor Azubuikwe who turned his life around and is now employed at JP Morgan. He is a role model to younger AB students providing advice and guidance



Our students in 2019

## Our story in numbers

80%

STEM at  
A level

### Number and percentage of students studying stem subjects at A level:

107 students, 80% (based on 133 students)

53%

STEM at  
university

### Number and percentage of students studying stem subjects at university

48 students, 53% (of 90)

49%

3A's at  
A level

### Students that have at least 3A's at A level (or equivalent)

Compared to 13% nationally and 5% for black students (Government statistics)

65%

Top 30  
university

### Number and percentage of students in Russell group and other top 30 Universities.

65 out of 101 (Guardian) – 65%

**Excluding BPP: 70%**

58%

Top 20  
university

### Number and percentage of students in the Russell Group and other top 20 Universities.

59 out of 101 (Guardian University Guide) – 58%

**Excluding BPP: 63%**

50%

Russell  
group  
university

### Number AB students in the Russell group 50% (total of 101 students at university).

This is compared to a UK average of 4% of black students at Russell Group universities (BBC). If we exclude BPP, as it is a private university and thus not ranked, it increases to 55% of AB students at Russell Group (51 of 93)

8%

Students  
at  
Oxbridge

### Number and percentage of students at Oxbridge (past and present).

8 of 101 – 8%, compared to 3.4% of UK black students nationally (BBC).

## Celebrate good times

We held our biennial dinner and dance in June, and it was an evening to remember. As well as a fundraiser it was the first of two celebration events to mark 10 years of excellence for the Bursary.

**We were able to raise £100,000 and recognise outstanding representatives from the Amos Community in our Awards ceremony - sponsored by Prudential. We were entertained all evening by an array of entertainment including the Amos Bursary Band and rounded the evening off with dancing.**

### **Unison hosts 10-Year celebration**

With the support of Unison we were able to host a night to remember to mark our ten-year anniversary, with members of our community who were unable to join us at the dinner in June. The Black History month event showcased the work of the Amos Bursary students through presentations, poetry, song and dance.



Party time at Unison



Salsa dancing

Our journey is not done. Our future lies with our current and upcoming Amos Bursary Alumni. We are confident they will blaze a path for the others following behind. We look forward to then next 10 years.



# Thank you to our sponsors, mentors and committee members for their support in 2019.

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