Meet UK based Teen

Yasmine Fosu

Fighting for Ghana and a level playing field!

Includes exclusive interviews with the man behind watch brand Vitae London William Adoasi, self-taught contemporary artist Sarah Owusu plus profiles of The Top 30 U30 and much more.
A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR
“Mobilising for Ghana’s Future”

When President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo unveiled the theme and logo for Ghana’s 60 years of Independence celebrations this year, he stated that it symbolized the diversity and unity of our country and the aspirations of the Ghanaian people for a dignified and prosperous future. He also added that he hoped Ghanaians would continue to mobilise for Ghana’s future and give meaning to the statement “I am a Ghanaian”.

This concept of mobilisation is one we have championed since the inception of the Future of Ghana Charity. Three years ago when we launched our first Future of Ghana Publication, we announced that our mission was to “mobilise Ghanaian youth for the development of Ghana”. Fast forward three years, we can proudly say we’ve produced three publications and created a global community of 90 young Ghanaians who are pioneering in industries and professions around the world. Thus, we feel that we are mobilising with purpose and creating a template for youth engagement that can be replicated throughout Africa.

Last year saw us take our engagement strategy beyond the UK and Ghana when we commenced operations in Hamburg, Germany with the establishment of our Association; Future of Ghana Germany (FoGG). You can read all about their maiden year of operations in this publication and see how they are taking the message of mobilising for Ghana’s development to the Diaspora in Germany with both vigour and effectiveness.

The Diaspora are so crucial to Ghana’s future. This is not to say that there aren’t brilliant minds and changemakers already within Ghana. But as illustrated in previous editions of the publication there is a huge talent pool of skilled young Ghanaians based outside the country which Ghana can tap into to aid its development.

This is something the Ghanaian Government have acknowledged this year by organising the Ghana Diaspora Homecoming Summit. The Summit aims to harness both financial and intellectual capital for development purposes by encouraging Ghanaians abroad to return and/or invest in Ghana.

60 years of independence for Ghana is a huge milestone, but it is also a reminder that we still have a long way to go to see Ghana reach its full potential. What will the next 60 years look like? We all have the power and the responsibility to dictate the answer to this question...

Thus in this Diamond Jubilee year of Independence whether you are Ghanaian, have a vested interest in Ghana or simply you’re a friend of Ghana. I am asking you to seriously ask yourself the question “ How can I contribute to Ghana’s development? ” Whether it is investing in property/land, relocating to Ghana for career or business or even if it’s simply volunteering your skills/time to organisations already there who require it. The time is nigh to mobilise for Ghana’s future.

Please continue to share this publication as you have done with previous editions. Share it within your communities, share it outside your communities and share it with pride; so that people can see the Ghanaians across the world who are practising excellence in their fields and contributing positively to the world.

Thanks as always for your support.

Ben Anim-Antwi,
Editor-in-Chief
E; bantwi@mefirighana.com
About

Me Firi Ghana

Vision:
A first world self-sustaining Ghana

Mission:
Connect the world with Ghana

About Us:
We consult individuals, organisations and government recommending opportunities and tailored strategies to engage Ghana and the Diaspora communities. We provide accessible routes to quality and trusted professional support, working closely with established partners within our network.

w: www.mefirighana.com
e: info@mefirighana.com
About the charity:
The Future of Ghana is a UK registered charitable organisation established to organize, mobilize and advance the education & training of children and young people living in Ghana and the Diaspora community.

Campaign Vision:
A first world self-sustaining Ghana where young people are placed at the centre of development.

Charity Mission:
To help young people make informed choices about their futures, strengthening their communities locally and globally.

w: www.futureofghana.com
e: info@futureofghana.com
The driving forces behind the Future of Ghana initiative are young, intelligent Ghanaians in the Diaspora who are passionate about engaging, inspiring and nurturing young Ghanaians to use their creativity, skills and talents for the development of Ghana.
Arnold Sarfo-Kantanka  
(Chair)

Is a social entrepreneur and advocate for youth participation with development within Africa. He is Chair of the Future of Ghana project and founder of multiple award winning company Me FiRi Ghana & sister charity Future of Ghana.

The impact of the company & charity’s work has permitted Arnold to represent Ghana during the 2013 World Economic Forum, speak on platforms such as TEDx SOAS and interview Virgin Group’s Founder Sir Richard Branson on entrepreneurship, for MTV Base Africa. He was recognized as INDIAFIRCA’s Young Visionary Award Winner for Ghana and was invited to Buckingham Palace to meet HRH The Queen of England and Prince Charles for his contributions to the Ghanaian community.

Ben Anim-Antwi  
(Editor-in-Chief & Director of Communications)

Strongly believes in the empowerment of young people and the development of Africa through Diaspora engagement.

Since leaving university in 2006 where he graduated in BA (Hons) Law & Politics he has embarked on a career in central government (Foreign & Commonwealth Office) within the UK specialising in foreign affairs and local government (Ealing Council) specialising in service improvement.

Ben is also a freelance journalist and the Editor/Director of Communications for Me Firi Ghana. His aspirations for the future are to publish an as yet untitled book and ensure the Future of Ghana initiative has the kind the kind of impact that is felt for decades to come.
Sandra Osei
(Project Manager)

Is a strategist and qualified PRINCE 2 Project Manager with a track record working in high profile organisations and programmes. Her current role at the Mayor’s Fund for London as a Portfolio Performance Manager means she is responsible for managing performance and contractual agreements across various delivery partnerships. Prior to this, Sandra worked as part of the Security and Resilience planning team at the London 2012 Olympics Committee, contributing to the deployment of 23,000 security personnel.

Born and raised in East London, Sandra has been proactive in seeking international pursuits. She volunteered in remote villages across India where she taught in community schools and advocated development policies around Health care and Education. Sandra enjoys project consulting and has a passion for Africa’s advancement. She considers it a ‘responsibility’ to give back what she was given — an opportunity to progress.

Samuel Mensah – Bonsu
(Creative Director)

Has created and been credited in crafting Award-Winning Campaigns and artistic treatments globally for clients such as: BFI, Renault, MTV, Virgin & Nike. His Personal work has also been featured on prestigious platforms and magazines such as Creative Review, Adobe.com, Abduzeedo, & DesignYouTrust to name a few.

Samuel is currently a Designer at AKQA London on the Nike Global Team. Having Worked on Global Football campaigns during the 2014 World Cup as well as Nike NTC and Nike Running Campaigns.

Samuel holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Graphic & Media Design for Advertising from University of Arts London.

An active member of the Art directors Club and maintains a Practice maintaining Self-Initiated works under the personal outfit SMBStudios, committed to exploring new ways of creating innovation and visual storytelling for various industries.
Derrick Owusu Amoako  
(PR Manager)

Is an experienced UK-trained business communication expert who is fluent in his native English, Italian, French, Spanish, and basic Japanese. Working in the public relations department of British multinational media company Economist Group in London, Derrick has over five years of experience as a communicator in several media and corporate companies including luxury brands such as Nichole de Carle in London.

He founded the company NovaLuxCommunications (NLC) in 2014 to provide a platform and visibility to businesses who are ready to make an impact through delivery of effective communication strategy to address business and communication. He has a BSc in Psychology at Brunel University in London, an MSc in Global Governance and Public Policy from the University of London's Birkbeck University and a Diploma in Japanese Culture and Studies from the University College London (UCL). He has been a member of the British Psychological Society since 2009.

Ghanaian by origin, Derrick Owusu Amoako joined the Future of Ghana as a result of the organisation's vision of propelling young Ghanaians to the front to become leaders and contribute to the development and betterment of the West African country.

Lucy Larbi  
(Regional Manager, Germany)

Was born in Kumasi, Ghana and is a well travelled young lady. She was raised in Germany where she resided until she completed her A-levels. From there she moved to Paris to learn French and to understand the culture. Later she would leave for the Netherlands, as she wanted to discover the world of politics and diplomacy, thus completed a three year Bachelor at the University of Groningen.

Whilst in Madrid, Spain to study Spanish, Lucy found herself being accepted on a Masters course in Public Policy and Human Development at the United Nations University in Maastricht. She is also actively involved in establishing a community of learning for African PhD students, in the form of an e-learning platform that caters to the needs of students while completing their studies. Lucy is currently doing an internship in Addis Ababa at the German Development Cooperation which is initiative of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. There she is working on the development of Pan African University. Which is one of the flagship projects of the African Union and is a network university in 5 geographical locations on the continent aiming to exemplify excellence in African higher education.
Dr Jermaine Bamfo
(Deputy Editor)

Is a qualified medical doctor. He holds a first class Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Liverpool, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychiatry & Mental Health from Queen's University Belfast, as well as twin degrees of Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery from Imperial College London. He has successfully completed two years of medical foundation training in Northern Ireland. A freelance artist designer & photographer, Jermaine is involved in the creation & daily running of multiple social media outlets, while his artwork has been recognised by celebrities such as Meagan Good & Tinie Tempah.

A fierce proponent for the forward progression of Ghana and the burgeoning responsibility for today’s Ghanaian youth, he is passionate about improving communities in the UK and Ghana, and spotlighting young Ghanaians making an impact in these communities. Jermaine is a regular and long-time contributor to the Me Firi Ghana Blog and is also the PR & Communications Officer for the GUBA Foundation, taking a prominent role in the ‘Closing The Gap’ project aiming to reduce infant mortality in Ghana and the UK.

Celine Akosua Henry
(Research/Administrative Intern)

Is a final year History and Politics student at the University of Hull. Celine has a passion for research and world History, with specific enthusiasm for the decolonisation of African states. She hopes to explore this further in the field of academia in the future. Knowing only parts of the history of Ghana but much about the political climate from her parents constantly listening to Ghanaian radio Celine is hoping to merge all of this together for a better understanding of Ghana’s journey by joining the Future of Ghana team leading up to an amazing year.

Celine is also raising awareness about societal issues for young people through research reports by creating a social action project called Mind Your Language. Growing up in a heavily populated Ghanaian community in inner-city London Celine aims to be part of the Second & Third generation diaspora in the UK who is able to make an impact with her accomplishments however big or small. She believes that the Future of Ghana initiative is a powerful idea, because not only does it empower young Ghanaian youths, it also allows the older generation to see and be proud of a growing resilient and eminent generation they have raised and being part of the team, especially before Ghana’s 60th year of independence is more than a privilege.
Benjamina Dadzie
(Communications & Social Media Executive Intern)

Is a Ghanaian born and Italian raised writer and researcher. She is interested in West African cultures, especially that of the Akan and the Yoruba people. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Archaeology from the University of Manchester, and currently studying for a Master’s in the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas at the Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia. Her field is at the crossroads of Art History, Museology, Archaeology and Anthropology, and because of the frameworks these disciplines provide, she is able to critically think about issues in ways that add both depth and substance. This understanding is strengthened by her multicultural background, as both Ghanaian and Italian, and now living in England.

Benjamina is a contributor on the online platform Ezibota, and has produced a blog about her experience of Blackness in Italy, which has partly moved forward the conversation around citizenship in Italy for children of immigrants. Benjamina is a 2017 British Institute in Eastern Africa Graduate Attaché (Graduate Intern Fellow), and she will be engaged in archaeological and anthropological research in Kenya after completing her MA.

Pearl Boateng
(Researcher)

Is an International Development Researcher and Adviser at the Education Development Trust. Some of her experience includes teaching Maths in UK secondary schools, research, teacher training and professional development, curriculum development, community engagement and project management in developing contexts. She has an MA in International Education and Development from the University of Sussex, is a qualified Maths teacher, and holds a PGCE in Mathematics from the UCL Institute of Education as well as a BSc (Hons) in Banking and International Finance from Cass Business School, London.

She began her education career mentoring students and teaching Maths in after school clubs in London as a student before joining the Teach First programme after her undergraduate studies. After completing the Teach First programme, she moved to Ghana where she worked as the Education Lead for DFID Girls Education Challenge Programme – Making Ghanaian Girls Great! (MGCubed) working across rural districts in Greater Accra and Northern Volta. Whilst in Ghana, Pearl connected with other like-minded Ghanaians to co-create Teach For Ghana, one of the first African partners of the Teach For All network for which she is a Founding Ambassador. Pearl is passionate about Ghana and Africa’s progress through education and champions teachers’ empowerment.
Noreen Dove
(Researcher)

Is a marketing and communication specialist in the higher education sector. Previous experience includes working with high profile clients and brands such as Change4Life, Johnny Walker, BBC Digital UK, L’Oréal and HSBC.

After completing her MSc in Marketing at Brunel University, Noreen embarked on a career into research, working as a research assistant in the business department at Middlesex University. She had the opportunity to conduct further research into the impact of culture and luxury consumption in China, as well as getting involved in various exciting research projects such as corporate identity/branding, monarchy branding, retail marketing and international and comparative law. She also delivered seminars on service marketing and marketing principles to third year students.

After living in Ghana for 7 years, Noreen hopes to move back in the near future. Combining both her professional and academic experience, she hopes to work within the higher education sector lecturing, and playing an integral role in providing opportunities to empower young Ghanaians to develop themselves through education, skills and qualifications.

Kirstie Kwarteng
(Researcher)

is an international development specialist and researcher focusing on migration and development, African diaspora populations, and second-generation immigrant identity and transnationalism. She is currently pursuing a MPhil/PhD at SOAS, University of London in the Department of Development Studies. In 2014, she founded The Nana Project, a digital platform dedicated to preserving firsthand accounts of Ghana's history.

Kirstie holds a Master’s degree in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management from SIT Graduate Institute and a Bachelor’s degree from Vanderbilt University in Human and Organizational Development with a concentration in International Leadership and Development. She was named as one of Ghana’s Top 30 Under 30 in 2016 by the Future of Ghana and is a member of the Diaspora African Women’s Network (DAWN).
Tom-Chris Emewulu
(Regional Manager for Ghana)

Is a high performing social entrepreneur, a multi-talented program innovator and strategist with a proven track record of pioneering projects that have impacted thousands of youth. In late 2013 while a student at Radford University College, Accra-Ghana, Tom-Chris founded Stars From All Nations (SFAN), a social enterprise that bridges the gap between education and work.

He is also the regional manager of Future of Ghana (a nonprofit organization that mobilizes talent for the development of Ghana), an ambassador of YALI West Africa, a MasterCard Foundation Scholars mentor, and a published author of an inspirational book entitled “Breaking the Limits”. Tom-Chris enjoys focusing on topics of youth education, entrepreneurship, and has great passion for youth development. His aspirations for the future are to be a global motivational speaker and to build Africa’s foremost incubator for birthing young entrepreneurs that will contribute in building a self-sustained Africa.

William Takyi
(Research/Administrative Intern)

Is a recent graduate who’s progressively pursuing his career within Financial Services. His experiences in and outside his career have allowed him to develop a strong proactive persona which he now shares with the Future of Ghana team. William believes that the current socio-political environment within Ghana is allowing and shaping the nation to make changes necessary for its progress.

He believes that a greater amount of social mobility and the lessening of nepotism within the Ghanaian society would enable this essential progress. Being born in Amsterdam and currently living in the UK William is now looking to get more involved with the Ghanaian side of his make-up.
MEET THE PATRON
JAMES BARNOR
With a career that spans six decades, it is a travesty that for most of his career, his work was not widely known. In his street and studio photography he represents societies in transition: Ghana moving toward Independence, and London becoming a multicultural metropolis. Moreover the legendary James Barnor is credited with introducing colour processing to Ghana!

His photographs have been collated by the London-based charity Autograph ABP during a four-year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and in 2011 became part of the new Archive and the Research Centre for Culturally Diverse Photography. In 2011, Mr Barnor was honoured with a GUBA (Ghana UK-Based Achievement) special “Lifetime Achievement” award. On receiving it, he revealed that it was the first award he had ever been given. Barnor had work included in the show Another London: International Photographers Capture London Life 1930–1980 at Tate Britain in August 2012, with his 1967 photograph of BBC World Service reporter “Mike Eghan at Piccadilly Circus, London” featuring on the cover of the catalogue.

His photographs are represented in the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate and Government Art Collection in the UK, as well as in numerous international private collections. A true pioneer and living legend, Mr Barnor’s knowledge of Ghana’s past and his enthusiasm for its future makes him an exemplary patron.
The task of deciding on the final 30 pioneers for the publication fell to five individuals who are pioneers in their own right and represent Ghana with distinction in their various careers. It was only right that the pioneers of the present decide on those under 30’s who are making an impact now and/or will be in the future...
Lord Dr (Michael) Hastings of Scarisbrick CBE

is Global Head of Citizenship for KPMG International. Michael began his career as a teacher moving into government service in 1986 supporting policy initiatives to bring employment and development to Britain’s inner cities. In 1990 he started working for TVAM on education programming and then GMTV as its Chief Political Correspondent. In 1994 Michael moved to the BBC as a presenter on the weekly Around Westminster programme before joining its Corporate Affairs division. In 1996 he became the BBC’s head of Public Affairs and then its first head of Corporate Social Responsibility in 2003 before becoming KPMG international’s Global Head of Citizenship in 2006. Michael is also a Trustee of the Vodafone Group Foundation and a Vice President of UNICEF and Tearfund. He is also a Patron of Free the Children and a Director of Junior Achievement Worldwide.

In 2003, Michael was awarded a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) for services to crime reduction and in 2005 was awarded an independent peerage to the House of Lords. In the same year he received the UNICEF Award for his outstanding contribution to understanding and effecting solutions for Africa’s children. In 2014, Michael was conferred with a Doctorate in Civil Law from the University of Kent, Canterbury in recognition for his leadership at KPMG, the BBC and for his work in international development and corporate responsibility. Michael is listed as no.6 on the 2016 list of 100 Black British Business Leaders.
HRH Naa Tsotsoo Soyoo I

is an award-winning Queen from the Ga tribe of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. The first ever African Queen to be featured in the USA's Pan Afrikan Times, she is a key figure in the African Diaspora community as well as an active leader and advocate who devotes her time to promoting her culture and influencing policy through her work with international organisations and local groups. She was recently featured as a Phenomenal African Woman (PAW).

An insightful public speaker and educator, HRH Naa Tsotsoo Soyoo I is recognised for her ability to speak out and highlight topics such as child sex abuse, religion and culture incited violence, domestic violence etc, that force debate and facilitate change. In 2013, she was part of a network of advocates that succeeded in compelling the UK Government to set aside a proposed travel bond for visitors from selected African and Asian countries. Her Royal Highness is currently the Secretary General of the Federation of Ghanaiian Diaspora in Europe (FEGHADE) and a Director of the National Council of Ghanaiian Unions UK (N.C.G.U). She holds a degree in Law, Politics & International Studies and a Postgraduate in Project Management.

Sangu Delle

is an Entrepreneur, Author, Clean Water Activist, Soros Fellow and TED Global Fellow. He is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Golden Palm Investments (GPI); an investment holding and advisory company focused on building world class companies in Africa. GPI operates companies in high growth industries and funds promising start-ups that can have social impact and generate jobs. GPI has backed startups such as SOLO Mobile in Nigeria, mPharma in Ghana and Stawi Foods in Kenya.

Sangu is also the co-founder of cleanacwa, which is a non-profit working in underdeveloped communities in Ghana to make sure that water and sanitation, basic human rights, are provided Recognized Forbes Top 30 Most Promising Entrepreneurs in Africa 2015 Sangu has received many accolades over the years Euromoney’s African Rising Star, Future Awards Africa’s Young African of the Year, Forbes Top 30 Most Promising Entrepreneurs in Africa 2014, Time/Bentley Tomorrow25 Future Leaders Award, and Face2Face Young African Committed to Excellence Award African Leadership Awards – 2015 Social Innovation Leadership Award He is also TED Global Fellow with a TED talk at over 750,000 views currently.
Nana Aba Anamoah is a blend of a Producer, News Reporter, Mother, Mentor and Public Speaker — qualities and roles that have made her a reference point of several young and aspiring Broadcast Journalists in Ghana. With over a decade's experience in Television, she has carefully sculpted the media landscape to become a place where she carries a torch that can hardly be blown out. Many are almost always pleasantly surprised that she has an educational background in Finance and not Media and Communications. Her finance background, it is believed arms her with wit and mental calculation albeit with words on TV shows.

In 2004, she won the national TV Personality of the Year and News Anchor of the year. 2005, 2006 and 2012 brought her the News Anchor of the year. The Ghana Journalist Association awarded her the TV News reporter of the Year in 2007. Her passion in life is obvious in her projects, daily activities and engagements — Politics, Sports and Social issues. Nana Aba is a single mother of one — a role she holds in high esteem.
Nkrumah Was The Hero Of Africa But Was He Really Ghana's Osagyefo?

By Celine Akosua Henry
“That new African is ready to fight its own battles and show that after all the black man is capable of managing his own affairs.”
K. Nkrumah, Wednesday 6th March 1957

As the crescendos of the national anthem slowly faded out in the background the reality of the newly independent Ghana settled into the atmosphere. For those who sang the words ‘bold to defend forever, the cause of freedom and of Right’ the word ‘Independence’ was no longer a foreign word. But for one man the significance of those words was worth something more than the nation being sang about. It would be worth his life, his exile and his heroic legacy yet, in return, cost Ghana its future.

Francis Kwame Kofi Nwia Ngoloma Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana, was referred to as the ‘osagyefo’ - redeemer for the very fact that he was the chosen icon surrounding Ghana’s glorious gain of independence. However, there were many events in which actually metamorphs our reverenced hero to resemble a villain. From economic mishaps to erroneous political manoeuvres and a passion for the African continent which were all unhealthy for Ghana. Yet, given the circumstances of the time most of his actions can be classified as his humanitarian sense of duty to the world. For that reason, he will forever remain a framed portrait in the corridors of history’s hall of fame for Africa.

The 1960s saw the whole world excited in all aspects, including outbreak of wars, the independence of many colonised nations and mega tensions between global superpowers. A nation’s political awareness was very important during this period. Not long after Ghana’s independence America’s eagerness to invest and trade with the free country began. The early stages of this collaboration yielded much fruit, such as resources for the Akosombo dam. However, in attempts to demonstrate that Ghana was powerful and autonomous from White Western ties, Nkrumah also engaged with the Russians and Chinese. This undoubtedly raised preconceived Western perceptions of ‘Nkrumah the communist’, thus, creating delicate transnational tensions for Ghana. Essentially, the controversy was due to the political climate during this time - you were either on the side of the Capitalists (America) or the Communists (Soviet Union). Ultimately, this portrayed a selfish and unconcerned Nkrumah, politically and economically.

However, when considering questionable Western eagerness, Ghana’s alleged collaborations with communist nations would’ve proven far more genuine than the intended exploitation camouflaged by paternalistic trading, which Nkrumah himself in 1965 theorised it as neo-imperialism, a remodelled form of colonialism. With this view in mind, this demonstrates Nkrumah’s hopes for Ghana to strive toward truly achieving the status as an ‘independent’ nation rather than being named as such by virtue of a ceremony and change in leadership. Additionally, many of these political and economic manoeuvres was a chance to exemplify leadership the African way to the west, since the process of decolonisation failed to provide guidance on the etiquettes of governance.

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Nkrumah wished to attain prominence as the prime architect of African unity, to play a distinct historical role based not only on what he had achieved in Ghana but also on what he could achieve on a continental scale. However, the Osagyefo’s leadership and preoccupation with Africa was becoming distasteful for his people. Imagine an array of foreigners adoring him, only to meet hostility at home. Perhaps, what Nkrumah failed to realise was that after Wednesday 6th March 1957, he would be burdened with the full responsibility of six million, two hundred and thirty-four thousand citizens, making up the nation of Ghana. Again this unpreparedness is suggestive of Nkrumah’s misplaced passions as a Ghanaian who had wrestled with western political philosophy amalgamated with African liberation and in his veins: never-ending revolutionary ideas which couldn’t be contained only in Ghana.

Had Kwame Nkrumah misunderstood his burden for the Black man? As a Ghanaian caring deeply about the struggles of neighbouring African nations seemed harmless and, in fact, quite admirable. However, this then led to what many would perceive as ineffective and paranoid leadership. Governance under the president was slowly becoming oppressive. Undoubtedly, the imprisonment of over 1000 political rivalries, including members of the legendary Big Six (Dr. J.B. Danquah) through the Preventive Detention Act, showed a monstrous Kwame Nkrumah. By 1962, much to the hopes of independent and expectant Ghanaians it would be no...
surprise to realise that their leader was becoming unrecognisable. He had been spending long hours with his African wife, African friends and his African ideas. As time went by the ambitious burden of attempting to become the parent of African unity would not only have an impact on his neglected first born, Ghana, but also on Nkrumah himself. On 2nd August 1962 at Kulungugu, a hand grenade was thrown into a crowd greeting the President, who became a target for assassination.

Essentially, the Africa story is most prevalent in explaining Nkrumah’s heroism mainly because in Ghana this appeared to have been a defining factor for his fall. This is reinforced by generations of Ghanaians that express distaste for Kwame Nkrumah. Nonetheless, the narrative of Nkrumah the hero will continue to reign throughout Africa because of the belief in his high purpose in service to confronting dogmatic views in the postcolonial era. Similarly, for being the human catalyst of what was to spark a decade of freedom for Africa. Ultimately, whilst Kwame Nkrumah’s legacy, in truth, poses to be a controversial one, for the sake of inspiration he rightfully sits in Ghana’s cherished history as an icon of freedom and justice, encompassing the national motto of Ghana.

His legacy is one which when highlighted reminds all generations of Ghanaians of our long-standing duty of being examples that represents the future. From being the first sub-Saharan African nation to gain independence to being noted as a model for peaceful democracy in Africa during our recent elections. And again we see the same veins running through our influential and high-achieving Ghanaian diaspora across the globe, who make impact in all sectors of their various interests as seen with our Future of Ghana Top 30 Under 30 Pioneers. In light of this, it is pertinent to acknowledge that this is the spirit of our beloved Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah living on. Thus earning him the right to be called our Osagyefo.

“As far as I am concerned, I am in the knowledge that death can never extinguish the torch which I have lit in Ghana and Africa. Long after I am dead and gone, the light will continue to burn and be borne aloft, giving light and guidance to all people” - Kwame Nkrumah

Celine Akosua Henry
Celine is a final year History and Politics student at the University of Hull. She has a passion for research and world History, with specific enthusiasm for the decolonisation of African states.
THE HAMBURG MOVEMENT FUTURE OF GHANA LAUNCHES IN GERMANY!
Since its inception one of the Future of Ghana Charities long term objectives has been to establish active branches in key countries where large clusters of the Ghanaian Diaspora reside. Last year saw us officially launch operations in Germany under the association; Future of Ghana Germany (FoGG) which was birthed on February 10, 2016 in Hamburg, Germany.

Seven ambitious young Ghanaians; Lucy Larbi, Martina Offeh, Philip Harms, Lyn Birago Kakyire, Jeff Jacobsen, Elina Fechtner and Claudia Adwubi came together with a shared vision of engaging the Ghanaian / African Community in Germany in the line with vision of the Future of Ghana Charity.

FoGG commenced its operations in July 2016. A Friends and Family consultation was their very first event in which they gathered a concise group of friends and family to introduce the association and to receive feedback on their stated goals. September 2016 saw their first Community Event labelled “The Philosophy Dinner”. In a formal setting the group and invited guests discussed issues affecting the African Communities in Germany.
FoGG’s inaugural Event took place in October 2016 at the Mercedes Me Store in Hamburg. This event served as an official launch to present the Future of Ghana to the German public and for them to provide input into the current state of the Ghanaian/African community in Germany as well as showcasing talent from the said community.

October and November saw two more community events, the first being a Poetry Slam event, gathering together some of Germany’s finest wordsmiths for an inspirational evening. Whilst the next community event was held in line with the anniversary of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. An informative evening of discussion and reflection is what followed. FoGG ended the year with a Business Breakfast event. The event primarily looked at two areas: How to start a business in Germany and opportunities to invest into Africa with the help of guest speakers and Business representatives.

"In order for Ghana to realise its potential we passionately believe that the Diaspora must come together for the development of Ghana."
In 2017 FoGG are determined to continue in the same vein as last year and have already started a targeted mentoring programme for students as well hosting a youth career forum and fair. The latter event was aimed at youth aged 16-23 years and showcased a number of training/job specific courses available in the community. The forum included guest speakers and group breakout sessions specific to the youth’s needs.

In order for Ghana to realise its potential we passionately believe that the Diaspora must come together for the development of Ghana. We have passed the Diaspora engagement baton to Germany and they are running with it.

Vorwärts und nach oben! For more information or to get in contact with the Future of Ghana Team please contact:

Social: www.facebook.com/futureofghanagermany/

Email: Germany@futureofghana.com
FEATURE INTERVIEW: YASMINE FOSU: GOING FOR GOLD, INSPIRING A GENERATION
Yasmine Serwah Fosu is a 16-year-old Ghanaian who is making waves and breaking barriers in the field of competitive fencing. With an extensive list of achievements to her name including becoming the first person from a non-sub-saharan country to win an International Medal in fencing. Yasmine has proudly represented Ghana successfully at a variety of international competitions, while shattering a variety of glass ceilings in the process. In this wide-ranging and immersive interview, Future of Ghana delves deep into the mind and heart of one of the most exciting young sporting talents of our generation.

FOG: How and when did you start Fencing?

YF: I started fencing when I was about 7 years old. We lived in Florida at the time. At first, because the weather was so hot and humid, my mother put me into swimming and diving. I liked it, but it played havoc with my hair! I wanted to do something different from the usual track and field sports. So, I switched to fencing!

FOG: What are some of the most common misconceptions of Fencing?

YF: I think the most common misconception of fencing is that it's a sport for 'nerds', or people who 'wouldn't be able to do another sport'. While fencing is highly tactical and intellectual, there are other vital attributes such as physical strength, stamina, co-ordination and precision. Another common misconception is that it's 'easy' as we 'just flail our swords about! This couldn't be further from the truth. It is one of the sports with the highest levels of sportsmanship — for example, having to shake hands with our opponents and referees after every fight; having to salute not only our opponent and the referee but also the audience. It is one of the sports with the most rules. For example, you can't turn your back, hit with malicious intent, smack your blade on the ground or argue with the referee. It is a very noble sport and I love that about it. It is one of the first original 5 sports in the modern Olympics. And part of the Modern Pentathlon which is the 5 sports devised for the cavalry. It's a beautiful sport to watch as well. Very intense.

FOG: You chose to represent Ghana, ahead of the UK where you were born. What was the reasoning behind this decision?

YF: Deciding to represent Ghana did not really seem like a hard decision at all! I knew I was not going to fence for GB even though I had qualified for the GB Youth team. (I was the UK's Under 11 champion and Under 13 champion, so I had the ranking points necessary for selection into the youth population, especially females.

"It is a very noble sport and I love that about it. It is one of the first original 5 sports in the modern Olympics."
FOG: How important is Sport in the development of a country?

YF: I feel sport is very important because it provides athletes a platform to better themselves and gain experiences of other cultures and perspectives which they can then share with their fellow countrymen. It is also a very important part of soft diplomacy and a sense of pride in the flag. That is why so many countries spend so much time, money and effort to develop sports programmes for young people. I just feel it should be more than just football, which excludes a vast portion of the especially females.

Sport creates unity. Sport in general draws countries together, boosting national pride, identity and morale, while playing a powerful role in nation building. When a country has an athlete in top ranking elite position, it's a fantastic achievement not just for the individual athlete but for the nation. It's a chance to fly the flag and proudly display your identity to the world. Sports creates equality and that means that it promotes qualities independent of bias. Qualities such as motivation, determination and dedication. I am who I am because of my sport. It has taught me resilience, commitment and hard work; lessons which inform me in every aspect of my life.

FOG: Where do you see yourself 5–10 years from now?

YF: Five years from now, God willing, I will have finished my University degree. I'm hoping to go to University in America where I can continue fencing at a high level while working towards my Masters. I need to be in the United States to enhance my training as I intend to get to Tokyo 2020.

I am currently ranked 100 in the world in Seniors and I am the youngest person to have ranked so high from any country since records began. I am also ranked 54 in the world in Juniors (which is Under 20s, though I'm only 16).
I see myself improving my rankings and being in the top 20, graduated from University and with my African Titles, African Games medals, and being regarded as one of the world’s best in my sport. I intend to work in the diplomatic sector for Ghana and for Africa, or in logistics for Médecins Sans Frontières. In summer 2016, I was invited to several agencies in Geneva and I did some workshops with Médecins Sans Frontières and was truly astounded by the work they do, and I want to be part of their positive influence on people across the globe.

I’m studying A-Levels in Economics, Maths and Philosophy currently while also sitting a further 3 A-Levels in Business, Statistics and Citizenship which I’m self-teaching. That’s another thing that my sport and training at an elite level has done; it teaches you to be focused and organised with your time and self-analytical which helps with performance, be it sports or academics. For me, my academic pursuit and intellectual curiosity is not separate from my sports. Both endeavours inform and support each other.

"For me, my academic pursuit and intellectual curiosity is not separate from my sports. Both endeavours inform and support each other."
FOG: As a young Ghanaian female, how do you feel young girls are portrayed in Africa? Largely positively or largely negatively?

YF: I feel young girls in Africa are not treated appropriately. Even as an athlete representing the country at a large international sporting event, I was disappointed by the way female athletes were treated by many of the male officials. Casual sexual harassment and a lack of respect for our contribution. There is discrimination for sure. Social media comments sites are full of disrespectful references to female athletes. It’s upsetting. We need to see ourselves reflected positively. Without role models, it’s hard to move forward... I have observed a generational divide.

There are a lot of negative attitudes towards females in our sports culture. Interestingly this attitude is not from the young male athletes but from some of the older officials. I think we should respect our elders, our traditions and our culture, but especially in Ghanaian culture there are examples of our matriarchal societies. I find it odd therefore, to see women marginalised given our history and cultural traditions. It’s something we need to address whilst remaining respectful of our traditions. In my heritage of Asante for instance, the Queen Mother is highly revered. In 1896, the Asantehene Prempeh I was arrested by the British and deported to the Seychelles with his family and many important chiefs and elders. It was the Asantewaa, the Queen Mother, who mobilised the chiefs to fight back against the British. That is part of our history and tradition that I revere.

FOG: What would you say has been your greatest achievement?

YF: Representing Ghana and breaking the monopoly of North African nations in my sport have been glorious and happy moments. No sub-Saharan African country had ever won an international medal in Fencing and I was proud to shatter that glass ceiling. In 2014, I won my first Continental medal for Ghana, and then in 2015...
I won two Continental medals at the African Championships. Winning the Silver medal in the British Youth Championships, and Gold in British Schools Championships as Master at Arms, were breakthrough moments as a Ghanaian girl winning British medals. I find now that many young Diasporans are discussing the option of representing their African roots rather than opting for US or UK representation and that fills me with pride too. This is progressive. Imagine how many champions we have that could be representing our African continent? Most of all, I’m proud of being a Ghanaian girl that strives to break stereotypes. I love Ghana and I want to be part of the growth and future of my country by taking every opportunity and blessing and turning it into something positive for Ghanaian girls and for our future.

A highlight was being invited to Flagstaff House to meet Ghana’s President & Vice-President after I won my African Championship titles. Everyone was so warm and acknowledged my efforts – such a great experience! It was Ghana’s Ambassador in the UK who heard about my medals and he really got behind me because many see there is a positive role for us young Ghanaians to play as positive role models for other young Diasporans to be more connected to their roots. I’ve now set up a charity which collects sports equipment and kit from across the UK for distribution to local Ghanaian and other African federations. It feels very rewarding to know you can make a difference. I’m also keen on using the platform I have as an athlete to develop some initiatives to empower and help girls to stay in school, specifically focusing on female sanitation and health education initiatives. It is a fact that many young girls in Africa drop out of school once they hit puberty because of poor sanitation provision.

I first heard about this when I attended a talk our President gave in London and was really interested in how I could be part of the solution. It’s an initiative that’s getting a lot of traction at international level. It has now been recognised that unless girls can stop missing school several days a month because of menstruation, they will drop out and not complete secondary school education. This creates a vicious cycle that traps and prohibits girls from fulfilling their potential. When I went to the workshops in the summer, I talked with UNICEF, UNESCO, and WHO and these agencies are saying that the single most pertinent issue in addressing girls’ education is Menstrual Hygiene Management. Sort this out and the dropout rate for girls in secondary education will reduce. It infuriates me that girls should be so disadvantaged. So, this is my top priority for the next year.

"I love Ghana and I want to be part of the growth and future of my country"
The Two Problems that Drive Our Work: Hunger and Food Waste

There are nearly 10 million hungry people in Africa, yet enough food is produced right now to nourish everyone. Tragically, over a third of the Africa’s food is wasted, ending up in landfills instead of on tables. We at Food for All Africa program find this situation unacceptable.

Food for All Africa Turn a Global Crises into a Humanitarian Solution

Food for All works with the farming, food manufacturing, and grocery industries to rescue surplus food before it is wasted in order to redirect it to hungry individuals and families. These efforts keep perfectly safe and nutritious food out of landfills and into the hands of those who need it.

Currently, we work in Ghana and help provide 50,000 meals and food products a year.

Our projects and programs

Food for All Ghana conference, The longest table of UN world Food day, Feast of Hope, Share your breakfast community service, Food for All on the road, MY farm, Safe School feeding program, my right to food campaign and emergency food supply.

Please Join in the Fight Against Hunger and Food Waste.
Creative, innovative and inspirational are just three words that describe this year’s pioneers. Discover what drives them as we profile amazing achievers and illustrate the impact of a global group of Ghanaians practising excellence in their fields.

*Age shown denotes that of the pioneers on 6 March 2017*
Abena Hagan is a creative professional with an intense craving for the hair industry, she utilizes her exceptional expertise in natural hair consultancy to effectively educate and assist black/mixed race women in embracing their natural hair. She focuses immensely on details by combining skills and experience to achieve self-love, self-acceptance, and confidence among the black/mixed community.

She is the Founder and CEO of Curls–Au Naturel, based in London. Created 2014 Curls–AuNaturel is a platform dedicated to supporting the black community and empowering females with natural hair. Its mission is to ensure that the black community have a sense of belonging especially children by tailoring their merchandise to suit them and the challenges they face being young and black.

The platform initially started as an Instagram page to promote natural hair but quickly became a business as the popularity of the Instagram page grew. The platform now provides product and services to its bourgeoning market of young black females.

As a result of her work Abena has become somewhat of an authority figure on the issue of self-acceptance. Abena has been on school tours in Ghana promoting self-love and appearing on mainstream UK television following coverage of the Pretoria Girls High School Afro hair protests in South Africa. 2016 also saw Abena produce her first book on the issue of self-love. Abena’s vision is to inspire the next generation to embrace their natural hair. For women to know that natural hair isn’t a burden but with the right knowledge, products, and time you can grow something uniquely beautiful.
Founder/Mentor/CEO Aisha Addo has shown great leadership in establishing her organisation to empower and engage young girls to find their purpose and passion in life. Aisha, who came to Canada from Ghana aged 14, created the Power To Girls Foundation, a non-profit organization to offer young girls the mentors and role models that were absent during her own youth.

As a facilitator and Director of Power To Girls, she uses her personal experiences and knowledge to create safe and engaging spaces for the girls she works with. As a result of her work, she was the recipient of the Young Black and Gifted Award for Community Service (2015) and was also named a Black Diversity Group Role Model (2014). One of 100 Black Women to Watch in Canada (2015) and among the 150 Black Women making history in Toronto (2016). Aisha’s next step in her journey to continue to empower and protect women comes in the form of DriveHER Inc of which she is also the CEO. DriveHER is a Toronto-based technology platform for women run by women. It is a peer-to-peer ridesharing app, which enables women riders to connect with women drivers. Their mission is to become the primary channel of transportation for women in the Greater Toronto region and beyond.

DriveHER was created because of Aisha’s own personal uncomfortable experience in a cab a couple of years back, but what really propelled her to put the idea into action was realizing that there were other women out there that had faced the same uncomfortable experiences she had, some with even worse outcomes. For Aisha, it was an opportunity to create a safe space for women within the transportation industry and to also connect women with each other.
Ababio is a young farmer and an entrepreneur. He graduated as a Geomatic engineer with distinction grades from a mining school in Ghana but decided to start farming and agribusiness. He is the founder of Green Afro-Palms (GAP), a growing agro-company in Ghana creating sustainable agribusinesses driven by entrepreneurship, innovation and a desire for social change.

His organization, adjudged among top 15 agric-innovations in Africa is facilitating agriculture with their path in Oil palm. He is a multiple award-winning entrepreneur who is optimistic in the young Africans contribution towards Africa’s development with agri-business as his focus as he says “Farming can end poverty in Africa, if we execute it well turning Farms into Firms”.

Kwame is an advocate for youth’s involvement in modern agriculture, a Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI-RLC) fellow and also a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum belonging to the Kumasi hub. Kwame started his agro-firm with a small capital granted to him by his father during his national service period, after identifying huge developmental deficits in the oil palm sector of Africa’s agriculture specifically Ghana.

He over the years has been in agricultural development (Oil palm farming) with little or no formal training in agriculture and entrepreneurship; acquiring most of his knowledge through self-tuition and consultations using online tools. He is presently the winner of RUFORUM African Young Entrepreneur 2016 award for Ghana and his agro-firm is making impact without any external investments.

He strongly believes that with all necessary support; young Africans can lift the name and potentials of Africa for the benefit of ourselves and the World. He quotes: “Until the next set of multimillions are made from Africa and from Agriculture, we wouldn’t have done much; because we Africans had all the chances”
Amma is a connector of ideas and people. Someone who has worked tirelessly toward a world where children of colour are afforded greater opportunities. She was born in Washington DC and went on to study Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University. She later went on to get her Masters in Public Administration at Columbia SIPA and the London School of Economics.

Following this she moved to Accra but loves to travel. Amma has travelled to eight of the ten regions in Ghana to impact educational policy through her work. She is the founding curator of the online platform Afropole encouraging Afro-Diasporans to “build black” with a globally united black voice. This platform seeks to leverage Afro-Diasporan comparative advantage in three key industries (creative, agricultural and beauty) so that Afro-Diasporans are able to gain greater income and, ultimately, increase generational wealth. Amma uses the Afropole platform for community development. With 20% of funds raised on the platform going to her two development initiatives. The first being the Sankofa Innovation Fellowship providing experiential education opportunities to young people around the world for a period of 6–8 weeks.

The second being the Build Black Business Fund which would provide an unconditional cash grant for black owned businesses. Amma is also a Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Advisor at the International U.S. Government Agency USAID in Accra. Working to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential.
Radio/TV Host, Programs manager and Entrepreneur Antoine has fast become a force in Ghanaian youth culture. Host of the Drive Time program (Route 919) Monday — Fridays and the Weekend Breakfast Show (ENT LIVE) each Saturday on Live FM 91.9 in Ghana. Antoine with his appealing voice has influence over thousands of listeners on a regular basis. He is witty, polite, charismatic, kind, passionate, professional, and dedicated to radio in a way that is unmatched.

Characteristics which led to him being nominated in the category of Best Mid-morning radio show host in the RTP (Radio & Television Personality) Awards in 2016. Being the entrepreneur that he is Antoine didn't want to stop at Radio to influence youth culture. So along with childhood friend Roland Ohene-Amoako they created fashion retail platform "Couture Afrique" translated as Fashion Africa.

They did so with the aim to connect African inspired designers with the right markets globally. Antoine is also the Director of Ahaban Green Leaf Foundation. Ahaban was created by Antoine and former Radio colleague Kofi Aryeh Afrofi. After a short discussion on the idea of helping others through the creative arts, they joined forces with 4 others to initiate Ahaban’s first charity project.

Ahaban GLF is now a humanitarian organization, built on a growing network of volunteers and donors; all dedicated to working with communities across Africa to tackle our developmental challenges. They do this by reaching out holistically to those in need and helping them reach their full potential.
Ariane is an inspirational young lady who from the age of 16 has been involved in social activism ranging from local community projects to European and International wide initiatives. Born in Germany but now residing in the UK, she is passionate about the African continent and its development. Whilst at college in the UK Ariane set up a programme named Silver Surfers which facilitated young people teaching elder citizens basic IT skills. To ensure the programme was as effective as possible Ariane’s dedicated her time by going into care homes and her local library to facilitate the sessions, workshops, debates and socials. In 2017, VOC will take a new direction into consultancy and training. The mission is to raise awareness of diversity issues in workplaces as well as training staff in race and equality issues.

She is also an Ambassador for The One Campaign an International advocacy organisation of nearly eight million people around the world taking action to end extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa. As an Ambassador she has lobbied politicians in the UK and campaigned within the European Union to get decision makers in key countries to think about job creation in Africa as a way out of poverty as opposed to just aid.

Ariane is also the founder of Voices Of Colour (VOC) a non-profit social enterprise amplifying racial issues and topics for young people of colour in the UK. This platform was created with the aim to help young people of colour learn and share opinions / experiences in various ways such as, workshops, debates and socials. In 2017, VOC will take a new direction into consultancy and training. The mission is to raise awareness of diversity issues in workplaces as well as training staff in race and equality issues.
FORWARDS EVER! GHANA’S NEXT 60 YEARS...
In such a significant year for Ghana. We asked a select group of changemakers from our network whom we have worked with on our journey for their frank views on Ghana's first 60 years their hopes for the next 60 years.

This year Ghana in all her glory, splendour and colour celebrates 60 years of independence. We have much to be proud of. Hailed as one of the great democracies in Africa she is coveted for her spirited yet amicable persona. We Ghanaians are her ever affectionate children.

From Australia to Switzerland we have long upheld our values of hospitality, hard work and champions of peace. We can boast of some great siblings and have gladly shared them with the world, take for example our founding pan Africanist father, Dr Kwame Nkrumah and the world’s peacemaker Kofi Annan. And this year’s Future of Ghana's 30 under 30 influencers make up an impressive list of movers and shakers.

Last month I had a lengthy discussion on a roundtable with colleagues from across the continent sharing with them the happiness that had roofed our country since the conclusion of a peaceful election in November of last year and our subsequent January inauguration of a new administration. Optimism in conversations with the ordinary civilian to the top most politicians echoes the same sentiments.

One colleague in all her happiness for Ghana did well to remind me that even though we have much to gleam about, we still as a continent have a way to go. ‘A dictatorship’ she says, ‘a dictatorship is the solution to Africa’s problems, we can only really advance when we think for a country that is ours and to develop the skills that are needed for our society to grow and advance? or are we simply overlooking the importance that a tailored appropriate and consistently reviewed curriculum offers? When I look around Ghana I see vast lands of green flora and fauna. Are our future leaders being taught how to cultivate, preserve and advance agriculture; a sector that is handed to us from the celestial realms? or are we simply resulting to a curriculum that offers us the basics in reading and writing and to chew and pour? An accepted colloquial narrative that references the current and longstanding held belief about the Ghanaian education system.

It is simply not enough for us to ignore this consistent thorn in the flesh. We must celebrate knowing that we have advanced in all spheres of or culture and society, and I like many, believe education is to be the advancement of us all.

Proud Ghanaians at home and abroad must no longer stay in isolation, an idea that too will continue to limit us. 1st generation must begin to turn efforts inwardly.

A Ghanaian minding their own pastures in greener fields just does not cut it. We can truly have something to celebrate when we know that our cousins, brother and sisters, and friends are given the opportunity to really advance us collectively as a nation and as a people, we must not forget to be our brother’s keeper.

You like me may be self-glorified promoters of all things Ghanaian, retweeting a funny meme or posting the latest styled kente attire. But our efforts must not stop there. Collectively the possibilities are endless, just look at what Go Fund Me teaches the world. Together we can realise endless possibilities. This 60th year I challenge you to send books, why not make them! Become a mentor, give your time to visit school establishments in Ghana, or go one step further and volunteer to share the skills and talents that you have. Engage or advocate for a better education system by writing lobbying or starting groups of giving for school buildings and technology labs. This will by no means solve all our inherited hurdles, but what it will be is a mighty drop in an ocean that will ultimately ensure that together we realise and continue to spread the greatness that is mother Ghana.

It is high time that Ghanaians inside and outside of the terrains of coast consider what is the foundation of everything. In the great word of Aristotle, ‘those who know do and those who understand teach.’ Happy Anniversary Ghana!

Estelle Cindy Sackey,
Estelle was a participant at the Future of Ghana Leadership Forum in 2015. She is a British-Ghanaian and a leading Media and Communications professional, specialising in the area of Education for Development, a graduate from the Institute of Education, University College London. Her experience includes working with government bodies such as the British High Commission, Accra and the EU delegation to Ghana to deliver on their strategic Engagement and communication initiatives.
Ghana is our home and the land of our birth. For me, the past 60 years have been eye-opening to us as a country (even though clearly I have only been around for over twenty years). We have come to face the realities and the consequences of the choices we and our forefathers have made as a country and I believe we are still coming to terms with them whiles working at putting the country properly in shape. Nevertheless, I am very hopeful of what the future holds for us and we can only become more as a country if we start thinking deeper, applying wisdom and believing we can also make great things happen.

Derrick Seyram Vormawor
Derrick was an attendee at the Future of Ghana Leadership Forum in 2015. Derrick is a Speaker, Consultant, Author and Founder of Platinum Solutions Africa a growing business consulting firm. His dream is to create opportunities for a lot of viable and profitable businesses to emerge from the continent within the next few years. He wants to connect people and dreams to realistic opportunities.

Happy Birthday Ghana! 60 years old - 60 years worth celebrating; we were the first African country to gain independence from British colonialism. In this relatively short period we have witnessed semblances of progress and development yet there is a lot to do. When I first visited Ghana in 2006 one of my initial impressions was that nothing has really changed since my family left 11 years prior. There was intermittent power outages, child labor, and rampant unemployment/underemployment. In 2014 I relocated semi permanently to Ghana to work on behalf of the Girls Education Initiative of Ghana, GEIG. Our mission and vision are to provide Ghanaian girls access to quality and inclusive educational opportunities, which will invariably lead to positive development and economic growth. As we forecast to the next 60 years I am hopeful. I am encouraged by the vibrancy of the youth and the bustling entrepreneurial spirit. It is my wish that the country will promote and advance inclusion in theory and practice so ALL members of society can equally contribute to Ghana’s next chapter.

Elizabeth Akua-Nyarko Patterson
Elizabeth is Future of Ghana Alumni having been selected as a 2015 Top 30 U30 pioneer. She is the founder of the Girls education initiative of Ghana, GEIG. Their mission is to provide academic and financial support for girls including applicants with special needs, so they may access secondary, higher education, and professional opportunities.

Ghana has grown into a big family in its 60 years of existence. Thanks to our high school system and family traditions, Ghanaians have close ties. Today, our youth are extremely connected. There are small degrees of separation between various Ghanaians. For young entrepreneurs today, the network amongst us is really strong, where it’s easy to get connected to each other. Technology is the biggest change in these last 60 Ghanaian years. Though we could have embraced tech more, especially in implementation, it has reinforced our connections. It has become a leveller, allowing people to shine. I hope for a Ghana that is clean, driven by consensus and has developed communities and ecosystem able to support its constituents. This is the Ghanaian dream I envision and hope for. I hope for a Ghana where Ghanaians feel they don’t need to travel elsewhere to achieve their biggest dreams. I want to see a Ghana that is unique in its culture, marrying timeless tradition and terrific technology. We must remain uniquely Ghanaian, with our positive cultural and communal traits. We must give way to best practices that ensure equity in wealth, resources and opportunities.

Ato Ultzen-Appiah
Ato was a delivery partner at the Future of Ghana Leadership forum in 2015. He is an entrepreneur, manager, social media champion and blogger. He is also the Director of the GhanaThink Foundation which mobilizes and organizes talent for the primary benefit of Ghana.
Ghana has come a long way since its independence and the social impact of technological progress is visible in numerous ways. Women who are central to Ghana’s economy in particular are becoming key beneficiaries of new personal banking and finance applications such as mobile money. These mobile applications have emerged as a key tool in enabling women to have access to financial inclusion in an equal capacity to men. This compares to the recent past when the challenges of accessing banking committed them to the informal sector, exposing them to the risk of borrowing from unaccredited entities and preventing them from saving proficiently. With 60% of the top entrepreneurs set to be women over the next 5 years, the impact of woman in taking Ghana’s economy to the next level has been recognised by those at the top, and the increasing awareness has led to a number of initiatives to enable change. Over the next 60 years, I believe new technologies such as mobile money will have a significant contribution on the move towards more financial inclusion for women, which will play a fundamental role in Ghana’s economy by shifting more women into the formal economy.

**Yvonne HaizeL**

Yvonne is Future of Ghana Alumni having been selected as a 2016 Top 30 U30 pioneer. She is the Lead African Investment Strategist, Mitsui & Co. Europe Plc and the Founder of the company Eminence Advisory who help entrepreneurs, small to medium sized businesses and officials develop successful ventures in sub-Saharan Africa.
Bernard has been making strides in the banking industry in recent years. A results-driven, highly successful change professional with experience of delivering a wide range of projects within financial sector. He is now a familiar name in London’s fiercely competitive banking sector.

In 2016 Bernard was awarded UK Young Banker of the Year during the final of the competition held at London’s Mansion House. The Young Banker of the Year Competitions is one of the most challenging and rewarding events in the banking industry calendar and the awards provide an opportunity for high potential future leaders to bring forward their innovative ideas, raise the bar in great customer service and support the journey to rebuild the UK banking industry.

This young trailblazer was also selected in the Top 40 BAME (Black Asian Minority Ethnics) within Lloyds Banking Group for achievements within the UK Banking Industry. He was also selected in the UK Powerlist as a rising star/one for the future.

Bernard has recently created the Densu Online Marketplace. Densu provides a platform for small to medium black businesses and entrepreneurs to “share their stories”. Allowing black businesses to break into new markets and provide unique products to a specific market. Moreover encouraging consumers to spend their money with black brands and service providers. The marketplace currently has over 100 Businesses registered.
Christina is the founder and Managing Director of Restoration Care and Services, a provider of a Therapeutic semi-independent home in Dagenham, London, for young people with a range of needs such as behavioural issues and autism spectrum disorders. The vision for Restoration Care & Services is to transform communities so that all young people can have a sense of belonging, contribute and thrive in society; which flows from their Christian ethos.

Having completed a Masters in Social Work and previously managed two Children’s homes and three Semi-independent homes, a vision was birthed in Christina. She came to realise that in a lot of instances young people sustain damage to their personalities as a result of past experiences a lot of the time negative. Which consequentially impacts their character in a negative way and if left unaddressed the consequences for their adult lives can be grim and costly. Moreover she discovered that these young people feel confused, rejected and abandoned which leads to them being anxious and angry about being in care.

These issues were somewhat alien to Christina as she had a positive upbringing full of love and support. However it was the discovery of the issues as a result of having a negative upbringing which was the catalyst for Christina to open her own home. With the support of her parents she opened Restoration care and Services in September 2016 to provide the love and support she received to those who were not as fortunate as her.

Restoration’s provision is for looked after children and young people aged 16-18. Christina believes in providing therapeutic interventions for these young people they should primarily be given a sense of safety and stability as well as the capacity to build their self-worth.

Christina worked with young people for seven years; and continues to support young people in building their self-worth; developing practical skills, and equipping them with the knowledge to live successful and independent lives. She has a vision to open homes across the U.K to care for disadvantaged and rejected young people. A true community and soon to be national champion.
Confidence Coffie certainly doesn’t lack any confidence when it comes to making positive change in his community. Through his organisation he has helped to mentor over 650 high school students and in the process secure scholarships for two students in the Volta Region of Ghana. A young man with a lot of passion and zeal to contribute to the development of society.

Confidence is the Co-founder and Finance Director at Tongu Youth Agenda for Development (TYAD). Established in June 2014 Tongu Youth Agenda for Development (TYAD) is a registered community based and youth-led non-governmental organization that is dedicated to supporting the marginalized and underprivileged youths of the three Tongu districts and Ghana as whole. The aim is to help youth discover their potentials, nurture and empower them to achieve self-actualization and community socio-economic development through a variety of programs aimed at equipping them with skills and knowledge to be agents of change. Their model of change is defined by their critical focus on Entrepreneurship, Education, and Health.

They are the only youth development and empowerment oriented non-governmental organization with a focus on the three Tongu districts serving thousands of youth in the Volta Region. Confidence has a vision is to establish a Community School of Entrepreneurship on a model similar to that of the African Internship Academy and the Africa Institute for Transformational Entrepreneurship (AITE). However, Confidence focus will be on entrepreneurship training for 200 young women from rural areas every year.
Cynthia is a highly motivated and result orientated individual, embodying effective leadership and decision making. She is the founder of Kama Solutions management. A consulting firm that was founded on the belief that people who start a business, a project or an organization can also learn to manage their establishment. They offer customized, unique and efficient solutions that will bring the desired results.

As well as project management, business analysis, financial management and non-profit consulting services to start-ups, youth enterprises, NGOs, associations, and small-sized businesses. Cynthia started the company in 2013 after a few individuals approached her for project management related consultancy work. She realised that many young Canadians were turning to entrepreneurship to avoid unemployment amidst a precarious job market. Yet most of the time these small-sized businesses whilst possessing great potential are neglected by large consulting firms. Believing she could fill that void Cynthia created Kama Solutions.

Thus far she has worked with a number of clients including the African Entertainment Inc, The Harriet Tubman Institute and Connecting Paths Canada. Cynthia has received a host of nominations and awards for her work including Excellence in Community Service by Connecting Paths Canada (2013), Nominated for Power 30 Under 30 Business Award (2016) and recently was the recipient of the International Women Achievers’ (IWA) Entrepreneur Award (2017).
Daniel is someone who strongly believes every child deserves equal opportunity. He has been audacious and relentless in the pursuit of making Ghana a better place for children and its young people. He has been dedicated to ensuring every child has an excellent education irrespective of location. Leaving a lucrative career in the United States to give children access to the education they deserve whilst being a strong visionary, leader and inspiration to his team in Ghana, Daniel is the epitome of someone positively contributing to Ghana’s future development.

Daniel is the CEO and co-founder of Teach For Ghana. TFG is a nationwide movement of solution-driven leaders expanding educational opportunity to all children in Ghana. They recruit Ghana’s most promising future leaders from varied disciplines to teach in Ghana’s underserved rural communities through a highly selective, two-year fellowship.

The Teach For Ghana fellowship is a rewarding and critical leadership program that equips Fellows with transferable leadership skills to effect change in teaching practice, school culture, and educational outcomes in the communities they serve.

Daniel also served as President of The Reading Tree Foundation which is a non-profit organization that promotes literacy in underserved communities across Ghana. The foundation pioneered the establishment of a 30,000-book capacity Library in Ghana that serves approximately 15,000 students. The Reading Tree Foundation actually provided the foundation for Teach For Ghana to be created.
Daniel is a social change evangelist, community developer, career coach, social entrepreneur, personal development trainer and a philanthropist. He specializes in Education, Youth Leadership and Female Empowerment. He’s continually supporting the youth in Ghana and other parts of Africa to develop their given potentials and become more self-aware for the greater socioeconomic good of their country.

A young vibrant and Energetic man who has great passion to help people develop. Daniel is involved in various development and empowerment initiatives. He is the Founder and Executive Director of CMG Empowerment Ghana an organization run by students and recent graduates of University of Cape Coast with the purpose of raising a new generational line of dignified leaders for the future.

Such is the skill Daniel has shown in leadership he has been regularly approached by International organisations to offer his expertise. He has previously been Invited by the World Bank Ghana in conjunction with United Nations to join in discussion on the theme “Food and Jobs: the Link between Poverty and Agriculture in accordance to mark the International Day for Eradication of Poverty.

Daniel is also a YALI Go Green Champion, Champion for Habitat III Working Group of the UN Major Group for Children & Youth for the West and Central Africa Region, member for Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group of the United Nation Major Group for Children & Youth for the West and Central Africa Region, Founding Curator and Hub Chair of Global Shapers Community Cape Coast Hub under the auspices of the World Economic Forum, Associate Fellow of Royal Commonwealth Society and a Certified World Climate Facilitator by Climate Interactive. He is also now a UN SDG Advocate helping promote the Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana. His mission is to transform lives and inspire change in Africa and has engaged more than 90,000 youths across Africa and parts of Europe during his professional career.
Deniece is currently a Foreign Affairs Officer at the U.S. Department of State, and has served in the United States government for over six years. She began her career at the U.S. Department of State as an intern in the Bureau of African Affairs, and continued to hold various roles within the Department’s Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science as well as the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Mrs. Mantey most recently served as a Special Assistant to Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for over two years on the Executive Secretariat Staff of the Department. She assumed her current position as a Foreign Affairs Officer in the Bureau of African Affairs, with responsibility for U.S. relations with countries in West Africa in 2014. As a Foreign Affairs Officer in the Office of West African Affairs, Mrs. Mantey has served as the primary point of contact and country expert in the Department on all issues related to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo and Mali.

She has had the privilege of traveling to over 50 countries across the globe, and is also a staunch advocate of promoting rural development in Africa. Mrs. Mantey also serves as the Executive Director of the Oduko Boatemaa Foundation, a non-profit organization named after her mother Esther Oduko Boatemaa.

The organization seeks to improve the lives of youth in rural communities, and to bridge the gap between students in rural and urban areas in order to promote educational equity. She has had the pleasure of working primarily with young girls at the Oduko Boatemaa Senior High School, and orphans in rural Ghana. A native of New York, she holds a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from Syracuse University’s Maxwell School, and a master’s degree in African Studies and Research from Howard University. She is among the first generation in her family to attend college.
Upon migrating from the UK to Ghana, Edem Kpodo would begin a journey that would not only change his life but those of young aspiring footballers from marginal communities. After meeting fellow British-Ghanaian George Abogbampo in Ghana they established the One World Football Academy in 2013. Both coaches were super passionate about football and had played in London before moving back to Accra.

Edem set out to create a program that would nurture and empower young talent in Africa and create opportunities to develop young skills to a global standard. Mixing in the diversity and competitive nature of the game they had experienced as young players. The key goal was to drive change in grassroots football in Ghana. To do so, he created an environment for all kids to interact and play; innovating around the challenges of sports infrastructure and leadership. One World FA is an international academy, dedicated to nurturing and empowering talented young footballers to showcase their potential in global tournaments and elite events. With players from over 20 nationalities training with us weekly, One World Football Academy stands as the most multicultural and diverse in Ghana, committed to uniting players from different backgrounds. United by a shared love of football, players are led by their ethos: Be the best you can be.

Since One World’s inception, they have established partnerships with elite global academies in London, Denmark, and the US. Thierry Henry mentored a One World FA player-coach in Brazil and the One World portfolio is expanding to include a girl’s team. In 2016 One World FA formed a partnership with Nordjylland Idræstfhojskole School in Denmark to send talented players from Ghana on a £5,000 scholarship to attend school whilst undertaking a trial with Jammerbugt Football Club.
ENTER THE WORLD OF OWUSUUSM!

An Interview with Sarah Owusu
Sarah Owusu is a self-taught contemporary Ghanaian artist who has branched out from her Art studies to develop her own unique, consistent and distinctive style of distorted art coined ‘Owusuism’. With her work emulating her bold, bright and strong-willed spirit, Sarah is making waves in the Art world, having jointly exhibited with other acclaimed Artists including Jade Delecia and participated in exhibitions such as the Other Art Fair through Creative Debut. In this thought-provoking interview, the Future of Ghana sat down with this bright star of the Arts to discover what her drives her and reveal her vision for Ghana’s youth.

FOG: What were 3 driving factors that made you pursue a career in Art?

SO: Since I was a little girl, I found myself always extremely happy when creating something, - especially whenever I was holding a paint brush in my hand - and my genuine excitement pushed me to draw and start exploring with paint in secondary school. I was always the girl who would slow down and stop to focus and stare at a painting anytime I noticed a painting which stood out to me, as they tended to evoke an emotion within me.

Secondly, whilst growing up, I realized that pursuing the Arts was something which was almost frowned upon within the Black community - especially within the African community - as we are more encouraged to become Lawyers, Doctors or Engineers to name a few which are all very respected fields. Sadly, this is because for a long time, being an Artist or a Creative has not been considered as a reputable career.

I also very quickly noticed that there were not a lot of Artists who looked like me. When visiting Art Galleries, I observed that the only time black people were represented or painted, they often held the position of slaves, house helps or as some sort of weird creature. Not only this, but I also saw that there were only a few female Artists who were also largely underrepresented and overlooked by galleries across the world. I wanted to create work which will allow me to express myself as an Artist and work to inspire other young black people to pursue the Arts and encourage other creatives to take pride in their artistic abilities.

Finally, the major turning point in my life to really take Art seriously was in 2012 when I was diagnosed with a condition called Bells Palsy, this was caused after visiting a Dentist who hit my cranial nerve and left half of my face paralysed. During this time half of my face was completely distorted and I was unable to even smile. This was one of the most difficult times I faced in my life and I spent at least two weeks crying before I suddenly had the urge to paint something on a canvas. This experience although painful, led me to share my testimony, which in turn encouraged and changed the life of a young woman who one day woke up with half her face paralysed and had seen my painting. It was in this moment I felt God confirmed to me what my purpose was. I say this because had I not experienced this, I may have never made a serious decision to paint, nor would I have been able to impact the life of the young woman; so through my pain, my gift was birthed.

"I wanted to create work which will allow me to express myself as an Artist and work to inspire other young black people"
FOG: What is “Owusuism” and how does it shape the way you work?

SO: With my surname being Owusu, I chose to incorporate it into my art by adding an “ISM” to it which by definition refers to a distinctive practice, system, or philosophy, typically a political ideology or an artistic movement. The definition of Owusu is being “Strong-willed and determined”. I strongly believe in the power of speaking greatness into my life so I try to live out/embody these characteristics, which is constantly reinforced every time I mention “Owusuism”; especially when I’m asked to describe my style of art. The inspiration was taken from an Artist I love by the name of Akiane Kramarik, who refers to her own style of work as Akianism.

FOG: Tell us about your partnership with Give Me Tap, how did it come about and why is it important to you?

SO: I networked with a young lady named Barbara Njau, she connected me with Edwin Broni-Mensah who is the founder of Give Me Tap as at the time, he was looking for artist to collaborate with on his new line of bottles in celebration of their 5 year anniversary and in light of black history month.

This collaboration was extremely important because every single Give Me Tap bottle sold contributes to providing 1 person with water for the next 5 years. To be able to work with Edwin to create such impact was very empowering, especially as we were two Ghanaians working together to make a significant change and give back to our people back home.

To me, water is something that we all need and unfortunately something which a lot of us often take for granted. Scarcity of water is one of the biggest causes of poverty in Africa and the majority of our people do not have access to clean drinking water, which is a basic necessity that I believe everyone should have because where there is water, there is life. Sadly, as a result of a lack of clean water in some parts of Africa, it means that many are drinking contaminated water which in turn causes diseases which can easily be prevented.

FOG: What are your plans for your brand? Do you plan to expand on the products you provide?

SO: I plan to expand in different fields and merchandise where I believe art isn't dominant, areas which seem impossible to break into. I want my art to reach areas where some may feel art wouldn't make an impact. I’m currently working on my own line, which I aim to bring out in the new year. Also, I’m planning on collaborating with more brands to help inspire and change the way the world views art.

FOG: In what ways do you believe youth can contribute to the development of Ghana?

SO: I believe youth in Ghana can heavily contribute to the development of Ghana because the youth now will be our future leaders. First, we must teach our youth that the opportunities in Ghana are endless and that they can be born, bred and educated in Ghana and still be whoever they aspire to be. This is because a lot of young Africans today have the misconception that in order to...
be successful, they must either study abroad and acquire what they deem to be a “better” education, or gain a scholarship to study in another country which they sometimes feel as validation which I do not believe should be the case. Considering that the first University was in Africa, this alone can empower and motivate our youth to realize that you can make it in your own land.

Additionally, I also strongly feel that we should teach and encourage more of our youth to become entrepreneurs rather than relying on others to provide jobs for us. This is often created by them upon exploration of our own soil. We must ask ourselves this question: If a foreigner can leave their home and travel to our soil and make something of themselves, why are we unable to do this when there are opportunities all around us? In order for us to realize our potential, we must first change our minds and start to positively shape the way that we view ourselves as this is what in turn, influences our actions and all that we do.

FOG: How important will women be to Africa’s success story?

SO: This is a very important question to me because I truly believe that women will be a huge part of Africa’s success story. With the significant rise in female entrepreneurship across Africa, it is evident that Africa’s economic future will be dependant on the development of women if we truly want to see a change in Africa. I believe that if women and young girls are given the same equal opportunities as the boys and men on our continent, this will not only create greater employment opportunities, it will also lead to more visible African women role models in positions of influence. We must make it our mission to ensure that all girls have the right to education, health and nutrition; major factors to any individual’s personal growth.

We are constantly hearing that Africa is the new frontier and that it is on the rise. However, in order for Africa to truly rise, we must provide equal opportunities for girls and women by ensuring girls can access education like boys and women can access &

advance their careers within politics and other professions, as I believe this will help enhance Africa’s socio-economic power. In order to do this, we need to eradicate some of our traditions and cultural habits, some of which have supported a boys education over a girls, or we will never see a prosperous Africa...

FOG: What is your message of advice to all aspiring young Ghanaians?

SO: My message to young Ghanaians would be to look within themselves to find greatness in them, once they do this, they will also find their purpose. Once they have identified their purpose, they will find things that they are extremely passionate about which they can pursue. I would advise them to give it 100% and focus on creating their OWN opportunities rather than waiting for opportunities to knock at their doors. Because once they are focused on working hard on what they are doing, eventually, at the right time, the right people will come knocking on their door. To add, I would say to never wait for people to help or support you because nobody will want the best for you more than yourself and God will always reward those who put their hands to work. When you do eventually start to reap what you have sown and become successful, always remain humble and never boast about tomorrow because nobody knows what tomorrow may bring.

Always look beyond yourself and make your focus be about touching, changing and helping the lives of others. You now have a position to create new positions for your fellow Africans who were also once in your shoes as we all have to start from somewhere. Finally, if you have a burning desire within your heart to start something or an idea which may seem unrealistic to you at the time, feel the fear and do it anyway. Some will laugh at first, then they will copy, but always remember that not everybody will see your vision as clearly as you will see it, it is your vision for a reason...
SANKOFA: PRESERVING GHANA’S HISTORY IN THE DIGITAL AGE
SANKOFA is one of the most popular Adinkra symbols, meaning: “To go back and get it”. The essence of Sankofa represents the importance of remembering and commemorating our rich history.

The Sankofa symbol is very popular in black cultures around the world and is often used during celebrations in the Afro-Caribbean communities worldwide (such as Black History Month) as a way to remember the connection that the Diaspora has with the African continent.

What does this symbol mean for Ghanaians? Speaking for myself, ‘Sankofa’ means having a better understanding of our history and using our past to guide us to a better future. To know where you are headed, you have to know where you have come from...

This is why archiving and preserving our history is important. There are many books written on Ghana’s history which document various aspects of Ghana’s history. There are numerous records and tomes used to enhance our knowledge of our past by describing the experiences of people who have lived through Ghana’s history. While literary sources of our history are important and should be valued, our world is changing and becoming increasingly digital. As such, the way we learn our history should also mirror this change.

We have the opportunity to go straight to the source of knowledge that can be found in history books: our elders! They are the ones who lived through the moments that have made Ghana what it is today.

They remember the victories and celebrations, the heartaches and tragedies, the coups, and everything in between.

By speaking with our elders, we can learn parts of our history that are not often discussed, such as the role of women in the Independence movement or the presidency of Hilla Limann. Ghana’s 60th anniversary is the perfect time to seek the knowledge of our elders regarding our history and combine the knowledge they share with modern technology to make our history more accessible in the digital age. I founded The Nana Project, a digital archive dedicated to preserving first-hand accounts of Ghana’s history, to help modernize how we share and learn our history digitally.

Our history doesn’t end with our elders. It continues with us because we are living it now. Even in my short lifetime, Ghana has had several historical moments: the creation of the 4th Republic, the death of a sitting president, Ghana’s first female Chief Justice, Ghana’s Golden Jubilee, and many more significant events. Eventually, our elders will become ancestors and we will become elders.

When we become elders, our children and grandchildren will ask us about the moments of Ghana’s history we are watching unfold today. We need to take care to remember these moments well in order to share them with future generations. We are blessed to live in these times.

There is a good chance that you know a Ghanaian older than 60. This year, honor our legacy by taking time to sit with your elders and ask them about Ghana’s history. If we do not preserve our history, how will we learn from our past? How will we remember who we are? And most importantly, if we as Ghanaians don’t preserve our history, who will?

Kirstie Kwarteng
Kirstie is Future of Ghana Alumni after being selected as a Top 30 U30 pioneer for 2016. She is the founder of The Nana Project which exists to preserve, archive, and share first-hand accounts of Ghanaian history.

"Ghana’s 60th anniversary is the perfect time to seek the knowledge of our elders regarding our history"
Emmanuel Opare is a champion for the education of young girls and children with disabilities in the Upper West Region of Ghana. This is a young man who has taken the art of volunteering to the next level to really impact rural communities. Whilst volunteering with the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) on a youth development programme he made a considerable impact on young people in the several Regions of Ghana.

Whilst in the Eastern Region he facilitated workshops for unemployed members of the community, organised sex education sessions for young people. In the Central Region Emmanuel took the lead in raising funding and support to obtain 725 exercise books and stationery for the Amponsah Community School in Agona Swedru. The fundraising allowed 400 children to get access to basic learning materials to improve their academic performance.

As a result of this Emmanuel was selected by the VSO to become Team Leader of a group of 22 volunteers from Ghana and overseas. He led them on a sustainable education programme in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Following his experience with VSO Emmanuel began a quest to promote Active Citizenship among the youth in Ghana and Africa in general.

He came up with a new initiative with the help of other youth volunteers called the Active Citizenship Diary. After research he conducted and also personal experience as a volunteer embarking on some personal voluntary projects, he realized most youth volunteers are faced with great challenge when it comes to help and support to ensure sustainability of their voluntary projects due to low publicity of their activities and what they do especially the impacts they are making through their personal initiatives. The initiative focuses on providing an educative and informative platform for youth volunteers and young leaders to showcase their personal voluntary projects, empowering the less privileged and vulnerable in the society to improve upon their socio-economic wellbeing and also tackle the Sustainable Development Goals to the world in order to get support to ensure continuity and sustainability.

Emmanuel hopes the initiative will inspire other young people to take up the challenge of becoming active citizens in their communities by also engaging themselves in activities that will contribute to the development of their communities.
After graduating with a Sports Science degree at Brunel University, West London in 2009, George Abogbampo decided to take a short break back home to Ghana for a few months to visit his family. Whilst there he managed to secure a temporary job as a teaching assistant at the Lincoln Community School located in Abelenkpe, Accra. His intentions were to work to support his stay whilst in Ghana but started to develop a love for doing community work through football. By engaging with the local community in Madina, George began to develop a passion to support the development of young people within the neighbourhood by hosting a weekly leadership and football training sessions. Each training session the number of participants grew and he came to a realisation that his work needed more structure in order to accommodate the numbers. I then formed my first company NGO ‘Afadu Sports’ to operate a football academy, organise sports clinics and training workshop. His work with Afadu Sports allowed George to integrate students from International Schools and Government Schools in Ghana. He hosted numerous football tournaments that saw hundred of young students participate and enjoy all the social benefits involved in the sport. Through constant positive feedback from the young people involved in Afadu Sports programs he decided to expand his work and collaborate with like minded people to further engage more communities. It was at this juncture that he met fellow British-Ghanaian Edem Kpodo who was working in Ghana at an architectural company and through several meetings they discovered a shared passion to work with young people in football. Together they established the One World Football Academy since then they have worked with more than five hundred student athletes from ages six through to nineteen. Each year we have grown the academy from training twice a week to training six days a week. They have also secured football scholarships for a number of young graduates from undeserved communities to study and play elite football in Denmark. For the past four years the One World Football Academy has participated in renowned International football tournaments in Sweden and Denmark. They now have a One World Football Foundation targeting the need for corporate to support young people through leadership training and talent development. George’s goal is to work to build a football school that will continue to develop and support talented student athletes in underserved communities.
George is someone who has made a considerable impact in the lives of young men from immigrant communities in the South Bronx, New York. George moved to New York from Ghana aged 10 years old. His first years in the Bronx were filled with no friends and lonely winters but he credits the game of soccer as saving his life and now he takes the lessons the game has taught him and mentors Bronx teenagers as part of the South Bronx United Soccer Club.

As a mentor he not only teaches them on the field but also helps them adapt to their new lives whilst supporting them emotionally with guidance and advice. As a result of his mentorship he has secured several players internships at Teachers College EdLab, where he works developing resources that teach high school students about the federal budget and national debt. Before landing his current role at Edlab George started as an apprentice before becoming an Associate Product Manager (APM).

In his role as APM, George led on all aspects of recruiting at EdLab. As also a member of the Research team, he conducted research on youth and their use of social media for academic purposes. Now a Senior Innovation Fellow has been able to use his contacts at Columbia University to ensure the young men he coaches are afforded opportunities they may not normally be able to access.
Gerald is a creative innovator, visualiser, filmmaker and film-lover. He has worked with global brands, connecting them to influencers and creating bespoke content for social media and TV.

He is the Co-Founder & Creative Director of visual content company, So Fraiche Media Ltd. Specialising in consumer content for the 18-35 (Generation Y/Millennial) demographic. So Fraiche (so fresh) is a social and entertainment outlet that provides a platform for innovation, creativity and a new generation of progressive thinkers. projects through innovative visual Highlighting brands, great ideas and content. They further their ethos by working closely with established organisations regionally and internationally.

They also have one of the largest networks of creative freelancers sourced globally. So Fraiche has already established itself as one of Europe’s leading young professional media outlets working with UK government agencies, global corporations and private firms from around the world such as Coca-Cola, MTN Ghana, Samsung Ghana and MAC Ghana.
Jemila is the founding editor and creative director of the award-winning digital media brand Circumspecte.com, an online platform dedicated to meaningful insights, interaction and creative action related to Africa and Africans. An international development and media professional, she combines her business, communications, and project management expertise with her strong passion for Africa.

A trained economist and freelance consultant, Jemila works at the intersection of policy, digital marketing, and event management. While at the African Development Bank, she managed communications, knowledge, regional and country events; liaising with development practitioners in government, private sector, civil society and academia in over 15 African countries.

Jemila excels at creating content, connections and conversations. Over the past decade, she has distinguished herself as a top African blogger and digital media entrepreneur. She offers digital marketing services and trainings to Africa-oriented individuals, companies and brands through Circumspecte.

In 2016, Jemila spearheaded the organization of Blogging Ghana’s 2016 Ghana Blogging & Social Media Awards and was the social media lead on the Ghana Decides election project. More recently, she has applied her people and storytelling skills to film. An avid collaborator, Jemila seeks to foster innovative action among African youth. In addition to guest lecturing at Ashesi University, she has served as a volunteer during various BarCamps.

TechCamps and the Ahaspora Mentorship program. In addition to being published in the 2015 Caine Prize Anthology, Jemila has written for Devex and the LSE Africa Blog, alongside features on Al-Jazeera, BBC and Thought Catalog.

Jemila secured her MA in International Economics and International Affairs from Johns Hopkins SAIS. She received her BA in Economics and French from Mount Holyoke College, after securing her high school diploma at Wesley Girls. Jemila speaks both Arabic and French and has worked in over 10 countries, the majority of which are African. On most days you can find her tweeting at @jabdulai.
Karl is a London-based poet, social activist, influencer and church minister. He grew up in an estate in South London, and was exposed to the challenges of living in an inner city urban environment. In his early 20’s, he started turning his life around and has been able to harness his life experiences to become a credible activist and influencer within the U.K. Karl’s gift is his oratory skills with a rare ability to connect with people on a human level, granting him undoubtedly the role of bridging worlds and uniting communities.

Karl’s messages draw on his life experience to make bold statements about social inequality, transformation and envisioning a collective destiny. He was invited by Tedx Talks to share his wisdom at the London Business School in which Karl talks about the importance of community and his transition from a gang member to a community leader, creating a therapeutic rehabilitation center for youth.

Karl is also a poet, musician, freelance writer, and public speaker who utilizes his talents through these channels to articulate his message, views and opinions to the general public, including a youth audience otherwise hard to reach by traditional means.

Karl often presents a hybrid of oratory mixed with poetry to captivate and take his audience on a journey and has performed at various prestigious events throughout the city to everyone from youth workers to royalty. Karl has a pragmatic yet optimistic approach to the future and enjoys bridging corporates with community as he insists neither can exist without the other, Karl has spoken for corporates such as KPMG, Havas, and Wahanda to name a few.

His life and much of his work remains rooted in his home community of south London, but he also has developed personal and professional relationships with people in positions of power, influence and international standing. In Karl’s words, he successfully bridges ‘both sides of the fence’.

Meet a Pioneer

Karl Lokko

UK - 28 years old
Koby is the CEO/Founder of urban media platform Grmdaily.com which was created in 2009. In a relatively short time it has become the official leading UK underground music site according to alexa.com and youtube.com statistics, with over 1.5 million website hits per month and counting! GRM Daily has had over 51 Million youtube views and 30 million website visits.

The site also commands key social influence with over 50,000 Facebook likes and followers on Twitter giving it a credible voice within the UK’s urban culture. As the epicentre of urban entertainment & culture, GRM creates short form web/TV series and music videos. Alongside behind the scenes exclusives and interviews it also provides media services such as video production, advertising, consultancy & creative strategy. Brands such as Converse, Reebok, Adidas, Boxfresh and JD Sports have run campaigns on the Grime Daily website with urban content produced featuring artists such as Tinie Tempah, Tinchy Stryder, Chipmunk, Wretch 32, Tulisa, P Money, Ghetts and Stooshie.

In 2015 Koby partnered with soft drinks giant KA to create the GRM Daily Rated Awards to celebrate the best in British Urban music. Recently Koby teamed up with long time collaborators, Duane Jones and Charmaine Hayden to create Not For The Radio.

No other UK-based, online interview series has impacted the urban music scene like Not For The Radio. Hosted regularly on YouTube, this latest ‘net sensation aims to get to the nitty gritty of all the important information (and the scandal) that the people want to know about from their favourite entertainers; ranging from rappers to actors and comedians.
Priscilla is a Social Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Business Analyst, TEDx Speaker, Youth Mentor, Workshop Facilitator, Upcoming author and a Selflove Advocate. In 2009 Priscilla set up the Hands of Hero Foundation a non-profit organization that supports less fortunate children in Canada and Ghana.

In 2012 the vision of the organization expanded to create a platform to bring awareness about the issue of poverty through a brilliant initiative called Fashion Against Poverty (FAP). Over the years, FAP has been used as a platform to ignite the lives of children and youth in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and the less fortunate children in Ghana. She is also the founder of Soko Bags Ltd, a start-up manufacturing company based in Ghana. They produce environmentally sustainable products to solve environmental, economical and business issues. Her ultimate goal is to positively impact the socioeconomic status of women in Africa through gainful employment, while improving the environmental conditions in Africa through providing eco-friendly products.

Priscilla has also won several accolades for her work along the way including being the youngest recipient to receive the Women’s Courage International Award 2014. She was inducted as a Black Canadian Role Model (2014), received The Black Canadian Role Model Award (2015) and was recognized as one of the “Top 100 Black Women to watch in Canada” by the Canada International Black Women Event (CIBWE).
VITAE
LONDON & BEYOND!
THE MAN BEHIND THE LUXURY WATCHES THAT HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF AFRICA'S CHILDREN
William Adoasi is the brainchild behind the Vitae Group and its flagship venture Vitae London who design luxury watches of which each their classic range of watches supplies a child in Africa with two sets of school uniform, a bag and footwear to see them through the year. In this concise discussion William gives us the background on the Vitae story, what he has learnt on his journey and his hopes for the future.

FOG: Describe yourself in 3 words?

FOG: What was the process behind starting Vitae London?
WA: After my wife volunteered with a South African charity, House of Wells, I was inspired to support the work they do within education. So, I started crafting a way to influence these children, but also make an impact in the fashion industry with high-quality, luxury watches.

FOG: Tell us about your winning funding with Virgin Startup and meeting entrepreneur Richard Branson?
WA: Virgin Startup give the annual opportunity for new businesses to receive funding. Out of 10,000 businesses that applied, we were fortunate to be 1 of 900 to be successful. We are also 1 of the 12 to become Virgin ambassadors for entrepreneurship in the UK, which is an amazing privilege. I recently had the honour of having breakfast with Richard Branson, where we spoke about branding and where Vitae could go going forward. I love Branson's desire to see young, innovative start-ups prosper.

FOG: What 3 lessons have you learned since starting your journey?
WA: Firstly, make the most of your network. I have pulled many favours, and still do, because of the genuine relationships I have with these people. It’s important not to overlook the talent amongst your community. Second, reach out or you’ll never know. If you follow me on Twitter (@WilliamAdoasi), you’ll know that I’m always reaching out. You’d be surprised how many people are happy to connect and take things further, no matter how established they are. Thirdly, never get complacent. I’m unbelievably grateful and pleased with how far Vitae has come in just over a year, but I’m trying to take Vitae much further this year.

FOG: In what ways do you believe the youth can contribute and be a part of the development of Ghana?
WA: Only 37% of youth of secondary age are actually enrolled into secondary school and 63% make it past the fifth year in primary school. There’s evidently an issue here - children are missing out on education due to poverty and therefore, the cycle of poverty continues. I believe the youth of Ghana should do all they can to combat this through innovative methods of business.

FOG: Without revealing too much of course what is the long term plan for Vitae London?
WA: We’re starting up our own foundation, which will be used to build schools, starting in Ghana. Also, we would like to eventually take our work to every country in the continent.

FOG: What is your message of advice to all the aspiring young Ghanaians?
WA: In all that we do, let’s begin to believe beyond ourselves. If we can all dream to impact just one person, then we can dramatically transform the nation of Ghana.

"It’s important not to overlook the talent amongst your community."
Sandra is a UCL MSc and First Class BA (Honours) degree educated and skilled consultant. She is innovative and energetic, with a proven ability to successfully deliver excellent results for her clients. However Sandra has always had another passion. In line with her Christian faith she has long had a vision to create content that is based on purity. Thus frustrated with the lack of faith-based drama on TV, Christian writer Sandra wrote her own internet series entitled Concealed, which tells the personal, professional and spiritual struggles faced by young black adults. The series follows nine young professionals living in London, each facing their own struggles and battling their own personal demons, with the series focusing on central themes surrounding faith, love, betrayal and friendship, among other issues, and portraying these issues and stories, from a very honest and different worldview, one that hasn’t been captured on any web drama series before this. Concealed has gained over 50,000 views in its first season and was recently picked up by Nollywood TV a major player in the African TV network. The series has also received coverage from the likes of the The Voice Newspaper and Bella Naija Magazine.

By creating the series Sandra has also given exposure to upcoming new actors whilst still being able to add fast-rising actors to her cast such as Emmanuel Imani, who stars alongside Kevin Costner and Tommy Lee Jones in Hollywood film Criminal, Mary MJ King, on the back of her leading role in the Martin Luther King theatre production America: Dreams & Nightmares.
Stephané Alexandre is a creative passionate about producing content in a positive and engaging way. Having launched her career in journalism as a TV Host she has since interviewed a range of entertainment's finest from Gregory Porter, Steve Baldwin, Jason Isaacs, Bishop TD Jakes, Janet Jackson, Tyler Perry and many more. Keen to be a positive voice through the media, in 2011 Stephané launched online hub Milk + Honey where she is Editing Founder. An online lifestyle hub for women passionate about protecting moral values and championing self-worth to young women around the globe. The site recently celebrated 5 years and launched an online shop selling inspirational gifts. The platform Milk + Honey gained Stephané the opportunity to speak at TEDxYouth in November 2015 about her passion for young women and self acceptance. The site have also been awarded Runner Up at the 2015 Premier Digital Awards for Most Innovative Use of Digital Media in Outreach. Whilst in 2012 the hub was featured on Virgin Media Pioneer of The Month and in 2011 was featured in Powerful Media's, Future Leaders magazine.

Emerging Student's Magazine also included the site in their Top 10 Students/Alumni Ones to Watch in 2012. Milk + Honey was also shortlisted on Cosmopolitan's 2012 Blog Awards in their Lifestyle category, making it to the final 5. Stephané's work in TV has been in consistent pursuit. Having transitioned from TV presenting, her work on a range of TV productions behind the camera has seen her work on content for Discovery Channel, BBC, DSTV, ITN Productions and across various major branded content campaigns. Her work as Executive Producer on new TV show, #ThoseGoodFellas highlights her passion to challenge Black British male stereotypes on mainstream TV and highlight the very much hidden black middle class through this comedy drama series coming out in 2018.
With a real passion for healthcare, Tiffany has shown outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in addressing and raising awareness about children’s health disparities in Ghana. However, this could easily have not been the case. In November 2012 Tiffany was involved in a car accident which nearly took her life. She severed her spinal cord and spent two weeks in a trauma unit and had to undergo rehabilitation exercises. Despite all of this, she still managed to graduate with her peers.

In March 2015 whilst volunteering for a teaching hospital in Ghana, Tiffany was told of an instance where a premature baby died due to lack of life-sustaining respiratory equipment. This was the catalyst for her to make a difference in the lives of children and infants. One in 12 Ghanaian children under the age of five die from preventable diseases and infants under the age of one are more likely to die than infants in the United States where Tiffany was born and resides. These statistics are staggering but what is also staggering is Tiffany’s passion for global health and her drive to make a difference in addressing this issue. Currently studying for her Masters as a Physician Assistant, Tiffany showed her compassion to help and serve others but also her vision when she collaborated with her mother to create the Amazing Grace Foundation.

The foundation's fundamental mission and responsibility is to help underprivileged and underserved children in communities both domestic and globally by bringing medical care to those communities in need; to address their health and social challenges. They use their network of healthcare professionals, global reach, expertise, relationships with community leaders to bring positive health care that makes an impact in communities around the world. Amongst one of her first objectives was to organise a medical mission to Ghana with a team of medical doctors, nurse’s social workers and provided free medical care to over 400 children in Ashiaman, Tema.

Tiffany with her mother is currently working towards building a children’s hospital in Accra that will provide routine and specialized health care services to children in Accra, Ghana. The hospital will cater to the varied specialized needs of children and their families, with special attention being paid to prenatal, and maternal care, malnutrition, and malaria prevention.
Timothy found success with the first two businesses he launched whilst still a teenager: a tutoring business he began aged 14, and a media company he was able to sell to a US company aged 17. Having sold his first company he has gone on to establish more successful companies namely Fanbytes which he is the co-founded with Ambrose Cooke and is currently producing huge revenues and has secured high-profile investment from the likes of Nick Wheeler, the founder of high street clothing chain Charles Trywhitt.

Fanbytes, is the UK’s largest social video platform helping brands reach millennials through YouTube and Snapchat. Their customers include Disney, Adidas, Nickelodeon, and even global superstars like Ronaldinho. They have combined an influencer network of over 500 million people along with deep analytics and measurement to create the easiest way for brands to engage with millennials. Forbes describe Fanbytes as “the millennials redefining how brands market to other millennials’ so they must be doing something right!

The idea for Fanbytes came to Timothy in his cousin’s bedroom. He noticed his cousin was always buying lots of new hats and trainers, and wondered what motivated him to buy them. When asked his cousin said YouTube personalities were his inspiration.

Timothy believes that social influencer content is “the next frontier of advertising” as for too long ads have represented an interruption or intrusion on our daily lives rather than a seamless part of them. Thus, Fanbytes exists to respond to this shift from blatant advertising to more of a shift to native content. It is important to note that Timothy has been able to attain many of his achievements whilst being a stellar student. Achieving straight A grades in his GCSE and A levels before going on to study Politics and Philosophy at Warwick University in the UK.
Vanessa Agyemang is an award winning international Model. After winning the coveted title Top Model of Colour and Peoples Choice Season 7. Vanessa is fast becoming one of the most sought-after high fashion models in London. She has had the opportunity to work with brands such as Samsung, Nars and Bianca Miller to name a few. She has graced the catwalk of, Glitz Africa Fashion Week, Elite Fashion, Winchester School of Arts sponsored by Bobbi Brown and London Fashion Week.

Vanessa has been featured in fashion blogs for her sense of style. She was named model to watch by The Evening Standard, alongside this Vanessa is avid charity worker, and is currently an ambassador for giving Blood, as well as a contributor for FRUK magazine. With a wealth of knowledge in the fashion industry Vanessa shares her experiences of beauty, lifestyle and travel in her blog.

Vanessa also has a deep passion for the Architecture & Design sector. She graduated with a Bachelors honours degree in Interior Architecture and Design as well as a diploma in Interior Design. After graduating she took various positions, within the design sector including working as a CAD technician for a 16th century resort, a corporate Interior Designer and a visual merchandising assistant for Habitat.

Since then Vanessa has founded the luxury e-commerce home decor brand Copper Dust, which specialises in limited edition handmade lampshades and illustrations. Being featured in The World of Interiors, Elle Decor and Lombok, Copper Dust is fast becoming known for its quality and innovative lighting.
William Adoasi

Meet a Pioneer

UK · 26 years old

William is a Virgin Start-up Ambassador and the founder of Vitae London watch brand. After his wife volunteered with South African charity, House of Wells, William was inspired to support the work they do within education. So, he created a way to influence these children, but also make an impact in the fashion industry with high-quality, luxury watches.

Vitae London is a watch brand based in London. Their goal is simply to combine classic and beautiful design with social justice. Pairing minimalist concepts with stylish modernity, our watches are subtle yet slim sophisticated timepieces suited to everyone. Ensuring the watches are of the highest quality standards is a priority for us; each watch features either a high quality genuine leather band or a stainless-steel mesh band and is equipped with elegant scratch resistant sapphire crystal glass.

Vitae is Latin for life and our mantra is to be the fashion brand changing lives. Through our personal experiences we have witnessed the value of education first-hand. Watches purchased from us supply children in sub-Saharan Africa two sets of a school uniform, a bag and footwear to see them through the year.

This removes a massive barrier to education for many. William has received backing from the head of the Virgin Empire, Richard Branson, and musicians such as Paloma Faith and Emeli Sande have publicly endorsed the brand. The Vitae brand has also received coverage from media giants such as the BBC, Buzzfeed, CNN and MTV.
Yasmin is both ambitious and an extremely talented business woman. Born and raised in Berlin, Germany to a Ghanaian father and German mother.

She has spent several years through various professional engagements in Africa identifying problems and shortcomings on the continent and now Managing Director and Founder of the Africa Foresight (AFG) which supports the build-up of the local economic sector in West Africa by providing market research to investors and local companies. Publishing reports about consumer trends, local business models and policy-making through the AFG thinktank and helping local medium-sized companies to remain competitive and find financing.

Yasmin founded the AFG in 2015 to follow her passion of fostering local economic value creation in Africa. She is a senior business consultant with extensive working experience in the consumer goods and financial services sector, the research of family business groups and agriculture in African markets.

A former fellow of the Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance Yasmin has also been appointed Executive Director of the Alliance, the leading network for young talented entrepreneurs from Africa. Prior to founding AFG, she worked at McKinsey & Company for 5 years. She also holds an MBA degree and an MSc in African Studies from the University of Oxford.
At 16 years old Yasmin is a rising star. Not only is she straight A student. She is breaking barriers in the sport of fencing as the first individual Ghanaian in any sport to be ranked in top 100 senior rankings. It was from the age of 8 that Yasmin started fencing by the age of 11 she was the UK under 11 Champion, the first UK girl of African descent to do this she later became under 13 Champion at which time she had a choice to represent a country and compete internationally.

It was widely assumed by her coaches that she would represent Great Britain and was subsequently invited to Team GB development programmes. However Yasmin shocked everyone when she declared that she wanted to compete for Ghana. Rather than “fit in” Yasmin had the view that she should be accepted on her own terms and wanted to represent Ghana to encourage other youth in the Diaspora to also embrace their heritage. Yasmin is of mixed Ghanaian and Iranian descent but feels inherently more Ghanaian than anything else.

Representing Ghana Yasmin has broken the monopoly of North African nations in fencing on the continent. No sub-Saharan African country had ever won an international medal in Fencing. However, Yasmin soon changed that in 2014, when she won her first Continental medal for Ghana, and then in 2015 she won two Continental medals at the African Championships. She also won a Silver medal in the British Youth Championships, and Gold in British Schools Championships as Master at Arms, these were breakthrough moments as it represented the first time an African has won British youth titles since records began in the 1860’s.

Yasmin is also highly academic and has earned the respect of her teachers and peers. She attends the prestigious Milfield School where she is a Prefect chosen from selected students. The first Ghanaian at the Senior School.

The school has had Olympians at every Olympic Games since the 1960’s. Yasmin has ambitions to set up a charity to collect and disperse sports equipment to African Federations. She is also working on an initiative this year to improve Girls access to education in Ghana.
The Girls Education Initiative of Ghana

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Nominate a Future of Ghana 2018 Pioneer today

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