FUTURE OF GHANA
2018 PUBLICATION

GHANA'S TOP 30 U30
A COHORT OF SUPREMELY
TALENTED INDIVIDUALS
WHO EMBODY LEADERSHIP
AND BOLDNESS

JOSEPH AWUAH-DARKO

TURNING WASTE TO WANT!

INCLUDES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS FROM UK
AFROBEATS PIONEER MISTA SILVA, FUTURE OF
GHANA ALUMNI SINEAD ROSE PLUS FULL PROFILES
OF THIS YEAR'S TOP 30 U30 PIONEERS.
A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR
“Ghana Beyond Aid”

Addressing a gathering during the 61st Independence Day Celebrations at the Black Star Square in Accra on the morning of Tuesday 6 March 2018, President Nana Akufo-Addo stated that Ghana is endowed with a lot of natural resources but sadly the truth is that the state of the nation does not show how endowed the country is. He added that, the ‘Ghana Beyond Aid’ agenda (one that will move Ghana away from dependency to self-reliance) will not be achieved by merely talking but rather doing things differently, adding that “business as usual will not do it.”

On that same morning it was business as usual for us somewhat as we were preparing to unveil our annual top 30 U30 pioneers for the 4th edition of our publication live on UK national radio.

Each year I am genuinely left amazed at the caliber of talent in Ghana and the diaspora. These are young people following their passions but at the same time providing solutions to problems in their communities. This years cohort embody talent leadership and boldness. They are group of people who despite personal circumstances and challenges have decided to take responsibility for their own success. They have become self-reliant not depending on the authorities to create the change they want to see but rather to be that change.

Compiling this publication got me thinking about the Ghana beyond aid agenda and brought me to the realisation that people are a country’s most important resource. People like the pioneers we showcase annually many of whom have the answers to the problems faced on the African continent. Thus, investments into the human resource of Ghana has the potential of catapulting the ‘Ghana beyond aid’ agenda beyond a slogan to a visible reality. If we depend on what we have as a country, then there is no need to look elsewhere right?... Well Yes and No.

Some people have commented that a Ghana beyond aid doesn’t mean a Ghana without aid and I have to say this is a reality for a developing country like ours. The fact remains that whilst Ghana pursues this agenda of self-sustainability and prosperity this does not mean that this agenda is a prerequisite for an immediate end to donor support but rather a call to action to utilize and invest in our own resources. Therefore, the agenda must be viewed as a medium to long term goal.

However, what will be key in the interim is how effective we are in investing in our own human capital. If this is done effectively then within 3–5 years Ghana will have a strong human capital to drive its own socio-economic activities and be able to export human resources if necessary.

As an organisation we are also investing in human resource as we continue to expand. This year we will welcome Belgium (FOGB) to the Future of Ghana of family with the expectation that the team in Antwerp will have a similar impact to that our team in Hamburg and Berlin, Germany. All the signs are that they will rise to the challenge.

Lastly thanks for your support over the last four years it’s heartening to know there are so many young people in the diaspora hungry to contribute to Ghana’s development. Our initial mission was always to mobilise the youth for this purpose.

So, as you read this year’s edition and discover those who are pioneering in their fields I hope that wherever you are in your own journey you use it as a visual source of inspiration.

Ben Anim-Antwi,
Editor-in-Chief
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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

Future of Ghana

The charity:
Future of Ghana Ltd is a UK registered Charity with branches in Germany and Belgium established to mobilize and advance the education & training of young people living in Ghana and its Diaspora community.

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

Mission:
To mobilize Ghanaian Diaspora & Africans for the establishment of a proactive global community.

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 businessman and advocate for youth participation & integration with development; especially within Africa. He is Chair of the award winning Future of Ghana charity and founder of multiple award winning advisory company Me FiRi Ghana. The impact of the company & charity’s work 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.

He was recognized as INDIAFIRCA’s Young Visionary Award Winner for Ghana, invited to Buckingham Palace to meet Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth of England and invited to St James Palace to meet Prince Charles for his work & contributions to the Ghanaian and UK community. More recently, Arnold was requested to be a speaker for the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo Addo’s Diaspora Homecoming Summit held in Ghana.

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

Is a founding member of Future of Ghana Ltd, a creative thinker and someone who strongly believes in the empowerment of young people and the development of Africa through Diaspora engagement. A natural leader with exceptional, Communication, interpersonal, service delivery skills and strong experience in preparing effective briefs at the highest levels Ben has had a varied and substantial career in central and local government which has given him the tools for leadership and policy influence.

He was selected as a Diaspora Changemaker in 2014 by the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) and Comic Relief for his leadership and passion to create opportunities for young people in his local community and on the continent.

Ben holds a degree in in BA (Hons) Law & Politics is an accomplished writer/journalist having contributed to local and national publications/outlets such as the Brent & Kilburn Times, BBC Radio London, and The Voice Newspaper. He plans to publish an as yet untitled book in the near future.
Sandra Osei
(Programme Manager)

Is a strategist and qualified PRINCE2 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)


Mensah has created and been credited with crafting Award-Winning Campaigns and artistic treatments globally for clients such as Nike, Google, MTV, Virgin, BBC, H&M & Barclays. His self-initiated work has also been featured on prestigious platforms and magazines such as Creative Review, Adobe.com, Abduzeedo, & DesignYouTrust to name a few.

He is also experienced in not only developing the physical creative of several products but capable to confidently and passionately pitch and communicate concepts to clients. He also understands the power of teamwork and harnessing potential within those around him.

Mensah is currently a Senior Experience Designer at McKinsey & Company and Founder of Emerging talent platform Youth Worldwide.
Pearl Boateng  
(Head of Research)

Is an International Development Researcher and Adviser specialising in education for development. Some of her experience includes teaching Maths in UK secondary schools, research, teacher professional development, curriculum development, community engagement and project management in contexts such as Ghana and Rwanda. She has an MA in International Education and Development from the University of Sussex, 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. Pearl is also a Founding Ambassador for Teach For Ghana, one of the first African partners of the Teach For All network. Pearl is passionate about Ghana and Africa’s progress through education and champions teachers’ empowerment.

Dr Jermaine Bamfo  
(Deputy Editor)

Is a qualified medical doctor and a proud alumnus of Imperial College London where he completed a graduate-entry degree in Medicine & Surgery in 2013. He holds a first class Anatomy & Human Biology BSc degree from the University of Liverpool and a postgraduate diploma in Psychiatry and Mental Health from Queen’s University Belfast. Dr Bamfo has completed two years of foundation medical training in Northern Ireland and two years practising medicine in West London and Kent prior to commencing specialist training in Psychiatry in 2017, and was a finalist for the ‘Rising Star’ award in the Zenith Global Healthcare Awards 2017. A freelance writer, artist, designer and photographer born and bred in the East End of London, Dr Bamfo is also a fierce proponent for the forward progression of Ghana and the burgeoning responsibility for today’s Ghanaian youth both in Ghana and in the diaspora. He is extremely passionate about improving the quality of life in these communities, particularly in the realm of mental health. He is also passionate about placing a spotlight on influential young Ghanaians who are making an impact in society. He is a long-term contributor to the Me Firi Ghana blog and is also involved with the GUBA Awards team and a PR/Communications officer for the GUBA Foundation which is focused on helping to reduce infant mortality in Ghana and increasing autism awareness.
Benjamina Dadzie  
(Digital Communications Officer)

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.

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 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.
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 also delivered seminars on service marketing and marketing principles to third year students. After spending her childhood in Ghana, Noreen hopes to continue connecting with Ghana by combining both her professional and academic experience to empower young Ghanaians to develop themselves through education, skills and qualifications.

Nora Mistersky  
(Client Services Executive)

Is currently pursuing a career as a dental surgeon and is in the 3rd year of her studies at the University of Leeds. She also works as a part-time research assistant in ophthalmology at an NHS Trust. She initially embarked on a career in clinical research after completing a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science at King’s College London and has assisted with the implementation, management and co-ordination of clinical trials in cardiology, rheumatology, dermatology, stroke and orthopaedics.

She is dedicated to mentoring and supporting young people and has been actively involved in a number of mentoring projects since 2010. Currently, Nora is a mentoring team leader for Open Wide, which is a student-led initiative based at the School of Dentistry, University of Leeds that aims to inspire, encourage, guide and educate young people.

Nora has volunteered in remote and under resourced communities in Ghana, where she worked alongside healthcare professionals and local community members to implement sustainable health systems. She aspires to be able to contribute her dental knowledge and skills to empower individuals as well as join forces with like minded individuals, to work towards a self-sustained Ghana. Nora has been a blog contributor for Me Firi Ghana and was also selected as a Miss Ghana UK finalist in 2016.
Francis Addai  
(Researcher)

Is an investment management professional with a focus on conducting analysis and advising institutional investors across Europe. He is a member of the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute, holds a BSc (Hons) in Psychology and Statistics from Middlesex University and a PG Dip in Applied Social Sciences from Brunel University. Francis began his career at Ernst and Young within the actuarial division, and currently works at Pictet Asset Management within the Fixed Income Division. As a founding member of the weekly personal finance and financial literacy podcast, “The Making Cents Podcast”, Francis is determined to raise awareness and improve financial literacy within African and Caribbean communities in the UK.

Francis is also currently conducting independent research on improving financial literacy amongst parents of primary school aged children in deprived areas of the UK. Francis has embarked on multiple entrepreneurial ventures in Ghana, including running a farm as well as setting up a consultancy to help local businesses raise capital, both in the Greater Accra region. Francis is determined to help support Ghanaian businesses and contribute to the development and progress of Ghana through these endeavours.

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 an 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 Organisational 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).
Celine Akosua Henry
(Research/Administrative Intern)

is a postgraduate student in Africa and International Development at the University of Edinburgh. Celine has a passion for development and World History, with specific enthusiasm for the decolonisation of African states. Having previously curated research at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation Celine contributes to wider debates and work of parts of west-African history and politics both through academic and professional work and hopes to continue doing this.

Another passion for Celine is also raising awareness about societal issues for young people through series of articles and events through 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 and inspire others, however big or small. She believes that the Future of Ghana initiative is a powerful idea, because not only does it empower young Ghanaians.

Queenstar Amponsah
(Country Manager, Belgium)

is an MBA student majoring in European and International Relations. She was raised in the Netherlands where she studied Economics and Maths in Dutch but later moved to Belgium where she completed another Bachelor in Business Administration.

As a member of the European Youth Parliament, Queenstar has been privileged to travel to many European countries where she participates in various sessions, summits, conferences, and interacts with ministers of states and presidents. Together with Innohub Ghana, she is working on the Diaspora Returnee Incubator Programme, a proposal that has been developed as a response to challenges faced by Ghanaians in the diaspora in their quest to set up or invest in ventures back home.

She is currently working with the Schwarzkopf Foundation as a Head Trainer for the Understanding Europe Project, where she trains individuals from all over Europe to become trainers, who will in turn give crash courses and workshops to final year high school students.

With the knowledge and skills gained from her experience and involvement in European politics, Queenstar is ready to be an advocate of change in the Ghanaian Diaspora community in Belgium, in order to further its development, influence, and capacity in Europe.
Martina Offeh
Was born and raised in Hamburg, Germany by Ghanaian parents. Being raised in and through two different cultures she uses her intercultural experience and understanding to bridge the gap to effectively engage with and help develop the diaspora as a project manager and creative director.

She is an experienced Managing Director with a demonstrable history of working in the apparel and fashion industry. Highly qualified in Sales, Retail, Multi-Cultural Team Leadership and Team Building, being a business development professional she works as the head of FoGG’s business project aiming to create a platform for young entrepreneurs.

Lucy Larbi
(Country Manager, Germany)

Is a globetrotter with an interest in development issues for many years, particularly in relation to Africa and its economic recovery. Born in Ghana and raised in Germany, she pursued this goal early on; creating perspectives for people with an African migrant background. After studying in Holland, Tanzania, Madrid and doing internship in Ethiopia and professional experience in Ghana, Algeria and Germany, she founded the German arm of the organization – Future of Ghana Germany in 2016 on appointment by Arnold Sarfo-Kantanka (Founder Future of Ghana).

Professionally Lucy works in management consulting and carries out activities in international cooperation. She holds a BA in International Relations from the University of Groningen and a Masters in Political Science from the United Nations University.
Jeff Jacobsen Kwarteng

Was born and raised in Berlin, Germany by Ghanaian parents. This allowed him to build and keep a strong connection with Ghana. He realized that having the benefits of studying in Germany and across Europe should be used and catalyzed to trigger sustainable development in Africa.

In 2016 he co-founded the non-profit organization Future of Ghana Germany e. V. (FoGG) with one vision and goal: Organizing, mobilizing and advancing education as well as the training of children and young professionals living in the Diaspora. FoGG wants to build a constructive community and help advance it by creating synergies and contribute not only to the development of African people in Germany, but also to the development of Ghana.

Jeff is a Consultant in EY’s Advisory Services and he works on major transformation, change management and transaction projects for global organizations across all sectors. His education includes a Master’s degree in Human Resources & Consulting from the Lancaster University Management School in UK and a Bachelor’s degree in Business Psychology from the SRH Business School in Germany.

Lyn Birago Kakyire

Is the founder and principally responsible for FoGG’s Vorbilder (role models) programme. She is a student teacher and involved in many volunteer educational projects, she also works at her church as a children’s supervisor. In addition, Lyn has a youth leader’s license and as a team leader accompanies pupils on school trips from the Catholic school Association whom among them are children learning and physical disabilities.

She gained experience as an intern at Metro World Child in New York. There she organized programs for children in socially disadvantaged districts and conducted family visits. With the “Vorbilder”-program (role models), she is responsible for the affairs of mentors and mentees.
Elina Fechtner Addo

Was born and bred in Hamburg, Germany. She always felt that there was so much potential in her community not being realized, due to lack of adequate guidance and role models.

Based on her experiences and consulting data acquired she and other members of FoGG came together, in order to develop an efficient and effective system to better the outcome of Ghanaian/African children and adolescents, in the diaspora. Elina and her team are building bridges between Germany and Ghana for people who just do not have the means in terms of e.g. connections to have a fruitful impact in our motherland.

Elina is a medical doctor by profession schooled in Hamburg with further experience in several countries around the world such as Singapore, the US, Nigeria and Ghana.

Philip Harms

Is a medical student and has a passion for volunteering with young people. He helps run the “Vorbilder” (role models) project and is responsible for the career orientation program.

It is important to Phillip to be a good role model for the young generation and to give young people a basic orientation in their decisions in the age of rapid change. He wants to empower them in their self-perception and identity and to stimulate engagement with a proactive role in society.

Within the FoGG association he is responsible for administrative and legal matters. He is currently researching for his PhD at Stanford University in California.
Whitney Kyeremateng

Her roots are from the Ashanti region in Ghana, but she was born in western Germany. Through her close ties to the Ghanaian culture and her desire to be an example to young people in different ways, she joined the FoGG association in 2018 as the Head of Personnel Affairs. Her goal is to open "career doors" to young African-born people through her work.

Currently, Whitney is an Account Manager at Academic Work, the second-ranked recruiting company in Scandinavia. Her education includes a bachelor’s degree in Fashion and Textile Management from one of the major fashion schools in Germany.
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! He was the first Photographer to be commissioned by Ghanaian state owned newspaper, The Daily Graphic when it first was first established in 1950 something he is very proud of.

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. His photographs have been at first 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.

He is represented in Paris by Galerie Clémentine de la Féronnière, where his work is regularly exhibited and published (a first book “Ever Young” was published in 2015, and is available in bookshops and online). His work has been acquired by several international institutions such as musée du quai Branly in Paris, National Portrait Gallery in London, Tate Britain [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], and Victoria and Albert museum in London. One of his latest exhibitions include a solo-show at Bamako biennale in Mali (His work is touring Africa and he currently has an exhibition at the MuPho Saint Louis Museum in Sénégal ) James is currently focussing his attention on cataloging and scanning his work to provide an archive of Ghana’s History.

As such on 25th June 2018 he has been invited to Abuja to take part in a Conference for UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme which is an international initiative launched to safeguard the documentary heritage of humanity. 

An advocate for youth empowerment which is evidenced by his involvement with associations and activities with my Cultural Troupe FEE HI, in Ghana. Mr Barnor is a true pioneer and living legend, his knowledge of Ghana’s past and his enthusiasm for its future makes him an exemplary patron for Future of Ghana Ltd.
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...
Ambassador Johanna Odonkor Svanikier

Is the Founder, President and CEO of the Heritage and Cultural Society of Africa an NGO with the mission to preserve, advocate for and promote the use of African heritage and culture for social and economic development. She is also Ghana’s former Ambassador to France & Portugal and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and La Francophonie. During her tour of duty in Paris, she initiated Ghana’s membership of the OECD Development Centre where she represented Ghana on the Governing Board.

Ambassador Svanikier was Chair of the ECOWAS group at UNESCO in 2014. She has been a non-executive director of Fidelity Bank Ghana Ltd and Fidelity Asia Bank from 2009 to the present. She has also served as a Commissioner on the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC). She has served on the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources under two administrations as well as on the Petroleum Revenue Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Finance. She currently serves on the Board of the Economic Club of Ghana and the Advisory Group of the Executive Club of the Head of State (Duke of Edinburgh International) Award Scheme.

She is a barrister by profession. She was called to the Bar in England and Wales at the Inner Temple. She is also Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Ghana. She has previously been a university lecturer and legal and development consultant. She is the founder and was the first Director of the Human Rights Study Centre at the University of Ghana, Legon. She holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees in law from the London School of Economics, UK, a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, U.S.A. and a Masters in Political Science from the University of Oxford, U.K. She was a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard University. She is the author of several publications including “Women’s Rights and the Law in Ghana”
Afua Hirsch

is an award-winning British Ghanaian author, journalist and broadcaster. She was the Guardian correspondent for West Africa, the social affairs editor for Sky News, and practised law as a human rights barrister. Her first book, Brit(ish) is about Britishness and identity, and will be published in January 2018 by Jonathan Cape.

Papa Arkhurst

Is an e-government expert and an accomplished key communicator who has earned the highest coveted award of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM — the first individual to have achieved this in Ghana) with the Toastmasters International Organization.

Papa has been instrumental in setting up 7 of the current 9-chartered clubs, a number of which are in corporate organizations. Through engagement on a weekly/bi-weekly basis, he gives talks and mentors a number of passionate individuals on various issues in an effort to help them improve on their communication and leadership skills, whilst exposing them to his varied network. He has a passion for citizen advocacy and business innovation for social good. He is also deeply passionate about using business, information, communication and technology as tools for implementing sustainable growth and development.

As the founder of the G-wave movement, and the BWP-Series (a youth empowerment forum), and as a member of the Ghana Open Data Initiative, Papa is consistently finding innovative ways of promoting the beautiful culture of Ghana and her children.

He was the Chairman of the Koica Alumni group, an office which he used to strengthen relations with his South Korean contacts, promoting Ghanaian people and their products and sharing lessons he had picked up from his time in Korea. Papa has studied and worked in Africa, the Americas and Asia and has through it learnt to look at things from a global perspective, he is a keen innovator, and views life through a unique lens. He is a staunch advocate of the view that we are the solutions to our problems, and has started movements like ASEM, G-Wave, Double KALA, the functional citizen. After over a decade in the public service, Papa Arkhurst has set up a consultancy for helping institutions build capacity in the effective use of Information, communication and technology.
Jemila Abdulai

Is the creative director and founding editor of the award-winning website Circumspecte.com, a digital platform and company dedicated to producing meaningful insights, interaction and creative action linked to Africa and Africans. An economist by training and a self-proclaimed wordsmith, she has been writing since the age of 10 and uses digital technologies to explore the nuances and interactions between African culture, policy, economics and human-interest issues. As a media and international development professional and freelance consultant, Jemila Abdulai combines her business, communications and project management expertise with her strong passion for Africa. Jemila has a M.A. in International Economics and International Affairs from Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. in Economics and French from Mount Holyoke College.

While consulting for the African Development Bank, she managed knowledge, regional and country events; liaising with development practitioners in government, private sector, civil society and academia in over 15 countries. Alongside her work in policy and communications, Jemila creates and delivers engaging and interactive digital skills trainings for individuals and companies on using social media and other digital resources effectively.

A blogger and avid communicator, Jemila excels at creating content, connections and conversations. She is currently spearheading Circumspecte ‘Sisterhood Matters’ conversation series on women supporting women. She works with Africa-oriented brands, companies and organizations like the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group to create and leverage digital content and tools. She has written for Devex, Global Voices and the LSE Africa Blog, alongside features on Al-Jazeera, BBC, This Is Africa, and Thought Catalog. More recently, she has applied her people and storytelling skills to film. Her short story Yennenga was published in the 2015 Caine Prize Anthology. Jemila enjoys reading, travel, photography, and global cuisine. She speaks both French and Arabic and has worked in over 10 countries, the majority of which are African.

Ato Ulzen-Appiah

Is a (social) entrepreneur, consultant, social media influencer and blogger. He studied at MIT and Stanford in civil engineering and management disciplines. He’s the director at the GhanaThink Foundation which mobilizes and organizes talent for the primary benefit of Ghana. He’s a member of the Global Shapers Alumni, part of the World Economic Forum community. He has consulted for various organizations, including the World Bank. He worked at Rancard as product manager building new revenue services off its platform. He worked at Google as a program manager building sustainable tech communities in Africa. He speaks and has spoken at various international forums, including the World Bank Diaspora Trade Forum, African Business Conference at Harvard, and the World Economic Forum on Africa in Cape Town. He co-founded Museke.com –an African music website and blogs at mightyafrican.blogspot.com
H.E. NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO: THE SON OF LEGACY

By Celine Akosua Henry
As history manifests itself in its full glory, it has determined that the twelfth president of the Republic of Ghana is a direct descendant of three members of the ‘Big Six’. His father Edward Akufo-Addo was a ceremonial president of the Second Republic. His maternal uncle William Ofori-Atta unsuccessfully ran for president in the Third Republic. His grand-uncle Dr. J.B. Danquah, the ‘doyen’ of Ghana politics, was known to have had the biggest influence on Nana Akufo-Addo. Pictured many times with his grand-uncle Dr. J.B. Danquah, the young Nana Addo would tread through those same large footsteps, compensating the depth of these shoes by pursuing education overseas and intensely reading literature.

By identifying our current president as the ‘Son of Legacy,’ this places his leadership in a dynamic perspective. He and the late Jake Obetsebi-Lamptey were the most popular political ‘legacies’ (children of the founders of Ghana), actively brandishing their type of politics with poise for the prosperity of the nation. With Akuffo-Addo left as the only remaining seed of Ghana’s independence, the Presidential mantle was clearly his for the taking.

The myth became a reality on 9th December 2016 as he recalled that “the people of Ghana, in all serenity and dignity, exercised their democratic franchise, freely, to elect a president and parliament.” Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo, would now preside over Ghana as its democratically-elected commander and chief.

The emphasis placed on democracy by Akuffo-Addo during previous elections and afterwards was not only a mark he intended to carve up as a patient leader, but also to define to every Ghanaian what it means to be a legacy. This time around, the Akuffo-Addo family name would lead and serve Ghana fittingly with the times and its political height.

**He owes Ghana service**

The short-lived celebration for his eventual success in Ghana’s elections caused Ghanaians to quickly realise that it was in fact a new dawn for Ghana: a new dawn in working for Ghana, serving Ghana and even wearing things made in Ghana. Everyone had caught on that this man was ready to serve, and for now the future of Ghana was in fact in the hands of everyone who chose to tailor any part of his vision to their daily lives. One observes this notion even on the streets of everyday Ghana, where we notice posters brandishing pledges to Ghana by the everyday worker and student and what they hope to achieve for Ghana.

It is obvious to point out that the many years it took for Nana Addo Akuffo-Addo to become president earned him the time to effectively develop policies beneficial for the nation. Nonetheless, reviewing the patterns upon resuming office, the President’s knack has been to call on all Ghanaians to help as he simultaneously fulfils promises in making the nation an educationally-sound and globally competitive economy. This is the nature of one who is called a ‘legacy’. They believe in Ghana. They also believe in the efforts of the Ghanaian man and woman because their fathers once spoke, dreamt and fought for this type of man and woman.

"he intended to carve up as a patient leader, but also to define to every Ghanaian what it means to be a legacy."
Merging of the old and the new

President Akufo-Addo’s inspiration in politics can be traced back not only to the iconic political figures permeated throughout his lifetime, but most importantly to the traditional values which are embedded in Ghana and politics. As an avid reader of literature and as a man understanding of the times, the President recognises all the social inequalities which are present in the world and works considerably towards them.

By giving major public voices to female ministers such as the Foreign Affairs Minister Shirley Ayorkor-Botwey, the President inspired a generation of women to look beyond glass-ceilings.

The Legacy and the Osagyefo

The dynamic difference we find between President Akufo-Addo’s time in office and Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah’s tenure, is that unlike Nkrumah, the current President has found himself governing over a stable republic where the politics of Ghana adheres to democracy in its entirety. Ghana, now in a position as the beacon of hope for democracy in Africa, has once again taken its rightful place in leading the continent in self-determination and emulating sovereignty. President Akuffo-Addo has been able to effectively appropriate the right amount of attention paid to Ghana, Africa and the international stage. Therein lies the President’s strength as a legacy. Having observed the rhythm of Ghanaian politics since the First Republic, President Akuffo-Addo is now able to compose his own masterpiece, drawing wisdom from the rise and falls of his predecessors.

The President has made popular an argument which is often deliberated within the circles of postcolonial scholars on Africa and its international relations: ‘A Ghana beyond aid’. It is a motto carved up by the president for his people, yet it has transcended neighbouring borders and now resonates with all of Africa and its associated diasporas. The son of the legacy accomplishes this tactfully, through a vehement drive in travelling across the world to all Ghanaians by curating town hall meetings while simultaneously imprinting his compelling vision in the minds of all who have an ear to hear.

“‘A Ghana beyond aid’. It is a motto carved up by the president for his people, yet it has transcended neighbouring borders and now resonates with all of Africa and its associated diasporas.”

What does this mean for the Future of Ghana?

Yesterday if you mentioned ‘Ghana’, you would find thoughts of economic disarray and lost hope choking the throats of Ghanaians at petrol stations and fuelling their dismay. Today, if you travel around Ghana you are faced with as much freedom as paying attention to the road from Sunyani to Accra to avoid national entertainment catastrophes. But tomorrow, if you enter Ghana you make sure your hard work resembles the red blood, sweat and tears of the forefathers. That the investments made into the land are as pure and fine as the gold seeping from the underground of the land. That however much you may know about global warming, the green of our nations flag will give you the courage to consider how you can contribute positively to eradicating environmental problems in our nation. That we too shall take on the label as ‘Blackstars’ and never forget to shine brightly in endeavours, in life and making sure to be aware of any hand blocking our goals. This is because the son of the legacy of Ghana’s independence has finally been handed the steering wheels, and so far he has shown that he competently leads with poise and vision. Forward ever, backward never!

Celine Akosua Henry
Celine is a postgraduate student in Africa and International Development at the University of Edinburgh. Celine has a passion for development and World History, with specific enthusiasm for the decolonisation of African states.

While not disclaiming the concept and significance of aid, President Akuffo-Addo has enthused the global sector with his popular belief of gearing towards a Ghana that is beyond aid. This means that as the legacy, President Akuffo-Addo holds onto the ideals of the independence era (in that the black man must be capable to run his own affairs as announced by Kwame Nkrumah), and he similarly reckons with his bourgeois background in communicating eloquently and precisely to the international sphere.
FEATURE INTERVIEW

JOSEPH AUWAH-DARKO: TURNING WASTE INTO WANT!
Artist, creative, Social entrepreneur are just a few words that describe 21 year old Joseph Awuah-Darko. A young man who overcame mental battles in his teenage years is now engaged in a battle to solve the problems of one of the world’s largest e-waste dump sites. Joseph took the time out from his busy schedule to tell Future of Ghana Ltd who he really is, where his love affair with the Agbogbloshie waste dump began and what he would say to President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo.

FOG: Describe yourself in 3 words?

JAD: Overly-Ambitious, Entrepreneurial. Creative.

FOG: What is Joseph Awuah Darko passionate about?

JAD: Joseph Awuah-Darko is passionate about meaningful design and its power to propel humanity forward and stimulate real change. I am excited about the possibilities within the field of environmental conservation and its future within social entrepreneurship. As a creative and an emerging contemporary African artist, I am passionate about the boom the art market in Africa is experiencing and its ability to create a paradigm shift within our narrative that has been fed from a post-colonial lense. And finally, I am deeply passionate about social inclusion and what it means to change human life.

FOG: How and why did you start the Agbogbloshie Shine Initiative?

JAD: Back in 2016, a photographer by the name of Fabrice Monterio came to Ghana under a grant after winning the Green Peace Photography Prize for that year. Fabrice discussed his work at Ashesi, capturing the world’s most polluted terrains [from bleached corals I deforestation] and asked for some student volunteers to accompany him as he captured the significance of e-waste at Agbogbloshie. Naturally, I was curious and so decided to go. This is when my love affair with Agbogbloshie began. The Agbogbloshie Shine Initiative began as an academic prerogative for a course at Ashesi known as Leadership 4 service learning. I chose to pursue community engagement project I was passionate about - one that really meant something. So my team and I conducted empirical and ethnographic research at the site for 6 months in order to immerse ourselves within the day to day of the low-income inhabitants working there. One soon realizes that trust becomes real currency in a place like Agbogbloshie and that it is important to attain true empathy when trying to find real solutions to real issues people face. As an initiative we have come long way in our journey towards mitigating the prevalent environmental degradation at Agbogbloshie and we are learning everyday.

"I am deeply passionate about social inclusion and what it means to change human life."


FOG: What lessons have you learned since starting your entrepreneurial journey?

JAD: Effective team building: I’ve learnt that when hiring, it should be done for attitude over aptitude. I’ve found that though talent within a field is essential, it’s even more important to have on board your business who is genuinely compatible with your company culture and grand vision. Ethics, integrity, commitment and obsessive work ethic is key.

Another lesson I’ve learnt is to fail fast and the need to be action based as opposed to excessive planning and meeting. I find that people are typically afraid to make mistakes when that is the only way you make real palpable progress. I believe Mark [Zuckerberg] said it best – “move fast, break things”. It’s the only way.

FOG: In your opinion what industries will be the main drivers of Ghana’s development in next 5 years?

JAD: I’m not claiming to be an authority on driving industries but I feel we will see significant growth in the sanitation, agricultural, and finance sectors. I think these industries might galvanize Ghana’s development within the next 5 years as there seems to be significant innovation within these sectors. There IOT (Internet of Things) being utilized within agriculture in order to improve yield aimed towards filling the huge gap we face in Ghana and furthermore with things like mobile money finance has become more inclusive and has allowed the mass within the informal sector to make meaningful transactions.

FOG: You have previously made public your battle with depression and thoughts of suicide. How did you overcome this mental battle?

JAD: For me, at the age of 18, I was diagnosed with chronic depression and a proneness to anxiety/panic attacks. But I’d probably been suffering from this from much earlier in my childhood. Boarding school was arguably one of my darkest periods as I was bullied during this period for my [many] idiosyncrasies. I was this reclusive, introverted, affluent art geek
that nobody understood and I find that and I find that more often than not people don’t like what they don’t understand. This made me a target. I’ve had my moments of weakness where I’ve just wanted to end it all but I always remembered a simple but valiant saying my father taught me ‘keep on keeping on’. That is all we can do at the end of the day and those four magic words tend to do the trick. But it is important to keep in perspective that I am a work in progress and constantly pushing to find happiness. I have my peaks and my troughs on perennial basis but all I can do is to keep on keeping on, because life is hard and it doesn’t get easier.

FOG: Do you believe Ghana has a positive attitude to mental health? If No how can this be changed

JAD: I think in Ghana, being the hyper-conservative society that it is, mental illness is significantly misunderstood, demonized and stigmatized. Many people don’t understand the gravitas of it all and tend not to place it in the same league with more physical ailments.

According to Dr Akwasi Osei, Chief Executive Officer of Mental Health Authority (Ghana), mental health in Ghana is one of the worst on the African continent with 1.7 million patients and this is of no surprise to me given the lack of attention it’s been given until recently. I think the first step is to have open dialogue on the pressures that lead to mental health and to talk about what it really means in a way that truly destigmatizes it. It would be a good start, as part of the issue is that it is barely spoken about.

FOG: If you could have one hour with President Nana Akufo-Addo, what would you tell him?

JAD: If I had one hour with His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo, Agbogbloshie would be a major discussion point and how it came to be the largest electronic waste dump on the continent. I would address it in the context of sustainability, ways in which the public sector can create an enabling environment for social entrepreneurs to transform areas like Agbogbloshie. I would also make enquiries as to which of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) he feels Ghana should prioritize. Things of this nature. These are the issues that matter to me currently.
LUXURY HOME DECOR BRAND

MADE IN BRITAIN, INSPIRED BY AFRICA
Meet our 2018 pioneers a cohort of supremely talented individuals who embody leadership and boldness.

*Age shown on pioneer profiles denotes that of 6 March 2018*
Andrew Bimpong is a co-founder of Workshed Africa. This is an innovative workspace which promotes entrepreneurship and innovation amongst young Ghanaians.

Workshed strives to support entrepreneurs in their start-up phase and foster creativity in the co-working space. They are as much about community as they are about space. They provide a comfortable, affordable and collaborative environment for innovators and start-ups. With his co-founder Richard, they have helped many new businesses grow. Andrew and Richard left reputable jobs that they had gained soon after graduation to push their idea, and Workshed has proved to be a massive success.

Andrew stated, “he didn’t want to blend in with the status quo”. He believes that every business venture, no matter how small, can provide lessons for other ventures, and through that, the spirit of entrepreneurship in Ghana can be nurtured and truly grow. Andrew and Richard hope to branch out of Ghana to the whole of Africa.

They hope to massively impact Africa’s youth. Andrew and Richard, came up with the concept in the process of looking for an office space themselves. “As we looked for spaces to kick off our business, we stumbled across Deskhub, a coworking space in San Francisco. The concept was new to us, but appealing so we put work on our fashion start-up on hold to research what it would take to set up our own co-working space,” Andrew explains. “Other game leaders like WeWork pushed us further into developing the concept which was and is new in our part of the world.” Like many entrepreneurs, the two business partners struggled with access to capital and access to space. With Workshed, they strive to create an enabling environment for Ghana’s start-ups by building a community that emphasizes collaboration and dialogue. Co-working, a trend pioneered by companies like WeWork, is a trend common in major American cities in New York or San Francisco. Across Africa, it remains a new concept. However, as investment across the continent picks up steam, more start-ups are taking advantage of collaborative workplaces.

According to data firm Social Workplaces, in 2013, there were only 24 coworking spaces across the continent. By 2015, the number grew up to 250. In Accra, there are over five today. They range from collaborative workspaces like Workshed to more full-fledged hubs and incubators with an even more expansive range of services.

Andrew is also an Ashesi university graduate and has completed distance learning courses with Harvard Business School.
Daniel Kweku Anguah Jr, casually known as the “Afrikan Son”, is very much passionate about Children’s Rights and Human Rights activism across Ghana with over 5 years of experience. He founded Children Are Reason Enough (C.A.R.E), a child rights protection organisation based on the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child, which he has been running with his team of volunteers for the past 4 years.

As a strong proponent of Human Rights, Daniel believes that when people have better comprehension on the laws that govern and affect them, they will be better equipped to improve upon their lives at every point in time and defend themselves in most situations. Based on this philosophy, he started a grassroots legal and human right advocacy called Left Rights, which works to protect Human rights and ensure no rights are left behind in the fast growing dynamism of the world. He is a Co-founder of the Gold Coast Volunteers, in pursuance of his goals to improve and promote the value of volunteerism as a tool for nation building. Daniel is known in the volunteering circles as the “Volunteer — in-chief” as he travels across the country to encourage volunteerism. He is passionate about issues surrounding refugees because, he is a strong believer that refugees have rights which must recognised by all, to enable them integrate into societies and that refugees deserve respect, integration and opportunities.

He is the director of strategic partnership for Refugee Integration Organisation which helps refugees in Ghana integrate in the society and economy through English, cultural, and transferable skills education, and university scholarships. The solution is to help refugees in Ghana, Rwanda and Brazil stand on their own two feet, get jobs, and provide for their families. From this initiative, Daniel and his team seek to change the “myth” about refugees by availing them with full opportunities to unleash their potential. He empowers refugees through entrepreneurship; using it as a tool for integration and leveraging its multi-dimensional aspects to educate and expand the life chances for refugees.

Daniel has a BSc in Ports and Shipping Administration, a bachelor’s degree in law and a candidate for post graduate diploma in legal practice from Rwanda. He is living in Rwanda for the time being to help protect rights of children in East Africa, with South Sudan being his major focus.

He is very particular about the Future we Want (UN Convention) for a sustainable environment and through this he has initiated a robotic project to build robotic buoys that will transform solar energy and wave energy to electricity. His target is to develop this as a backup for electricity, hence develop clean and cheaper energy. He foresees a future where technology/robotics will make life easier and create a green and clean and sustainable environment. Anguah through his robotic buoy programme that produces electricity from wave and solar energy reduces the burden put on the grids that provides electricity to Ghana. It provides affordable energy that when fully accepted by the country and the continent at large, will go a long way in curbing the electricity crisis faced by the continent.

The “Afrikan Son” is also self-taught carpenter. He is a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum, a TEDx Speaker, TEDx Curator, and a volunteer at heart.
Danielle Atakora is a Social Entrepreneur with a passion for the social and holistic development of society. Danielle was once told she would not graduate but with determination, great drive and ambition, Danielle took home a BA (hons) Degree in Social Work in 2017. She then Registered in the UK, with the Health Care Professionals Council as a Qualified Social Worker.

Within a few months Danielle was offered a position as a Social Worker Consultant with Sugarman Health and Wellbeing, one of the UK’s Top Specialist Health Care Providers. Within this role Danielle has been managing newly qualified as well as Post Qualified social workers, support workers, youth workers, nurses and many other vital professionals in the UK.

Other than exercising her role as a Consultant, Danielle is also a creative young lady with many talents. She started her media business, ‘Dna Media’ as the age of 19 where she exhibits photography, graphic design and videography.

Danielle has worked with International leaders and prominent individuals around the world, such as Ex-president of Ghana John Kufuor.

Danielle is currently working on media projects that will enhance awareness on social and health care issues in our community, she is emerging both her creative skills and social work skills and abilities to make a difference in our society.

Her vision is to continue supporting, helping and developing our communities, our people, our law, systems and institutions. Above all, to make a difference and a change, to inspire our young people. Danielle is aware Africa needs a social service implemented at a higher quality, with her passion and drive, she aims to implement services in Africa that focus on the emotional, intellectual, social and physical aspects of people. A service that will resolve challenges in our communities, among the less fortunate and most vulnerable.
Derick Omari, a final year student at Ashesi University has proven to be a selfless and servant leader who is diligent in ensuring that others succeed and become better versions of themselves through his outstanding and impactful initiatives in his community. Derick who has had humble beginnings is inspired by his experience and has dedicated his life towards serving others especially the less privileged and the disabled.

He founded Tech Era, an organization that is dedicated to exposing the less privileged and disabled to technology so that they can harness the potential to become the best versions of themselves. Derick is currently training about 100 blind students in Akropong school to use computers and smartphones so they can partake fully in our technological era. He has also established robotics clubs in 2 senior high technical schools reaching out to over 200 students in high schools, hoping to establish 10 more clubs in addition and he has trained more than 100 children in rural areas in basic computing skills.

Derick is also the founder of Berekuso music project, an arts initiative that trains the less privileged with skills in music and dance so it could serve as a source of employment for the young ones. The project has an atentebe ensemble, a choir and a dance troupe reaching about 50 children in the Berekuso community.

Derick manages a diverse team of students from Ashesi University and communicates effectively with them which has made it possible to reach his goals. He has become a role model for students in Ashesi University and won numerous awards as a changemaker including recently the Queens Young Leader Award for 2018.

In 2017, he received the Leadership in Action award which is awarded to a student who goes beyond the call of duty to leave an indelible mark on the lives of others no matter how small. His organization (Tech Era) also won the community engagement award given to a student group that has demonstrated a commitment to serving others outside the Ashesi Community.

Derick was chosen as a 2016 Dalai Lama fellow and attended the Ethical Leadership Conference for his compassionate and ethical leadership he exhibits in his work to serve humanity. He was also selected as a Byron fellow in 2017 also for his commitment to serving others and making his community a better place. Derick has inspired several people to take up leadership mantles who are working to solving problems in the educational field. In his community (Ashesi), he has organized several events that brings the community together to celebrate diversity. Most of what he has achieved I believe is through his ability to listen to others – An extraordinary mark of a servant leader.
Mr. Derrick S. Vormawor is one of Africa’s youngest business consultants, corporate trainers, founder of Platinum Africa Solutions Ltd and a Serial Entrepreneur from Ghana.

He is passionate about building viable businesses in Africa and attracting a lot of investors into the continent. He holds a Diploma in Business Studies from Excellent Business College; a BSc. Baking and Finance Degree from The University of Professional Studies and is an MBA International Business in Developing and Emerging Markets candidate at The Technical University of Freiberg, Germany.

In 2016, He was named among Top 100 Student Entrepreneurs in Ghana, and in 2017 nominated for his remarkable consulting and professional services in The 40 under 40 Awards Ghana as well as for Ghana Startup Awards 2017.

He started his entrepreneurial journey in 2015 with a borrowed laptop after being unfairly fired from a bank job. He is the creator of The Business Startup Clinic by Platinum Africa Solutions and the Lead Consultant consulting for most of the company’s clients in Ghana, Nigeria, Israel, USA, Dubai, China, etc. He released his first self published e-book titled TESTING THE PAINT (growing into the role of The CEO) which is impacting a lot of entrepreneurs from different continents.

Derrick has built business plans and strategies that has helped businesses to acquire over $4million in funding and to expand in Africa. He has been featured in many publications and articles within and outside of Africa about his immense contribution towards the development of The New Africa and young people.
Growing up in the hazardous streets of Newark, New Jersey, Diana Wilson lived her life in a constant play of Hunger Games. Her grit originated from her insistence on being a nonconformist to the malevolence around me. Throughout her adolescence she relentlessly studied in order to have the ability to leave the ghetto and to charter a new mindset in other resident’s lives. For Diana, grit is defined as perseverance and passion for long-term goals. Grit entails working strenuously toward success, maintaining effort and interest over the years despite my failures, adversities, and plateaus in the progress. To her, the gritty individual approaches success as a marathon; his or her advantage is stamina. Grit is the leading force that has pushed me to look beyond the mirage of, stereotypes, bad grades, and her environment, and to focus on the vision Jesus has given her.

As a first generation, Ghanaian American college student she went to college to develop purpose and mastery. She did this, while also serving her community. She was a Career Peer Educator and Diversity Liaison at the University of Virginia Career Centre. Where she made an unequivocal impact by creating over 50 job/internship fairs and job-related workshops. While planning personalized events for underrepresented minorities at the University of Virginia and gaining sponsorship from Capital One, Ernst & Young, and Altria. Moreover, with all the racial terrorist attacks and chaos surrounding her college town, Charlottesville, VA, she tirelessly led a project to construct a memorial for the enslaved laborers at the University of Virginia. Diana helped educate over 12,000 students/alumni about the pre-eminence and contribution of slaves at the University of Virginia. She served as the student representative on UVA’s board of trustees and helped create and approve the resolution/plan to construct a $500,000 memorial. This memorial will be established by 2018 and it will serve as a reminder of the importance of all American citizens to this country’s progress. she has completed three prestigious internships with PricewaterhouseCoopers, McKinsey and JP Morgan Chase & Co. Through these internships she has been able to hone her ability to complete in depth analysis, keep an innovative spirit, create strategic initiatives and have a high-level “big picture” approach for tackling issues.

In 2018 Diana will assume her role as an Associate Product Marketing Manager at Google. Due to her passion for understanding the global sphere, she has travelled to 11 countries within 4 different continents on a full scholarship. Her travels span from South Africa to Brazil to France and Morocco. These experiences have provided her with strong cross-cultural communications and a vigilance to understand the complexity of globalization.

Diana has never forgotten about the important of lifting as she climbs. She won the McKinsey Woman’s Social Impact Award for her work with college students in Ghana regarding civic engagement. She has also won countless awards such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Scholarship, Coca-Cola Scholarship, Forbes 30 Under 30 Scholar Award, Outstanding First Year Award, Echols Scholar Award, etc. for my community service and leadership skills.

Her greatest strength is summed up perfectly in Leo Rosten’s quote: I cannot believe that the purpose of life is to be happy. I think that purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, and to be compassionate. It is, above all to matter, to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all. In everything I receive I know that to whom much is given much is required.
Itching for Ghana at 61: The New African Renaissance
Moses Manu is a first-generation Ghanaian growing up in the United States of America. He has been habitually scratching behind his ears, arms, sides, and back-side since second grade. Now 25, beneath his nails are thick dregs of doubt, insecurity, and fear. His once smooth skin – the color of ebony bark – is now a potpourri of rubbery keloids, fleshy scabs, and scaly dry skin. Instead of tackling the world around him and forging a path to a future more prosperous than that which his childhood afforded him, Manu is up at 6:55am feeling lazy and pained. He is up researching the meaning of the callous phrase his classmates used to taunt him: African Booty Scratcher.

Manu finds three definitions of the phrase:

A slave who scratches his master’s back-side.

A coward.

Africans sitting in abject poverty swatting or scratching at flies.

The definitions inflame more piercing memories of being teased about simply being African. A repulsive hive appears, the itch seizes his mind. Like a fiend on heroin, Manu scratches. This time, his rough nails tear open a deep scab on his arm. Blood that was once clotting gushes free. The itch is relieved. His trauma revealed. “I don’t want to be here anymore.” He relents.

Words, Kill.

Many of us who grew up outside of the continent know Manu’s experience too well. Many young diasporans – especially when young, impressionable and vulnerable – are pained, lonely, afraid and disillusioned because of the itch of an inferiority complex. Commendably, it is only a few of us who scratch to the point of death. But despite any apparent professional and academic success, our experiences with self-doubt while growing up African in the Diaspora can be harrowing.

By the mid 1990s there had begun to be a turnaround in affairs and this was supported by the 1996 United Nations Africa Report which found that Africa’s 2.3 percent growth rate in 1995, the highest since 1990, provided “modest grounds for optimism.” But in 2000, The Economist called Africa “the hopeless continent”. A decade later, that same leading voice on world economics boldly declared “Africa Rising”. Today, the economic boom of the early 2000s is being called to question and recast as a mere commodity boom.

Our politicians have tried everything – aid, debt relief, structural adjustment, universal education, building institutions, promoting democracy, etc – all to mixed and largely non-sustainable results. Anytime we excitedly poke our heads from the proverbial ‘poverty hole’, we are quickly whacked with a mallet and sent beneath the board, warned scoldingly that it is not our turn yet. Inevitably, most Ghanaians and Africans now say to the economists and politicians what the Akan people warningly hiss at perpetual liars – “ya te abr3”.

But dare I say that it is Ghana’s turn. It is Africa’s turn. And this time, it is different.

"Since the dawn of independence Africa has tried to edge itself into sustainable and inclusive economic growth, like its former colonized counterpart Asia has proven possible."

This is the function of words which by design are meant to demean and subjugate a group of people: they force us into a permanent trance where we forget that the real purpose of our lives is to doggedly contribute to the world around us, rather than to be lazy, apathetic, or afraid.

The genesis of self doubt

In fact, Manu’s final search result of African Booty Scratcher is the one most people refer to when they casually use this insulting phrase towards Africans. It is also the most revealing: we are considered African Booty Scratchers because we are poor.

No. Africa is not poor: but unfortunately it is the continent with the most people living in abject poverty...

Since the dawn of independence Africa has tried to edge itself into sustainable and inclusive economic growth, like its former colonized counterpart Asia has proven possible. Once in a while, that goal seems attainable and within reach. But economic growth in Africa has been sadly erratic. After the independence wave of the 1950s and 1960s, the continent was mired in conflict and economic stagnation from the 1970s to the 1990s.
Why? Because, culture. Culture is the anti-itch. The antidote. The relief cream.

As Ghana turns 61, I argue that it is Ghana and Africa’s turn not because the continent’s economic growth projections look promising (although in isolation you can argue that Ghana’s does). But rather it is Africa’s turn because of the changing tide about Africa and being African that is poised to be the catalyst for real and permanent change if harnessed and mobilized for development.

Real change is a bi-product of a cultural shift which fundamentally rewires mindsets, sparks transformative ideas, sustains passions, and motivates skill acquisition in order to see a vision through.

And what we now see is the start of this: a collective African appeal; a magnetic shift fueling the African cultural renaissance.

Everywhere sings Africa. From the clothes on the runways in Milan to the movies in the theatres in Paris. From the food in the restaurants in Atlanta to the music in the clubs in Guangzhou. From the dances seen on the streets of London, to the resurgence of cultural festivals in Accra, to the trending videos on YouTube, to even the hairstyle your favourite celebrity displays on Instagram! The aesthetic of the world is becoming more African, or at least can be considered heavily inspired by it.

It is less than a decade ago when African culture was largely shunned by the world, and in many ways, also arguably by Africa itself. Then, Pan-African ideals were relegated to a certain elite or intellectual class.

But today, African cultural ambassadors are everywhere and they are plenty. Young Africans are projecting a pride and interest in African clothing, food, music, languages, movies, books, art, dance, goods and products. They are engaging and influencing their friends and networks (African or otherwise) intimately and deeply. African culture has been dragged into the spotlight like never before.

Their big driver? Social media and technology, which has helped to amplify and connect their voices, their visions and their expertise.

As the recent craze about Marvel’s Black Panther movie proves, culture is what excites an 8 year old Manu about his African identity. Culture is what liberates little African girls and boys on the continent and in the diaspora from the psychological itch of an inferiority complex. Culture declares that “even though there may be many Africans living in abject poverty, even though our politicians and economists are yet to hit the magic development bullet, the existence of African poverty does not diminish my worth.”

“The African Booty Scratcher won’t be my reality, let alone my trauma.”

Culture cannot solve our development problems; but when imbued in any and all of our work, cultural pride relieves Manu. Culture frees him. Once free, Manu can achieve his true potential, whether it be an invention that propels Africans into space, a cure for AIDS, or a starring role in a movie like Black Panther that further excites more people about Africa. An enlightened and proud Ghanaian Manu can create businesses that employ Ghanaians and lifts more people like him out of poverty.

Culture says Manu should be “here” and culture makes him stay. Culture feeds him with optimism about his contribution to the world. Culture ignites everything.

Inspired by my friend Emmanuel Afrifa’s deeply affecting story The Tales of an African Booty Scratcher.

"As Ghana turns 61, I argue that it is Ghana and Africa's turn not because the continent's economic growth projections look promising"

Bridget Boakye
Bridget is a writer, activist, and entrepreneur based in Accra, Ghana. Raised in both Ghana and the U.S., she is particularly interested in issues that draw on the experiences, insights, and values from both Africa and the African Diaspora. She is currently an Amplify Africa Fellow and member of the Global Shapers Accra Hub.
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One of the youngest Student Entrepreneurs in Ghana, Eric Vondee is the Founder and C.E.O of My Home Teacher, an Actuarial Science student of the University of Cape Coast, a Broadcast Journalist for his campus radio station, ATL FM, an Actor and a Singer. He also has experience in Journalism, Social Media Marketing, Acting, Investments and Career/Personal Branding. He is committed to improving the financial literacy of young ones and hopes that one day young people will be financially liberated by making their money work for them.

At age 18, he made a decision not to depend on his parents for school fees or pocket money. He felt that once you can vote at age 18, you should be able to take certain responsibilities. So much so that from age 18 up to 23, he attempted to pay his school fees from his own pocket. His start up, My Home Teacher is an organization that connects parents with well qualified teachers to get quality, private tuition for their children at home at fairly moderate fees. Parents of primary, junior high and senior high school students are the main subscribers of the organization.

Today, “My Home Teacher” is creating jobs with over 100 teachers on their database awaiting employment. The organization has also helped in dramatically improving the academic performance of many pupils, including Abigail Newton of the Mothercare School in Burma Camp who received the most improved student award on her graduation day in 2015. My Home Teacher has chalked a number of successes nationally. The company was awarded as the Best Student Start-up at the 2017 Ghana Startup Awards. It won the Best Novelty Project in June 2016 by Neogenics Education. In August 2017, My Home Teacher won another award as the Special Education Resource by Neogenics Education at the 2017 Education Community Awards.

In March 2015, Eric was named as one of Top 30 Young Ghanaian Achievers by Newaccra Magazine. He was also nominated in several categories in the 2015 Ghana Tertiary Awards as Student of The Year, as well as Most Influential Student in Entrepreneurship and Radio Presenting. In August 2016, he was named as part of Top 100 Student Entrepreneurs in Ghana. In April 2016, he received a special recognition at the TEDxAccra event by one of the notable speakers about his achievement. In March 2017, he was featured in a book that highlight the inspiring stories of 60 Changemakers in Ghana and went on further to be named as part of Coca-Cola 60 Young Leaders. Eric has been featured in interviews and publications by several top media houses in Ghana and was named as “The Rising Star of Ghana” by the Indian publication, IUeMAG.
Hadiza Kassim is an ambitious and goal-oriented young woman, a social entrepreneur with a background in ethical trade and public health. While still a student, she began a made in Ghana fashion brand, which uses a sustainable model that allows the items to be produced in Ghana with hopes of creating more jobs for women. After graduating university, she left the U.S. to launch her non-profit in Ghana. She experienced many personal challenges including criticism from family members who saw no point in her activities. She persisted nonetheless and in 2015 Hadiza founded Sarauniya, a clothing line for women. All Sarauniya garments are produced in Ghana, a practice that allows the brand to be authentically African while also fostering sustainability by creating jobs in Ghana.

In 2017 she founded the Fatima Initiative for Public Health Reform, a non-profit organization that operates as a mobile clinic providing primary healthcare to underserved areas of Ghana through free pop-up medical screening, the highest attended free medical screenings in the Nima area. She also fully financed the screening with no formal sponsorship.

Hadiza has motivated many US born Ghanaians to use their knowledge and resources to impact social change in Ghana. She has currently started a wave amongst the New York City Ghanaians population. Many have seen her work and are looking to either get involved or start something of their own initiatives in Ghana. She is also open to sharing her knowledge with others, something that is not common of people of her calibre. She uses a collaborative approach in everything she does and is always willing to help others propel their ideas. In spite of her often busy schedule she still finds the time to mentor young people.
A 24 year old Ghanaian woman who started life in a single-parent household on a London council estate, Izzy is acutely aware of the systemic barriers that stop many young people from lower-income backgrounds succeeding in life. In 2017 she launched Foundervine, an organisation that seeks to address the innovation skills gap by providing young people with forward-thinking entrepreneurship education, networking opportunities and access to targeted support. They are starting in the UK but their mission is to transform entrepreneurial learning across Africa by providing 200,000 young people across the continent with enterprise education by 2020. They are doing this by creating innovative, experiential online and offline learning opportunities through the Foundervine platform and by partnering with corporates, governments, non-profit organisations and educational institutions who share our mission.

It is also a core part of their strategy to showcase and promote the successes of established entrepreneurs in Africa and the diaspora — stories which inspire and connect. This mission has so far led Izzy to work with young entrepreneurs in Ghana, deliver a talk in South Africa and run structured development programmes in the UK. In the short time since the launch of Foundervine, they have engaged with over 250 young people between the ages of 16 — 25 through their events.

This passion has also led Izzy to deliver a TEDx talk entitled ‘The future will be built in Africa’. The talk highlighted the mission she has for Foundervine — to spearhead the development of entrepreneurship across Africa by connecting three key groups — globalists, returners and ‘Afropreneurs’. Izzy’s strong commitment to helping entrepreneurs grow is also demonstrated in her current role as Enterprise Coordinator at the University of London. In this role, she administers a grant funding pool of £27,000 and in her short time there has helped four students turn their dreams into a reality through funding. Coaching is a core part of her role and she takes pleasure in running five enterprise appointments every week where she coaches students 1-2-1 on how to take their ideas forward. She has coached over 36 students on lean canvas models, customer discovery, product testing, marketing and personal branding which has led to 10 ideas moving to early venture stage. In addition to 1-2-1 support, Izzy delivers structured programmes that reach 23,000 students and are designed to inspire entrepreneurial thinking — they include 3-Day StartUp Bootcamp and InQUBEate. Prior to this work, she spent three years working as a management consultant at global professional services firm, KPMG LLP. As a People consultant she delivered projects across Europe with some of the biggest brands in the world — including GSK, WPP, Diageo and UK Civil Service — helping build organisations that were great places to work for people. During her time at KPMG, she pursued her passion for supporting the development of young people in her role as Events Lead of KPMG’s African Caribbean Network where she built key relationships and managed the delivery of numerous events including — The Future of Technology in Africa (curator), Art of the Side Hustle (curator, chair) and The Big Questions (curator, chair).

By being selected as Pioneer Izzy, is hoping to have the opportunity to engage and share her vision with a global community of individuals and organisations who she can support, collaborate and partner with. She also wants to be seen as a role model, to showcase the sheer talent that Ghana is capable of and to be part of taking our Ghana and the African continent to the next level.
Jephthah (Jeph) Acheampong graduated in 2016 from New York University with a BA in Economics and concentration in Business Management. While at NYU, Jeph interned at Aikins Educational Consult, an online SAT tutoring platform based in Ghana, where he worked with over 20 students on their college application process, getting them admitted to top US schools and inspiring them to take leadership positions on their campuses.

His commitment to “creating meaningful experiences that help people thrive” led him to start Anansi Global in 2014, an initiative to mentor and spark entrepreneurial thinking among orphans globally, that would see them thrive through economic hardships. Jeph and his team secured the 2015 NYU Travel Research Grant which they used to develop a curriculum to facilitate career workshops in the Parliament House of Ghana that later included a talent accelerator program, Blossom Academy, to equip unemployed college graduates in Ghana with technical and soft skills needed for meaningful careers in Data Science.

They also organized a sporting event to inspire the youth to emulate values of sport; teamwork, fair-play, and tolerance. Jeph is currently a founding member and the Head of Marketing at Esusu, a start-up that developed a mobile platform to encourage communal saving among low-income and immigrant groups. His motivation for this is fuelled by memories of his mother using her microloans, known as “susu pot,” to pay his school fees. Through his marketing efforts, over $70,000 has been transacted on the alpha version application and early users have reported significant reductions in student loan debts. Since committing to social entrepreneurship, Jeph has been recognized by numerous organizations including The Clinton Foundation, African Youth Excellence, Harvard SECON, Georgetown Africa Business Conference, and New York University as an Up and Comer.

Jeph has a keen interest in finding more opportunities to contribute to development in Ghana, and ultimately, Africa.
Jessica Bema Asare, CEO of Bema Republic, is a driven individual who continuously excels and is an exceptional role model amongst her peers. Jessica was born in the United Kingdom, she moved to Ghana at 6 years old where she lived for 11 years before attending university abroad. She has a strong passion for technology and whilst residing in Ghana, she dedicated her summer holidays to being a volunteer ICT teacher in a government school in Ghana called La Yehoshua.

She studies Computer Science and Management at Loughborough University in the UK and has continued her passion for teaching in the UK as an East Midlands code club volunteer, who taught coding every Wednesday to year 7 (form 1) pupils.

In her first year of university, she topped her whole computing and Management class, and won a scholarship from for being the highest. She also had the opportunity to intern in the technology division at one of the US's top investment banks, Morgan Stanley. Jessica was also elected to be the department president for Loughborough Computer Science which unheard of for students of colour.

During the summer of 2017, she launched her first business, Bema Republic, an African products line. Its first line of products were kente swimwear which caught attention from the media since it was The UK’s first African bikini line. Jessica ran the business from her university accommodation sold out her first stock in a week after her initial release and has been featured in Media publications such as the Daily mail, the Milton Keynes Citixien, Pulse Ghana, Capital moments and BBC 3 look East.

Bema Republic swimwear line has been praised for being innovative since the kente has been adapted to waterproof material making it more functional. She plans to expand Bema Republic into Ghanaian owned fabric and textile service to help stop what she sees as the Chinese exploitation of the Ghanaian print. Jessica has continued to inspire young people by doing interviews for various blogs and being a guest speaker at events across the UK and in Ghana.

In December 2017 Jessica’s talents were recognised by Google and she was selected amongst the 3% of applicants to Google’s top Black Talent, where participants are trained on how to excel in businesses in technology and enhance their leadership skills. Jessica continues to remain driven and strives to attain the best in her final year of university, whilst planning and designing the next collection of Bema Republic clothes.

Meet a Pioneer

Jessica Asare

UK · 20 years old
Joseph Awuah-Darko is a remarkable young man, some may describe him as an afro-optimist. He agrees with the sentiments expressed by Aliko Dangote and His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo, in stating that developing countries such as Ghana require investment and not aid. As a visionary, Joseph believes Ghana’s focus to achieve development goals within the next six decades can be succinctly captured with one word — sustainability.

Joseph also believes in the possibilities the circular economy brings and has a keen eye for opportunity. In 2016, upon one of his many visits to the world’s largest e-waste dump, Joseph founded the Agbogbloshie Shine Initiative in alignment with the World Bank’s Climate Innovation Centre at Ashesi University.

Seeing successive government municipal institutions fail in galvanizing change and regulating measures in challenging areas like Agbogbloshie, Joseph launched the initiative as a non-profit foundation that seeks to support social enterprises and philanthropic endeavors dedicated to applying design-thinking to solve the deplorable environmental degradation at Agbogbloshie.

But seeking to avoid the classic situation of trying to identify the needs and the realities of the low-income inhabitants living in Agbogbloshie from afar, Joseph sought to ethnocentrically immerse himself within indigenous communities of Old Fadama and conducted empirical research in order to gain insight into the issues rooted within Agbogbloshie.

The first philanthropic exercise Joseph conducted with his team at Agbogbloshie was the donation of twenty industry standard face mask to the laborers at Agbogbloshie involved in the self-harmful burning of scrap in order to salvage precious metals. However, the levels of smoke and lead pollution asks as a huge detriment to the health of these men leading to cardio-respiratory disorder, and other complications. This was a highly significant as the masks which filtered the air and served as a much needed mitigation for these men.

Joseph is also the founder of a social enterprise under the Agbogbloshie Shine Initiative called Akwaaba & Co that has created high-end bespoke furniture from scrap at Agbogbloshie and seeks to recruit and vocationally train low-income inhabitants at the site in the craftsmanship involved in making these pieces. This is a way Joseph seeks to build communities and create social inclusion.

Joseph has the remarkable ability to empathize with people on all levels and possesses a sense of emotional intelligence. He believes that business must be human centre and the need for team building through effective and honest communication in his approach to managing his team.

As much success as Joseph has had at Agbogbloshie in the last two years it is important to note that as a teenager he overcame depression and several suicide attempts. He recently released a documentary entitled; “It’s Okay” which aims to de-stigmatize current misconceptions on what mental-illness means in West Africa.
Joshua Oware grew up in the working-class town of Middlesbrough, in the north of England. Born to a Ghanaian father and English mother on both sides of his extended family he has seen the weight, and consistency, of social disadvantage. Growing up, though, he did not often have the words to make sense of these experiences. For him, it was only towards the end of his school years, and into — and beyond — university that he tried to do something about them, namely: challenge the social processes that serve to sustain, energise, and reproduce inequality.

After graduating with the highest First in Geography from the University of Oxford, Joshua simultaneously joined diversity specialists Rare — a company that aims to end the underrepresentation of Black and Minority Ethnic people in elite educational institutions and the highest echelons of the modern workplace — as research/community affairs coordinator and started an M.Phil. in Sociology at the University of Cambridge. Here, he built on work and networks he had established while at university. At Oxford, he set up the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE), coordinated the Black History Month program, designed a new College Diversity Training Programme to overhaul the support mechanisms for staff and students, and created the inaugural Oxford Race Equality Question Time symposium. At Rare, Joshua's research — published as two monographs in 2013 and 2014, respectively — has had national and international impact. This work engendered two new technologies to make university admissions and graduate job applications fairer: the unconscious bias, brain-training platform, ‘Hemisphere;’ and the multi award-winning software, the ‘Contextual Recruitment System’ (CRS). The CRS algorithms evaluate an applicant’s socio-economic background, ensure educational and career opportunities are more equally attainable no matter the circumstances of someone’s upbringing. Affecting over 150,000 people so far, it is used on three continents by over 50 of the world’s biggest law firms, (FTSE 100) banks, and academic institutions; and has been endorsed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility, the Social Mobility Commission and The Law Society, and featured frequently in the Financial Times, and on the BBC.

He also coordinated Rare’s pro bono ‘Target Oxbridge’ development programme, which won a Race for Opportunity award in 2014. Aiming to end the underrepresentation of black students at Oxford and Cambridge universities, the project’s work — where he is now an advisor and mentor — has been profiled in the national press, and officially been backed by both universities through substantial funding. In late 2014, the Orange-Prize winning novelist, Zadie Smith, agreed to become their patron. After this work, he became the youngest person to be promoted to (Research) Manager in 2015.

Awarded the faculty’s only full, three-year sociology scholarship, he is currently a PhD researcher at the Department of Psychosocial Studies — Birkbeck, University of London. There Joshua is exploring the long durée of slavery and colonialism, looking specifically at how important it is to understand present-day climate change as inextricably woven with these historic processes. For his work over the past seven years, Joshua was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Postgraduate Fellow of the RGS-IBG. He has also won several national and international awards, including: #10 Top 100 Future Leaders by the UK Future Leaders Magazine (2012); Diane Abbott MP’s Higher Education Achievement Award (2014); the Oxford University Vice Chancellor’s Civic Award (2013); and HM Prince’s Trust Race Equality Role Model award (2016).

In 2017, he co-founded Oxford’s first Black Alumni Network — which aims to inspire the next generation of talented diasporic students into the world’s top universities, while also supporting those who have come through them from Afro-Caribbean backgrounds, to succeed in the professions they choose afterwards. This work has been recently profiled in the Huffington Post, Evening Standard, and the Sunday Times.
Julius Karl D. Fieve is the Youngest Elected Local Assembly Member in Ghana representing the over 6000 people of the Mafi Zongo Electoral Area in the Central Tongu District. He is a Global Shaper of the Global Shapers Community of the World Economic Forum, Kumasi Hub.

Professionally, he is the Programme Officer of the Global Women Development Promoters (GLOWDEP). He was among 700 Young Leaders from 52 countries worldwide recognised as part of the Kectil Youth Leadership Programme which aims to identify and nurture highly talented youths in developing countries who have the potential to make positive difference in their communities. As a result of this he has had access to mentoring from Mr. Martin Luther King III (American Human Rights Advocate), Dr. Vivian Berlin (Harvard University), Prof. Robert Langer (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Dr. Snowy Joyce Khoza (Group CEO, Bigen Africa) among others.

Julius is a Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) Fellow, trained in Civil Leadership with 123 young leaders from West Africa at the YALI Regional Leadership Centre, GLMFA. He is a Mentor for the African Changemakers Fellowship Programme and part of 33 Mentors from Africa who reviewed the application process of 614 applicants for the 2018 Fellowship Programme from 44 African Countries and out of which 284 were selected and 17 are Ghanaians.

Julius was awarded an Associate Fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society by the Queens Young Leadership Programme of Queen Elizabeth II in 2016 in recognition for his demonstration of sustained commitment to promoting the values of the Commonwealth and working to improve the lives of the Commonwealth citizens. He was also given the Youth Excellence League Award by the Beige Foundation in recognition of his exceptional leadership talents, advocates for excellence and identifiable contributions towards the development of his Communities, Ghana and humanity.

Julius engaged in voluntary and philanthropic work for his communities and Ghana since 2002 through Communal Labour Activities. In 2006, then a student at the Sogakofe Senior High School, he organized extra classes for the Junior High School students of the communities during vacations. He devoted his time to ensuring the students of the communities made it to the highest level. He did these without being paid. After completing Secondary School in 2008, Julius taught voluntarily at the Mafi Zongo E.P Primary, teaching Class 5 students. Despite not being paid, his attitude towards work was the same of that of the paid teachers. He was punctual and regular at school and taught with passion. At KNUST, he taught voluntarily at the Mafi Kumase Senior High School during long vacations.

As a Local Assembly Member, Julius organized the maiden Youth Impact Summit which benefitted over 250 youths in the Central Tongu District in December, 2017. It was on the theme: Harnessing the Potentials of the Youths for a Better and Sustainable Future. The youths were mentored and inspired by carefully selected Mentors who shared their knowledge and experiences to serve as a catalyst to propel them to a better and sustainable future.

Julius has also shown he can exert his influence when he lobbied the Rotary Club of Ho, in the Volta Region of Ghana build a $14000.00 Two- Unit Nursery Facility and restrooms for the pupils of the Mafi Zongo E.P Nursery.
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR ALUMNI

AN INTERVIEW WITH:
SINEAD ROSE
Selected as a Future of Ghana pioneer in 2016 Sinead Rose embodied all the things you would associate with young ambitious woman whom at the time was helping to drive diversity change at Google in Dublin, Ireland. Two years on from her selection having relocated back to London Future of Ghana Ltd caught up with Sinead to find out how she has fared since and what moves she is making in this comprehensive and informative interview.

FOG: Describe yourself in 3 words?
SR: Tenacious, Humble, Bold

FOG: You were selected as part of the 2016 Future of Ghana cohort. How has being part of the FOG alumni been beneficial to you?
SR: FOG has been beneficial in so many ways. Not only has it allowed me to connect with other amazing, world changing people, it has provided a platform to showcase my achievements and more.

Being connected to inspiring people also subliminally encourages me to keep on striving to achieve my goals no matter how daunting they seem. The group is definitely one of the few consistent support systems that I have access to, which gives me the space to unapologetically be the best version of myself whilst offering assistance to my fellow Ghanaian leaders so that they can be theirs.

Through the cohort I have been invited to events and programmes that I would not have known existed meaning I am kept in the loop about amazing opportunities and projects globally as an additional bonus.

FOG: Tell us about your new business Teatox detox?
SR: Teatox Detox came to life in Feb 2018, myself and a X-Googler now turned award winning ads specialist came together to create these unique blends; being both avid tea consumers and health enthusiasts, the choice of this venture came naturally. Teatox Detox blends are rich with 100% natural ingredients that are high in antioxidants known to aid with brain function, boost the immune system, purify the liver, improve body performance, slow down the aging process and naturally detoxify without the need of laxatives. These ingredients were hand picked by us after tasting over 500 different tea blends and I am excited to share it with my fellow tea, detox and health fanatics.

"Since the dawn of independence Africa has tried to edge itself into sustainable and inclusive economic growth, like its former colonized counterpart Asia has proven possible."
We only have one body and one life, many people spend a lot of time and energy looking after themselves on the outside while overlooking the importance of maintaining the inside. This was something I had faced earlier on with my first business venture, working hard on very little sleep, eating relatively clean (when I got the chance to eat) and going to the gym, I found that I was exhausted and even when I took some time to rest, the energy levels did not rise as I hoped. Researching more into the immune system and learning about natural ingredients for boosting and detoxing the body I collaborated with my business partner to create a tasty tea that focused on replenishing the inside every sip at a time.

Through Teatox Detox the aim is to provide hard working individuals with the means to safely and regularly cleanse and rejuvenate their bodies, freeing them from toxins and stress that can accumulate throughout the day.

FOG: What 3 lessons have you learned since starting your journey into business?

SR: Believe in your hustle
I know this sounds cliche but having belief in your ability to deliver and create a self-sufficient system is key, as it starts with you. You will find that other people’s encouragement and belief in you can only take you so far especially during times of uncertainty.

Being someone of faith in something bigger than me, I have learned to submit my desire to that source, claim it has been received and work with the resources available to me to make it happen. Through this exciting journey you will also find that opportunities will appear in different forms, some not as beneficial as it seems at first glance. My two key principles that I use to guide me through business are:

1. Never agree or commit to something there and then, always take time to think about the offer on the table (read between the lines!)

2. Never do something that compromises your integrity, core foundation and morals even if the offer is good to be true

There is never a perfect time just start and be patient
You can prepare, research and secure investment for your business but I have realised that no matter how much you prepare you cannot predict how things will go! You just have to start and ensure you are as equipped as you can be at that present time, utilizing the resources and knowledge around you. There will be many unexpected bumps in the road but it’s totally fine, these bumps only make you stronger and forces you to think outside of the box and operate outside your comfort zone to find a solution.

Patience is key! When I got into business I expected the cash to immediately roll in but I have since come to learn that great things take time and one must be prepared to go through the learning curve. Once you understand this, the money will roll in as byproducts.

Get a team ASAP
Having a secure support system is key to the successful launching and running of your business. I have found that many entrepreneurs are protective of their ideas and businesses sometimes to the point where it becomes counterproductive resulting in missed opportunities. I had to find out the hard way with my first venture where I was doing everything! I found that although I was achieving the targets set it was at the expense of time and energy which could have been invested elsewhere. Now I have a team that is indispensable enabling my business to grow from strength to strength whilst giving me the chance to focus on strategy and the direction of the business in line with my vision.

FOG: How important is entrepreneurship to the development of Ghana?

SR: Entrepreneurship brings forth innovation across a broad spectrum of the economy. This encourages social change and a reduction in the dependence on inefficient and obsolete technologies and industries resulting in a more sustainable and prosperous Ghana. The establishment of one good and service can result in other businesses being birthed to complement the increased demand for local products, stimulating new wealth and markets to explore. Entrepreneurship encourages FDI which further secures the Ghanaian economy giving governments and businesses access to more capital to invest in areas that need financial aid. Youth unemployment is an issue that must be tackled and entrepreneurship can be a gateway to reduce the number of those out of work by giving youth not only invaluable work experience but also an income to purchase the things they need. Throughout time, successful entrepreneurs will create stable jobs which in turn will result to higher earnings contributing to national income in the form of tax revenue and government spending as can be seen by the National Entrepreneurship Programme.

Entrepreneurs are at the core of economic growth, they are vital to creating wealth and prosperity not just in Ghana but in Africa as a continent, however, the environment needs to be right for such innovation to flourish. More needs to be done with the educational curriculum introducing more Internships, volunteering opportunities, accelerators and incubators to name a few.

FOG: What does the future hold for Sinead Rose?

SR: That’s a good question! I am excited for 2018 and I already have achieved some of the goals I have set myself this year. My online shapewear and lingerie business has grown from strength to strength and I am in a blessed place to donate a percentage of my profits to fund charities focused on helping families with autistic children in Ghana. I seek to also focus on developing Teatox Detox with the aim to use some of the profits to sponsor projects around sustainability, security and fairness.

E-commerce is a passion of mine and I see the key part it plays in contributing to future economic growth, I am currently creating an e-commerce starter package which will have in depth content, tips and tricks for the novice who is interested in starting their own ecommerce business, I seek to help others achieve their objectives
and find great pleasure sharing with them lessons I have learned along the way.

I am also dabbling in politics having been selected as a youth delegate to attend the very first Commonwealth Parliamentary Forum in 30 years at the House of Parliament. During the Forum I connected with some of the most influential decision makers from across the globe, and gained first-hand insight into the actions being taken towards sustainable development outcomes across the member countries. I am in talks with some of the delegates to see how we can pull our experiences, networks and ideas together to engage with youth of which more than 60% of the 2 billion plus combined population are under 30 years of age. To say I am excited about the projects we have in the pipeline is an understatement, as soon as creases are ironed out I will share these plans for interested parties to get involved.

"Believe in your hustle I know this sounds cliche but having belief in your ability to deliver and create a self-sufficient system is key."
THE ARCHITECTS PROJECT: ADVANCING ARCHITECTURAL LEARNING
Architecture is essential to a country’s development. Simply because infrastructure is key to how we view a particular environment and ultimately the built environment shapes our lives. This is one of the reasons why a group of architects in Ghana led by a diaspora returnee from the UK came together in an attempt to advance the profession in Ghana.

Juliet Sakyi-Ansah

Juliet Sakyi-Ansah is an Architect born in Ghana. She resided there until 1997, when she moved to the UK to join her parents. After schooling in the West Midlands she studied architecture at bachelor and masters level at the University of Sheffield. Before going back to Ghana in 2013 to reconnect and familiarise herself with the industry there. Before going, I wanted to establish an initiative, but she wasn’t quite sure what issues would need to be addressed until she started living and working there herself. She completed her professional training whilst there.

About six months after Juliet started working in Accra, she noticed how it can be challenging for the local architecture community to be innovative not just in design, but in materiality, construction, and environmental impact. Some of the high profile and pioneering buildings rising up back then were by foreign firms, including One Airport Square by Mario Cucinella Architects.

She had no established network at the time other than a handful of friends and colleagues. It was challenging to meet and share thoughts with new people because there wasn’t a platform for that. If there was, it wasn’t very accessible or visible to those who were not already part of it. There was AiD (Adventures in the Diaspora), a forum for ‘exploring the role of creativity and design in Ghana’s development’. AiD is part of ArchiAfrika a Dutch founded non-profit organization that aims to put African architecture on the map to ensure that African Architecture is represented within the international architectural discourse, contribute to the understanding and development of design within the continent and encourage the investigation and education of African architectural history.

Working in an architecture firm, you often need information on specific aspects of your work. Juliet found there wasn’t adequate contemporary knowledge resource for the local architect/designer. Whilst the internet is the gateway to reach the world, what is available through the internet is not locally-contextual. It is almost like you need a technical and design encyclopedia of architecture for Ghana, at least for West Africa. Maybe the architecture equivalent of Nana Oforiatta Ayim’s ‘Cultural Encyclopedia’ for the continent.

Having made her initial observations, Juliet thought to herself: time waits for no one. She could have stayed thinking about the idea of the initiative and pushed it into the future because it really requires a lot of resources (both financial and human) to reach to the ultimate vision. But, she wanted the challenge then and she was keen to work with what was available at the time.

The concept for the Architects’ Project was loosely defined when they first started. With time, they have consulted and analysed reactions and expectations to set clear objectives. To date, they are not where she envisioned them to be. But understands this takes time.

Who/what is the Architects Project?
The Architects’ Project is an independent initiative focused on advancing the cause of context-specific architectural learning and practice using bottom-up approaches such as consultations with focused groups and participatory workshops. The initiative engages with all actors of the building industry, including the thinkers, makers and users.

They started with the aim of boosting the learning and practice of architecture in Ghana within four years. They have expanded on this to include facilitating community projects. But primarily, they have been working on:

● platform for hands-on activities that caters cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange and networking
● introducing diverse means of acquiring knowledge and skills to make the subject of architecture more accessible
● facilitating the creation of innovative and sustainable architecture
● engaging industry professionals and academics with local communities
● advocating for African architecture

"What is available through the internet is not locally-contextual. It is almost like you need a technical and design encyclopedia of architecture for Ghana, at least for West Africa"
The Industry

In Ghana the industry is challenging if you are an architect. Some architects are moving into Design and Build or Construction because with that, you are probably more likely to get paid. In Ghana there is the Architects Registration Council of Ghana (ARC) which is the government regulatory body for the architectural profession. There is also the Ghana Institute of Architects, the professional association. Both have a certain level of disconnect with the new generation of architects. There are two educational institutions for architectural studies: KNUST and Central University. The Architects project try to work with these institutions and almost act as an external agency. So far, they have collaborated with ARC to deliver a symposium after discovering we shared common interests in the use of local building resources in Ghana.

The main players in the industry are the developers and contractors. There are also a number of foreign architects leading some of the large scale projects. For local and relatively young architects like Juliet, she hustles to get the projects and ends up hustling even more to get paid. “It is unfortunate that such is the case” she says. To some, it is better to take on the design as well as the build because the thinking of your average client could well be that your work (providing a service) is of less value than the physical outcome (the built design). Her concern is that, this issue of clients not paying for the architects’ services might drive some inexperienced architects into playing the role of the contractor, taking on a lot of risks and likely to have inadequate indemnities.

Juliet tells us that she could write an article on the Insight into the gender demographic in the profession because of the complexities. As in the architecture industry in the UK for example, women are underrepresented in the profession, there were 43 newly inducted architects in Ghana in 2016, 15 (35%) of whom were women.

How Important is Architecture to Ghana?

The pace of development in the capital has increased in recent decades to the point where scarcity of land and housing is a multifaceted problem, particularly to the economy. It is also a rising environmental problem. Lack of advancement of our architecture (both in material and construction) in addressing current scenarios could hinder the country’s growth. There are aspects of how we live, work and leisure that are not accommodated in your average structure. If this results in negative impact on the standard of living, it can affects the country in terms of health, economy, social, and environmental.

On a broader scale, it is important that the projects architecture reflects contemporary social and economic demographics, and that it does not neglect climate, ecology and sustainability. Flooding and other urban disasters have become frequent
over the years. The Architects Project believes that rethinking their approach to design and construction of structures and their environment in order to address local parameters could present them with better scenarios and change the narrative of development in Ghana. Some development initiative are often undertaken using top-down approaches but there is space for bottom-up and alternatives approaches. This is the space The Architects’ Project taps into.

The long-term plan for the Architects project is to have a space in Accra, a physical as well as virtual hub with a library, studio space, gallery, shop, theatre, classrooms, etc.

Juliet Sakyi-Ansah is currently undertaking another professional course at the Architectural Association School of Architecture back in the UK (London) whilst working in Birmingham, West Midlands. To find out more about the work of the Architects Project via their website www.thearchitectsproject.org
Karen Safo is a natural communicator with strong leadership skills which have been enhanced by her taking on various positions of responsibility. In 2010, at 19 years old, she taught English in Koh Tao Thailand to many underprivileged students for two months. In 2013 she travelled to the USA to run workshops on youth empowerment in partnership with the Congressional Black Caucus foundation.

During her time in the states she met Michelle Obama and was also the guest blogger on real talk where she spoke about the comparative political issues in London and USA. As a barrister at Law to be and Public relations associate for WIAN (Women in International Affairs Network), Karen is very passionate about human rights and tackling the injustices within communities all over the globe.

She also founded the project Youth development Ghana, a project aiming to emancipate many from the injustice derived from unfair trade. That being child trafficking and slave labour. Karen has played an active role in the Youth Development Ghana organisation since the age of 17, partaking in activities such as bungee jumping to raise funds for the charity. She used the money raised from these activities to fund the education of children in Kokofu Asaman, Kumasi whilst also donating 100 dual desk chairs for the school in the village.

Karen also has a passion for travel and culture and has turned this passion into a blog called The Black Voyager, where she shares her experiences and encourages people to be unapologetically authentic to themselves. She recently launched a website for the blog (theblackvoyager.com) and she also shares her experiences via Instagram (@theblackvoyager) Her posts are known to be encouraging as she aims to motivate, encourage and uplift her readers. Her vision behind The Black Voyager was to inspire individuals to occupy unfamiliar spaces. This is a concept to encourage people to experience different cultures and break down stereotypes. Karen also runs a social enterprise, it aims to promote the textile industry that has been neglected in Ghana. It also aims to empower the women in the vocational industry in Ghana to reassure them that their skills are valuable and teaches them how to monetize from it.

She is also working with Opoku Ware Girls Vocational School in Kumasi to sell their accessories called Awomaa designs. Karen also wants to use The Black Voyager as a platform to sell fair trade garments made by the students in Opoku, online.

Karen received an academic excellence awards for minority students where 100 high school graduates were selected out of 3,000 schools in the UK to undertake in internships in prestigious sectors such as legal, medical, finance and banking. The selection criteria was based on highly intelligent minority underprivileged individuals who are unable to access and network with the elite as a result of their social status. Karen was the first black female student to be appointed as Head Girl of the Holy Cross School as well as being the first President of the Pan - African Society at SOAS.
King was born in Nima in 1989 in an underprivileged environment. He was one of the first students to join Ghana's famous Right to Dream academy. He won a full scholarship to school in Santa Barbara, California USA. After that he signed for premier league club Fulham and had a ten-year professional career in England Belgium Norway and Sweden. King made one appearance for Ghana's Black Stars. Throughout his professional career he donated money and time back to Right to Dream in appreciation of the opportunity he was given.

In 2016 as RTD expanded with the purchase of a pro club in Europe. Tom Vernon the founder was leaving Ghana after 18 years and RTD was looking for ways to retain its culture in leadership. King offered to retire early (aged 28) in order to take a management position at RTD. Moving his family back to Ghana while his professional career was on going involved taking a pay cut. Since then King has inspired and mentored Ghana's best young players and student athletes already helping many players become professionals and many students win full scholarships to schools in the United States.

King was also influential in allowing Right to Dream to be the Educational partner of Tullow Oil in Ghana. He secured a 3 year multi-million dollar contribution to the education programs at Right to Dream. He is now the partnership manager for the Right to Dream /Tullow oil partnership alongside his coaching, management, and mentorship responsibilities at Right to Dream.

King has mentored not only young students at Right to Dream but also the staff using his experiences of living, studying and playing in five countries in to assist them in becoming effective coaches and educators. His motivation is to educate a generation of leaders and role models for Ghana through Right To Dream. His Vision is to see Ghana's most talented children as the world’s leaders on and off the pitch. His professional career and management style make him a role model to his students, his community in Nima and the wider Ghanaian public.
Kojo Marfo is an Aerospace Engineering Graduate who connected with his Creative Entrepreneurial side during his days at Coventry University. The multiple award winning Youth Influencer and Event Producer is the founder of UK’s leading platform for Youth Development and Creative Growth called My Runway Group.

Over the last 6 years Kojo has scaled his Youth organisation to a 360 multi-faceted agency that has attracted over 6000 people to their annual creative production: ‘My Runway Show’ held at prestigious London venues like the Copper Box Arena and at the O2 Arena twice. He has curated career masterclasses, industry nights, workshops and charity programmes with the likes of the BFI, Conde Nast, various local authorities, Coventry University and KCA by Alicia Keys.

Kojo is the Black British Business Awards’ Rising Star finalist for 2016 and his recent campaign ‘The Youth Will Be Televised’ which he curated to showcase amazing young people nationwide received heavy media attention including a business page review by the Evening Standard.

The Ghanaian born creative also represented his country as the Youth Flag bearer at the 2017 Commonwealth service under the auspices of HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

His contribution to the Youth Community earned him a British Citizen Award which recognises individuals doing extraordinary things within their local community.
Lewis Appiagyei developed a great interest in all things cars and racing from a very young age. When he was just three years old, he started racing on games consoles and instantly showed a high level of manual dexterity. Having discovered this talent, his parents set about nurturing it. That same year, his big idol and namesake, Lewis Hamilton, premiered in Formula 1 and it was then that Lewis made up his mind that he would follow in his hero’s footsteps and become a future Formula 1 World Champion.

At 5 years old, Lewis sat in a kart for the first time and was hooked. It was clear that he wanted to do kart racing on a regular basis to hone his skills, and his parents set about finding a circuit near London. For his 7th birthday, he got a voucher for kart driving lessons, and as soon as he had completed his lessons, he entered first the Bambino and then the Junior Championships at Buckmore Park Race Circuit in Kent. Over the past 7 years, he has won numerous championship titles, set lap records (both in the UK and abroad) and won awards in and for kart racing. His racing trophies are so large in number that his parents are running out of space to store them at home.

Lewis was the recipient of the 2013 “Young & Talent” GUBA Award and he also holds a Guinness Book of World Records title for driving the fastest lap on the PlayStation console (Laguna Seca on Grand Turismo). His racing skills both in the real world and in online simulator racing are exceptional and he is still fully focused and determined to achieve the goal he set for himself back when he was just a little boy, becoming a F1 World Champion, the first one of Ghanaian origin to do so.

Every morning, Lewis gets up at 5:30 am to start training on his simulator setup at home. In order to maintain the peak physical condition needed for his racing, Lewis also practices athletics (twice a week) and fencing (once a week; foil). In both these sports, he has also achieved success. This year, he won double gold with his team, the Camden Fencing Club, in the London Youth Games. His peers who hear or read about him online or in the media feel inspired by his achievements and motivated to try out the sport for themselves in the hope to emulate his success.

Academically, Lewis is doing very well too. In his secondary school education, he is showing great promise in Maths, English, German, PE and D&T. Being a top student and high-achieving sports person is very demanding, but his determination and focus are such that he will easily continue to achieve well in all areas.

Lewis is definitely one to look out for in the future, and it is incredible to think he is still only 14 years old.
Lexy Owusu-Boahene is the Founder and managing Director of LX HR Solutions, an International Human Resource Consultancy focused on working with Executives, Managers, Educational Institutions and Professional Organisations to Engage, Develop and Retain Employees for business growth and sustainability by providing quality services in recruitment, HR strategy, training and development. She supports individuals and organisations fulfil their potential by creating and merging synergies. Providing capacity building to ensure clients are skilled in their pursuits.

Passionate about development in Ghana Lexy has devoted herself to creating a platform for the brain gain back to the continent by showcasing opportunities there, leading by example by investing in Ghana as an entrepreneur.

She has been recognised for HR, Community Work and Leadership. Lexy’s ambition and vision through her work ethic and values have attracted global clients from the Middle East, Europe and Africa. One of clients includes Uber who have commissioned her to recruit personnel in Kumasi thus providing employment and stimulating the local economy besides providing platform for both international and local employers to network with potential employees from the diaspora. Over 20 companies from various industries that were actively looking for talent with international education and/or work experience were represented.

In 2015 LX HR Solutions won the Aries Emerging West African Business Award in Recruitment and Networking in Lagos, Nigeria and in 2016 won the West African Regional Achiever for Outstanding HR Company of the year in Ghana. Lexy has been nominated for awards such as the Women4Africa Awards (Young Entrepreneur), the GUBA Awards (Charitable Work), and has been featured in The Voice Newspaper, on BEN TV, TNBT Magazine and many other publications. Lexy’s commitment to contributing solutions to issues of un- and under-employment in Ghana is illustrated by her impressive track record of providing an avenue for companies to have access to quality candidates. She has a vision of leading a Diaspora return drive because she understands what this demographic can contribute to Ghana’s development in terms of expertise, resources including their networks. This illustrated when her organisation hosted the Diaspora Drive on 22 December 2017 in Accra. The event provided a

Lexy successfully balances her role as a mother, an entrepreneur, Community leader, international speaker and philanthropist not just for her personal and business growth but that of her Community in Ghana and the United Kingdom.
Linda Teye is the founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a charity organisation Lintel Aid Ghana which was formed in July 2015 with the aim to uplift and improve the lives of underprivileged individuals, communities through the initiation and implementation of programs and projects that sustainably offers children, individuals and communities a chance for better improvement in their educational and social lives.

At the personal level, Linda is a humanitarian, philanthropist, entrepreneur, gender advocate and an recipient of the 2017 Coca-Cola Achievers Award. She has led the initiation and implementation of several projects and programmes in the area of education. A project dubbed Lintel Educational Support Project which was implemented in 2016 and 2017 in the Bolgatanga East district of the Upper East Region and happens to be an annual project, the One Kid One Uniform Project Implemented in the Gumbihini community in the Tamale Metropolis in the Northern Region and the Asesewa Project which was implemented in five Communities in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

Linda has ambitions to train and empower 10 vulnerable young girls and provide them with start-up capital in the area of bead making. She wishes to contribute to the creation of sustainable opportunities for the underprivileged in Ghana.

Linda holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Community Development Studies from the University for Development Studies, Tamale Ghana.
A 2015 Anzisha Prize Fellow, Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum-Tamale Hub and a graduate from the University for Development Studies, Mabel Suglo, is an ardent result oriented development professional with a passion for connecting communities.

Growing up in the Upper West Region of Ghana, Mabel was inspired by her late grandmother, who suffering from leprosy defied the odds, by cultivating food crops on a piece of land to feed her daughter and Granddaughter despite her physical challenges.

This fuelled Mabel's passion to establish founded Dignified Wear. This is a social enterprise that manufactures and sells durable and versatile footwear, locally woven fabrics, handbags, necklaces made from recycled tires and acrylic beads which creates jobs benefiting the physically challenged, rural women and the communities in which they live whiles inspiring people to get creative about reusing materials. Expanding their life-cycle and at the same time contributing to waste reduction.

Mabel also Co-Founded the international award winning Eco-Shoes in 2013, a Ghana based shoe company that trains and employs people with disabilities to manufacture shoes from recycled tires and scrap fabric. Serving as the CEO at Eco–Shoes and with her Business Administration background Mabel was responsible for the day-to-day operation ranging from product purchases and delivery, development of technology platforms and business management during her tenure of office from September 2013, to May 2017.

Mabel has been featured on international media outlets such as the BBC, CCTV, How We Made It in Africa, Huffington Post, CNN amongst others and was selected to participate in the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit hosted in June by President Barack Obama at the Silicon Valley in San Francisco, California (USA). She has also been recognized by the Ghana Tertiary Women's Network under the auspices of Echos of Leadership, as the 2016 Ghana Tertiary Woman Social Entrepreneur, mentioned as one of the Top 100 Student Entrepreneurs in Ghana by TANOE and one of the 50 most Influential Northern Women in 2016 by Sanatuzambang. Mabel spends her free time mentoring girls through school. Working on inspiring their entrepreneurial skills and the development of their community leadership skills.
Meet a Pioneer

Mairi Tejani

UK · 24 years old

Aged 20, Mairi Tejani graduated with a degree in Economics from the London School of Economics (LSE). During her time at LSE, Mairi was a founding board member and Head of Speakers for the inaugural LSE Africa Summit. Post-graduation, Mairi was awarded a full scholarship by LSE to attend a programme on African Economic Development in Cape Town, South Africa.

Mairi began her career in the Finance & Capital Markets practice of Clifford Chance, a magic circle law firm. She subsequently joined Standard Chartered Bank as a Senior Associate on the Public Sector team, covering Africa and Europe. In this capacity she was involved in the sales and distribution of financial solutions to a $100 million income portfolio consisting of sovereigns, central banks, NGOs and development finance institutions under the newly formed Public Sector team.

She was later appointed global account manager responsible for strategy and product development for a portfolio of key clients – partnering with teams in over 30 countries across Africa & Asia for deal origination. Mairi also formed part of a specialised team working as the Investor Relations and Sovereign Credit Ratings Advisor to the Governments of Ghana and Nigeria.

Mairi is currently an Advisor at Shell Foundation, working with a $500 million endowed vehicle, partnering with African businesses to co-create solutions to market failures under the themes of “Access to Energy”, “Access to Finance” and “SME Growth”. In her current role, she helps enterprises access the capital they need to scale and attempts to crowd in other investors through de-risking mechanisms.

As an elected governor for Central Foundation Girls School, an inner-city girls school in London, Mairi provides clarity of vision and strategic direction for the school. In 2017, OFSTED rated the school “good with many outstanding features” and the school was featured alongside Prime Minister Theresa May in the 2016 – 2017 Parliamentary Review.

As part of the advisory committee for DFS Africa, Mairi supported the curation of the inaugural convening in Lagos, Nigeria. In collaboration with CNBC Africa, the inaugural convening attracted several development financiers and $2.3 billion in pipeline projects into an invitation only “Deal Room”. Mairi continues to support DFS Africa as the organisation continues to be a catalyst for development finance into Africa. Mairi is alumna of the University of Oxford, where she has completed executive education in Finance and Impact Investing.
THE SILVA STANDARD!
AN INTERVIEW WITH MISTA SILVA
Papa Kwame Amponsa, more popularly known by his stage name Mista Silva, is a British-Ghanaian musician. Considered one of the pioneers of the modern Afrobeats movement in the UK and whose cult success in the early part of this decade with hits like ‘Bo Won Sem Ma Me’ and ‘Boom Boom Tah’ dragged Afrobeats out from the underground and onto the mainstream stage in the UK music scene. Future of Ghana Ltd sat down with Mista Silva to unearth and explore his thoughts on a variety of topics including the UK Afrobeats legacy and bringing Ghanaian culture to the mainstream.

FOG: Who is Mista Silva? And what is important to him?

MS: Mista Silva is a young man of Ghanaian descent. He is a man of passion, confidence, spirit and musical talent. He stands for being a Strong Inspirational Lively Versatile Artist, and many people will recognise him as the pioneer of the Afrobeats sound in the United Kingdom.

With regards to the things that are important to me: God, principles, loyalty, music. I also hold education in high regard, but not just your typical education: cultural education, about my roots & the traditions of my culture, is something which I find very important for myself being a London-based Ghanaian. You can easily forget your heritage, but I strongly believe that heritage is a key part of one’s DNA and that it is also a key element in shaping one’s character & mindset in society.

FOG: Describe your journey to becoming a musician: what key lessons have you learned along the way?

MS: My journey to becoming a musician is one where my fierce determination to achieve success has been evident throughout. I am a believer of the adage that if you want something, you must get up & do it! In the current climate, it is abundantly clear that simply having talent is not enough to be successful: you must be smart & you have to be willing to put in the hard work to make a way for yourself. You must plan effectively and then implement your intended course of action in order to achieve your desired outcome.

I have also learned that you should never see your mistakes & misfortunes as evidence of failure, but rather as things which will build up your character, your spirit & your life in general. You must go through a variety of situations and circumstances, trials and tribulations, to develop and become better. That is probably one of the biggest lessons I’ve learned: surviving trials will give you greater wisdom in whatever you choose to pursue.

"I also hold education in high regard, but not just your typical education: cultural education, about my roots & the traditions of my culture, is something which I find very important"

FOG: As one of the pioneers of Afrobeats in the UK what are your thoughts on the scene now? Has it changed?

MS: My thoughts on the scene are that things have progressed. I feel acts have been given great platforms, bigger platforms, and therefore they have greater opportunity to move forward with a career in the genre of Afrobeats. However, I feel the artists within the Afrobeats scene should be more supportive towards each other to increase the progression & overall strength of the scene. I say this because we now have sub-genres off the back of UK Afrobeats: these include ‘Afro Bashment’, ‘Afro Swing’, & ‘Afro Wave.’ These sounds are gaining more support from the major labels & big gatekeepers within the music industry. I love the fact Afrobeats is progressing the African culture in general to a place of greater prominence, but I feel UK Afrobeats did not obtain that similar amount of support which it so deserved. Without UK Afrobeats breaking the boundaries and pushing for the acceptance of the African sound and culture in our society, we would not be seeing those sub-genres we see today.
FOG: Which of the track(s) that you have a recorded are most important you and why?

MS: Firstly – Bo Won Sem Ma Me:
I place this record first in my ranking of most important tracks because it was the birth of me understanding my role & duty on this Earth. This record set up my career & provided inspiration to many people of African descent. ‘Bo Won Sem Ma Me’ gave me the confidence to proudly say “I am an African & it’s cool to be an African!”

Secondly – Boom Boom Tah:
This record made a big impact on the music industry commercially as it was the first unsigned UK Afrobeats record to be playlisted on UK national radio stations. This was a big achievement for the culture and set the tone for the future of the UK Afrobeats sound. It also led to me receiving multiple awards & also some prestigious such as the MOBO (Music Of Black Origin Award) nominations.

Finally – Goes Down:
I love this record because spiritually it’s a next wave. I have had fans testify personally that if it wasn’t for that record they would have committed suicide. They have said that after listening to that record they did not carry through with their plan to commit suicide because the track gave them the hope they needed to keep going and to cope better with life. I am amazed that my music has the power to make such an immense impact, and so grateful as it also tells me there is a deeper essence to the work I am doing.

FOG: Many people believe the Nigerian Afrobeat scene is ahead of Ghana’s and is redefining the sound of Africa. Do you believe this to be true and if so how can Ghanaian artists make their marks?

MS: I believe that this is true, as the Nigerians are more business-savvy with it. They also all support each other across all genres of music and interlink with each other, making their reach & appeal become stronger. They invest more into their production & entertainment industry as a whole.
Businesswise, they are ahead of us. However musically I will say that Ghanaians are the ones out in front, because the Nigerians come to Ghana to learn our sound and market it to the world as their own. Many of their acts have done this.

FOG: How important do you believe the music industry is to the development of Ghana

MS: The music industry is very important in playing a role in developing Ghana, as it can market the nation internationally & attract people to visit Ghana, whether it be for tourism of for business. It also can inspire future generations, ignite an atmosphere of unity & bring happiness to the nation.

I think music has always been a key element of the identity of a Ghanaian (for example, look at our talking drums - this is something which was used traditionally to develop our ways of communication). So, with that being said, I really do consider music to be essential to the development of Ghana.

FOG: Which artist in any genre would you most like to work with and why

MS: I would love to work with Pharrell Williams, because I believe he is a musical genius and I think musically I would develop greatly if I were to be given the opportunity to collaborate with him.

I would also like to work with Drake because he is like the ‘Michael Jackson’ of this era, and I believe in the way he supports and pushes through artists who deserve recognition. He uses his platform to share the exploits of others.

FOG: Without revealing too much of course, what is the long-term plan for Mista Silva.

MS: The long-term plan is to become an internationally recognised & respected artist / entrepreneur. I would like to take up business ventures which will attract more diasporans to go back & help develop Africa to its deserving position.
Nadia Owusu is a Ghanaian photographer and an arts entrepreneur. At age 20, she saw the need to promote cultural heritage and empower young creative individuals to pursue their passion in arts to have decent jobs while at the same time making positive impacts in their societies by taking up community projects using the power of arts and culture. She started a revolutionary arts society through her organization – STA AFRICA which simply stands for Saving the Arts in Africa to be a haven for creatives in Africa seeking to safeguard cultural heritage through their works and performances.

Since then her organization has initiated numerous projects including the Arts4Good Project where funds are raised from arts exhibitions to supply girls in remote areas with sanitary pads to keep them in school. It is this relentless nature of hers that got her to represent her organization at last year’s 10th UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris and to make subsequent presentations to the UNESCO’s Cultural Commission.

Nadia believes in unifying power of arts and culture and she strongly believes Africa will be a rising continent if we can sustain our cultural heritage.
Oswell Cole is the Local Committee President of AIESEC Ghana, Conference Engagement Manager for AIESEC UK, a Unilever Brand Ambassador and the CEO of Jump Start Your Career. He believes that every individual has the potential to be great, to be self-sufficient and explore other ways of life. He also believes that everyone us a leader with a vision and mission but as leader’s we must be self-aware, solution oriented and empower others.

His passion for Youth and Personal Development has given him the drive to mentor and encourage students. He has referred several students to AIESEC, an international leadership development organisation which exposes them to real life working experiences and travel/exchanges opportunities.

To this end Oswell came up with an initiative called Jump Start Your Career, which is a series of sessions he runs on university campus helping students to tap into their leadership qualities, Career soft skills and understand the need to become global citizens. He does this in partnership with AIESEC and Unilever, whom were impressed with his efforts and also have programs which the students can sign up to.

Oswell is seeking to get more companies on board with his initiative and will developing a platform where he will share inspiring stories of CEO and business leaders as inspiration to the students.

Oswell’s mantra is loving thy neighbour as thyself. He is also a nominee of 2017 UMB Ghana Tertiary Awards as the Most Influential Student Entrepreneur.
Prince Akpah is a young changemaker who wears many hats as a Social Entrepreneur, Blogger, PR Expert, Volunteer, Author, Researcher and Awards Consultant. As the founder and MD of Avance Media, Prince leads his team in creating one of Africa’s fastest growing and reputed Media, PR & Rating establishment focused on creating varied contents for the Global Market. Avance Media currently organises flagship projects across Africa such as Ghana Social Media Rankings, Most Influential Young Ghanaian, Most Influential Young South African, Most Influential Young Nigerian, Most Influential Young Kenyan, Most Influential Young Tanzanian, Most Influential Young Congolese etc. Avance Media’s story remains a source of inspiration and pillar to the rapid growth of a company yearning to become a Global Brand.

Prince has co-authored 2 bestselling books titled Commonwealth Young Achievers Book and Africa80 in partnership with the Commonwealth Youth Council and Global Shapers Africa respectively. As a Social Entrepreneur, Prince in 2014, co-founded Africa Youth Awards, Africa’s most recognised award for young people across the continent. The awards scheme has awarded 100s of young Africans through its annual awards and the prestigious ranking of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans. The awards also drive participation from over 140 countries annually. As a researcher and PR Expert, he is actively involved in the running of The African Network of Entrepreneurs (TANOE). Under his supervision, the organization organizes the Ghana Startup Awards, Ghana Startup Club 100, Top 60 Corporate Women Leaders in Ghana, 100 Most Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs in Ghana, Top 100 Student Entrepreneurs in Ghana, Top 50 Corporate Women Leaders in Ghana etc. In 2017, he co-founded www.collegeinghana.com an online portal that provides up to date information on tertiary courses and institutions in Ghana. At 19, he was appointed as founding Editor-in-Chief of the Key Newspaper by Hallowed Kids Foundation. His entrepreneurship articles are also widely read on www.jump.com.gh.

As a gender advocate, he collaborated with women entrepreneurs and celebrities to empower young girls through a project dubbed: “Be a Girl”. The program created an awards schemewhich is used to award hundreds of young girls across Ghana for excelling in both academic and extracurricular activities. In 2017, he was appointed as consultant and head of research for South African based, Reputation Poll, where he lead works on ranking the 100 Most Reputable People on Earth for 2017 which got global attention and the release of a ranking poll on the Most Reputable Bank CEOs in Ghana and Nigeria. As an awards consultant, Prince serves on the panel of the Ghana Event Awards and Ghana Startup Awards and has consulted forward programmes including: People's Choice Practitioners Honours (with Otumfuuo Nana Osei Tutu II as Patron), African Achievers Awards, WatsUp TV Africa Music Video Awards, Ghana Writers Awards and Nigeria Entrepreneurs Awards. As a Blogger, he co-founded the fastest growing comedy blog in Ghana, www.nogokpo.com which promotes the local comedy industry in Ghana and recognises comedians through its “Person of the Year” awards programme. As a PR Expert, he has lead several campaigns and his recent works were on promoting children with autism in Ghana who are aspiring to be models. This specific campaign has been featured on all platforms of the BBC including BBC World Service, BBC Africa, BBC India and other international media platforms. Prince’s works have gained attention and recognition of prominent personalities such as Presidents: Paul Kagame and Uhuru Kenyatta; Billionaires: Ashish Thakkar, Mohammed Dewji and Reginald Mengi; Politicians: Julius Malema, January Makamba and Dr. Mbuyiseni Ndlozi; Celebrities: Cassper Nyovest, AKA, Bonang Matheba, John Dumelo, Anne Kansiime, Shatta Wale, DJ Arafat, Mercy Johnson, Diamond Platnumz, Sarkodie, Rocky Dawuni and Corporate and Media organisations such as Access Bank Ghana, Comedy Central Africa, Forbes Africa, CNBC Africa, DW TV etc.). Prince is a former member of the Accra Hub of Global Shaper Community of the World Economic Forum and was named by the British Council Ghana as an Active Citizen in 2016.
Prince Bonney is a Social and Technology Entrepreneur who has set up a Technology and Business Hub called ICODE in Takoradi which is the first ever tech hub in the region. ICODE is an organisation which seeks to support tech and creative startups community by providing the necessary resources to drive innovation in Ghana towards the broader agenda of creating sustainable inclusive growth by fostering competitiveness and promoting entrepreneurship.

Prince Bonney is a certified business developer from the school of Babson Business College. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Technology from Ghana Technology University College. As a young Tech Entrepreneur, Prince built the Icode with mentoring from the founders of iSpace. What started out of his interest to promote technology among young people in the Sekondi- Takoradi Metropolis has evolved into a start-up.

As a young graduate, Prince with the support of his family was able to get some funds to start the ICODE co-working space. He and his team are the first to bring the idea of co-working space in the region. Prince wants to run a sustainable and welcoming co-working space for those the community who want to work out of home in an affordable, well-run and productive environment.

His main goal is to create an enabling environment for people to build startups, expand their reach and even go on to employ more youth in the community. He was won the admiration of both young and old in Takoradi. He has served as a speaker at Barcamp Takoradi, one of the annual Barcamp event organised by Ghana Think Foundation. He recently served as a mentor for the Archbishop Porter Girls School Robotics Team during the Ghana Technology Summit at the Kofi Annan Centre for Innovation and Technology.

Prince himself has also been involved in some great work in the community towards capacity building. In September 2017, with support from a few local organisations he ran a Founders’ Day program on Volunteering for some 500+ youth in the Dixcove community. He is still determined to help contribute to building the tech ecosystem in Takoradi despite the realisation that most young people are more interested in entertainment and fashion.
For over a decade now, Samuel Agyeman-Prempeh has consistently distinguished himself as mentoring activist committed to the development of African Youth. Having started Role Model Africa (formerly INVENTS) whilst in second year in Achimota School, Samuel encouraged his friends to save and invest their money in various investment portfolios. Fast forward ten years, most of the over 200 ‘Akoras’ from Achimota School who took part in this initiative are benefiting from their investments as collaterals, using the returns to purchase properties or to further their education.

Samuel is a business executive who started his career with a critical role as Protocol Officer at the British High Commission in Accra carving a niche for successful management of high profile stakeholder relationship and effective arrival and departure proceedings for diplomats and ministers.

He is the CEO of Purple Brand Limited, a cutting-edge Event Management and Communication firm. His initiative ‘Role Model Africa’ is recognized as Africa’s flagship mentoring platform, with its Corporate Dialogue and Mentor Connect program. Since its creation, the platform has received mention on GTV (Ghana), Daily Sun Newspaper (Nigeria) and Africa Rizing (An Offshoot of Voice of America).

Since September 2015, Samuel’s Corporate Dialogue has interviewed various African business leaders including Dr. Samuel Onwona (World Bank). His ‘Mentor Connect’ project continues to provide one-on-one mentoring to young entrepreneurs, pairing them with mentors in their chosen fields. Samuel’s ‘She Magnate’ project has provided coaching for close to 500 young women in Accra and Kumasi to make the most out of their education and careers. Many of these young ladies who have undergone the 3 month coaching process are setting new standards in their respective spaces. Samuel represents a critical mass of young Africans’ who are convicted that the trajectory of African can be interrupted with right spectrum of mentorship. Author of 6 books, his bestseller ‘Hello Intern’ is a favorite and indispensable guide to students, job seekers and young professionals in having a head start in their career. Samuel’s forte is observed in the areas of Stakeholder engagement, Liaison, training and project management.
Sean has made over 15 appearances on CNBC Africa TV and subsequently became their regular expert commentator on matters regarding investments and entrepreneurship discussing issues from Education, Access to Capital to the role of Young Entrepreneurs and Women on the continent. In October 2016 He got an invitation to join the speaking panel to provide thought-leadership and share the perspective of a Young African Entrepreneur and Investor at the Financial Times Private Equity in Africa Annual Summit and FT Sustainable Investing in Emerging Markets Summit which hosts some of the world’s largest investors in Africa.

Following on from that he was asked to become a regular speaker and to contribute in shaping the content and agenda of upcoming summits. In November 2016 and in honour of Global Entrepreneurship Week, He led and rallied up my shareholders and investors to successfully pledge $20m to be invested in social-entrepreneurship in Africa. In January 2017, he made an appearance as an expert panellist at The Guardian discussing the impact of cash flow and Technology on Entrepreneurship. In February and March 2017 Sean was featured in the Business Times Africa Magazine published across the South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Botswana - covering the outlook on the African start-up ecosystem and sustainable investing in Africa respectively. In April 2017 He received shareholder and board approval to proceed to work towards an initial public offering of our holding company’s shares on the London Stock Exchange within the next 6 - 18 months which would follow on with a dual continental listing on the Ghana Stock Exchange – enabling him to achieve his goal to have the largest sustainable Investment Firm on the continent by 2022 and making him one of the youngest CEOs of a listed company in Ghana and in the UK.

According to Forbes Africa, Sean’s story has surprised many. It all began with selling and swapping his clothes with friends when he was 15 years old. Growing up in Ghana, he was seen as a lost cause. He always came last in class, had several failed businesses, lost most of his friends and his savings on the stock market. He lost over 80% of his investment firm’s capital during the financial crisis of 2008. “My failures in investing in 2008 taught me a very valuable lesson that financial markets and our societies do not operate in isolation,” he says. From ashes, he founded The Wealth Project Holdings, a sustainable investment holding company focused on social impact through financial services and education in Africa. He also runs the Wealth Project Institute, an educational, entrepreneurial and investment institution which aims to empower hundreds of entrepreneurs and investors in Ghana. Sean is also a partner at Jislah Financial Services, a micro-lending company in the heart of Accra that has pledged a $20-million investment to accelerate social-entrepreneurship in Africa, has an Institutional Investor Network with over 5,000 people, plans to list on the London Stock Exchange and turns over an excess of $1 million a year.

Sean is currently writing a book and working on a TV show designed for the African entrepreneur and investor.
Terry Afram has proven himself to be an ambitious and inspiring achiever over the past few years. After completing his Finance MSc and working as an Investment Banker at Goldman Sachs, Terry was offered a position as Managing Director of Jumia Food in Ghana. This was a tough decision as he had worked incredibly hard to get his position at Goldman Sachs but he decided to move to Ghana from the Netherlands to take on the executive position aged 22.

Jumia Food is Ghana’s no.1 food delivery platform. The Jumia Group, formerly known as Africa Internet Group (AIG), is an ecosystem of online commerce, marketplaces, classifieds websites and applications backed by Rocket Internet, Goldman Sachs and the CDC group among other investors. Now 23 he heads a team of almost 70 people in a country he calls home but had not previously lived in before.

Terry was recently nominated for the Kleurrijke Top 100, which is the list of the top 100 most influential Dutch changemakers. Since Terry started at Jumia Food Ghana the company been awarded the CIMG Award for Best E-Commerce company of the year.

To many Terry succeeding in Ghana with Jumia does not come as a surprise to his family and friends in the Netherlands. He has had a track record of leadership whilst resident in the Netherlands, he managed an Africa-focused Study Association for 2 years, then later founded The African Business Day, an African focused annual national conference aimed at educating peers about the issues, challenges and opportunities in Africa. His work got the attention of the likes of the likes of former Dutch Prime Minister, Jan Peter Balkenende and Rotterdam Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb who both endorsed the initiative.

Whilst in Ghana Terry created the platform, Africons which is a series of interviews with exemplary Ghanaians to educate his peers, particularly those in the diaspora of the opportunities that exist in the country. Terry also writes for the largest Dutch national and professional newspaper, The Volkskrant. He writes columns on Africa which Terry has proven he is strong willed, ambitious, someone who doesn’t take no for an answer whilst being daring enough to take risks.
For years Yasmeen Opare saw African print swimsuits on runway shows, catwalks and magazines. She noticed that these swimsuits were never accessible or ready to purchase immediately. She desperately wanted her own unique Kente swimsuits to wear while on vacation as she loves to travel. This became an obsession, which eventually inspired her to create her own collection of Kente and African print Swimsuits for other women like herself.

In her final year of University alongside her studies, she began to sell swimwear and body jewellery on Depop and on Ebay to raise funds for her backpacking trip to South East Asia. She had identified that there was definitely a demand for swimwear that she could pursue in the future. Alongside her brother they started their business; Ashanti Swimwear, so they could create something unique and bring an authentic meaning of traditional African culture to the luxury swimwear industry. Yasmeen as Co-Founder of Ashanti Swimwear is driven by the aim to change the stereotype of what fashion should look like.

The fashion industry is largely dominated by young white females. Yasmeen is creating a space where young Africans can embrace their culture in modern fashion and be bold in doing so. The brand is also accessible in pricing and in purchasing, and empowers young women to feel proud representing their culture. Due to fashion lines such as Ashanti Swimwear African textile is no longer having to be hidden or worn just on family occasions but it is being expressed in many different forms, and much more boldly.

This is not Yasmeen’s first venture. She previously created a luxury travel blog called ‘She Travels Luxe’ which attracted a strong community of women around the world interested in adventurous luxury travel with purpose and luxury travel fashion. Her swimwear line has been picked up by prominent bloggers for review and worn by celebrities, but her vision to grow the brand and to promote Ghana more widely in different markets is much more significant.
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OUR
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Nominate a Future of Ghana 2019 Pioneer today

Simply Visit: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FOG2019