As we enter our twenty-second year, I often think about how we measure success in terms of the impact the Scholars are having upon the lives of others. Clearly, the previous independent evaluations and assessments give us indication that we are in many ways overachieving. Yet, evaluating how far we’ve come and looking to the future to determine how much more we will achieve collectively is the challenge. Fifty years from now I can imagine the legacies of many of our early Ron Brown Scholars to be most noteworthy because they understood the concept of “paying it forward.”

I recently received an update from a member of the fourth class of Ron Brown Scholars, Maria Velazquez, which truly embodies our Program’s Value of One, Power of All mantra... how collectively we can change the world. Maria told of a student she has been mentoring; a bright young man with a remarkable academic portfolio and personal circumstances very similar to that of our Scholars. Maria shared that this black, male, pre-law, first-generation college student with high financial need was facing the day-old challenge for high achieving, low income students: needing financial support to participate in an exclusive program that he worked hard to be accepted into. As Maria put it “The hard part of a program like that should be getting in, not paying for it,” but unfortunately, this is the reality for many of our Nation’s students.

Maria, now a professor, continues to do what many Ron Brown Scholars and friends are doing for their communities: leaving the ladder down so those behind them may climb up. She added, “RBS is special because we make each other a family—students with high need don’t always think of asking for help because they’re afraid asking for help will make them look weak or less-than. Being part of RBS has taught me not only how to recognize that tendency in others but also how to give help in ways that respect how awesome it is that you’ve already gotten to where you are.”

As I read her comments related to her desire to help this young man capitalize on a well-deserved opportunity, her passion was evident. It brings me great joy to see our Scholars demonstrate the multiplier effect by sowing seeds and creating the kinds of impacts which will filter down through families, communities and generations. I believe that this is what Tony Pilaro had in mind from the very beginning, for Ron Brown Scholars to be the conduits for change, designing solutions for moving forward.

This 2018 spring newsletter focuses on the wide-ranging and impactful ways our Scholars are giving back—to the Program, to local communities throughout America, and to communities across the globe. This would not be possible without our friends, corporate sponsors and family. On this note, I am proud to announce that a recent Alumni fundraising campaign in which longtime friend of the Program, Josh Rales, challenged Alumni to raise $100,000 for an equal donation match has been achieved. We knew from the outset that generosity was a key element in the makeup of these young leaders, but this level of commitment to the Program and its ideals was something we could only dream of.

This newsletter also highlights our most recent American Journey Awards celebration. Over 500 friends attended the March 23, 2018, event in Washington, DC, where we honored Kenneth C. Frazier—Chairman and CEO of Merck—for his leadership and commitment to community and service. Frazier charged the Scholars and Alumni in attendance to give back to their communities, expressing that they can be the catalysts for progress by bringing new ideas, insights and a deeper perspective on life that can unite us all.

We were proud to honor not one, but two Ron Brown Scholars for their leadership and

Continued on Page 3
Board Welcomes New Members
Dane E. Holmes Assumes Chairmanship

At the meeting of the Ron Brown Scholar Program Board of Trustees in Washington, DC, on Friday, March 23, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dane E. Holmes as Chair. Mr. Holmes succeeds Jack Leslie, who joined the Board in 2010, served as Chair since 2014, and will continue as a Board member. Mr. Holmes is Executive Vice President and Global Head of Human Capital Management for Goldman Sachs, and Mr. Leslie is Chairman of the global PR firm Weber Shandwick.

“The only thing that made me hesitate about taking this role was the fact that I’d have to live up to your track record,” said Mr. Holmes as he presented Mr. Leslie with a gift acknowledging his years of service and dedication to the Program at the 2018 American Journey Awards.

The Board has also welcomed three new members since the fall of 2017. Patrick Baker is an accomplished producer and film executive, dedicated to developing and producing high quality film, TV, and documentary projects. His recent projects include *Honeymoon* starring Rose Leslie of *Game of Thrones* for Magnolia Pictures and *The Art of Getting By* starring Freddie Highmore and Emma Roberts for Fox Searchlight. Born in London and raised in New York City, Mr. Baker earned a degree in African-American studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder. When he’s not developing and producing movies, Mr. Baker is a social justice advocate, an endurance athlete, and a personal manager representing writers, directors, and actors.

L. D. Britt, MD is the Brickhouse Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School. He received his BA with Distinction from the University of Virginia and is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Britt is the author of more than 220 peer-reviewed publications, more than 50 book chapters and non-peer-reviewed articles, and three books, including a recent edition of the highly touted *Acute Care Surgery*. He has received countless awards and honors in his field.

Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO and President of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), is an accomplished entrepreneur and innovative leader with deep experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors. As Chief Executive of ADL, Mr. Greenblatt leads all aspects of one of the most respected civil rights organizations in the country. Prior to heading ADL, he served in the White House as Special Assistant to President Obama and Director of the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation. Mr. Greenblatt graduated cum laude with a BA from Tufts University and earned his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Incoming Board Chair Dane E. Holmes honors Jack Leslie for his three years of leadership at the 2018 American Journey Awards.

BoDY oF TReUSTEEs

Samuel Z. Alemaiyehu, RBS 2004
Manager/Producer, Africa, Cambridge Industries Ltd
Patrick Baker
Manager/Producer
Nicole K. Bates
Deputy Director, Global Health Policy & Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Douglas C. Boggs
Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
L. D. Britt, MD, MPH
Brickhouse Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, Eastern Virginia Medical School
Terri Dean
Retired Corporate Executive
Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan
Chairman, Cyber Century Forum
Jordan Goldberg
Entrepreneur
Jonathan Greenblatt
CEO, Anti-Defamation League
Dane E. Holmes
Executive Vice President and Global Head of Human Capital Management, Goldman Sachs
Jack Leslie
Chairman, Weber Shandwick
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New Executive Committee Named

The Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association (RBSAA) was formed in 2001 to support philanthropic and social causes that celebrate kindred ideals, foster lifelong goodwill among Ron Brown Scholar Program alumni, and promote communication and mentorship between RBSAA members and Ron Brown Scholars. RBSAA Executive Committee members serve three-year terms, and a new group of leaders has been chosen for 2018–2020.

The RBSAA thanks the outgoing Executive Committee for their leadership from 2015–2017: Co-Presidents Ade Sawyer (RBS 2006) and Kara (Lee) Pierre (RBS 2000) Co-Vice Presidents, Andrea Headley (RBS 2010) and Mondaire Jones (RBS 2005), Treasurer Mohammed Toure (RBS 2012), and Secretary and Communications Officer Desmond Garner (RBS 2011).

innovative service. Dr. Amanda S. Alexander (RBS 2000) was awarded with this year's American Journey Award for Emerging Leadership. Amanda is founding Executive Director of the Detroit Justice Center, a non-profit law firm that works alongside communities to create economic opportunities, transform the justice system, and promote just cities. We also honored Crystal N. Boyd (RBS 2006) with the inaugural Christopher A. Pilaro Fellowship in the Arts Award. Crystal is currently developing a TV show Downtown Girls with Warner Brothers Studios.

As you read through this spring newsletter and see the accomplishments of our Ron Brown Scholars please note the different ways in which they have been able to make a difference, living up to our Program’s primary goal of impacting lives. It is with the support of friends like you that we are able to discover, nurture, mentor and encourage this very special group of America’s future leaders. I hope you will consider continuing your generosity. We appreciate every gift which we realize is a vote of confidence. As always, I welcome your suggestions and comments.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Mallory
President and CEO
THE JOURNEY | The Newsletter of the Ron Brown Scholar Program

The 2018 American Journey Awards
Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier Honored

Ron Brown Scholars are united by determination and grit in the face of hardship, faith in a better future, and the joy of pursuing one’s dreams,” observed host Gloria Borger, CNN’s chief political analyst, as she brought the 2018 American Journey Awards program to a close. This spirit of optimism for the future as represented by the Ron Brown Scholars was a theme that ran throughout the evening.

In welcoming the over 500 guests, Program CEO Mike Mallory asked the Scholars in attendance to stand: “Thank you for carrying on the legacy of Ron Brown through a strong sense of social responsibility and for staying connected. Our initial benefactor Mr. Tony Pilaro said this wouldn’t be any ordinary scholarship program, it would be a team of young people working together. You make us proud, and we thank you so much.”

The evening’s honoree, Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier, inspired with both his personal story of success in the face of hardship, and with his remarks.

“I have heard and read the Scholars’ stories and I can personally relate to the highs and lows they are experiencing as they seek to negotiate fault lines of gender, race, and socioeconomic status that are all part of leaving behind one’s familiar surroundings to matriculate at the very finest schools in this country and to embark on career paths scarcely imaginable just a few years before.”

He, too, saw the potential for positive change represented in the room. “Americans of good will, like all of you, hope that we will find leaders who can help us bridge the gaps—or really the chasms—of understanding that seem to make us unable to come to workable solutions to the problems we face… Where will these inclusive political, social, and economic leaders come from? That is where the Ron Brown Scholar Program comes in. These Scholars may seem like just students today, but they will be catalysts for progress in science and technology, business, academia, maybe even government. The ability to connect with others in positive ways can bring about new ideas, new insights and deeper, richer perspectives that can unite us all… Like Ron Brown himself, these young African Americans of exceptional promise can serve as important role models based on what they can contribute today as well as in the future.”

Mr. Frazier also provided eloquent encouragement for the Scholars. “Dream big. Be confident in what you can achieve—even when you hear that voice of doubt in the back of your mind… You can never be completely free of doubt. You’re only human after all. But what I would ask of you is this: act with confidence in what you can and will achieve, not out of a fear of failure… My wish for you is that your education will be the big differentiator for you, and that you will use it as a platform to create a ripple effect, not just in your own life, but in the lives of others.”

Mr. Frazier concluded by thanking all of those who have supported the Ron Brown Scholar Program’s mission through the years.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Attorney General Karl A. Racine, the first elected Attorney General for the District of Columbia. He shared with the Scholars and Finalists advice inspired by his mother, an educator, “Prepare for your future opportunities now by committing yourself to excelling in school… mastery is where we need to be. Once you’ve mastered a subject matter, you can then teach it.” He also advised care of one’s self, “Your mental health is incredibly important… never allow anyone to have you believe that your light isn’t worthy to be posted.”

Dr. Amanda Alexander (RBS 2000), the founding Executive Director of the Detroit Justice Center, a nonprofit law firm whose mission is to create opportunity and promote just cities, received the 2018 American Journey Award for Emerging Leadership. In her acceptance speech, which brought tears, cheers, and standing applause, she reminded the audience that the Program has been at her side since she was 17 years old.

At left, Brandon Staple (RBS 2018), George Haywood, Michael Mallory and Julian Manresa (RBS 2018). At right: Keynote speaker Karl Racine, Attorney General for the District of Columbia
old—over half of her life. “I’ve been lucky ever since to have this program, with Mike Mallory at the helm, encouraging me to shine bright, encouraging us to hold onto each other, and reminding us to remain dedicated to service and collective impact. It means so much to have this program say ‘we see you, keep it up.’ So, thank you.”

Amanda concluded her powerful speech with congratulations and words of wisdom for the 2018 scholarship Finalists. She asked them to do two things: close their eyes and think of the people who helped them in their journey to this moment; and remember that there is no right way to leadership or best way to be of use. “The problems of this world are many and the injustices are exhausting and immense. It’s your task to find what brings you joy. And then use those joyous talents to help repair the world.”

The first Christopher Pilaro Fellowship in the Arts Award—established in memory of master mentor and pillar of the program Chris Pilaro—was presented to Crystal Boyd (RBS 2006). Like Chris, Crystal has always taken life head on and faced challenges with her chin up. She is devoted to strengthening relevancy in entertainment media and is currently developing a TV show *Downtown Girls* with Warner Brothers Studios. She credited her mother for sparking her curiosity, and the Ron Brown Scholar Program for supporting her creativity, “The Program truly lifted me up in ways I never imagined were possible.” Crystal acknowledged the support and inspiration that many Scholars receive from their family, and expressed appreciation for her mother and grandmother, who were both in attendance. “That’s really what inspires me to create the stories that I do. I want to honor black women.”

The evening was also a time to celebrate the community of givers that is the Ron Brown Scholar Program family. Attendees collectively pledged over $70,000 during Text to Pledge. Dr. Marquise McGraw (RBS 2002), new President of the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association (RBSAA), announced that 82 percent of Ron Brown Scholar alums have donated to the Program since 2001. In 2017, the RBSAA succeeded in raising funds to meet Advisory Board member Mr. Joshua Rales’ $100K donation-match challenge. They continue to make progress toward meeting 2017 American Journey Award honoree Mr. Robert Smith’s proposal to match Scholar donations over five years up to $1M.

We look forward to seeing our Scholars and friends in March 2019 when we will celebrate the 23rd year of the Program and the milestone 10th anniversary of the American Journey Awards. “Ron Brown believed strongly that we needed better opportunities for all of our young people. He had vision, and he could also catalyze necessary action to achieve that vision,” Mr. Frazier remembered, “Looking at the Scholars around here—all these promising Scholars in the room—is seeing his legacy and his vision live on.”

**“Dream big. Be confident in what you can achieve.”**

KENNETH C. FRAZIER
Congratulations to the 2018 Ron Brown Scholars

Thank you to our Scholarship Sponsors: Samuel Z. Alemayehu (RBS 2004), the Boggs Family, Dane E. Holmes, Goldman Sachs, Ann Horner, John McAllister, the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association, and Jonice and Stacy Gray Tucker.

Grant T. Alexander
Macon, GA
Morehouse College
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Finance and Economics

Payton K. Beaumier
Sioux City, IA
George Washington University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: International Relations

Abel Y. Berhan
Seattle, WA
Harvard College
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Public Policy and Economics

Micheal D. Brown
Houston, TX
Stanford University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Political Science

Tyrone Davis III
Bronx, NY
MIT
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Computer Science and Mathematics

Elijah J. Dukes
Baltimore, MD
Cornell University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Chemical Engineering

Maurice A. Gilbert
Ocala, FL
Florida A&M University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Economics, with a minor in Business

Jalen W. Johnson
Conover, NC
UNC-Chapel Hill (Morehead Scholar)
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Political Science

Drew A. Jones
Long Beach, CA
UCLA
ACADEMIC INTEREST: English and Political Science

Cameron G. Kilpatrick
Rome, NY
Stanford University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Mechanical Engineering

Hana M. Kiros
Tallahassee, FL
Harvard College
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Computer Science

Nadia Lartey
Lansdowne, PA
Yale University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Latin American Studies and Mathematics

Reginald J. Lowe, Jr.
Opelika, AL
Auburn University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Political Science

Kyndra J. Lundy
Macon, GA
Georgetown University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Computer Science

Julian G. Manresa
Newark, NJ
Yale University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: History of Art and Classics

Robbie R. McCall
Detroit, MI
Princeton University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Engineering

Emily N. Ndiokho
Allen, TX
Barnard College
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Political Science and Sociology

Jennifer J. Near
Alpharetta, GA
Harvard College
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Chemistry

Michelle O. Osagie
Lisle, IL
Yale University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Biochemistry

Haleigh O. Quinn
Denver, CO
Stanford University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Biochemistry and Political Science

Jada E. Reid
St. Louis, MO
Wesleyan University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: English Literature

Marcus K. Shallow
Elton, LA
Yale University
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Developmental Biology

Brandon L. Staple
Longmont, CO
The University of Colorado at Denver
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Biology

Lauren A. Tucker
Wheatley Heights, NY
Harvard College
ACADEMIC INTEREST: Neurobiology and African American Studies
**What are Ron Brown Scholars Up To?**

Periodically we check in with all of the Scholars to ask *What are Ron Brown Scholars Up To?* We received these updates from 62 Scholars—representing all of our 21 classes—earlier this spring.

**CLASS OF 2017**

Delali Azmati is completing her winter term at Stanford majoring in Computer Science. She received a number of great internship opportunities for the summer (Facebook, Bloomberg and Google), and has decided to intern with Google.

Kiara Gilbert is currently completing her second semester at Princeton and has accepted a summer internship in the office of State Senator Heather Steans. She is excited to make Chicago her home for the summer and also get involved in any local non-profits in the area. Kiara was honored with a Future Global Leaders Fellowship, which recognizes the world’s most exceptional first-generation college students.

John Okhiulu is finishing a fantastic year at Stanford and preparing for his next. He plans on working for a company called DEED based in New York City this summer. The organization is attempting to connect citizens in the city to service opportunities through a phone-based application. John is excited to be able to use his Computer Science experience to impact the community in a large way this summer.

**CLASS OF 2016**

Hope Jackson is working hard through sophomore year majoring in Biology and Global Health. This summer she will be doing fully-funded research with the NGO Forward UK in London, an organization that works in black and minority ethnic communities to educate, empower, and end stigma around female genital cutting.

Vernon Johnson is finishing his sophomore year at Columbia where he is majoring in Computer Science. Vernon received numerous summer internship opportunities and will be interning with Ripple this summer. He is excited to spend his summer on the west coast enjoying San Francisco.

Yasmeen Metellus is finishing her sophomore year at Columbia University. She recently declared a major in Political Science. She received numerous internship offers, and will be interning at Fidelity this summer in their asset management division. She is looking forward to spending her summer in Boston.

Kai Tinsley has finally declared his major, and is pursuing an engineering degree in Operations Research (with a minor in Sociology) at Columbia University. On campus, he is currently on the E-Board of his school’s National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter and is involved with several college prep and mentorship programs. This summer, he’ll most likely be interning with the School District of Philadelphia, helping them upgrade their enterprise software by analyzing and redesigning their current business processes.

**CLASS OF 2015**

Montell Brown is finishing up his junior year at the University of Pennsylvania where he is studying Criminology. He is enjoying his time at Penn where he is heavily involved on campus and in the Philadelphia community. He was recently accepted to continue his education at Penn’s Graduate School of Education following his graduation next year where he’ll be pursuing his Master of Science in Education concentrating in Secondary Education with grades 7-12 Social Studies Teaching Certification. He is very excited for this opportunity and has already received several job offers to teach in Philadelphia and Ohio. This summer, he will be returning home to Cincinnati, Ohio, to work as a Recreation Program Leader for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission.

Caroline Haoud is currently completing coursework at Columbia as a Neuroscience major and will be conducting research this summer—she is still deciding between a few programs.

Desmond Howard is enjoying his junior year at Penn where he is majoring in Computer Science and minoring in both Applied Mathematics and Engineering Entrepreneurship. He will return to Microsoft in Seattle for the summer where he will be working on the IoT Team under Azure.

Taylor Howell is enjoying her junior year at Georgia Tech majoring in Chemical Engineering. She is excited to be heading to Metz, France, this summer to be a part of Georgia Tech’s campus in Lorraine.

T’Angela Knight is loving her Process Improvement co-op with Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Neenah, Wisconsin, this semester. As she approaches graduating with her Marketing degree next year, she will be interning at Tennessee Valley Authority this summer in the Power Operations group.

Chidera Osuji is studying abroad in Paris, France, this semester and taking classes related to her majors at Parisian universities while living with a host family. Though she is applying to and has received a few internship offers, Chidera is not yet sure which she will choose. At the moment, she is mostly looking forward to seeing what the rest of her time in Paris has to offer.

Jaylen Pittman is currently in Auckland studying for the semester. When he leaves New Zealand, he plans to go to Air Force Field Training at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Following field training, he will return to the position he had last year as Associate Fellow at Yale Young African Scholars. After that, it’s back to Yale for senior year.

Leah Yared is in the middle of her junior spring at Harvard, where she serves as
WHAT ARE RON BROWN SCHOLARS UP TO?

For the Fellows, where he will use fellowship resources to teach and advocate for greater mental health education and services for high school students of color in Maryland. He is both anxious and excited to return to Yale in the Fall to complete his joint BA/MA in Political Science.

Dasia Moore will be in Durham next year as the 2018–19 Autry Fellow for MDC, an organization that does research and advises nonprofit/government coalitions on reducing inter-generational poverty in the South. Dasia was interviewed by Katie Couric for the “Re-Righting History” episode of Couric’s National Geographic series, America Inside Out. While the Yale footage had to be cut because they had over-shot for the episode, a short clip of the Yale story was included in the series preview on ABC. You can find that clip here: https://abcn.ws/2GOEGb2.

Victoria Offei-Dua is finishing up her senior year at Vanderbilt University. She is excited to be starting medical school this August at Washington University in St. Louis. Her summer will be spent catching up with friends, road trips, hikes and lots of Grey’s Anatomy as she prepares for the next step of medical school.

Michael Reid is wrapping up his final semester at Harvard majoring in Economics. He is looking forward to returning to his hometown of Chicago after graduation where he has accepted a position with management consulting company Bain & Company.

Marjada Tucker is currently completing her final semester at Rice University where she will receive a BA in Biochemistry and Cell Biology and a Certificate in Civic Leadership. She is thrilled to be hosting the Northeast Mississippi Student Leadership Conference this summer in conjunction with the RBSP’s Guided Pathway Support (GPS) Program. This fall she will join the incoming Medical Class of 2022.

Colin Webb is finishing up his last year at MIT. As Colin’s service as Class President comes to an end, he looks forward to speaking alongside Facebook’s Sheryl Sandberg at Commencement, and is organizing some final initiatives with students and administrators. Colin is applying to summer accelerator programs and hoping to continue his retail real estate entrepreneurial pursuits. He also hopes to continue his study of Mandarin Chinese, which he started in summer 2017.

CLASS OF 2013

Jordan Alston-Harmon is a Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company but will be leaving in the fall for law school after receiving offers from Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, and the University of Chicago.

Jim Cunningham recently graduated from Princeton and is currently working at Investure (finance, fund of funds) in Charlotteville, Virginia.

Justice Namaste recently began a new position as a Social Media Coordinator at WIRED, where she also writes for the website and print magazine. She is currently living in Oakland, and spending as much time as possible reading in the sunshine.

Leslie Turner is currently working at RTI International as a Public Health Analyst in the Substance Use, Gender, and Applied Research (SUGAR) Program. She is assisting with research projects in both North Carolina and Cape Town that target young black women who use substances and are at risk for contracting HIV and other STIs.

CLASS OF 2012

Christopher Middleton has just passed the one-and-a-half year mark as an analyst within Google’s Trust & Safety department. He is loving his last few months in his core role and his 20% project focused on addressing discussing race within Google. He has also become more involved with supporting Stanford University’s new financial literacy program, Mind Over Money. This fall he will be attending law school.

Kelsey Miller recently returned to Washington, DC, after an exciting week and a half at the Pyeongchang Olympics watching figure skating and other sports. She is enjoying her last few months at Deloitte while deciding on the law school she will attend in the fall.

Rassan Walker just passed the one-and-a-half year mark as a Software Engineer at Pinterest, and he continues to enjoy living on the West Coast.

CLASS OF 2011

Brandon Hill is working on his social media startup TLDR, which just finished the Y Combinator accelerator program, closed a pre-seed round of capital and was featured nationally on the App Store.

Keon Pearson is finishing his third year of medical school at Stanford and preparing to enter the Stanford Graduate School of Business to start his MBA. He looks forward to getting a consistent amount of sleep and exercise.
WHAT ARE RON BROWN SCHOLARS UP TO?

CLASS OF 2010
Andrea Headley is finishing up her PhD in Public Affairs (with a concentration in Criminal Justice) from Florida International University. She was recently awarded the University of California Presidential Post-doctoral fellowship and will be spending a year at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley starting July 2018. She also accepted a tenure-track faculty position at The Ohio State University in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

CLASS OF 2009
Caroline Sanders graduated with her MPH in June and recently transitioned into government service at the intersection of public health and the criminal justice system. Caroline manages Seattle-King County’s jail diversion program, LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), which equips police and prosecutors to connect people to intensive case management and coordinated services instead of arresting them and filing charges for low level drug involvement or sex work.

CLASS OF 2008
Peter A. Boyce II is entering his fifth year at venture capital firm General Catalyst in NYC, where he works on leading new startup investments and running Rough Draft Ventures to support student entrepreneurs. He’s excited and proud to work alongside the newest member of his team: former American Express CEO and 2014 American Journey Awards honoree Kenneth I. Chenault.

Osha Kondori is currently living in San Francisco, enjoying the chaos and growth of startup life. She recently started a new role as the Director of Customer Success for a software startup, ZenProspect.

CLASS OF 2007
Mya Thompson was just promoted as a Senior Director at United Entertainment Group and is excited to continue working hard in her role as a sports marketing specialist. She is excited about her upcoming campaigns at the NFL and NBA Drafts and looking forward even more to her upcoming wedding in New Orleans and honeymoon in Bali this May!

CLASS OF 2006
Crystal Boyd has relocated to California to work with Warner Brothers on developing her television show, Downtown Girls! Crystal received the first Chris Pilaro Fellowship in the Arts Award at the 2018 American Journey Awards. See pages 2–3 for coverage.

Salmana Diallo is back home in Philly after a short trip to Guinea to visit family and explore the beautiful West African country. She’s slowly accepting that she can’t have freshly picked mango and papaya every morning as she begins a new and exciting client engagement with New York University.

Dr. Maikha Jean-Baptiste just returned from spending a month working in a clinic in Guatemala. She is completing her second year of Family Medicine residency at UC San Diego and is enjoying being on the west coast.

CLASS OF 2005
After three years in London, Mena Cammett is moving back to Washington to join MIGA, the World Bank’s political risk guarantee agency. She’d love to connect with Scholars involved in international development and Africa.

Dr. Nicholas A. Smith is finishing up year 4 of 6 years of urologic surgery residency training at UCLA, and is also engaged in bladder cancer and healthcare delivery research at the VA (veterans hospital). He will soon be looking for academic urology jobs/fellowships.

CLASS OF 2004
Chaz Beasley is in his second year as a State Representative in the North Carolina General Assembly. In his first year, Chaz successfully passed his first piece of legislation, establishing financial literacy courses in North Carolina’s high schools. He is gearing up to run for reelection in the 2018 general election.

CLASS OF 2003
Brandon Cook recently completed his PhD in Medieval Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He currently holds a postdoc at the Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures at Notre Dame will be continuing in that position next academic year.

Sarah LaBrie’s choral piece dreams of the new world written with composer Ellen Reid and sung by the Los Angeles Master Chorale will premiered at Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles on May 13, 2018. The interview-based libretto takes as its inspiration the life of Robert R. Church, Tennessee’s first black millionaire, and examines changing definitions of the American Dream across time. Learn more about Sarah’s writing projects at www.sarahlabrielivesinlosangeles.com.

Alexandra Wood recently left wearable technology startup Wearable X to join the New Ventures division of McKinsey & Company, where she’ll be launching a new software-based business within the firm.

CLASS OF 2002
Alvin Hough is the musical director of the Broadway revival of Once On This Island. The show received rave reviews (especially from the one source that really matters, the New York Times) and has an open-ended run. At home, he’s been enjoying watching his son, Samuel, grow up. He just turned one on March 8!

Danielle Lovell Jones is figuring out what it means to be a mom, wife, entrepreneur and overall diva. When she is not choreographing dance sessions with her little ones, she is

Dr. Maikha Jean-Baptiste (RBS 2006) spent a month working in a clinic in Guatemala. She is completing her second year of Family Medicine residency at UC San Diego.
Class of 2001

William Chichester, III will be taking on an exciting, newly-created leadership role within Capital One’s Talent division as the line of business client lead for the firm’s Small Business Credit Card and Banking businesses in the US. This follows an amazing seven-year run playing numerous roles within Capital One’s university relations talent acquisition function. In his new role, William will focus on building a unified Small Business Card and Small Business Bank recruiting strategy, coordinating recruiting efforts across various teams and executing on delivery of the Small Business Growth Initiative. Outside of work, William continues to reside in Richmond, Virginia, with his beautiful wife and college sweetheart, Ivy.

Caleb Franklin co-founded Mumbai-based investment and advisory firm Matter in 2017 and continues to be based in India full time. Outside of advising leading global companies like NewsCorp, Amazon, Netflix and Snapchat on their India business strategy, Matter recently closed an investment in India’s leading coffee provider Blue Tokai. On the personal front, he and his wife recently adopted a dog, Morty. He is currently on the advisory boards for the Miracle Foundation and Samasource.

Class of 2000

Amanda Alexander is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Afro-American Studies and a Postdoctoral Scholar in Law at the University of Michigan. Amanda is also the founding Executive Director of the Detroit Justice Center, a nonprofit law firm that works alongside communities to create economic opportunities, transform the justice system, and promote just cities. Amanda received the 2018 American Journey Award for Emerging Leadership. See pages 2-3 for coverage.

Maria Velazquez, PhD attended Building Future Faculty, a training program for folks interested in working at colleges and universities. She’s still not sure where she’ll be in September, but she’s loving this adventure called life.

Class of 1999

Derick Gross continues to work as a software developer and business analyst in New York. He was awarded the Grow With Google Scholarship - Mobile Web Specialist, and is proud of his daughter Arya’s progress in potty training.

Olivier Award winner Katori Hall’s latest play, Tina: The Musical, based on her play Pussy Valley. She’s the proud mama of Ntare (4) and Akura (1), and wife to Alan. The happy family loves calling Manhattan home.

Ryan Stewart recently accepted a position as the Regional Executive Director for Partners in School Innovation, an education nonprofit that supports schools to achieve transformational student results for low-income students of color. Ryan oversees the organization’s Mid-Atlantic Region.

Class of 1998

Antonia Henry is finishing an eight-month deployment with the US Navy to Kandahar, Afghanistan, where she is the Director for Surgical Services and a staff surgeon at the NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit. She is eagerly anticipating returning home to family, friends, and good food.

Jon Piper has accepted the role of Chief Scientific Officer for MIM Software, the medical software company where he has worked for the last 13 years. He is also excited to join the advisory board of the RBSP Leaders Network where he’ll serve as a resource for Scholars and Captains interested in computer science, biomedical engineering and the like.

Tracy Wynter recently launched her website, www.YcartFitness.com, where she is offering livestreaming Yoga classes, which is in addition to teaching Yoga at several Disney resorts. Ycart is Tracy backwards and also stands for You Can Achieve Results Too!

Class of 1997

Carmelle T. Norice-Tra, MD-PhD recently accepted a Medical Officer position within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, MD. In this capacity, she will review and help develop NIH-funded research to better understand, prevent, diagnose and treat infectious diseases. She continues to serve as an Infectious Diseases Consultant for patients with HIV and hepatitis C at a federally-qualified health center for un- and under-insured patients in Southeast DC.

Sarah LaBrie (RBS 2003) visited Memphis with her collaborators Ellen Ried and Sayd Randle to research the life of Robert R. Church, Sr., the black millionaire whose life is examined in their choral piece dreams of the new world.
Selection Weekend in Photos

A RBS 2000 and Harvard '04 mini reunion: Amanda Alexander and Angela Smedley.

Mohammed Toure (RBS 2012), Alister Bent (RBS 2012) and Michael Mallory.

Maurice Ware (RBS 2016) shares wisdom with the 2018 Finalists.

RBSAA President Marquise McGraw (RBS 2002) announces the completion of Josh Rales’ $100K donation-match challenge.

Margaret Ivey (RBS 2007), at right, leads Megan Donovan (RBS 1997), Michael Mallory, Kelsey Miller (RBS 2012), and Kiya Jones (RBS 1999) in a morning icebreaker before the alumni meet to discuss the future of the RBSAA and plan the Triennial.

Javarcia Ivory (RBS 2015) shares his group’s ideas for Triennial Conference sessions.

JUNE 29–30
Leaders Summit
New York City
Hosted by Skadden Arps

The Ron Brown Leaders Summit brings together students and alumni who participate in our Ron Brown Leaders Network with corporate sponsors for networking and professional development. This year’s Summit will take place at the law offices of Skadden Arps with a theme of Make it Happen—Make it Matter. Scholars and Captains can find more information and register at bit.ly/RonBrownSummit. For more information about the Ron Brown Leaders Network, contact Holly Duke, Director of Leadership & Engagement, at 434-964-1588 or hduke@ronbrown.org.

AUGUST 1–5
Triennial Conference
Charlottesville, Virginia
Hosted by the University of Virginia School of Law

August will bring all twenty-two classes of Scholars to Charlottesville for a long weekend of connection and growth surrounding the theme of Visionary Stance, Extraordinary Impact. The Triennial will be an opportunity for Scholars to reconnect with one another and begin to use the power of the Ron Brown Scholar Program network in their daily lives and beyond. Plans are underway for inspiring keynotes, small group discussions, service projects, family activities, and a day trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
GPS Seniors College Bound

“I am forever grateful to have access to such a supportive group of individuals that share a similar identity to mine,” posted GPS Navigator Daniah Foster as she announced on the platform her decision to attend Bates College in the fall of 2018. Daniah is one of many students mentored through the college application process by Ron Brown experts through the Guided Pathway Support (GPS) Program, an RBSP initiative supported by Fund II Foundation.

Since its inception in 2016, the Guided Pathway Support Program has grown tremendously—as of 2017, GPS has seen a 20% increase in size in both its applicant pool and current enrollment. GPS seniors will matriculate to colleges and universities across the country in the fall, including Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Fordham, Harvard, Stanford, Texas State, UPenn, Wellesley, and Vanderbilt.

Efforts to continue this progress are part of the program’s strategic outreach plan, which includes opportunities for meeting with prospective families in their local communities to discuss the benefits of GPS. In February of this year, the GPS staff attended the Alfred Street Baptist Church Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Festival at the Gaylord National Convention Center in Washington, DC. The festival included over 70 colleges and universities, several of which offered on-site interviews and instant offers of admission, seminars relating to the college application process and the opportunity to speak with community-based organizations like GPS.

Through the course of the day, the GPS team had the opportunity to speak with hundreds of prospective students and parents about both GPS and the Ron Brown Scholar Program and collect information from several hundred students who planned on applying. This spring, email and postcard campaigns introduced GPS to over 13,000 potential applicants, identified through our partnership with the College Board. Over 600 applications have already been received for the program’s 2018–19 cycle, during which GPS plans to guide over 2,000 students on their path to college. More information and a link to the 2018–19 application can be found at rbsgps.com.

Networking That Works

The Ron Brown Leaders Network continues to grow as a trusted source of job and internship opportunities for Ron Brown Scholars and Captains facilitated through networking and recruiting activities.

Ron Brown Captain Jewel Brown, Dartmouth ’19, attended the 2016 and 2017 Leaders Summits and was selected for Goldman Sachs’ pre-Summit engineering program in 2017. Jewel will work as a Summer Analyst for Goldman this year, and was awarded a $15,000 Goldman Excellence Scholarship.

Captain Teferi Taylor, Georgia Tech ’15, spent a summer as a Lockheed Martin Avionics System Engineer intern. He was mentored by Leaders Network Council member Woody Woodyard, Vice President, Communications for Lockheed. Teferi was named as a co-inventor of a pending patent for software he helped develop during his internship.

Leaders Network Corporate Partners and students—including many of the 2018 class of Ron Brown Scholars and Captains—will meet in New York June 29–30 for the third annual Leaders Summit. This year’s summit will be hosted by the law firm of Skadden Arps.

The Leaders Network Advisory Council welcomed four new members in fall of 2017. Advisory Council members donate their time and business acumen to inspire and advise Scholars and Captains.

Joel Bervell, Yale ’17, is pursuing a Masters Degree in Medical Science at Boston University and plans on entering into medical school to become an MD/MBA dual degree candidate. Markham Ericson is chair of Steptoe’s Telecom, Internet & Media practice group and co-chair of the firm’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Bertrand Kimper is Global Head of Executive Search for Johnson & Johnson. Jonathan Piper, a 1998 Ron Brown Scholar, is Chief Scientific Officer for medical imaging software firm MIM Software.