Fall is always a busy time here at the Ron Brown Scholar Program. For almost a quarter-century, we've been helping students greet the new school year with confidence and optimism, none of us has seen a back-to-school quite like this before. With students beginning their virtual and hybrid academic years, we have been working overtime to meet the needs of their new normal. Even as they rise to meet these new challenges, our Scholars continue to make meaningful contributions of their own. In this issue, you’ll learn about how our Scholars have been combating injustice and overcoming adversity. Adversity reveals the strengths not just of our character, but also of our communities. From our youngest undergrads to our oldest alumni and from our newest friends to our most senior Board members, the Ron Brown network has pulled together like never before, ensuring each of us has the opportunity to thrive.

Technology has helped us come together even when we can’t be together. In June, our Leaders Network Summit went virtual. Transforming our multiday, New York-based conference into a fully online event gave nearly 300 Ron Brown Scholars and Captains the opportunity to explore potential career paths and connect with 50 of our Corporate Partners. Building on this momentum, our August Professional Development Series connected Scholars and Captains with leaders in the arts, tech, business, health, government and non-profit industries. These career development events were able to reach so many people because they had to be remote—and as much as I miss seeing you all in person, I believe that the addition of virtual programming has made us a stronger Program.

No example shines brighter than our Virtual Salon Series. Over the course of 14 weeks, we had the pleasure of hosting hour-long sessions that brought together anywhere from 150 to 300 Scholars, Captains, Board members and friends to share their perspectives on today’s society, how they’re making a difference and their versions of “what’s next”. RBS 2004 Sam Alemayehu and Board of Trustee Meredith Eggers worked tirelessly with the Ron Brown team to facilitate an incredibly impactful series. A commitment to making a difference in the community is what makes a Ron Brown Scholar and from meeting the finalists at Selection Weekend to following them on their professional journeys, we are always so proud of the impact our Scholars make in their chosen fields.

Two such Scholars that you’ll read about later in this issue are RBS 2006 Amanda Bass and RBS 2003 Julian Miller. Julian, Senior Associate Attorney at Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP, spoke passionately about how his experience as a Ron Brown Scholar and an Attorney has led to his work in establishing the Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice. Amanda, an attorney with the Federal Defender’s Office for the District of Arizona, represents death-sentenced prisoners in their federal appeals. Most notably, (continued on page 2)
Michelle Ifill and Brian Siegel Join RBSP Board of Trustees

Mrs. Michelle C. Ifill, Esq.

After a 25-year career at Verizon and its predecessor companies, Michelle retired as SVP and General Counsel to focus on her executive and career coaching business, McIfill Consulting, LLC.

As General Counsel, she provided senior executive teams with guidance on strategic planning and execution, cyber security and data privacy, crisis management, internal corporate investigations and integration facilitation, among other areas.

Throughout her career, Michelle has focused on issues of equity, inclusion and belonging and is a founder and former Co-Chair of the (formerly MCI) Verizon Legal Diversity & Inclusion Council. In that role, she created initiatives aimed at increasing and retaining the representation of diverse populations within Big Law and was also a proponent for the expansion of pro bono opportunities.

Michelle is Founder of The Women’s Excellence Network, a professional development and relationship-building organization focused on creating sustained business opportunities for women in the legal industry. Michelle serves on several Boards including Vice Chair on the Board of Trustees for SUNY Purchase College Foundation, Co-Chair National Bar Association - General Counsel Invitational and on the Advisory Board of the NBA 2025 General Counsel Initiative.

Michelle is a member of the Executive Leadership Council and Founding Member of Chief, a national association focused on connecting and supporting women business leaders.

Michelle received a BA from Brown University and her law degree from Harvard Law School.

Mr. Brian Siegel

Brian is a principal in Deloitte Consulting LLP’s Government & Public Services (GPS) practice with 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. He is a leader in Deloitte’s Shared Services practice serving both providers and customers, specializing in a range of offerings from assessment and design to implementation and optimization. He has led projects addressing technological change, process improvement, insourcing, enterprise resource planning implementations, and financial management operating models.

Brian takes a results-driven and pragmatic approach to project delivery that pushes the “art of the possible.”

Clients have included the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, and General Services Administration, among others. Brian has a BA in Government from the University of Virginia and a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

Brian currently serves on the Foundation Board of the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia.

Message from the President

(continued from cover)

Amanda served as a member of the two-part legal team working on Julius Jones’ federal appeal. Julius Jones, who was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death at 19-years old, was the focus of an ABC docu-series called ‘The Last Defense.’ Both Amanda and Julian have been able to advocate for a more fair and equitable society through their careers and are just two of our 489 Scholars who do the hard work of making an impact in their communities.

When we made the difficult decision to cancel our American Journey Awards and move our programming online, we didn’t know what to expect. How would we continue to support our community without coming together as a community? The answers came, as they always do, from you—our Scholars, Partners and friends.

Our mission has always been driven by the needs of our Scholars, Captains and Navigators; we work through you. Looking back on all we have accomplished this year, I am proud, above all, of the creativity and resiliency of our community. Your work inspires us, your ideals drive us and your support fuels us to keep pushing for a brighter and more equitable future.

Thank you for all you do to raise each other up: for the kind words as well as the hard work, for your revolutionary optimism in the face of reactionary cynicism and for your unwavering belief in our mission.

Be safe and be well,

Michael A. Mallory
President and CEO
Salon Series
brought to you by
RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Leadership and public service have always been cornerstones of the Ron Brown Scholar Program. Beginning the year with COVID-19 followed quickly by the murder of George Floyd and the social justice movement that came forth from it, Board of Trustees members, Sam Alemayehu and Meredith Eggers wanted to create a space for the RBSP community to discuss the fear, frustration and call to action as a result. Not exactly sure where it would go, Sam and Meredith knew they had an incredibly talented cadre of RBS alumni from which to build panels and who would have meaningful insight. They also knew there was a motivated and engaged family of RBS supporters who would appreciate the opportunity to participate in difficult and honest conversations. They were surprised by the nearly 800 people who would “tune in” weekly – and how much impact it would have on them.

Sam and Meredith launched the summer long RBSP Virtual Salon Series: Leadership for Change. The inaugural session, launched on June 11, was attended by over 140 friends of RBSP. We heard from Mr. Aaron Williams, a lifelong public servant and diplomat, challenging all of us to don the mantle of service. Mr. Jonathan Greenblatt, Director of the Anti-Defamation League, offered insights on countering hate, wherever we may find it, while balancing our outrage with optimism. Following an energizing grassroots congressional campaign, activist and consumer advocate Ms. Morgan Harper (RBS ’01) spoke about the connection between justice and active participation in our democracy. Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of New York Mr. Damian Williams (RBS ’98), shared an insider’s view of the sometimes lonely fight for justice from within the halls of power. Ms. Ihotu Ali (RBS ’03) testified to the power of mutual aid and the critical role of local government as a laboratory for democratic engagement.

Over the coming weeks, the viewership of the Salon series grew, many tuning in on a weekly basis and many new friends to RBSP also joined. We were honored to have so many industry leaders join us including actor and activist, Samuel L. Jackson, NFL Hall of Famer Mr. Ronnie Lott, Chairman of Microsoft Mr. John Thompson, Manager/Producer Mr. Patrick Baker, Mr. Jack Leslie, Chairman, Weber Shandwick and Mr. Jonathan Mariner, Founder and President, TaxDay. All providing pragmatic optimism and offering concrete suggestions, energizing us as we work together with an eye on realistic and impactful change.

We extend our special appreciation to each Ron Brown Scholar who participated in the series: John Burton, Julian Miller, Tracy ‘Ty’ Moore, II, Casandra Woodall, Jeff Nelson, Dr. Chris Hunter, Dr. Travis Gayles, Dr. Antonia Henry, Immanuel Foster, Adora Mora, Peter Boyce II, Frederik Groce, Neveen Mahmoud, Jon Piper, Alexandra Sailsman, Dr. William Tarpeh, Donielle Buie, Meg Donovan, Danielle Lovell Jones, Dr. Brandon Nicolson, Errol C. Saunders, II, Kani Keita, Amanda Bass, Chaz Beasley, Crystal Boyd, Caleb Franklin and our newest class of 2020 RBS – all of whom are such powerful examples of impactful and inspiring Leadership for Change.

Mr. Samuel Alemayehu, RBS 2004 and Board of Trustees Member

“I have a unique privilege of representing our alumni within the Board of Trustees. I have relied on the Ron Brown community to be there for me for the good and the bad. The unprecedented challenges 2020 brought was no different. So, when Meredith introduced the idea for the initial salon with the message: “We are all in this together”, I volunteered to co-host right away. Little did I know that the voices I needed to hear for awareness, comfort, and inspiration resided within the community of scholars, alumni, trustees, advisors, and general friends of RBS. The series highlighted the enormous talent within the community and the deep dedication towards making a difference.”

In case you missed the series or any of the sessions, please find below the link to view all the sessions. We encourage you to share with anyone you think would be interested in learning more about the Program and the Ron Brown Scholars – www.ronbrown.org/ron-brown-scholar-program-launches-salon-series.

The Salon Series returned at the beginning of October and will continue on a monthly basis until the end of the year. Please visit www.ronbrown.org for more information.
While our 2020 Ron Brown Leaders Summit looked a bit different this year, we still enjoyed the same level of inspiration and engagement thanks to our Leaders Network Partners, students and alumni.

We welcomed nearly 300 attendees across all class years to this virtual version of the Leaders Summit. Through interactive Zoom sessions, the Summit was a robust two days kicked off by the Women in STEM panel discussion sponsored by Deloitte and Lockheed Martin and moderated by Chinwe Obudulu, MS, RD, LD of Dominican University. The panel featured industry leaders Mrs. Dwana Franklin-Davis, CEO of Reboot Representation, Dr. Carmelle Norice-Tra of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Ms. Salmana Diallo, Manager at Navigate Corporation, Ms. Melanie Grierson of Lockheed Martin and Ms. Jade Williams of Deloitte. This panel was followed by energetic networking, industry panels and keynote addresses which focused on leadership development and understanding corporate culture. Our always-popular Case Competition hosted by Capital One closed out the Summit on Saturday. Over 50 partners and mentors engaged with students and alumni through this new virtual experience by communicating over message boards in the days before the event and leading conversations and exercises throughout the Summit. Special thanks to all of our speakers: Ms. Kristin Shipley (YouTube / Google), Mr. Kevin Chambers (Latham & Watkins LLP), Ms. Njeri Givious (Goldman Sachs), Mr. Rameez Dossa (Dodge & Cox), Ms. Emily Frasier (Bain & Company), Ms. Taylor Kobryn (Google), Ms. Crystal Chukwurah (Deloitte) and Mr. Crawford Green (Otis Elevator).

During the Case Competition, Captain Sharif Long had this to say: “Earlier this summer, I was fortunate to attend the 2020 Ron Brown Leaders Summit for the first time and participate in a team competition with Capital One. As Black scholars and leaders, the design competition challenged my team to get to the root of the problem of inequity in financial wellness through methods of focused, design thinking. People with low levels of financial literacy suffer from the lack of knowledge at every stage of their life—from childhood (continued on page 5)
to their senior years of life. Additionally, the lack of inclusion in banking and technology continue to perpetuate the challenges vulnerable communities face, especially Black Americans. My team and I developed an idea called "Capital One: Financial Literacy," aiming to give users an individually tailored opportunity to learn about money management, budgeting, investment, etc. through games, literature and modules. Through much reflection of our experience with Capital One and Ron Brown, my teammates recognize that we are not solely the leaders of tomorrow, but also of today and we must take tangible steps to use our personalities, abilities and efforts to address societal issues, especially those that directly affect our communities." Sharif Long, The University of Texas at Austin | Class of 2022, B.A. Plan II Honors | College of Liberal Arts, B.S.A. Biology | College of Natural Science, Co-Philanthropy Chair | The Tejas Club

The Ron Brown Scholar Program, Scholars and Captains are grateful to our partners who helped us retain our beloved Summit during these trying times. Many thanks to Capital One, Bain & Co., Deloitte, Dodge & Cox, Goldman Sachs, Google, Latham & Watkins, Lockheed Martin, RTI, Siemens, Wake Forest University School of Business and Weber Shandwick.

LEADERS SUMMIT ATTENDEES

- First Year: 16%
- Second Year: 40%
- Third Year: 13%
- Fourth Year: 14%
- Alumni: 17%
Thank you to everyone who joined us for our inaugural Professional Development Week, August 3-8. We heard from some incredible leaders over the week who shared great insights and advice from their own career paths and journeys as they ascended into leadership positions.

The original idea behind this week called for small roundtable discussions with one industry leader as a part of our annual alumni meeting in March. The sessions were designed to provide a great opportunity for Scholars and Alumni to connect with industry leaders for professional mentorship and leadership development. As a result of COVID-19 and the cancellation of American Journey Awards and Selection Weekend, we decided to pivot to a week of virtual sessions. This format allowed for more Scholars, Captains and Alumni to join and gave them the opportunity to attend multiple sessions if their careers or interests overlapped with more than one industry. It also allowed us to bring in more industry leaders to share multiple paths of success within each industry.

During the week-long sessions, we heard from speakers from our corporate partners including Deloitte, Dodge and Cox, Goldman Sachs, Google, Lockheed Martin, Otis Elevator, Siemens Healthineers and Weber Shandwick. Additionally speakers Ms. Lorrie Bartlett, ICM Partners, Mr. Barry Eggers, Lightspeed, Mrs. Dana Goldsmith, Entrepreneur, Dr. Stephen Gunther, Orthopedic Surgeon and Entrepreneur, Dr. Patrice Harris, American Medical Association, Ms. Ritz Hendricks, R.Y. Ink!, Ms. Tamera Luzzatto, The Pew Charitable Trusts and Mr. Walter Woods, Humana Foundation, all provided insightful guidance that will ultimately impact the career paths of the Scholars, Captains and Alumni who attended during the week. The week came to a conclusion with a keynote session from Mr. Dane Holmes, Chair, RBSP Board of Trustees, CEO and Co-Founder at Eskalera Inc.

Ron Brown Captain, Tyler Miles, participated in the week and shared his experience: "Ron Brown’s Professional Development Week excelled in providing Scholars and Captains valuable career guidance, allowing us to grow our networks and to learn from some of the brightest women and professionals and professionals of color in their respective fields. Despite the pervasive effects of COVID-19 having disrupted almost every aspect of our lives since early March, part of the conference’s success is because of, not in spite of the virus. Hosting the conference virtually created an entirely new access point for students like myself, who face geographic and scheduling challenges to attending Ron Brown events. This highlights one of my favorite components of the conference: our phenomenal panelists. This virtual component also allowed a number of professionals from diverse fields such as technology, arts, entertainment, non-profit and finance to participate in the conference. Students and Panelists created new spaces to connect and learn from one another from across the country, something almost impossible to accomplish even without COVID-19. As someone interested in a myriad of fields such entertainment, non-profits and the technology industry, "I especially valued having the opportunity to interact with professionals from different backgrounds and companies, as they collectively offered completely

(continued on page 9)
This has been a busy summer for the GPS team! With high schools around the country switching to remote learning, in-person enrichment going virtual and colleges adjusting their admissions policies, our advisors have been working overtime to stay abreast of the changes in the higher education landscape. Through it all, we have continued to provide our national network of college-bound Navigators with the same reliable and timely counseling that has become a hallmark of the GPS Program.

Our hi-tech, hi-touch approach continues to yield impressive results. We’re still collecting data on the Class of 2020—they haven’t all started school yet—but over 93% of Navigators from the GPS Class of 2019 immediately enrolled in college after high school graduation. To put this in perspective, the overall college enrollment rate for African American students is 37%, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. The 2019 Navigators’ top three schools were Howard University (21 students), New York University (18 students) and Harvard College (17 students), per National Student Clearinghouse records. These numbers are in line with recent trends: in the last three years, GPS has ushered 186 African American high school students to Ivy League and highly selective universities and 383 students to historically Black colleges and universities.

GPS has always been more than just outstanding counseling; we’re also a community. With so many of our students learning from home, we saw our platform as a way to combat some of the isolation and anxiety brought on by the pandemic. Over the summer we leveraged our existing digital infrastructure to strengthen the bonds between our far-flung students. Spearheaded by GPS Advising Team members Candace Howze and Liza Rubenoff, our “GPS Self-Care Zoom Series” gave GPS Navigators the opportunity to come together—virtually—in real time.

The first ‘Self-Care’ meeting in June had over 30 GPS Navigators and Advisors participating. The format was open-ended; at first, our Advisors posed questions to the students to kick off the conversation, but the students themselves quickly took the lead, sharing personal stories, anxieties, frustrations and tips on how they have been coping since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The second meeting of the series focused specifically on “Race Relations, Racial Injustice and the Rise of the Black Lives Matter Movement.” The Advising Team led a discussion focused on students’ reactions to and involvement in movements for racial justice and GPS Navigators shared their perspectives on how they foresee these important issues playing out in the trajectory of America’s battle with racial inequality.

Following the suggestion of a 2021 GPS Navigator, our third meeting was an open mic night. The students shared and performed their own creative work with the group. The Navigators treated each other to musical performances and recited poetry and spoken word; they shared paintings and drawings, many of which addressed the crises facing young people today. For the GPS staff, the talent and creativity of these students was a real high point of the summer: even as they stunned us with the beauty of their work, their passionate engagement with the issues of the day gave us all hope for a brighter future.

Now, with school getting back in session, GPS turns its attention once again to the college application season. We’ve begun helping our Seniors research schools and draw up college lists, brainstorm and draft application essays and navigate the complexities of financial aid. Our STEM101 program for high-achieving science and math focused students just welcomed nearly two dozen members of the class of 2022 and is beginning to connect these students to the mentors who will help guide them on their educational journeys. And, as always, our Navigators continue to show up, day-in and day-out, for one another, offering each other the care, support and sense of belonging that make GPS such a special program.

Many schools have yet to reopen for in-person instruction, but our community has never been stronger. If you’d like to get involved, please reach out via e-mail to gpsprogram@ronbrown.org.

DivineAsia Miller, RBS 2015 advises GPS student
Ron Brown Scholars know that through the most challenging of circumstances they remain committed to making an impact through helping others and supporting their communities to overcome adversity.

Ron Brown Scholars Amanda Bass (RBS 2006) and Julian Miller (RBS 2003) are two of our 489 Scholars who continue to make a difference in their communities. Both Amanda and Julian participated in the RBSP Virtual Salon series this summer and we are pleased to highlight their dedicated commitment to advocating for a more fair and equitable society through their careers.

Ms. Amanda Bass, Esq., RBS 2006

Amanda Bass is an attorney with the Federal Public Defender’s Office for the District of Arizona where she represents death-sentenced prisoners in their federal appeals.

Amanda is lead counsel for Oklahoma death row prisoner Julius Jones. Jones, who is African American, was 19 years old and attending the University of Oklahoma on an academic scholarship when he was arrested and charged with the shooting death of a white businessman in Edmond, Oklahoma in July 1999. He was represented at trial by three lawyers who had never before tried a capital case and who failed to put on a single witness in his defense. Jones was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death. For more than 20 years, Jones has maintained his innocence. Jones’ case—and the compelling evidence pointing to his wrongful conviction—was the focus of an ABC docu-series called “The Last Defense,” from Oscar-winning actress turned executive producer Viola Davis. www.edtvpress.com/abc/pressrelease/last-defense-julius-jones-a-special-edition-of-20-20-airstuesday-july-14-800-1000-p-m-edt-on-abc/.

Prior to joining the Federal Public Defender, Amanda worked on both capital and non-capital post-conviction cases in the South. Amanda graduated from Amherst College in 2010 and then went on to earn her JD from New York University School of Law in 2015.
Mr. Julian Miller, Esq., RBS 2003

Julian Miller is an associate attorney at Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP in Jackson, Mississippi, where he focuses his practice on a variety of civil litigation matters, including commercial litigation, general and products liability matters, governmental litigation and appeals in state and federal court. However, his main focus is developing anti-poverty projects in economic development, public health and education in the Mississippi Delta that will have a transformational impact on public policy in Mississippi.

Julian was born and raised in the Mississippi Delta region. He matriculated at Harvard University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in government in 2007. Entering his college journey, Julian was unsure what he wanted to do with his life. During his sophomore year he took a year off from school to help his grandmother with her recovery from surgery. In addition to his role as a caregiver, Julian served as a policy director for the congressional campaign of local politician Chuck Espy and helped coordinate direct support to Katrina victims through the Community Relief Foundation.

After graduation, Julian reflected on how he could use his community work to helping others in his struggling home region. A connection needed to be made between institutional resources, such as federal grants, to be brought down to the grassroots level. Julian enrolled in law school to help give him better access to and understanding of that top level. While at the University of Mississippi School of Law he co-founded the Delta Fresh Foods Initiative, a community of growers, health and agriculture educators, schools and food retailers committed to creating equitable community food systems in the region with a focus on creating revenue to address social problems.

Julian graduated from the University of MS School of Law in 2012 with honors. After Julian realized that he needed to create a center that could fulfill his vision of connecting policy with people.

He is currently working to establish the Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice to implement grassroots community development programs and policy work around poverty reduction, educational advancement, public health equity, community and economic development and children's legal rights in Mississippi. Julian has chronicled some of his anti-poverty work in the Mississippi Delta in a chapter in a book entitled, Problem Solving for Better Health: A Global Perspective. He also has other publications to his credit related to public policy and economic justice.

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**Professional Development Week**

(continued from page 6)

unique and interesting ways that they have constantly changed, learned and succeeded in their respective fields. In addition, several panelists emphasized their commitment to being resources for Scholars and Captains as we begin our professional lives, offering both specific advice and great mentorship. I’m beyond thankful that Ron Brown staff organized one of the most meaningful and effective professional development programs that I have had the opportunity to participate in and special recognition for doing so in this pandemic.”

Tyler Miles, Ron Brown Captain 2016, Yale University 2020 | B.A. in African American Studies, Incoming Human Resources Associate, Google.

We are truly appreciative of all of our speakers and Partners for their participation and continued investment in the professional development of the Ron Brown Scholars and Captains and Alumni. Thank you!
RBSP Partners with Dormify

Heading off to college and shopping for your freshman dorm is an exciting time – endless exchanges with your roommate about theme, color scheme and coordinating comforters, etc. For the majority of Ron Brown Scholars this is not the experience they face. Limited financial resources combined with the absence of advice from family or community members on the essentials they will need heading off to college, often means Scholars may be left feeling a little dispirited on move in day.

Earlier this summer, the Program was connected with Dormify; an on-line ultimate decorating destination that simplifies the decor shopping experience for college students by creating exclusive products specifically designed for small space living without sacrificing style. Upon learning more about the Program and the many challenges Ron Brown Scholars and their families endure, Founder of Dormify, Ms. Amanda Zuckerman wanted them to have the same experience as many other freshman and to level the playing field as they start their college journey.

Zuckerman says “As a company, it is our mission to instill confidence in young people and guide them through transitional life moments. We have helped hundreds of thousands of students create personalized, comfortable living spaces, but continue to feel frustrated that extremely bright scholarship students who come from low income households may begin their college experience feeling less than equal to their peers in their dorm. We were thrilled to work with 24 Ron Brown Scholars this year to help each student design the room of their dreams — whether they’re at home or on campus. Every student, no matter what their background, deserves to feel right at home on their first day on campus.”

Dormify generously provided a Design Stylist to work with each of the 24 new Ron Brown Scholars and supplied them with the dorm room essentials they needed to create a comfortable (and stylish) space. In addition, Dormify encouraged their customers to make a donation at checkout to support RBSP and future scholarships.

Thanks, Dormify, for making the transition to college easier for our Scholars!
Every Gift Matters

The Ron Brown Scholar Program wishes to thank all of the foundations, organizations, friends and Ron Brown Scholars who have supported the Program with a financial donation and without whom we could not support our wonderful young Ron Brown Scholars, Captains and Navigators in the unique way that is the foundation of our mission.

The challenges of COVID-19 and the continued events highlighting the change for racial equity, our main focus remains where it has always been: providing the support our students need, especially in difficult times.

Over the past few months we have received major gifts from new companies including Dormify and Silver Lake. We received over $42K from employees of Lockheed Martin who recently donated as part of an Advancing Educational Equality and Opportunity Campaign. In addition, we received first-time donations from close to 100 friends of the Program totaling to $50K. We extend a special thanks to Boule Foundation and an anonymous donor for their continuing and generous commitment to the GPS Program totally to over $150K.

To date we have received over $1.5M in donations and partnership commitments during the first three quarters of the year, ahead of where we were this time last year and our endowment is bouncing back to over $17.75M.

However, with the uncertainty of the next few months we continue to fundraise to meet our goal to raise $2M by the end of the year. We have been in conversations with several foundations and companies over the past couple of months looking to potentially engage with the Program, either through sponsoring multiple scholarships, or formal partnerships as a Leaders Network or GPS partner or through donations as part of the companies’ Corporate Responsibility divisions.

We are truly appreciative to have the opportunity to explore new partnerships or donations to help make an extraordinary impact on the lives of these talented young people and our next generation of leaders. If you would like to support the Program, below is a list of options for your consideration - we appreciate every gift, no matter the size: Thank you.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

**Emergency Funds/Donations and Monthly Gifts**
Visit [www.ronbrown.org/section/contribute/start-giving-today](http://www.ronbrown.org/section/contribute/start-giving-today) or send a check made payable to Ron Brown Scholar Fund and mail to 485 Hillsdale Drive, Suite 206, Charlottesville, VA, 22901

**Matching Gifts**
Matching gifts are offered by many companies to encourage philanthropy giving amongst their employees. Please check with your company to learn if they participate in a matching gift program.

**AmazonSmile**
We are an official organization recognized to participate in the Amazon Smile Charity Giving Program. Please designate the Ron Brown Scholar Fund as your favorite charity so that a portion of the purchases you make through Amazon (.05%) will be donated to the Program. There is no additional cost to you to do this.

**Scholarship Agreements**
Fully fund a $40,000 scholarship to support a Ron Brown Scholar. Option to pay $10,000 per year for 4 years. Please contact Michael Mallory [mmallory@ronbrown.org](mailto:mmallory@ronbrown.org) or Anita Karadia [akaradia@ronbrown.org](mailto:akaradia@ronbrown.org).

**Host a virtual Fundraiser**
Please consider hosting a virtual fundraiser or set up a fundraiser on social media to support the Ron Brown Scholar Program.

**Partnership Agreements**
- **Leaders Network Partnership**
  Consider joining the Leaders Network partners to help achieve your company’s diversity and inclusion goals. Please contact Holly Duke [hduke@ronbrown.org](mailto:hduke@ronbrown.org)
- **GPS Educational Partnerships**
  By partnering with GPS, you would enjoy access to the entire GPS community, comprised of 1,000+ high school juniors, seniors, and their parents, and advance your recruitment efforts. For more information contact Kiya Jones [kjones@ronbrown.org](mailto:kjones@ronbrown.org) or Randy Tripp, Jr. [rtripp@ronbrown.org](mailto:rtripp@ronbrown.org).

**Share Information with Friends**
We encourage you to share information about the Ron Brown Scholar Program and the Scholars with friends/family/colleagues who may be interested in learning more or making a donation. Or let us know if you would like us to reach out to anyone directly.
Congratulations To The Ron Brown Scholar Class Of 2016

We are very proud of our RBS Class of 2016. In the middle of a global health pandemic and the fight for racial justice back in the forefront, these students had to finish their college career and start their professional journey. In true Ron Brown Scholar fashion, they did it with poise, courage and strength. There are a few Scholars who are taking some time to refocus, are in the middle of searches and some who will be completing their degree over the next year. We are continuing to support them daily and are excited to see what is next for them.

We have three Scholars who are starting graduate school in the fall, two entrepreneurs who are fully pursuing ventures they started while in college and four others will be joining our partner companies through the Leaders Network - Capital One, Google and Latham and Watkins. The remainder of the class is pursuing a variety of opportunities including AmeriCorps, PepsiCo and several consulting companies like Bain and Accenture.

To show these Scholars how proud we are of them, the RBS community shared messages online through Kudoboard, an online group card for special occasions. An idea sparked by Folake Dosu, RBS 07 allowed Scholars, Alumni and staff to share their words of congratulations to the newest member of the RBS alumni community.

Congrats RBS 2016, we look forward to being a part of this next phase of your RBS journey!

Dear RBS Class of 2016: A fantastic job! Well done, successfully completing undergrad. It is no easy feat and we are all so very proud of each and every one of you. The last four years must have gone by fast, and the next ten years will go by faster. Keep in touch with your friends and feel free to reach out to the RBS family as you navigate your next steps. Most importantly, take time to celebrate this fantastic milestone. Well done and my very best wishes to you!

Salute from Accra, Rob Kabera, RBS Class of 2007

Scholar Spotlight: Jimmie Harris, RBS 2013

GREATEST IMPACT: One project my company is working on is an inexpensive and easy to use COVID test. I’m helping design how the tests are used and the educational materials that accompany the test. I’m striving to make the test as accessible to a wide range of people as possible by ideating, prototyping, and refining with diverse users and medical professionals as quickly as possible.

Jimmie Harris would count himself incredibly blessed. He was born to a single mother who recognized the importance of an education and gave everything she had to make sure that he too understood that education was the key to a happy and successful life. From an early age he can remember taking “vacations” to local science centers, art galleries, and history museums. Immersed as he was, education soon became a part of his life and, as he grew, he found himself seeking out more and more opportunities to learn. This desire truly bloomed when he entered high school and discovered that he was passionate about science and engineering. He realized that he was no longer confined to seek out other opportunities that were already established, but, could instead create his own. With that in mind, he began working with both teachers and students to help create a wide range of after school programs, such as rollercoaster and trebuchet constructing competitions.

If asked who his role model in life was, Jimmie would tell you without hesitation that it was his mom. Growing up, it was always just the two of them. He knew that she was the one person that would be there for him and always keep his best interests at heart, no matter what. She taught him, through example, to be strong, determined, energetic, kind and honest. However, the most valuable lesson she ever taught him was that everyone can make a difference and no matter how big or how small, that difference mattered. She taught him that every drop counts. With this in mind, he always sought ways to help others and change their lives for the better. He volunteered to teach children at his local church, actively participated in community service organizations at his school and became president of his National Honor Society.

The achievements he is most proud of however, are those that combined his two favorite things: learning and service. The most prominent would be FIRST Robotics. He helped begin the program, with the hope of learning more about robots and how they function. Little did he know how encompassing and massive FIRST would become. FIRST is not only about building a robot, but strongly values gracious professionalism and making your community a better place. Students are able to work hand and hand with mentors and professionals from the engineering field and gain valuable life lessons. Beyond the advantages to students in the program, he also used it as a stepping platform to gain momentum and build other similar programs for younger children. He was able to help start a VEX competition team for freshman and sophomores and a Lego robotics league in his middle school.

Seeing the effects that he has had on his community, reaffirms his mom’s maxim that every drop matters and drives him to continue collecting drops until the ocean is full.
The Ron Brown Scholar Program wishes to thank all of the foundations, organizations and friends who have supported our mission.

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