

# MOUNTBATTEN NETWORK NEWS



## Celebrating Alumni Achievements

This month sees some of our high profile alumni, hitting even greater heights, such as receiving awards and "special" visitors. It's great to be able to share these successes with you.

Mountbatten is into interview season shortly, and we will be welcoming, Jo and Torrey to London from our New York office.

We continue to run our [Refer a Friend campaign](#), so if you do have someone to recommend for the program, do get in touch.

As Black History Month (UK) draws to a close, we are happy to let you know about an initiative already supported by some of our alumni, called the [BYP Network mentorship programme](#) (a community for black young professionals to connect for networking and job opportunities) which is focused on running events throughout the year to increase role model visibility in sectors that lack diversity and share relatable context specific knowledge and experience. If anybody is interested in getting involved with this initiative, please see our Mountbatten Connect posting for details.

October 2018 Edition



## Alum of the Month

**Claire Tolley**  
New York, Aug 2014

"I now work in marketing at Mastercard. I market B2B payment technology to banks and merchants globally. It has been a really interesting role that has seen me manage events in India, Spain and the Netherlands, produce videos and generate content, work on employee engagement initiatives and more... I [also] recently won a Rising Star Industry Award, through a panel of independent judges and a public vote"

[Read the full article](#)



## Black Women in Business 2018 Award Winner

[Kubi Springer](#), owner of [SheBuildsBrands.com](#) has won the Black Women in Business 2018 "Entrepreneur of the Year" award. Congratulations to our NYC Program alum! Kubi (New York, September 2001) is a Global Brand Director and Trainer with 22 years brand marketing experience. Having specialised in fashion, entertainment and luxury sectors her portfolio includes: Nike, L'Oréal Professional, Wella Professional, Blackberry, MTV, MOBO Awards, Sleek Make-up, London Fashion Week, Rolls Royce Motor Cars and Mercedes-Benz New York Fashion Week and most recently Aston Martin. Kubi continues to be an active part of the Mountbatten Program and has come back to share her experience and expertise with current trainees. Well deserved!

## Refer a friend

Know someone that would like to start their #MountbattenLife in London or New York?

Submit their information to our Refer-A-Friend program and, if they're placed, both you and they will receive an Amazon gift card worth £40/\$50!

[Refer a Friend](#)

## Entrepreneurial Alumni



### Portia Mwangangye

New York, March 2017

Portia launched the first event for her company Draw & Liquor in June of this year, just after returning from her year in New York. Inspired by attending one of New York's famous "Paint & Sip" sessions, the idea just "wouldn't go away". Several months later, and Draw & Liquor brings together independent artists, food and beverage vendors, and arts suppliers to create events with a difference. It also capitalizes on Portia's love of event planning.

[Read the full article](#)

## A Day In The Life



### Jo Coombes

New York, January 2006

Jo graduated from Keele University with a 1st Class BA in Music Technology & Visual Arts. She spent her Mountbatten year placed at Big Foote Music, after which she returned to London to work for another music company. 3 years later, realizing her heart was in production, Jo joined a small production company. Fast forward to the present and she is a freelance producer within the UK advertising industry. Between projects she runs an industry initiative called [AdGreen](#), which exists to support the advertising industry's transition to environmentally sustainable production methods. Jo is based in Edinburgh.

[Read the full article](#)

## In The News

Obama Foundation Fellow and alum [Alex Smith](#) (New York, September 2007) received a special visitor at his charitable organization earlier this month. In his words:

"It's an exciting day when community voices have an impact on the big picture. Very proud to have the Prime Minister join us at [North London Cares](#) and [South London Cares](#) as the government launches its hashtags [#AConnectedSociety](#) and [#Loneliness](#) strategy today. It's only by nurturing community - and by people being with people and sharing stories of diverse life experiences - that we'll fix our temporary divisions."

See the TV coverage in the link below:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6457685048320630784/>

## Have a Story?

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