

# Schooling for Life

June 2019 Newsletter

Edition 10



Thank you to all our donors and supporters for your continued support to our students and the Skills for a Successful Future programme. In this newsletter, we want to celebrate the hard work and dedication our students have put into making their future a success.

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## **Progress of our students in the programme**

Our programme continues to grow and while most of our batch two students are finishing their college experience, the batch three students are settling well into their first year and the students of batch one are in the job market contributing to society. Below are some updates on our students from each year.

### **Update of batch three students - Matriculation**



Our year kicked off with many of our batch three students being accepted into their various departments at their colleges. On Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, eight of our batch three students had their matriculation into their departments in Milton Margai College of Education & Technology (MMCET). In this group, three are studying Business Administration, two are studying Accounting and Finance, two are studying Building and Civil Engineering, and one Tourism. We are very excited to see how they

progress in their various studies.

On Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, the four I.T. students in batch three also had their matriculation at Bluecrest College. All four students are studying networking. They have already passed both their Basic class exams and N+ exams, both with great scores. Good job I.T. guys, we are proud of you!



Abibatu Conteh, the sole student at the College of Medicine & Allied Health (COMAHS) studying Nursing, performed very well on her entrance exams and was officially accepted into the Nursing programme on May 10<sup>th</sup> on her matriculation day. She was all smiles on the day as she got ready to tackle her next two years in the programme. Good luck to you Abibatu.

### **Update on batch**

#### **Graduations**

Congratulations to our Institute of and Technology (IAMTECH) students Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Two of them Business Management and two in We are very proud of them and we are them shine in the future. Mary-Esther is



### **two students**

Advanced Management who graduated on received Diplomas in Banking and Finance. looking forward to see already taking great

steps into the job market with an internship, read more about that in the internship section.

### ***Other Updates***

Congratulations also to our three MMCET students studying Social Work. They received their final statement of results, which showed that they have completed their course with all the requirements. They also completed their National Council for Technical, Vocational Academic (NCTVA) exams and are awaiting their results to receive their Diplomas.

We currently have four students at the Government Technical Institute (GTI) . One is studying Mechanical Engineering and three are studying Electricals and Electronics Engineering. They are currently working on their dissertations and final projects to complete their Diploma.

### ***Update on batch one students - Graduations***



Congratulations to six of our I.T. students from the first batch of Schooling for Life students, who received their Professional Diplomas in Information Technology this May. They all studied network engineering. Four of them (Senesie, Alimamy, Patrick and Yusufu) are employed and are using the great education they received in I.T. at their various companies and organisations; more information about that later. We are looking forward to hearing more about their and the others' successes in the job market.

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### ***Our Students in the Job Market***

#### ***New Internship Opportunities for our students***

In March 2019, two of our students were offered internships with Sensi Tech Hub; Mary-Esther Mansaray, a batch two student who studied Banking and Finance and Sylvester Mansaray a batch one, I.T., student. Sylvester is doing his internship in the computer training section of Sensi and Mary-Esther is doing her internship in the finance department. Both students were asked to extend their internship with Sensi Tech Hub after just two months with the company.

Aminata N. Kamara, another batch two student, received her second internship this year, this time with the United States Embassy! She started her internship in March 2019 as a Library Assistant in the library.

#### ***In the job market***

Schooling for Life prepares students for the job market and equips students with skills that many of their counterparts do not get; this is why our students excel in the job market. They don't only get jobs, but keep them due to their great work ethics and other employability skills. Our batch one students are leading the way in showing what Schooling for Life has taught them. We are happy to see that Patrick Barber, who just received his I.T. diploma, started a position with United Bank for Africa (UBA). He has been working in their Application Enrolment Department as a digital staff member since the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

Congratulations also to Abdulai Kamara, a batch two student who studied Social Work. Due to Abdulai's great work, he was offered a position with Don Bosco fambul immediately following his internship. They normally do not hire people without degrees, but they wanted to make an exception for Abdulai!

Currently, more than half of our batch one students are employed, of whom three have been employed for almost two years by the same employer. We can see that the others are on the same path to become successful in the job market. We are very proud of the hard work of our students and wish those in the workforce continued success.

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## **2019/2020 Recruitment process**

The Schooling for Life (SfL) application process was officially opened on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The application process serves as the first step of Schooling for Life's recruitment process.



A week of outreach was conducted where Schooling for Life students and staff visited various locations to inform interested individuals about the application process and Schooling for Life. Two of our students from batch one, Alimamy Sesay and Patrick Barber, joined our Operational Manager on radio and television programmes to spread the word. More than seventy-five applications were received at the end of the process.

Interviews of applicants were conducted the first few weeks in April and an Assessment Day occurred on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. 20 applicants were invited to be assessed on their Math, English and general knowledge, The week following, applicants and guardian interviews were also conducted to learn more about applicants and their support system. Currently, the management is conducting Due Diligence; the portion of the recruitment process, where Schooling for Life searches for the best institutions for our prospective students.

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## **Schooling for Life Extra-curricular Activities**

### **2018 Christmas Activity Day**

In our last newsletter we did not get to update on the wonderful Christmas activity day we had. Our annual Christmas activity is one of Schooling for Life's key events during the year where students and staff come together as a family as a way of celebrating with our Christian students. On the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018, Schooling for Life students, trainers and staff converged at the Q-Bar spot at Lumley Beach in Freetown to have a good time together. Everyone was divided into four houses (green, yellow, red and blue) through ballot. These four houses competed against each other in various activities, such as the three-legged race and sack race. Yoga exercises were also performed, lead by yoga instructor Michael. Most of the activities promoted team work and coordination in the accomplishment of a given task.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Africell for their support in making this day possible. We also want to thank Protec for keeping us and our belongings safe the whole day. Thank you to Qbar for facilitating the space for the second year in a row and of course to Michael Solis for his ever enthusiastic yoga class that automatically gets our students excited about yoga.



### **Ramadan Dinner**

This year's annual Ramadan dinner was held on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful evening where we celebrate family and come together with our Muslim students and staff. The night started



off with great speeches from two batch three students, Mustapha Lagga and Abibatu Conteh, who spoke about the importance of Ramadan and the benefits of fasting. Abdulai Kamara, from batch two, wrapped up the speeches with the importance of family and why this event is very important.



Students from batch three also shared their experiences of how they progressed throughout their first year and trainers gave inspiring speeches on how to utilise the knowledge from skills class in the future. Everyone had a wonderful dinner and the night ended with awards to top students in skills class and those who did phenomenal during our application process outreach in supporting the organisation. It was a wonderful time and the staff and students enjoyed interacting with each other in a different context.

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### **Partnership with Africell Sierra Leone**

We would like to thank Africell Sierra Leone, the biggest telecom company in the market of Sierra Leone, for their continuous support to our work by providing us with the skills training facility, sponsoring the printing and binding of our skills training workbooks, and additional media attention to promote the application process, the organisation and our objectives.



To all our other partners; Latour Foundation, MWH4impact, Stichting Autonomia, Social Capital Foundation and Peter van Vliet Foundation, thank you for supporting us financially and otherwise, and thank you for believing in us as we build towards more skillful youth in Sierra Leone! Our work would not be possible without you.

### **Schooling for Life Ambassadors corner**

We are happy to welcome Simone Coscarelli as a Schooling for Life ambassador all the way from Brazil. Here is a message from Simone:



*After more than twenty years advising in Marketing and Communications for multinational institutions worldwide, I am currently a committee member of the Tate Foundation and the Verbier Art Summit.*

*I am very proud to become an Ambassador for Schooling for Life. I came to know SFL in 2018 during a fundraising event in The Hague. I immediately felt captivated by the work performed by Sjerly and her team in Sierra Leone. After watching the students' testimonials, I felt the urge to help these young adults who want to advance in life and are in need of an opportunity. My main objective as an Ambassador for SFL is to raise awareness and funds for the organization, so it can keep fulfilling its mission and objectives.*

Thank you Simone for joining the Schooling for Life family!

## ***New Sponsors***

We would like to welcome and thank our new sponsors Peter van Vliet Foundation and Social Capital Foundation. Thank you for supporting the successful future of our Schooling for Life students. Schooling for Life is always looking for new partners, sponsors and donors. If you are interested in a partnership or sponsorship please contact us using the information in the donation section below.

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### ***Looking for laptop donations!***

To provide our students with the best preparation for the Sierra Leone labour market as possible, we have to teach them how to work with a computer. This is where we ask for your help. We are looking for laptops! Well working (second hand) laptops running on Windows 7 (or higher), in good condition and with a proper functioning battery, so our students can study for a long period of time. A laptop provided with Microsoft Office 2007 (or higher) would be perfect. We have received several laptops already, that the students are happily making use of!

If you don't have a laptop for donation, but would like to contribute by making a financial donation, so we can buy the laptops for our students, we would very much welcome this way of support as well!

You can find more information on our website on how to make your donation

<http://schoolingforlife.net/support-us/laptop-donations/>

If you have questions about the donation, you can always contact us at [admin@schoolingforlife.net](mailto:admin@schoolingforlife.net).

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### ***Volunteers needed in the Netherlands***

Our volunteers in the Netherlands are important support to our work in Sierra Leone. Do you want to be part of this support system and driving force, do you know somebody or do you want to receive more information? Send an e-mail to [info@schoolingforlife.net](mailto:info@schoolingforlife.net) or visit our website [www.schoolingforlife.net](http://www.schoolingforlife.net).

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### ***Donation***

Do you want to help the youth in Sierra Leone receive good quality education and the skills to create a better life? Please help Schooling for Life accomplish this with your donation.

#### **Donations done in/to the Netherlands**

Send your donation to:

Rabobank

Schooling for Life

Account number (IBAN):

NL49 RABO 0171749022

BIC Code: RABONL2U

Rabobank, The Hague

#### **Donations done in/to Sierra Leone**

Send your donation to:

United Bank for Africa

Schooling for Life

Leones account number: 540110030005931

(Charlotte Street branch)

If you want to subscribe to this newsletter, please go to [www.schoolingforlife.net](http://www.schoolingforlife.net).

**The students and the Schooling for Life team wish to thank everyone for their support and for sharing our dream to achieve Skills for a Successful Future!**