



George Viner

MEMORIAL FUND

GEORGE VINER MEMORIAL FUND

30TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

Wednesday 22nd May 2019



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Scott Robert

George Viner Scholar 2008

"Receiving a George Viner scholarship made a big difference to my career as it meant my first job was in BBC Local Radio. The BBC is an employer which carries considerable weight when you list it on your CV, and the two months I had with the corporation was invaluable.

The experience gave me the confidence and skills needed to transfer into commercial radio and then into online news. I now work as a media manager for the UK's largest children's charity, but without the George Viner scholarship, I don't think my career would have been so rewarding or varied."

Scott Robert

Media and Communications Manager
Barnardo's



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John Collingridge
George Viner Scholar
2004/05

"The scholarship gave me a great start in my career, not just financially, but also helping me grow in confidence and seize opportunities. It's just as important today as print shrinks and traditional avenues such as local newspapers wither - closing off opportunities to aspiring journalists from diverse backgrounds."

John Collingridge
Deputy Business Editor
The Sunday Times



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Alexis Akwagyiram
George Viner Scholar
2000/01

"I owe my entire career in journalism to the George Viner Memorial Fund. There is no way I would've been able to afford the cost to train - so I'm incredibly grateful to the NUJ."

Alexis Akwagyiram
Bureau Chief, Nigeria
Reuters



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Sharon Thiruchelvam
George Viner Scholar
2018/19

"I am undertaking a Financial Journalism MA at City University and am of Irish and Sri Lankan Tamil heritage. The George Viner scholarship has been a huge benefit to me and I'm enormously grateful to the Trust for this opportunity.

Both my parents are first generation immigrants, and no one in my family has worked in the media before. Support from the George Viner Memorial Fund has allowed me to undertake specialised training study that I almost certainly wouldn't have otherwise. Being supported by the Trust – not just through the scholarship itself, but also the organising of working placements – is a huge boost.

I'm proud to join the GVMF's impressive network of scholars, working to change not just the makeup of the media, but also the tone of its coverage."

Sharon Thiruchelvam
Studying MA Financial Journalism
City, University of London



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"I am completely indebted to George Viner fund and the NUJ. I wouldn't have been able to undertake my journalism studies without the grant and my progression in my career would've been severely hindered as a result.

Now, after completing my course, I am already reaping the rewards through the new skills I have learnt and with increased career prospects. I am very very grateful for the support of the George Viner fund."

Natasha Onwuemezi

Features Writer

The Bookseller

Natasha Onwuemezi

George Viner Scholar

2017/18



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Nasim Asl
George Viner Scholar
2016/17

"I was on a train back home to Newcastle (standing room only) when I got the news that my interview had been successful and I was now a George Viner Memorial Scholar, off to study journalism at the best institution in the country. It's almost three years since, and the sense of sheer elation I felt in that moment has never gone away.

It was the joy of feeling that my dreams and ambitions were recognised, approved, and possible. It was the pride of feeling that people in the industry I longed to be part of saw something in me. But above all, it was gratitude – I knew that without the scholarship I couldn't afford to study journalism.

The GVMF not only opened the doors to an industry I had no hope of entering otherwise – it made me feel like I belonged. It gave me the opportunity to gain professional accreditation, a Masters degree, and paved the way for work with national programmes, a place on the BBC's Journalism Trainee Scheme, and my first TV reporter role aged just 23.

Being a recipient of the GVMF instilled in me knowledge that, for the first time in my life, someone had told me I belonged in journalism and that I could be a journalist. I will forever be incredibly appreciative of the GVMF for taking a chance on someone like me – an ethnically ambiguous Geordie from a working class family – and welcoming me into their world."

Nasim Asl
Aberdeen Reporter, The Nine,
BBC Scotland News



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Yinka Oyetade
George Viner Scholar
2011/18

The George Viner scholarship has allowed me to learn what it takes to be a journalist in the 21st century and beyond. Having done work experience in several newsrooms throughout my MA, I understand why it is so vital that scholarships like the George Viner Fund exist. I feel privileged to say that I am part of something that is doing its bit to encourage diversity and representation.

The scholarship has opened several doors for me already and I have been able to work alongside some of the best journalists in the industry, the fund has given me a great amount of self-belief and confidence.

Since finishing my course, I have been working as an Assistant Producer at France 24. I have been part of covering some major stories from around the world throughout the last year, and this would not have been possible were it not for the George Viner Fund. I am very grateful to the Fund for its help and support.

Yinka Oyetade
Assistant Producer
France 24



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“To be a recipient of the George Viner scholarship was a great honour. To know that you truly believed in me as a journalist, gave me more hope and determination than ever before. This is especially true as a black journalist which can come with many struggles. I could not be any more grateful for the help I received.

Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to take advantage of the opportunities that were given to me throughout my MA. I was able to have more flexibility and time than I would have previously had, which meant I could properly immerse myself in my studies, gain more experience, gain some very valuable friendships, network and write more articles. I now have a range of respectable media platforms that I have written and worked for including for the Financial Times, where I have just completed a three month internship.

The scholarship goes beyond just a monetary donation. Those at George Viner were there for me every step of the way. Particularly when I was thinking of where to apply for a placement over Christmas. I was able to gain experience at BBC Panorama as a result of the advice and help that was given to me by the fund.

The course of my life has been improved considerably as a result of this scholarship. I owe my recent successes and any future success to the George Viner Memorial Fund. “

Precious Adesina
George Viner Scholar
2017/18

Precious Adesina
Freelance Journalist