

On Thursday May 26, 2022, YMCI hosted our second annual Black GEMS assembly. This year our theme was “Together we Rise.” Our three guest speakers, all Memo alumni, spoke to our students about their paths after high school, the challenges they faced, and how resilience helped them achieve success. It was truly an inspiring afternoon.

Dennis Johnson is the founder of ODM Fitness, ODM Athleisure Wear and Johnson’s Juicery. Dennis is on a mission to help as many people as he can create a better version of themselves utilizing fitness, nutrition, and motivational clothing.

Samuel Amankwah attended the University of Toronto where he majored in Neuroscience and minored in Psychology and French. He then attended medical school at the University of Medicine and Health Sciences in St. Kitts and is currently completing his Internal Medicine Residency at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore in the State of Maryland. He will be transitioning to a Fellowship Training in Endocrinology to become an Endocrinologist.

Wendy-Ann Clarke is a multimedia journalist with a passion for exploring the ways in which history, socio-cultural studies, psychology, and other disciplines intersect to bring greater understanding to contemporary news, sports stories and more. She completed her undergraduate degree in psychology at York University in 2009 and earned a graduate diploma in sports journalism from Centennial College in 2016. With a background in athletics as both an athlete and a coach, she has covered a wide range of sporting disciplines and reported on athletics during the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Wendy-Ann has bylines with several outlets including the CBC, Yahoo, and the Toronto Star. She currently works as a full-time reporter with The Catholic Register newspaper where she covers a wide range of news and human-interest stories including the ongoing Mount Cashel sexual abuse case, and follow-up features to the uncovering of unmarked graves at former residential schools. Wendy-Ann was recently announced as the inaugural recipient of the Canadian Journalism Foundation Black investigative journalism fellowship. She will be joining the newsroom room at the Investigative Journalism Bureau at the University of Toronto for six months beginning in September.



