



Hamptonian Honored

By Arthur Jackson

Hampton University, Class of 1972



Leon M. Burns, III, was recently inducted to the 2019 Class of the Hampton University Forty Under 40 Society for his advances in Computer Science and Community Service.

Forty Under 40 is a group of Hampton University Alumni whose commitment to excellence is reflected in their drive for professional success and personal growth. The prestigious group represents the top forty young alumni who are sharing their gifts and talents with the world. Leon is the youngest inductee since the inception of this awards program. Leon has applied his expertise in technology and his passion for service to make significant impact at Hampton and beyond.

According to Leon, “Since graduating from Hampton in 2012, I’ve been privileged with the task of building large data modules in both the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Treasury Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Currently, I’m managing data analytics for Dell’s PC Refurbish Project, encompassing efficiency of refurbishment and software migration servicing 5,000 employees across seven FDA locations.”

Leon’s dedication to innovative and ground-breaking technology has blessed him with the privilege of serving as a Board member for Open Technology Group, Inc., a technology training firm where Leon also works. He introduced the corporate giving concept to his employer, and as a result, they have since donated more than \$2,000 to Hampton. But Leon’s fund raising has not stopped there. Since losing his father to lung cancer in 2011, Leon and his mother, TPCBC member Debby Burns, have successfully raised over \$140,000 for the Lungevity Foundation for lung cancer research.

Also a strong advocate for mental health, Leon launched a YouTube series entitled “Black Mental Health” in an effort to break the mental health stigma within the African American community. The webpage has had more than 7,600 views.

In addition to receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University, Leon earned an MBA from Long Island University, an IT certification from Cornell University, and certification in ITIL IT Service Management from Learning Tree International.

Congratulations, Leon, and best wishes for continued success as you strive on!