



MOGADISSHUES (MOGA Issues)

Homecoming Edition

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THE ALMA MATER



New Transit Quarters to house National Service Personnel

The PTA has completed the transit quarters for National Service Personnel. Closely located to the Headmistress's residence, the transit quarters consist of six rooms, all self-contained with a kitchen/diner, one bedroom, shower, and toilet. This will help alleviate the acute accommodation problems National Service Personnel have been facing for the last several years.

MOGA NKOMO



Leavers Induction Ceremony

In accordance with MOGA tradition, this year's School Leavers' Induction Ceremony was held on 6 May 2012. Led by MOGA President Dr. Grace Bolfrey-Arku, the MOGA delegation included Vice President Naki Tetteh, Endowment Fund Chairperson Vivian Etroo, Assistant Public Relations Coordinator Georgina Graham-Hayfron, and 2002 Year Group Project Coordinator Wendy Nunoo. All 560 leavers were presented with a MOGA button badge souvenir.



Movers & Shakers Trio and some of their children

Movers & Shakers Fundraising in London, UK

Pearl Nyafli née Tamakloe (1980), Marilyn Maher née Kwakwa (1985), and Maude Chinery (1981) organized a "Movers and Shakers" fundraiser as a one-off event to raise funds for the completion of the Visual Arts Studio (VAS). The gala was held on 3 June 2012, with the invaluable support of MOGAns Pearl Mumford (1978), Mina Augustt (1979), Letitia Mbroh (1987), MOGA baby Gifty Kwaku, and MOGA family members Salim Dekowski, Gladys Amartefio, Paul Maher, Theresa Eaton, Nathan Nyafli, Saoirse Chinery-Edoo, and Kieran Chinery-Anson, among others.

Congregating around the Movers and Shakers motto "*Making a difference with hearts and minds*", attendees celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee their way with a "Diamonds and Ice" theme. Complete with a required dress code of white and bling, drinks flowed as guests crowned a "Bling King and Queen." (The Bling Queen was a Wesley Girls' alum, but a MOGA very deservedly won the runner up vote!)

There was a significant MOGA presence at the gala, including those who came from far-flung places. Every region of Ghana was represented in the attendance profile (schools), and Marilyn Maher's. Oscar-winning marketing skills created many new links with schools. Other school associations offered incredible support with some selling record numbers of tickets and connecting the organizing committee significant contacts that proved invaluable in diverse ways before, during, and after the event. One MOGA who prefers to remain anonymous could not attend, but donated £100, having previously contributed £200 towards the VAS.

Whilst the event was intended as one-off, repeated requests for an encore and the ideas it generated has inspired the Movers and Shakers to continue the initiative, albeit in a different format. All MOGAns are encouraged to set up fundraisers of their own, in whatever format makes most sense, to enable completion of the VAS.

Sponsored Walk and Family Fun Games



MOGAns warming up for Fun Games

The pre-Homecoming sponsored walk was scheduled to take place from Accra Sports Stadium at 6.00 a.m. led by a brass band. The route plan, fee of GHC 150 and letter were presented to the Cantonments Police for assistance. The Odorgonno Secondary School Bus was donated by Mrs. Mary Amankwah for the day. Only 6 MOGAns were present for the walk that started at 8:10 a.m. from Accra Sports Stadium with the brass band and police escort.

The following preparations were made to pull off the Family Fun Games: activities were organized for the children including bouncy castles, face painting, etc. Adult's games organized were inter-houses sack races, athletics, lime and spoon, aerobics. Overall there were 50 MOGAns in attendance at the Games. Although the turnout was poor, the games still took place as planned. Products from Promasidor were used as prizes for winning teams. The event came to a close at 3.30pm.

Sponsorships and donations were received from the following companies and persons: DDP Outdoor, Mary Amankwah (Odorgonno Secondary School), Promasidor, Everpure Ghana Ltd, TV Africa, Avanti Architects Ltd, Mrs. Baeta, Victoria Nortey-Boateng, Lily Adofo-Kissi, Adriana Tackie, Esi Hammond, Geraldine Abaidoo, Ruth Aryee, Ama O. Dankyi, Clara Tina Ghansah, Adelaide Tetteh, and Doreen Addo.

Planning Committee Members: Ruth S. Aryee, Wendy Nunoo, Joyce Appiah-Agyekum, Adelaide Tetteh, Tommistina Adu-Boahene

"Colour Me Purple" Day, Hertfordshire, UK



MOGAns had a swell time in Hertfordshire

MOGAns and their families gathered for The 'Colour Me Purple' get-together, which took place on 28th July, 2012 in Hertfordshire. Initiated by Marilyn Maher née Kwakwa, the event was hosted by Letitia Mbroh (1986). The colour was chosen for its royal connotations and also because it is the official colour of Mfantsiman Girls' Secondary School. All who attended enjoyed good food, music, camaraderie, as well as a purple goody bag brimming with cosmetics,

kindly donated by Marilyn. A few brave souls performed karaoke via the Wii game! Letitia was an amazing hostess who left no stone unturned in her efforts to ensure the day ran smoothly.

Homecoming 2012



MOGA Executives and other delegates having some fun

Homecoming 2012 which was held from 2-5 August 2012, was a productive, activity-packed weekend that brought together MOGAs from all over the map to reconnect with each other, current students, and the community surrounding Mfantsoan Girls Senior High School. The highlights include:

MOGA executives met the Chief of Kuntu to discuss ways MOGA can assist the young girls of Kuntu in attending Mfantsoan Girls Senior High School - especially given the fact that, in 1960, the Chiefs of Nankesedo, Abonko, and neighbouring villages donated the land Mfantsoan currently sits on. One suggestion involved allocating 30 per cent of admissions spaces to local students who qualify. Headmistress, Charlotte Addo pointed out such an allocation system could be challenging since the admissions process is now completely computerized.



Chief and elders of Kuntu in discussions with MOGAs



MOGAn Delegate - Elizabeth Sagoe addressing Kuntu Chiefs

MOGAn delegates joined the Form 2 students at 5:30am to take a jogging tour of the campus. Led by the P.E. teacher, the group started on the High Street from the Headmistress's House to the Primary school, the Administration Block and finally to the Assembly Hall where all engaged in an extended 30 minute exercise session. During this session, the P.E. teacher explained that, the students are exposed to and trained in various sports such as hockey, javelin etc.; however, he noted that the girls were not very competitive.



Delegates at the dawn "arise and shine" keep-fit exercise





MOGA Secretary, Ruth Aryee & delegates in stretching mode



MOGA President, Dr. Grace Bolfrey-Arku stressing a point on tour of the campus



Cross-section of MOGAN delegates taking a break

MOGAN and Assistant Headmistress (Academics), Mrs. Miriam Adjei-Amponsem (née Orgen) later led the Old Girls on a reconnaissance tour of the school starting with the new two-storey Form 1 Classroom block which is being constructed behind the Administration Block and the new Form 2 block with a library has also been built as an experimental project by a British donor (details to be confirmed).



MOGA President inspecting ongoing school wall project



MOGA Chapters' Chair Margaret Palmer at Butler House



Delegates departing from Croffie House Inspection

15 veteran Mfantisman teachers joined MOGA President Dr. Grace Bolfrey-Arku, MOGA Executives and delegates to discuss how MOGANs could better, more specifically, assist the school. One major concern for the teachers was lack of

accommodation. The faculty also expressed the need for a photocopier on campus as well as a functional language lab.

The Head of Visual Arts Mr. Akafie met with MOGA officials to press them to finish the Visual Arts Studio once and for all. As it stands, the students were forced to raise their own funds to install electricity into the building.

MOGA President Dr. Bolfrey-Arku briefed the group about MOGA's progress and accomplishments which includes a MOGA PRESENCE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS, the three editions of MOGA newsletter "MOGADISSHUES" that have been produced, the induction of new MOGA chapters; the creation of three CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES - Project, Finance and Souvenir; a MOGA database, and much more.

Headmistress, Charlotte Addo briefed the MOGA group on various activities and achievements that have taken place in the school since the last Homecoming: This year the school achieved a 100% pass from all 478 students. The PTA gave the school 50 computers with internet access and has also refurbished the computer lab. The school has formed a partnership with the Queen Elizabeth School in UK and there has been an exchange program between PE teachers. The '85 Year Group is refurbishing the Infirmary and will sponsor this year's Speech Day. The year group in the past donated a tractor to the Agric. Department. For the Headmistress' full report, see the Homecoming 2012 Report.

Board Chairman and Lecturer Dr. Osei Kwarteng, at Cape Coast University updated MOGAns on Land Registration, academic quality, and student discipline. Mfantisman has surveyed the land and is in the process of registering it; additionally, the school has implemented a system where the teachers are assessed based on questionnaires answered by the students every term. Dr. Kwarteng expressed hope that MOGA will build a hostel for the girls to ease the accommodation problem.



MOGA President, Chairman of School Board & Doreen Addo, Souvenir Committee Coordinator

Old Girl Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond (1993) and author of Powder Necklace, a novel inspired by her time at Mfantisman, encouraged students to tell their own stories in an emotional creative writing talk.



Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond presenting a copy of her book to the Headmistress

MOGAns congregated for Open Forum to discuss challenges facing the MOGA body and the EC. Issues raised in the nearly four-hour meeting include MOGAns' poor commitment towards activities. For more on this and other issues, please read the full Homecoming report.

MOGAns, students and faculties closed the weekend with an Azonto Dance Party. The entertainment was provided courtesy of MOGAN Lilian Sally Addo of Riclils Entertainment Group.



Students during Entertainment Segment



Riclils Entertainment Group in action

Homecoming 2012 came to an end on Sunday, 5 August with a church service with the student body, teachers and administration in attendance. In spite of the reduced numbers of MOGAns who attended, the event was such a success. Leading Homecoming Founder and MOGA International Coordinator, Sheila Addy who followed up on proceedings from her Diasporian perch to dub the event *“the best, most effective and results-oriented Homecoming”* ever.



Sunday Service with student body



MOGA 2002 - Launch 10th Anniversary Project

Led by their Project Coordinator, the 2002 Year Group announced plans to beautify the area surrounding the Visual Arts Studio and the new school block area to complement MOGA’s work with the Arts Studio; and to commemorate their 10th anniversary. This beautification project will include landscaping, pavements, grassing and a monument of a schoolgirl bearing a torch depicting the second verse of our school hymn that says *‘we are watchers of a beacon and our lights must never die’*. Peer committee member and architect Ruth Aryee (1991), the 2002 Year Group has engaged a surveyor to assist. MOGA Year Group 2002 hopes to commission and finish this project by December 2012.

MOGA Elections

By virtue of the MOGA constitution, it is required that General election of Executive Committee (EC) officers be held after a two year term. Since the 2012 homecoming marks the end of the second year in office, a call to elect new members into office was made by the Constitution and Election Committee (CEC) of MOGA. Two nominations were received for two different positions.

The General Assembly decided at the MOGA Forum to retain the current serving executive for another two-year term for the following reasons:

the CEC had not received any notification from any of the current executives to step down;

the nominations received were insignificant to warrant a vote.

The current executive will therefore serve until the next elections at Homecoming 2014.

Upcoming Events

This year’s Speech and Prize Giving Day will be held on 29 September 2012. The event will be sponsored by the 1985 year group. A full report will appear in the next edition.

