



# MOGADISSHUES

(MOGA Issues)

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## THE ALMA MATER

### Miss World Africa Counsels Students to Stay Focused



Miss. Shooter - pictured here with Mfantsiman Girls

Fresh from her second-runner up win at Miss World 2013, Carranza Naa Okailey Shooter was a special guest at Mfantsiman's SRC Week conference. Miss Shooter, who graduated from the school in 2008, joined fellow Butler House alum Dr. Sena Agyepong (*née Agbodjah*, '97) and Mr. Prince Acquaye to share insights at the annual Student Representative Council event.

With a focus on tertiary education options, Shooter recounted her journey to University of Ghana Medical School at the 27 October 2013 event. She also impressed upon the students to choose a path reflective of their passions and ambitions. Miss Shooter warned the students, including those from neighboring Adisadel, St. Augustine's and Holy Child College not to take the decision lightly. *"Making the right choice,"* she stressed, *"[will] greatly shape your future."* Miss Shooter did acknowledge the difficulty in picking a field.

*"Pray to God for guidance,"* she counseled, *"[and] seek advice from older people who have been there before."*

After the event, students mobbed the reigning Miss World Africa for photos. Esther Brainoo ('97, Butler House), Tomistina Adu-Boahene ('97, Chinery House) and Sabina Quansah ('97, Butler House) were also in the house.

## MOGA NKOMO



Students assembled for career counselling and mentoring

It's official. The 1985 Year Group gets the prize for most stellar service to the school for 2013.

On 20 October, 2013, the '85ers hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Counselling and Mentoring Summit at Mfantsiman (the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the same year - an earlier one was held in April). Students gathered in the school's assembly hall for advice on everything from choosing the right university and career path to personal grooming and image management. MOGA '85 panelists representing the fields of medicine, finance, education, and law dispensed the wisdom.

Florence Ohene-Kyei and her peers discussed their professional paths and reminded students they did not have to stay locked into their current subject areas. For instance, Science students could switch course to Arts if their interests changed in University. In a session that followed, Bernice Sam underscored the importance of presentation and communication.

Ms. Sam explained that 50 per cent of communication is the way you dress, 30 per cent, the way you behave and 20 per cent, what you say. She encouraged students to dress decently, speak audibly and be confident.

Ms. Sam also let students know they did not have to sacrifice poorly paid passions to earn a comfortable living. After the sessions, Joyce Appiah Agyekum led a spirited Q&A.

After the session, MOGA '85 Chairperson Serwa Atiase Dzoghbenuku led fellow mates in a visit to the Infirmary, which the Year Group renovated two years ago. Erica Dickson, Gifty Mensah, Joyce Appiah-Agyekum and Mercy Phorson completed the Class of '85 winners circle.

#### **London Movers and Shakers Donate Photocopier**



*Doreen Addo presenting copier to Headmistress*

The Movers and Shakers are at it again!

In Volume 4 of MOGADISSHUES, we reported that Pearl Nyafli (*née Tamakloe, MOGA '80*), Maude Chinery (*MOGA '81*) and Marilyn Maher (*née Kwakwa, MOGA '85*) - aka the Movers and Shakers - had produced the inaugural *"Diamonds and Ice"* fundraiser to benefit the stalled Visual Arts Studio Project. Volume 6 detailed how the project team in Ghana, led by Ruth Aryee, MOGA Secretary and Architect of the project used the raised funds to kick-start work again on the Studio.

In this edition, we are thrilled to report the Movers and Shakers donated a multi-purpose imaging unit to our Alma Mater on 29 November 2013. Ms. Doreen Addo, MOGA Souvenir Committee Coordinator accompanied by Whitney Antwi, presented the photocopier to Headmistress Charlotte Addo on behalf of the UK-based group and the MOGA Executive Committee.

The unit will enable staff to quickly and inexpensively reproduce learning resources for the students. Previously, staff had to make copies or bulk print in Saltpond.

*"This was partnership working at its most effective" the Movers and Shakers - now a duo group said. "All it took was an email to the MOGA President in Ghana to inform her of our intentions, and a phone call to Ms. Doreen Addo. We were amazed at Doreen's zeal and the speed with which she performed the yeoman's job of sourcing, negotiating, arranging delivery and installation of the equipment". They added, "being in the UK, it would have been impossible to coordinate the purchase and delivery without support and assistance from MOGA Headquarters."*

Ms. Addo said of the undertaking, *"together we can make things happen"*. Aristotle mirrors her sentiment: *"the whole is greater than the sum of its parts"*.

MOGA has identified and listed specific projects which different Year Groups or individuals can help fund. Contact the MOGA Executive for more information.

#### **From the Desk of the MOGA President: 2013 in Review**



*Dr. Grace Bolfrey-Arku, MOGA President*

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2014. As we reflect on our individual and professional achievements over this year, it is equally important to remember and renew our commitment to our Alma Mater!

I am delighted to report on a highly successful 2013 for MOGA. Our theme "Effective Partnerships" was at the core of every remarkable achievement.

As we approach Mfantsiman's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015, our promise to each other and our cause must be strengthening, promoting, and creating new partnerships to propel our Alma Mater to greater heights. This means better coordination, better communication, and a shared spirit of common purpose must be our mantra.

Mfantsiman continues to attract huge numbers of applications due to its reputation as an excellent school. Seven Hundred and Ninety Six (796) Ghanaians and 1 foreign student were admitted in 2013. As you can appreciate, this

presents significant challenges, specifically in regards to accommodation, teaching resources and appropriate learning spaces. The Visual Arts Studio, though still incomplete has been a useful addition to the school's learning space. Let us endeavour to include it on our **"must complete"** list for 2014. Reporting on the completed studio next year should be a priority.

We must also tap into our extensive transnational network, explore global opportunities and take advantage of international solutions where possible.

Some of you many know that we are developing ECOWAS relationships to benefit our Alma Mater. A native of Saltpond, who is a teacher resident in Cote d'Ivoire successfully, negotiated a partnership with a second cycle school in La Cote d'Ivoire. A group of staff and four very excited students will travel to Abidjan in February 2014. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the faculty and students, who will no doubt, derive great benefits from the trip. The French department will coordinate the travel arrangements. There are so many ways MOGAns can support this laudable initiative. Contact the office of the President for more information.



*Headmistress Addo and colleagues in the UK*

The school has also been fostering our network in the United Kingdom. Mrs. Allison Church and Mr. Henry Stanton of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (QEGS), Faversham visited Mfantsiman from 6-12 October 2013. During the visit, the delegation from Kent in the UK interacted with members of the school's governance team including Board Chairman Professor Kwarteng, the Chief of Kuntu Nana Brebo, as well as the students. In the Ghanaian spirit of hospitality, the Home Economics and Visual Arts Departments laid out a visually impressive array of culinary delights for the guests.

Headmistress Charlotte Addo, accompanied by Assistant Headmistress (Administration) Mercy Quarshie and Physics Teacher Emmanuel Quaye reciprocated the visit to QEGS from 20-27 October 2013. These exchanges offered an opportunity to share ideas to the mutual benefit of both schools.

Additionally, British NGO CAMFED (Campaign for Female Education) has given scholarships and bursaries to 35 needy SHS-1 students and eight SHS-3 students. The Executive Director, Dolores Dickson (*née Amoah, MOGA '93*), together with the Municipal Education team distributed books, calculators, shoes and other sundries to the students.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the need for better coordination between MOGA Headquarters (HQ) and the various groups and chapters in the Diaspora. Continuing to operate as we currently are minimizes our effectiveness as an association. The risk of duplication of efforts which has already happened, and the more serious issue of projects being double-funded by international funding agencies, some of whom operate from Ghana could jeopardize the credibility of our school and association. Contrary to a misconception that MOGA HQ wishes to dictate the work of chapters and year groups in the Diaspora, the request for groups to seek clearance from MOGA HQ before embarking on any projects circulated previously is to ensure that no other group or funding body has either expressed an interest in, or has received funding to commence the same project. In these economically challenged times, it is vital that funds and efforts are targeted efficiently. Your cooperation with this request would be greatly appreciated.

We actively solicit cash and kind donations on behalf of our Alma Mater. On 20 November 2013, the Ministry of Environment, Science Technology and Innovation (MESTI) donated 50 laptops to the school. A laboratory is being refurbished to house the laptops.

Finally, financial transactions with the school became easier and more secure. Mfantsiman enrolled in the Ghana Commercial Bank's E-zwich system, an electronic clearing and payment platform designed to link the payment systems for all banking and financial institutions in Ghana. E-zwich uses biometric (fingerprint) identification technology and allows smartcard holders to perform business and financial transactions such as fund loads and transfers, and payments for goods and services including bills, both online and off.

#### **Upcoming Events**

The 1<sup>st</sup> MOGA Year Group Co-ordinators' and Chapter Chairpersons' Congress will be held in Accra on Saturday, 12 April 2014. Year Group Co-ordinators and Chapter Chairpersons will receive detailed information in due course.

The Constitution and Elections Committee (CEC) wishes to invite nominations from all MOGAns. Names of nominees should be sent to Adelaide Tetteh at: [adelaidetetteh@yahoo.com](mailto:adelaidetetteh@yahoo.com). For more information on the various job descriptions, please visit: [www.mfantsiman.org](http://www.mfantsiman.org). The nine (9) soon to be available positions are as follows: President; Vice President; Financial Controller; Executive Council Chairperson (Endowment Fund); Chapters' Chairperson; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Public Relations Coordinator; Assistant Public Relations Coordinator.