



# The **BepowSoHann** NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3 (NOV. 2024 EDITION)

**CELEBRATING  
MILESTONES**

---

**BLAZING  
TRAILS**

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**AOGA  
Inaugural  
National  
Dialogue  
Series**

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# MELISSA BABA

From Beauty Queen to FinTech Leader





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“

Show me a family of readers,  
and I will show you the people  
who move the world.

Napoléon Bonaparte  
(French military and political leader)

”

## » EDITORIAL



**Beacon Grace Ofosu Donkor,**  
Global Communications Director  
and Editor-in-Chief,  
*"The BepowSoHann"*

"Embracing Change, Empowering Growth" As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of Alumni Fraternities, it is essential to reflect on our values, goals, and aspirations. In this edition, we explore the transformative power of embracing change and empowering growth.

The year is gradually inching to a close and we have witnessed unprecedented challenges and opportunities. We've had our school take a

roller-coaster from life and living it to death of a student, a teacher, a kitchen staff, and for the first time in the history of our dear school, a sitting headmistress travels on a journey of no return. Amidst these uncertainties, our resilience and adaptability have been tested.

However, change also brings chance. By embracing innovation, collaboration, and continuous learning, we can:-

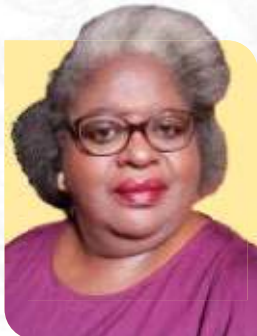
- Foster a culture of creativity and experimentation
- Develop strategic partnerships and synergies
- Build a better AOGA Brand (That has always been my focus).

As we move forward, let's commit to:-

- Staying curious and open-minded
- Investing in personal and professional development
- Supporting one another through mentorship, networking, and having a positive outlook for ourselves and our School.

This edition features stories of individuals and organizations who have successfully navigated change. Their experiences serve as testaments to the power of embracing uncertainty and seizing opportunities. Let's enjoy the read, shall we?

## » EDITORIAL TEAM



**Beacon Martha A. Clerk**  
AOGA 1978 YG  
Kilsyth House



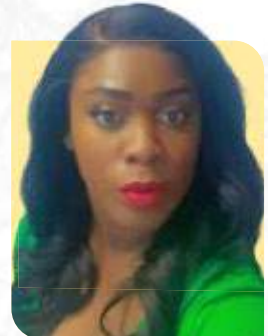
**Beacon Judith Zormelo**  
AOGA 1984 YG  
Kilsyth House



**Beacon Adwoa Osaebia Oduro-Konadu (GYAU)**  
AOGA 1996 YG  
Barradale House



**Beacon Akua K.A. Twumasi**  
AOGA 2001 YG  
Aberdeen House



**Beacon Marian Agyekum Peasah**  
AOGA 2001 YG  
Kilsyth House

# Melissa Baba

## From Beauty Queen to FinTech Leader

**M**elissa Baba (formerly known as Melissa Mensah), Miss Malaika 2004 has recently graduated with a PhD in Informatics and System Science from the University of Reading.

Many will remember Melissa as the captivating Miss Malaika Ghana winner in 2004. But her story extends far beyond the stage. Melissa has since carved a successful career path, transitioning from the world of beauty pageants to become a leading advocate for financial inclusion and a prominent figure in the Ghanaian FinTech space.

Melissa's passion for learning and her commitment to service were evident even during her pageant reign. After captivating audiences with her beauty and intelligence, she embarked on a flourishing career within the Ghanaian banking sector. This success propelled her to pursue further opportunities in the UK, where she currently resides and continues to excel in her chosen field.

► CONTINUE ON PAGE 5



CONTINUING FROM PAGE 4

Beyond professional accomplishments, Melissa is a vocal advocate for financial inclusion and digital finance. Her doctoral research at Henley Business School delved into Ghana's Financial Technology Industry. With over 15 years of experience in payment systems, Melissa has actively contributed to the Ghanaian FinTech landscape through her work on innovative projects in branchless banking and mobile money interoperability.

Melissa's story serves as an inspiration, demonstrating the power of resilience, continuous learning, and a dedication to positive impact. Her journey from beauty queen to FinTech leader underscores the fact that women can achieve anything if they put their heart to it.

**Proud Beacon: 2001 year group / V- Class / Edinburgh House**

**Source:** Eunice Asantewaa Ankomah



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## Beacons: Reconnect & Protect Your Legacy

The New AOGA Welfare Scheme: Supporting Each Other Through Life's Challenges

### Overview

The AOGA Welfare Scheme is a new way for old girls (ladies) of AOGA to show their support for one another during difficult times. This affordable group life policy offers financial assistance in the event of death, critical illness, or total permanent disability.



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### Benefits

- ◆ Total Permanent Disability (TPD) coverage
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# AOGA 2004 Twentieth Anniversary Celebration

The 2004 Year Group of AOGA recently marked a momentous occasion - its 20th anniversary!

Two decades of reconnecting, reminiscing, and revitalizing the spirit of our alma mater were celebrated in style, with an unforgettable event that brought together old friends, familiar faces, and cherished memories.

## A Trip Down Memory Lane

The anniversary celebration was a nostalgic journey, transporting attendees back to their school days. The venue was transformed into a mini-time capsule, adorned with vintage photographs, school memorabilia, and nostalgic decor. Members of the year group shared stories, laughed, and relived fond memories of their time in school.

## Rekindling Friendships

The event provided a platform for old friends to rekindle friendships, and forge new bonds. Indeed, the 2004 Year Group beacons reconnected to build intentional networks.

Attendees enthusiastically participated in all activities, showcasing their school spirit and esprit de corps.

## Honouring Our Roots

A special commendation was paid to our school, and teachers who shaped our minds and hearts. Their contributions were acknowledged with gratitude, and their legacy was celebrated with pride. By so doing, the year group renovated the **Clothing Lab** at the **Fashion and Design department** of the school.

## Looking to the Future

As we celebrated our past, we also looked towards the future, with a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm. Plans for upcoming initiatives, events, and community service projects were briefly touched on, ensuring the



Association's continued relevance and impact.

## Gratitude and Cheers

The late afternoon concluded with a lunch, toasts, and merriment. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who had been part of our journey, and we raised our glasses to many more years of friendship, nostalgia, and making a difference together!

## A Legacy of Friendship

Our 20th anniversary celebration was a testament to the enduring power of friendship and the unbreakable bonds forged in our alma mater.

Cheers to many more years of reconnecting and strengthening the spirit of Aburi Girls!

*Bepow So Hann!! .....Nyame Ne Hene!!!*

• 2004 Year Group Anniversay in pictures





- 1999 Year Group Legacy Project kickoff in pictures



## Aburi Girls '99 Legacy Project Kickoff

• 1999 Year Group Legacy Project Launch in pictures



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# AOGA '94@30 Anniversary Celebration: A Weekend to Remember

On the rainy afternoon of August 2, 2024, some of the AOGA 94/96 and 94D executives walked into the office of Mrs. Cynthia Anim (may she rest in peace) to express gratitude to the school's leadership for their unwavering support of our 30th anniversary celebration. The event, dubbed 94@30 and themed "Celebrating 3 Beautiful Decades of Sisterhood, Growth, and Resilience", marked a milestone filled with laughter, joy, and deep reflection. It was a weekend where we rejoiced, dined, danced, and gave thanks to God for keeping us and making it possible for us to return to Aburi Girls 30 years post-graduation.

Five years ago, we commemorated our 25th anniversary by refurbishing the school's computer lab with state-of-the-art equipment. This year, for our 30th anniversary, we returned to further enhance STEM education by upgrading the aging computers and the now dilapidated lab, ensuring the girls have access to improved resources.

The celebration kicked off on August 2, 2024, with two mentoring sessions on careers in ICT and other fields. The first session, for Form 3 girls, was hosted by Sybil Amoah and Yaa Serwah Tuffour of Enterprise Computing, both old girls

from another year group. The second session was led by AOGA 9496/94D and PRESEC 9496/94D alumni, inspiring the students to dream big.

That evening, we gathered at the Peduase Valley Resort for a fun-filled night of grills and dancing.

The festivities continued on Saturday, August 3, 2024, with a serene morning and afternoon spent at the Safari Valley Resort in Adukrom, followed by an energetic karaoke session with the girls on the lower court of the school.

The weekend culminated in a heartfelt thanksgiving service at the Joyce Asibey Hall on Sunday, August 4, 2024, where we reflected on the past three decades and gave thanks for the journey we have shared.

The refurbishment of the computer lab came at a cost of GHS300,000 a significant but worthy investment in the future of STEM education at Aburi Girls.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our generous sponsors, fundraisers, the senior leadership of the school, Mrs. Rita Biney (née

► **Continue on Page 11**



Amarteifio), the ICT teachers, our dedicated 94@30 committee members, and all the vendors who made this celebration unforgettable.

Thank you for helping us create lasting memories and for supporting our mission to give back to the school that shaped us. Here's to 30 more years of sisterhood, growth, and resilience!

• **AOGA '94 Year Group 30th Anniversary Celebration in pictures**



# Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to our 94@30 anniversary corporate sponsors. We are grateful for your contributions towards our enduring legacy of supporting STEM Education at Aburi Gilrs Senior High School.

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# A Seamless Transition of Leadership: 1996D Election 2024 Process

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**A**s mandated by the year group's constitution, the time had come to initiate the election process for new executives to lead the group for the next three years (2025-2028).

As Abraham Lincoln once said, "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people." Elections, the very tool of democracy, can sometimes be turbulent when transparency and engagement are lacking. To ensure members felt confident in this process, a three-member electoral committee (EC) was nominated with a clear mandate to:

- Ensure a free and fair election
- Guarantee that all members, wherever located, could vote easily
- Establish clear timelines and implement support systems throughout the election period.

The team sought the services of Defalis Concept Ltd, a local vendor, to facilitate the election. Working closely with the EC, they ensured the process was seamless.

Effective communication was key, and all members were kept informed at every stage of the process. Pre-election marketing and communications over a three-week period whipped up enthusiasm and ensured high engagement. The election timeline was as follows:

**29/08/24** – Official announcement of the election process and opening of the voters' register for verification of member details.

**12/09/24 to 15/09/24** – Nominations period.

**16/09/24** – Nominees announced.

**17/09/24** – Endorsements completed.

**18/09/24** – Verification and confirmation of the voters' register. Emails and unique voting codes

sent to members.

**20/09/24 to 22/09/24** – Voting period.

**23/09/24** – Results announced.

Voting was conducted online through a unique member ID sent to each verified email address. Members could vote only once.

The EC is proud of the peaceful, transparent, and seamless transition of leadership. The handing-over ceremony will be held in December at the annual end-of-year gathering.

Sincere thanks to the outgoing executives for their unwavering support during this transition and for the trust they placed in the EC to fulfill their responsibilities effectively. Their dedication and leadership have been instrumental in guiding the team through this process, and we sincerely appreciate all that they have done for 1996D.

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## Election Results:

---

- **President:** Pearl Nuno
- **Vice President:** Gertrude Dzirasa
- **Secretary:** Tsuishitoo Holm
- **Treasurer:** Sakyibea Keteku
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Abigail Ashie
- **Organising Secretary:** Doreen Asamoah
- **Publicity/Liaison Officer:** Juliet Sampong
- **Fundraising Officer:** Millicent Ofori

The Class of 1996D looks forward to the next three years and is excited about the new leadership and the direction they will guide our group.

**Election Committee:** It was an honor to serve as the Election Committee (EC) to oversee this vital process.

- ↳ **Belinda Tay**
- **Adwoa Oduro Konadu**
- **Golda Ofosu-Barko**



# ABURI GIRLS OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION (AOGA 1996D)

BEPOW SO HANN

## 2024 EXECUTIVES ELECTED



**PRESIDENT**

**PEARL  
NUNO**



**VICE  
PRESIDENT**

**GERTRUDE  
DZIRASA**



**SECRETARY**

**TSUISHITOO  
HOLM**



**TREASURER**

**SAKYIBEA  
KETEKU**



**ASSISTANT  
TREASURER**

**ABIGAIL  
ASHIE**



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SECRETARY**

**DOREEN  
ASAMOAH**



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LIAISON OFFICER**

**JULIET  
SAMPONG**



**FUNDRAISING  
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**MILLICENT  
OFORI**



# ABUGISS US Alumnae (AOGA USA) Elections 2024: A New Leadership Team Steps Forward

The ABUGISS US Alumnae community has ushered in a new era with the election of a vibrant Executive Team to guide the association through its next phase of growth and connection. The elections, held throughout September, culminated with the announcement of the new leadership on September 24th. The incoming executives officially took office on October 1st, 2024.

The election process began with nominations from September 3rd to 14th, during which twelve dedicated alumnae were nominated for various positions. The nominees actively campaigned, sharing their visions and plans for the association's future. Voting took place from September 14th to 23rd, resulting in a transparent and smooth process.

## Abugiss US Alumnae 2024 Executives:-

- **President:**  
Beacon Karen Nettey
- **Vice President:**  
Beacon Angela Acheampong
- **General Secretary:**  
Beacon Maud Tagoe
- **Organizing Secretary:**  
Beacon Ewuraba Ghansah
- **Ass. Organizing Secretary:**  
Beacon Dashelle Adu
- **Treasurer:**  
Beacon Ayesha Quainoo-Tefera

- **Public Relations Officer:**  
Beacon Joana Akrofi

### **Advisory Board Members:-**

- Marjorie Boafo Appiah ("Marjy")
- Akua Aso Gyasi-Koduah
- Idana Folson

The new leadership, together with the Advisory Board, is well-positioned to lead the ABUGISS US Alumnae into an exciting future, strengthening bonds within the community, expanding outreach, and fostering both personal and professional growth. As they embark on their term, the alumnae community looks forward to seeing how their vision and dedication will continue to build on the association's proud legacy.



# Abugiss US Alumnae 2024 Executives



**Name:** Beacon Karen Nettey  
**Position:** President  
**Year Group:** 2004  
**State:** Maryland



**Name:** Beacon Angela Acheampong  
**Position:** Vice President  
**Year Group:** 2014  
**State:** Virginia



**Name:** Beacon Maud Tagoe  
**Position:** Gen. Secretary  
**Year Group:** 2012  
**State:** Ohio



**Name:** Beacon Ewuraba Ghansah  
**Position:** Organizing Secretary  
**Year Group:** 2005  
**State:** Pennsylvania



**Name:** Beacon Dashelle Adu  
**Position:** Ass. Organizing Secretary  
**Year Group:** 2014  
**State:** Virginia



**Name:** Beacon Ayeshia Quainoo-Tefera  
**Position:** Treasurer  
**Year Group:** 1998  
**State:** Virginia



**Name:** Beacon Joana Akrofi  
**Position:** Public Relations Officer  
**Year Group:** 2014  
**State:** New York

## CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK CELEBRATION AT BAYPORT SAVINGS AND LOANS

The curtains came down on this year's International Customer Service week today, and boy what an amazing week it has been! The theme "**Above & Beyond**" explains in the most simple terms how we should drive customer service in our day to day interactions with our customers... simply go above and beyond! Go the extra mile to increase customer satisfaction and deepen their loyalty to your brand.

I am super passionate about the delivery of excellent customer experience at every service touch point and I don't hesitate to share my knowledge and experience through training when needed.

Hope you remember to go above and beyond "business as usual" to keep your customers happy and your business thriving

Now to some fun stuff...the highlight for me this week was when we did the whole back to school role play. Putting on an Abugiss uniform after over 25 years of leaving school brought back so many memories from my secondary school days. It was a fun filled day for staff as we slipped back into our school days as young boys and girls. Enjoy the picture



**Millicent Abra - 2009**  
 (Irene Anderson House)  
 & **Charlotte Kissiedu - 1998**  
 (Barradale House)

( Back to school role play as part of International Customer Service Week)

## Beacons Called to the Bar - 2024



**Beacon Dinah  
Ohenebimah Agyepong  
(Esq)**  
AOGA 1999 YG



**Beacon Mabel A.  
Gaba (Esq)**  
AOGA 2002 YG



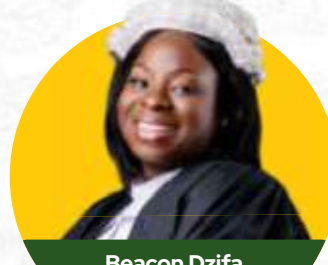
**Beacon Portia  
Addo (Esq)**  
AOGA 2006 YG



**Beacon Jessica  
Otuko Akiti (Esq)**  
AOGA 2011 YG



**Beacon Celestine  
Yeboah-Asumah (Esq)**  
AOGA 2011 YG



**Beacon Dzifa  
Asamany (Esq)**  
AOGA 2011 YG



**Beacon Ida  
McOwusu (Esq)**  
AOGA 2012 YG



**Beacon Esther  
Agyeiwaa Danquah (Esq)**  
AOGA 2012 YG



**Beacon Elizabeth  
Alepoka Adongo (Esq)**  
AOGA 2013 YG



**Beacon Sandra J.  
Opoku-Mensah (Esq)**  
AOGA 2013 YG

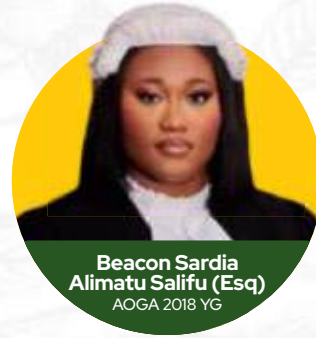
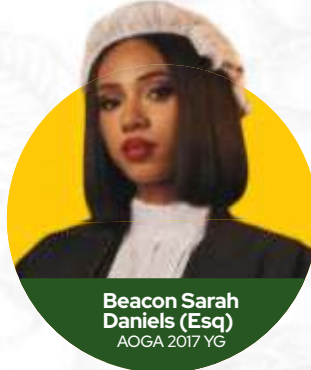
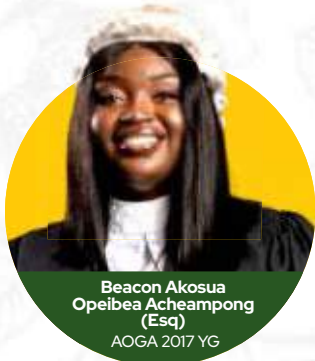


**Beacon Zaneta  
Bruce-Cathline (Esq)**  
AOGA 2013 YG



**Beacon Jaclyn  
Abra-Appiah (Esq)**  
AOGA 2013 YG

## Beacons Called to the Bar - 2024



*Congratulations to you all!*

AOGA is super proud of you

## Beauty Tips FOR THE EVERYDAY WOMAN

### Double Cleansing for Radiant Skin

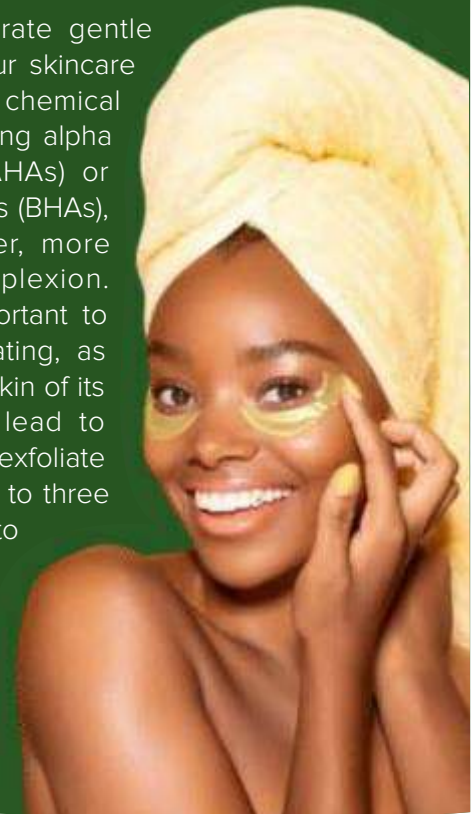
A fundamental step in any skincare routine, double cleansing involves using an oil-based cleanser followed by a water-based cleanser to thoroughly remove dirt, makeup, and impurities. This two-step method ensures a clean canvas for subsequent skincare products, allowing them to penetrate deeply and deliver optimal results. Incorporating double cleansing into your nightly ritual can promote clearer, more radiant skin over time.

### Exfoliation for Smooth, Glowing Skin

Exfoliation is key to maintaining smooth, radiant skin by sloughing away dead cells and promoting cell

turnover. Incorporate gentle exfoliants into your skincare routine, such as chemical exfoliants containing alpha hydroxy acids (AHAs) or beta hydroxy acids (BHAs), to reveal brighter, more even-toned complexion. However, it's important to avoid over-exfoliating, as this can strip the skin of its natural oils and lead to irritation. Aim to exfoliate no more than two to three times per week to maintain a healthy balance.

**By HB Elegance**  
 AOGA 2001 YG



# FINANCIAL INSIGHT:

## THE POWER OF COMPOUND INTEREST



Harnessing the power of compound interest is akin to planting a tree that bears fruit year after year. By reinvesting the interest earned, your wealth can grow exponentially over time.

Whether you're starting with a small amount or a substantial sum, the key is consistency and patience. The earlier you start investing, the more time your money has to compound and generate returns.

Remember, it's not about timing the market, but rather time in the market that counts. Start today and let your financial future flourish! Investing for people like you.



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**PROF. KORYOE  
ANIM-WRIGHT**  
Global President, AOGA



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Candidate



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Society of Africa (HACSA)

**THURS. 14th NOVEMBER, 2024**

**Venue: East Wing, UPSA Auditorium • 4:00PM**

*BePOW So Hann, Nyame Ne Hene*

 Aburi Girls Old Girls

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The BepɔwSoHann will be published quarterly and will be highlighting major events about AOGA and the School that have taken place during the period under review, with sneak previews of coming events in the next quarter.

We invite articles and other relevant material for publication from academics, students, professional practitioners, managers in any of the sectors and the general public.

Articles that meet the quality and standard of the newsletter will be considered for publication.

You may send articles, letters, relevant documents and information to the Communications Directorate.

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