

# Koforidua SecTech Old Students Association - USA



## 2024 End of Year Report

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1. **Introduction:** *Mmarima Mma* ("Sons of Men") is a slogan that has, over the years, served as a clarion call for the alumni of Koforidua SecTech to rally together and live out our motto, "*Educate for Service.*" *Mmarima Mma* around the globe are inspired to achieve greatness because of the strong foundation laid during our secondary school days at Koforidua SecTech. We strive to enhance education, foster unity, and play a significant role as mentors for the next generation. **Our vision** is to be an integral part of every student's foundation at Koforidua SecTech while creating a networking platform for alumni in the United States and Canada. **Our mission** is to unite all former students to contribute to the development of our alma mater and serve as role models for current students. **The theme for 2024**, "*The Role of Alumni in Shaping the Education Landscape*," has guided our activities and programs, in partnership with our sister organization, *Mmarima Mma Canada* (MMCanada), as summarized below.
2. **Election of Executives and Board Members:** This year, we achieved another significant milestone by successfully conducting our first formal election to elect new executives. Additionally, a new Board of Advisors was inaugurated. You can visit our website to learn more about them: <https://mmarimammausa.org/about/>. The team has worked tirelessly throughout the year to help us achieve our objectives. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each member for their hard work and dedication.
3. **National Science and Maths Quiz:** This year, the Koforidua SecTech National Science and Maths Quiz (NSMQ) team achieved a historic milestone by being crowned ***Eastern Regional Champions*** for the first time in the competition's history, defeating both Pope John and St. Peter's in the finals. Additionally, the team reached the ***National Semi-Finals*** for the first time since 2009 and only the second time since the competition's inception.

These successes were not achieved without strategic planning and a significant investment of resources over the past three years as part of our 5-Year Strategic Plan. During this period, we helped renovate the Old Art Studio into the NSMQ Training Studio/Lab. This facility, designated as part of the Nana Afedzi Mensah VI Center of Excellence in Education, is equipped with furniture, projectors, and laptops. We also provided financial support of \$2,000 annually, which has been used to start early camping and training sessions for the students, facilitate trips across the country for practice quiz competitions, and fund their participation in the national competition.

Beyond financial contributions, members of the Executive and Board actively participated in monthly meetings with the coordinators to strategize student selection and training. They also conducted counseling and motivational sessions with the students before every competition and procured study materials for the team. These accomplishments would not

have been possible without your generous donations and dues payments. On behalf of the leadership, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for trusting us and supporting our plans and activities.

The ultimate credit, however, goes to the dedicated coordinators, led by Mr. Osei Manu Agyeman (aka Sconty), and the students—Ahmed Alembil (Form 3), Danso Gabriel (Form 2), and Raphael (Form 3)—who worked tirelessly, burning the midnight oil to prepare for the competition and displaying courage on the big stage.

Congratulations once again on your outstanding performance and for making us all proud. We look forward to the team building on this year’s success and advancing to the National Finals next year.



4. **2024 Virtual Fundraising:** Based on feedback from members after last year’s dinner dance in Worcester and in consultation with the Board, it was decided to hold the annual fundraising dinner dance in-person and virtually, by alternating on a bi-annual basis. This year, we launched our virtual fundraising on June 2nd with a target of \$15,000. We culminated the season’s fundraising with another virtual get-together on November 17th, chaired by the Georgia-based, world-renowned cardiologist, Barimaba Dr. Joseph Poku. The event featured Barimaba Kojo Adomako as the keynote speaker and included the crowning of **Barimaba Dr. Felix Effah as Mr. SecTech 2024** for his sole sponsorship of the House 1 bathhouse renovation.

So far, we have raised \$12,160, which includes a total contribution of \$1,200 from our MMCana, with an outstanding pledge of \$4,350. Notably, we have exceeded the net total

of \$10,873 from the Worcester 2023 in-person dinner dance and fundraising. Comparatively, we raised \$11,100 in 2022 and \$14,935 in 2021.

We encourage you to mark your calendar for the 2025 Dinner Dance and BBQ, which will take place in the Washington DC metropolis, from August 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of organizing the 2026 dinner dance in partnership with our sister school, Krobo Girls, in Chicago.

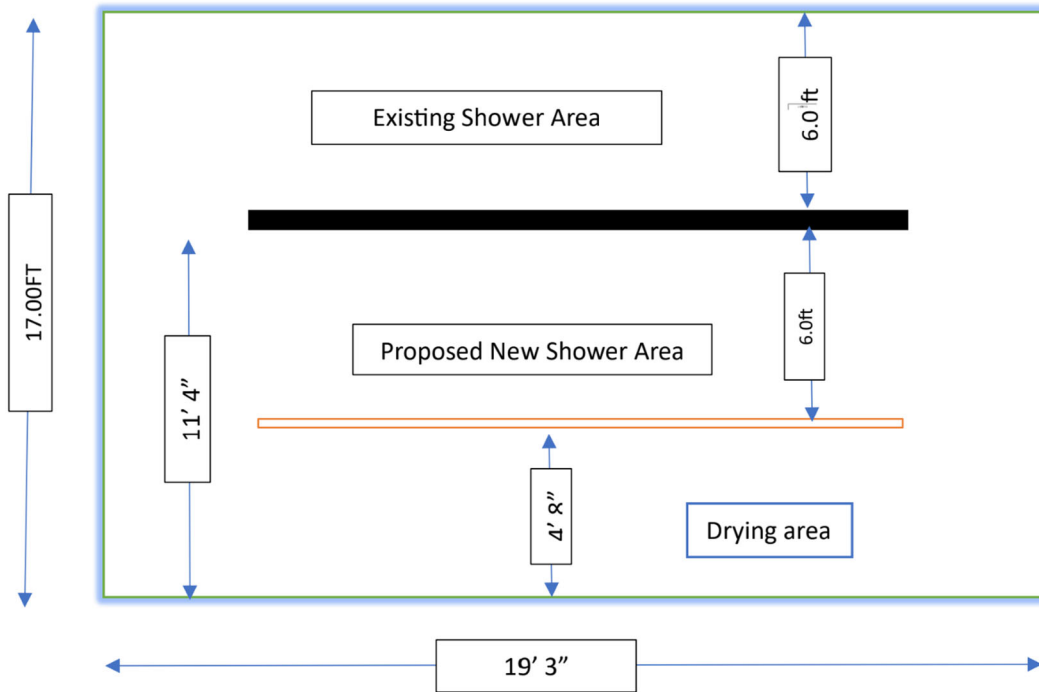


5. **Renovation of Old Dormitory Bathhouses:** The bathhouses and toilets have been in a deplorable and unhygienic state for some time. Last year, students were unable to access the dormitory toilets because the waste had solidified and required evacuation. Consequently, some students resorted to relieving themselves in a nearby open bush. It

became necessary for us to sponsor the evacuation of the waste to enable the renovation of the bathhouses.

As part of our commitment to improving the school's infrastructure, we have completed the renovation of two out of the four old dormitory bathhouses and washing sheds. The House 4 and House 1 projects were completed last year at costs of \$9,600 and \$11,300, respectively. The increased cost for House 1 was due to the inclusion of additional amenities, such as a toilet for the physically challenged, the creation of a new partition wall, and the addition of 12 new showers.

This year, we began renovating House 2 bathhouse, incorporating similar amenities as House 1, at a cost of \$12,600. The increase in cost is primarily attributed to the steep inflation in material prices and additional damage in House 2, notably the need to renovate the walkway canopy between the dormitory and the bathhouse (see before and after pictures below).



Key Note:

8" Existing Partition wall with showers at one side



Proposed 6" partition wall creating a drying area.



**Before Pictures:**



**Current Progress Pictures at 95% Completion:**





6. **Association's Funding Sources:** The association's primary sources of funding have been annual fundraising events, supplemented by minor revenue from the sale of merchandise,

such as t-shirts and memorabilia. To increase revenue and establish an endowment fund, the association introduced annual membership dues last year, set at \$10 per month or \$120 per year. These dues, combined with proceeds from fundraising events and merchandise sales, are intended to fund ongoing projects and support the development of the endowment fund.

This year, we introduced a \$20 discounted dues payment program aimed at increasing membership participation if one paid within the first 5 months of the year. Despite this initiative, only 25 members have paid their annual dues, representing 14% of our total membership of 180, and a decline from the 20% (37 members) who paid last year. The total dues collected amount to \$3020, which falls short of our projection of \$4,800 based on a target of 40 paying members. Please remember that it is never too late to pay your dues, and any payment or donation to the association is tax-deductible.

7. **Endowment Fund**: The association's primary source of funding is its annual fundraising event. To boost revenue, we are working on establishing an endowment fund—reserved money invested to generate income for charitable activities. This fund aims to support the school in areas such as scholarships for bright and needy students, sports, teaching staff development, and infrastructure improvements.

To achieve this goal, 30–40% of our annual fundraising proceeds are allocated toward building a targeted \$100,000 endowment fund over the next 10 years (by 2035). The principal amount will remain intact, with the interest generated used to support our alma mater.

8. **New Website and Searchable Database of Members**: Over the past two years, we have been working to strengthen our membership drive and facilitate networking by building a secure, online searchable database. Additionally, we rebuilt our website, and both the website and membership database were successfully launched on August 18, 2024. If you have not yet registered, please visit our website at <https://mmarimammausa.org/> to sign up.
9. **Plans For 2025**: MMUSA plan to continue our partnership with Mmarima Mma Canada to enhance our outreach, improve communication, and focus more on the welfare of our members. Expanding our membership database is also a priority, as it could significantly enhance networking opportunities. Additionally, we aim to complete the renovation of the remaining old dormitory (House 3) washroom, subject to the availability of funds.



To generate additional revenue, we plan to promote our website as a platform for advertisements, starting with a charge of \$15 per month for each advert. We value your input and encourage members to share feedback on ways to grow the group. Please look for an upcoming WhatsApp survey and provide your suggestions.

**Conclusion:** MMUSA and MMCanada (MMUSA/CAN) has remained steadfast in its commitment to enhancing education, fostering unity, and contributing to the development of Koforidua SecTech. Despite challenges over the past few years, including the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of prominent members, the association rallied together and successfully raised funds to support various projects. Notable achievements include the establishment of the Nana Afedzi Mensah VI Center of Excellence in Education, which houses a computer center, a functioning library, the NSMQ studio, and a robotics center. Our sponsorship of the NSMQ competition and the ongoing renovation of old dormitory washrooms further demonstrate our dedication to our alma mater. With the introduction of annual membership dues and continued fundraising efforts, we remain optimistic about securing resources for future projects and developing an endowment fund. Additionally, we are committed to serving as role models for current students and fostering a strong network of alumni.

I am deeply honored to serve as the first formally elected president of this esteemed association and to work alongside such incredible individuals. I look forward to all we will accomplish — boldly together — in the new year.

Warm wishes this holiday season,

Dr. Kingsley Boateng  
President, MMUSA