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**PROCEEDINGS OF 2015 MATRICULATION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 8.45 a.m.-9.00 a.m. – Maticulants/Guests to be seated
- 9.00 a.m. – Procession
- Statement of Welcome by Registrar,
Mrs. Mercy Haizel Ashia
 - Vice-Chancellor’s Address:
Professor Ernest Aryeetey
 - Cultural Performance: Ghana Dance Ensemble
 - Administration of Matriculation Oath
by Registrar
 - Expectations: Ms. Jasmine Adjei-Mensah
 - Signing of the Matricula
 - University Anthem
- 9.45 a.m. – Recession
- Reception

WELCOME/DECLARATION OF PURPOSE REGISTRAR, MRS. MERCY HAIZEL ASHIA

Good morning Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the management of the University of Ghana, I welcome all of us to this morning's ceremony.

We are gathered here this morning to matriculate students who have enrolled for courses leading to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates at the University of Ghana, in the 2015-2016 academic year. We will confer on these new students, membership of the University of Ghana, in line with article 31 of the University of Ghana Act, 2010, Act 806 which states that:

1. A student admitted to the University shall take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register.
2. A student who fails to sign the Matriculation Register may be prevented from graduating by the University.

Visiting students and other short stay students who are studying at the University for one Semester or two semesters are not included in this ceremony. However, such non-matriculated students are expected to observe the same rules and regulations as matriculated students, while they are here.

At the University of Ghana the required dress for matriculation is a black gown worn over formal clothes. I am happy to see that our students are in the appropriate academic dress for the ceremony.

The ceremony is in three parts.

Part 1:

We will hear an address from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ernest Aryeetey. He will also tell us the significance of the matriculation oath and what the University expects from its students.

Part 2:

Students will swear the Matriculation Oath to be administered by the Registrar of the University – this is the same oath on the website. You will repeat the words of the oath after me when it is time for the oath.

After the Oath, one representative of the students will tell us the expectations of the 2015-2016 cohort of students and ceremonially sign the *Matricula*; the Latin word for the Register. For this year we have selected a student from the Elizabeth Frances Sey Hall, to represent the students.

Part 3:

The third part of the ceremony takes place in cyber space! For the first time, each student, whether resident or non-resident will go online and electronically sign the Matriculation Oath. That is the record that indeed you are here. I am informed that as at 7.00 a.m. today 3,200 students have sent in their registration online and indeed, accepted to abide by the oath that we are about to swear. Well done.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, this batch of new students have already set a few records in the administrative processes since they arrived on campus four weeks ago. I wish to congratulate all colleagues, at all the levels, for the roles they have played in the process of getting students involved in University activities.

I note that:

1. For the first time, the attendance of freshmen at orientation was so overwhelming that we had to order more chairs for the second day.
2. This morning they have chalked another first. This is the largest number of freshmen attending the matriculation for the regular programmes. All 5,000 plus matriculation gowns have been collected. I am told some students were unable to find gowns and had to come here without gowns.

Students, I hope that you will all return your matriculation gowns on time, so that you do not suffer any penalties.

2015 matriculation class, I look forward to seeing positive engagement in University activities throughout your stay in the University.

During the course of the year, the University will hold separate matriculation ceremonies for students in the Distance Education programme, the Sandwich programmes and the other programmes which will take off in the second semester. So, welcome to the University of Ghana

It is now time to call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ernest Aryeetey, to deliver his address.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT MATRICULATION: PROFESSOR ERNEST ARYEETEEY

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of the University Council;
Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar;
Provosts, Deans and Directors;
Heads of Departments and Heads of Halls;
Senior Tutors;
Members of Convocation;
Freshmen and Women;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

INTRODUCTION

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Ghana and to this year's matriculation ceremony. Your university experience officially starts today. Let me begin by congratulating you on your achievements that have led you to being here. For most of you, during the next four years, you will be a part of the most prestigious academic community in Ghana, surrounded by lecturers, scholars and researchers - faculty and fellow students - all of whom have come to the University of Ghana to learn and to create new knowledge. In this environment, you will have enormous opportunities to deepen your education, expand your understanding of society and the world, and, perhaps, begin a professional education that will launch your career.

Matriculation into the University of Ghana marks a special milestone as new faces and new blood are injected into the University. It provides an opportunity for freshmen and women who have gained admission into various programmes to be officially inducted as Junior Members into this academically stimulating and socially exciting community. The ceremony is also significant for the fact that it provides the opportunity for you, young men and women, to pledge your allegiance to the authority of the University through the administration of the Matriculation Oath, and you will in due course, be expected to sign a bond of good behaviour and accept the authority of the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Disciplinarian of the University, as well as all other

officers of the University in whom authority has been vested. You will also, by the same token, be expected to contribute your quota to enhancing the University's image, wherever you find yourself and ensuring that you do not bring the name of the University into disrepute.

In pledging to be of good behaviour, freshmen and women are committing themselves to be disciplined and worthy ambassadors of the University. It is my hope that matriculants will reflect on the importance of this ceremony and will endeavour to live in accordance with the rules and regulations of the University, while pursuing their programmes. We need the support, loyalty, commitment and cooperation of both students and staff to make this University a world-class institution of higher learning.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

To show you the opportunities that University of Ghana affords you, let me mention a few pertinent issues. The latest university rankings compiled by Thompson Reuters places the University of Ghana in the 10th position among African universities. This is the best position we have ever attained in any rankings, and it is exciting to observe that our placement in the rankings has consistently improved across all the major ranking organizations. The Times Higher Education list of the top 15 Universities in Africa places the University of Ghana at number 12. In the Webometrics ranking for Africa, the University of Ghana moved from 52 in 2009 to 19 at the beginning of 2015. In the QS ranking, we remain one of only 4 universities from Sub-Saharan Africa listed for the first time ever in 2015. You have therefore gained admission to the highest ranked university in West Africa across all the different tables. I applaud all colleagues, students and stakeholders of the University who have enabled us attain this feat, and I am sure that all of you, as freshmen, will join us to work harder to ensure that our rankings go even higher both on the continent and internationally.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions into the University of Ghana continue to be very competitive. Once again, the University made it possible for students who completed their WASSCE in May, to enter the University in the same year of writing the examinations. Again, the University took up the additional challenge of admitting students in the West African sub-region who wrote their final senior high school examinations in May 2015. I salute the teams who worked hard to make this a reality.

The University continues to receive large numbers of applications for admission each year. However, due to the limited facilities and human resources in the University, and in line with the process of recreating the University to be classified as a research university, by reducing undergraduate admissions while increasing graduate admissions, we are forced to once again turn down the applications of many otherwise qualified applicants.

For the 2015/2016 academic year, the University received a total of 35, 630 applications made up of 28, 665 undergraduate applications and 6, 965 graduate applications.

For the 2015/2016 academic year, the University admitted students into programmes on the Main Campus, the Korle Bu Campus, the Accra City Campus and Distance Learning and was able to offer admission to 18,106 applicants made up of 14,737 undergraduate and 3,369 graduate students. Out of the number offered admission, 8,541 have registered, made up of 6, 121 undergraduate students and 2, 420 graduate students.

The University continued with its policy of giving the opportunity of university education to applicants from Less Endowed Schools on concessionary basis. Following the introduction of the policy on the Admission of Student Athletes, the University, for the second year running, offered admission to talented sportsmen and women based on their sporting abilities. Students admitted under the policy must first satisfy the general entry requirements of the University, and also show proof of athletic ability. The first batch of students admitted under this programme is excelling both academically and in their sporting activities. We welcome the second batch of students admitted under this policy, and trust that you will work hard to effectively combine your participation in sports with your academic work.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University of Ghana continues to attach great importance to the cross-cultural experience that is made possible by the presence of international students on our campuses, For the 2015/2016 academic year, 2, 967 undergraduate and 1, 593 graduate international applications were received. Out of this number, 844 undergraduate and 310 graduate students of various nationalities were admitted into our programmes as regular, as well as special admission students. Altogether, a total of 291 undergraduate and 90 graduate international students have registered. These students come mainly from the sub-region and there are also students on exchange programmes from our partner institutions in the United States of America, Canada and Asia. I am very pleased to welcome all international students to the University of Ghana and urge them to enjoy their stay in Ghana, feel at home and make use of the services offered by the International Programmes Office. You are all encouraged to make use of the rich diversity of cultures from all these countries here present at Legon.

THE COLLEGIATE SYSTEM

The University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance at the beginning of the 2014/2015 academic year and I am happy to inform you that you are the first batch of students admitted directly into the four (4) new Colleges, namely;



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, delivering his Address



Some University officials seated at the ceremony



Mrs. Mercy Haizel Ashia, Registrar, welcoming Matriculants to the ceremony



Matriculants seated at the matriculation grounds



Ms. Jasmine Adjei-Mensah delivering an address on the Expectations of University Life, as her colleague freshmen/women listen attentively





Ms. Jasmine Adjei-Mensah signing the Matricula under the supervision of Mr. Enoch Amartey, Director, Academic Affairs Directorate



Matriculants taking the Matriculation Oath



Matriculants at the matriculation grounds



1. College of Health Sciences
2. College of Basic and Applied Sciences
3. College of Humanities
4. College of Education

The collegiate system is meant to decentralize the academic functions of the University and provides more room for innovations at the school and college levels. The semi-autonomous nature of the colleges will enable them take more decisions on their academic programmes and administration. Students are therefore expected to contact their college administration for solutions to problems and for advice. Your provisional admission letters provide you with the contact address in your college to which all concerns should be addressed.

The success of the collegiate system will depend largely on how you embrace and use the system.

The Distance Learning programme in the College of Education has been restructured and is an opportunity for applicants to earn a University of Ghana degree without leaving the comfort of their homes. The mode of delivery will be through a combination of e-learning and face to face interactions. The programmes currently available are the Bachelor of Science programme in Administration, the Bachelor of Arts programme and the Bachelor of Science programme in Information Technology. These programmes will begin in October. Also on offer is the Bachelor of Science programme in Nursing which was introduced in the 2014/2015 academic year for professional nurses who already have the Diploma in Nursing certificate from recognized Nursing Training Colleges in Ghana. Students admitted to this programme start their studies in February each year. All of these programmes will be run in the Regional Learning Centres, so students who are workers can remain at post while pursuing their programmes. Perhaps most significant about this is that students can obtain a degree from the University of Ghana at their doorsteps, with all lectures and examinations taking place at the Regional Learning Centres, so there is no need for major disruptions in their lives

SOME NEW PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENTS

At this point, I would like to highlight some initiatives being pursued by the University with a view to making your stay here more beneficial.

Towards the modernization and improved efficiency in service delivery at the University of Ghana, the University proposes to undertake a number of projects and business ventures aimed primarily at providing improved services to its community and at generating significant income for the University. The University has entered into partnership with private investors to undertake the following projects:

In March 2011, the late President John Atta Mills cut the sod at the University for the Commencement of work for the relocation of the College of Health Sciences from the Korle Bu campus to Legon. When completed, the University of Ghana Medical Centre, as it is called, will place the University as one of the most advanced medical training institutions in West Africa. It is expected that the Medical Centre will start working by March 2016.

The University of Ghana has entered into a US\$64 million project with Africa Integras. The project will involve the construction of an expanded facility for the College of Humanities, a new College of Education, a new dedicated facility for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, as well as a new facility for the College of Health Sciences to be located near the new medical centre. 1,000 new student hostel beds will be provided under the project, to be divided between undergraduate and graduate students, mostly to serve the College of Health Sciences. The Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Kwesi Amissah-Arthur, performed the ground-breaking for the commencement of work on the construction of the above-named academic buildings for the University in September this year, with a targeted completion date of September 2017.

FINANCIAL AID TO STUDENTS

In 2005, the University instituted a process to assist students to significantly reduce or eliminate financial barriers that might limit their access to education here. Through the Students Financial Aid Office, financial assistance is provided to qualified students who, without such assistance, may not be able to meet their educational expenses. This aid is available in the form of scholarships, either in full or in part. For the 2014/2015 academic year, the University received a total donation of GH¢ 639,912.09 from both local and foreign donors towards financial aid for students. About 120 students are sponsored each year through the benevolence of individuals and corporate bodies. I would like to salute all our donors and encourage other corporate bodies and individuals to assist us to fund the education of students who would otherwise have to interrupt or terminate their studies. Students facing financial challenges are encouraged to apply for consideration for the various support schemes when they are advertised. The Students Financial Aid Office is located at Bungalow Number 11, East Legon (adjacent to Akuafo Hall Annex A).

EXCELLENCE AND DISCIPLINE

Education comes with responsibility. Those of you, who are fortunate enough to have been admitted to study at the University of Ghana, have an obligation to use your education for the benefit of others. We believe that each of you must become an active citizen of this community and every community that you will inhabit in the future. As you begin your studies at the University of Ghana, I want to encourage you to strive for excellence.

During the last academic year, a number of our students excelled internationally, making the University very proud. A final year PhD Student from the University of Ghana Business School won the best paper award at the 2015 Annual Conference of The Emerging Markets Conference Board held in Dubai. Two University of Ghana graduate students also won awards under the internationally competitive Carnegie Fund for Conference Attendance. I encourage you freshmen and women to take inspiration from those who have gone ahead of you and work hard to attain laurels for yourselves and for the University.

You cannot strive for excellence if you are not disciplined. We live in a civilized society and civility must reflect in all our actions. The University is governed by rules and regulations and there are procedures for engaging in various activities. I therefore urge all students to carefully read the regulations which you have been given and follow the procedures accordingly. I assure you that if you do this, your days in the University shall be happy and fruitful. Guard against anti-social activities such as occultism and the peddling and usage of narcotic drugs and study diligently and you will well on the way towards achieving excellence.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude my speech, I would like to remind all matriculants that your primary aim in coming to this University is to go through your chosen academic programme and graduate with flying colours. You should therefore begin with the end in mind. You are adults now, and we shall treat you as such. There is no more rising bell, no 'prep' and no dining time. Enjoy your freedom but use it responsibly. Being at the University is special for many different reasons. For many of you, this is the first time in your life that you will be truly living independently. This is an opportunity to grow and learn as a person, and to discover who you are.

You have been prepared well for this day by your parents, family and teachers. Many of your loved ones have sacrificed so much so that you may enjoy the privilege of a University education. Honour their sacrifice by behaving responsibly and making the most of this extraordinary opportunity.

Make time for social activities like scholarly lectures, sports and religious activities if you are so inclined, but do not allow these to make you lose sight of the main reason why you are here.

No doubt, some of you are entering the University with a good idea of what you want to do with your lives. Some of you are certain that you want to be Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers or Lecturers. I am also sure that the vast majority of you do not have a clue what you want to do with the education that you will go through here. My advice to you

is that there is no need to worry. You have at least four years to figure this out. Always keep an open mind, as you may discover your passion in unexpected places.

You should remember that you will not be embarking on your journey here alone. You will form close friendships and make enduring relationships during your stay here. The bonds you will form as you help one another grow will fortify your friendships for many years to come. These friends will be with you through your major life events - from new jobs to career changes, from marriage to new families. Cherish these relationships, but remember that you were admitted to the University as an individual and you will graduate as an individual. You are therefore solely responsible for all your actions.

Life in the University can be very exciting both intellectually and socially. The University's Counseling and Placement Centre is available to offer assistance if required. Do make time to read notices, listen to Radio Univers on 105.7FM and regularly visit the University's website www.ug.edu.gh since important information will be communicated to you through these media.

On behalf of the Council of the University, Members of Convocation, and on my own behalf, I would like to wish you a refreshing stay at the University of Ghana. Once again, welcome to our community. I urge you to take advantage of every facility available to develop yourselves fully and to prepare for future opportunities and challenges. Education comes with responsibility and those of you who are fortunate enough to make it here have an obligation to use your education for the benefit of others who are not so fortunate. I pray that the good Lord will crown all your efforts with success.

Thank you and God bless you all.

EXPECTATIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE ADDRESS BY JASMINE ADJEI-MENSAH

The Vice Chancellor,
Pro Vice Chancellors,
Registrar,
Members of the convocation,
Fellow Matriculants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor done me to be chosen to deliver this address on behalf of all freshmen of this noble institution on our expectations of university life. I believe we were all filled with joy upon gaining admission into this university; this brings to mind a famous quote by John Dewey of blessed memory who once said “education is not a preparation for life but rather education is life itself”. As such let us embrace this challenge and live life to the fullest on the campus of the premier university.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, I would first like to express my profound gratitude to the university for the use of the online residential registration system. While enhancing the technological development of the university, it has also made the process less tedious especially for those outside the capital. Though not entirely perfect, the online system serves its purpose and we hope the few drawbacks would be addressed to enhance its effective utilization in the coming years.

Mr. Vice Chancellor, I strongly believe at the end of our stay here, we would not only achieve excellent knowledge in our various fields of study but also be very well-read individuals with general knowledge of other disciplines. To help achieve this purpose, the university has provided facilities such as the Balme Library; for our health and leisure we also have a wide range of sports offered through the Sports Directorate. Even more the University of Ghana Required courses (UGRC) are excellent examples of extending our knowledge beyond our respective disciplines. The existence of such extra and co-curricular activities prepare us both academically and socially for the working world. It is our hope also that the SRC will liaise effectively with the authorities to disseminate information and also to receive feedback as promptly as possible. In view of this, the social media even though it has its disadvantages can be of use. Platforms such as WhatsApp, twitter and Facebook can be employed to send official information faster and easier instead of the use of the emails which are not usually patronized by the youth of today.

To my fellow Matriculants, you will bear me out that being part of the chosen few to be admitted in the premier university is a dream come through but remember, just as our parents are responsible for bringing us into this world, we are also responsible for

whatever happens to us. We have come this far by making decisions and living with the consequences. To harvest the best out this university, we must stay focused, be vigilant be ready to burn the midnight oil, and above all look to the creator for guidance. With these we sure will be on the path of becoming alumni of this noble institution and to cause a change in our communities and nation at large.

In conclusion, I recall these words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jnr., “if you can’t fly, run if you can’t run, walk, if you cant walk, crawl, but whatever you do just keep moving”. Let this be our motivation in rough times as there certainly will be. We will crawl, walk, run or fly whenever we have to. Not only to make us proud but our parents and the nation as well. The future of Ghana depends on us.

The lines have been drawn the race has begun, hopefully I will be seeing you all at the finishing line, when the four years are over, beaming with radiant smiles, God being our helper.

Long live the University of Ghana,
Long live the Matriculation class of 2015,
Long live Ghana.

Thank you.

