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**PROCEEDINGS OF 2016 MATRICULATION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 8.45 a.m.-9.00 a.m. – Matriculants/Guests to be seated
- 9.00 a.m. – Procession
- Statement of Welcome by Acting Registrar,
Mr. Enoch A. Amartey
 - Vice-Chancellor’s Address:
Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu
 - Cultural Performance: Ghana Dance Ensemble
 - Administration of Matriculation Oath
by Registrar
 - Expectations: Mr. Cedric Etornam Kyekye
 - Signing of the Matricula
 - University Anthem
- 9.45 a.m. – Recession
- Reception

**WELCOME/DECLARATION OF PURPOSE
ACTING REGISTRAR, MR. ENOCH A. AMARTEY**

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 2016-2017 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 Ebenezer Oduro Owusu. 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 2016-2017 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.

2016 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 Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, to deliver his address.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT MATRICULATION: PROFESSOR EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU

SALUTATION

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

INTRODUCTION

As we commence another academic year in the life of the University of Ghana, it is my delight to welcome you all to the premier University and also to this year's matriculation ceremony. This is the first matriculation ceremony I am presiding over since I took office as Vice-Chancellor on 1st August 2016, so in a sense it is my matriculation as well. Most of you must be wondering what matriculation is all about.

The matriculation ceremony marks the formal admission of students into the University. It is also the occasion during which matriculants pledge their allegiance to the authority of the University and are enjoined, through the administration of the oath, to be obedient to the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Disciplinarian of the University, as well as all other officers of the University. In pledging to be of good behaviour, the freshmen and women are committing themselves to be disciplined and worthy ambassadors of the University. Every student who enrolls for a University of Ghana undergraduate or postgraduate degree is required to take the matriculation oath. It is my hope that matriculants will take this ceremony seriously and will also 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.

The day you as freshers have been waiting for is finally here and we congratulate you on officially becoming students of this highly esteemed institution. Your presence here is a clear indication that you believe in the system of higher education being offered at the University of Ghana, and are ready for an exciting academic adventure here. We greatly appreciate your confidence in us.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions into the University of Ghana continue to be very competitive. For the sixth year running, the University made it possible for students who completed their WASSCE in May this year, 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 2016. 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 limited facilities and human resources, we are forced to once again turn down the applications of many otherwise qualified applicants.

For the 2016/2017 academic year, the University received a total of 40,435 applications made up of 32,843 undergraduate applications and 7,592 graduate applications.

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 a total of 24,312 applicants made up of 20,621 undergraduate and 3,691 graduate students. Out of the number offered admission, 10,551 have registered, made up of 7,611 undergraduate students and 2,940 graduate students. The 7,611 registered undergraduate students are made up of 3,841 males and 3,770 females. For the 2,940 registered graduate students, 1,702 are males and 1,238 are females.

The University continued with its policy of giving the opportunity of university education to applicants from Less Endowed Schools and applicants with disability on concessionary basis.

For the third year running, the University also offered admission to talented sportsmen and women based on their sporting abilities, under the policy on the Admission of Student Athletes. Students admitted under this policy must first satisfy the general entry requirements of the University, and also show proof of athletic ability. The first two batches of students admitted under this programme are excelling both academically and in their sporting activities. We welcome the third batch of students admitted under the 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 2016/2017 academic year, 1,909 undergraduate and 1,946 graduate international applications were received. Out of this number, 761 undergraduate and 229 graduate students of various nationalities were admitted into our programmes as regular, as well as special admission students. 222 undergraduate and 77 graduate international students have registered. These students come mainly from other African countries, China, India, Italy, Germany, France, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden and the United States of America. 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. All students are encouraged to engage with our international students in order to explore the rich diversity of cultures from all these countries represented at the University of Ghana.

NEW PROGRAMMES

Undergraduate Level

The 2016/2017 admissions saw the re-introduction of the Bachelor of Arts in Administration programmes in the College of Humanities. This is in line with offering students the ability to combine business related subjects with other subjects in the humanities. Students were also admitted into new programmes in the College of Education.



**Members of Convocation and Representative of 2016 Matriculation Class
the ceremony**



Members of Convocation on procession to the Matriculation grounds.



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, delivering his Address



Mr. Enoch A. Amartey, Acting Registrar, welcoming Matriculants to the ceremony



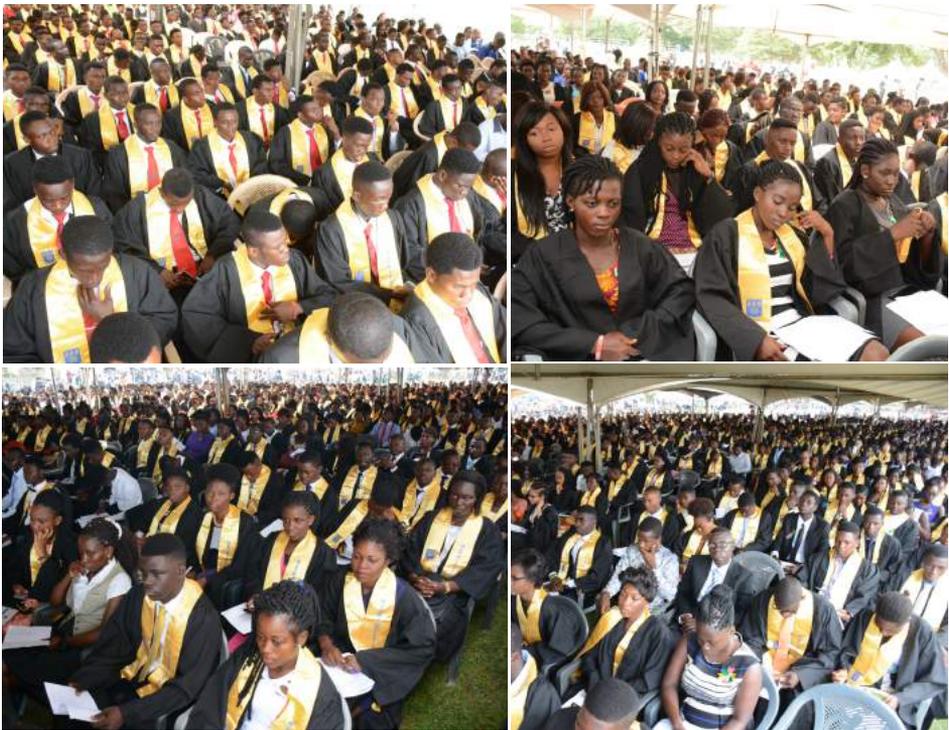
Mr. Cedric Etornam Kyekye delivering an address on the Expectations of University Life



Mr. Cedric Etornam Kyekye signing the Matricula under the supervision of **Mrs. Gladys Okyere-Boateng**, Senior Assistant Registrar - Academic Affairs



Matriculants taking the Matriculation Oath



Matriculants seated at the Matriculation Grounds

- Bachelor of Arts in Education (Teaching and Non-Teaching) options; and
- Bachelor of Science in Education (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics) options.

With the facing out of Diploma programmes from the main and City campuses at the end of the 2015/2016 academic year, the College of Education has taken up the challenge of running selected Diploma programmes in some of its Regional Learning Centres from the beginning of this academic year.

Postgraduate Level

At the postgraduate level, the following new programmes were introduced;

Sandwich Programmes

- M. A. Organizational Leadership and Governance;
- MSc. Accounting and Finance;
- MSc. Financial Risk Management;
- M. A. Educational Leadership and Management;

Regular Programmes

- MPhil. Educational Leadership and Management;
- MPhil. Sustainability Science;
- MPhil. Environmental Sanitation Studies;
- MSc. /MPhil. Hydrogeology Geology;
- MSc. /MPhil. Economic Geology;
- MSc. /MPhil. Applied Geochemistry;
- MSc. /MPhil. Applied Geophysics;
- MSc. Geoinformation;
- MSc. Geology;
- MEng/MPhil/PHD. Biomedical Engineering;
- MEng/MPhil/PHD. Material Science Engineering;
- MPhil. Seed Science and Technology.

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 at Legon.

This aid is available in the form of scholarships, either in full or in part. About 120 students are sponsored each year through the benevolence of individuals and corporate bodies. I would like to acknowledge sponsors for the 2015/2016 academic year and to encourage others to come on board. 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 Akuafu Hall Annex A).

Financial assistance is also available to undergraduate students who need it from the Students' Loan Trust Fund (SLTF). You can contact the Students Loan Trust Fund to initiate the process of applying for the Students' Loan. Their contact details can be found in your admission letters. You can also visit any of their 14 zonal offices across the country for assistance.

Being sensitive to the plight of students, the University has made provision for students to pay 70% of their fees at the beginning of the first semester, and the remaining, before the beginning of the second semester.

EXCELLENCE AND DISCIPLINE

Education comes with responsibility. To those of you, who have been admitted to study at the University of Ghana, you have an obligation to use your education for the benefit of others. I challenge each of you to be 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. I encourage you freshmen and women to take inspiration from those who have gone ahead of you and also work hard to attain laurels for yourselves, for the University and for the nation at large. Excellence does not come from spending 24 hours a day in the library. Neither does it come from spending 12 hours a day in prayer meetings and all night sessions. Spending all your time on entertainment by devoting all your energies to organizing hall week and other events is not going to lead to excellence.

In an institution like ours, students achieve excellence by having the right balance. The amount of time you spend on your books has to be balanced with social engagements and other forms of social learning.

You must know how to develop critical thinking and be analytical, not simply repeating what your lecturers say. While you must question received wisdom, this must be done in a refined way.

You cannot strive for excellence if you are not disciplined. We live in a civilized society and civility and decency 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 be well on the way towards achieving excellence.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude my speech, I would like to remind all matriculants that your primary aim for coming to this University is to study hard, go through your chosen academic programme and graduate with flying colours. You should therefore begin with the end in mind and channel your energies in that direction. Remember that you were admitted as an individual and you will graduate as an individual. You are therefore solely responsible for all your actions. 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 wonderful 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. 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.

In the course of time, you will encounter new experiences. New relationships are going to be formed, some of which may be life-long. By all means enjoy them but remain focused.

Life in the University can be very exciting both intellectually and socially. My dear freshmen and women let me advise you to make time to read University notices and pay attention to University rules and regulations. The University's Careers and Counselling Centre is available to offer assistance if required. Listen to Radio Unifers 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. We shall be available to guide you, so long as you are willing to be guided. We will give you the support necessary, but only if you use the legitimate means to seek such support.

On behalf of the Council of the University, Members of Convocation and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you on your admission and welcome you once again to the University of Ghana. On our part, we will do all that is humanly possible to make your stay here as pleasant as possible.

Enjoy your stay here; take advantage of every facility that is offered to develop yourself and to prepare for your future careers and lives. I wish you well.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**EXPECTATIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE BY
MR. CEDRIC ETORNAM KYEKYE**

The Chairman of Council,
Vice Chancellor,
Pro-Vice Chancellors,
Provosts,
Registrar,
Members of Convocation,
Fellow Matriculants,
Our cherished Parents and Guardians,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it an honour to be nominated to deliver the Matriculation Address on Expectations of University Life on behalf of all freshmen of this noble institution. I believe that most of us had sleepless nights whilst waiting for admission into the university but rejoiced upon receiving the offer of admission into the University of Ghana. We are therefore very privileged to be in Ghana's premier university which offers many opportunities that are not available elsewhere.

Mr. Vice Chancellor, first and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the University for providing state-of-art equipment and facilities to enhance our education. The Science laboratories, the Balme Library, the range of sporting facilities and the Wi-Fi connection, just to mention a few. Let me also take the opportunity to thank the University for the Online Platform used in many of its operations. This platform facilitated the processes of applying to the university, for residential applications and other processes. No doubt these online modes of operation would in my view, greatly help in the teaching and learning process as well. An example is the Sakai Portal that enables us, as students, to access a great deal of information and even do assignments. In order that we continue enjoying such facilities, we hope that the internet connectivity would be further improved.

Fellow Matriculants, our primary aim as students, you would agree, is to study and make use of this opportunity. What is expected of us therefore is to stick to our books and avoid acts that would make us divert from our main aim. Having taken the oath, I am hopeful that my fellow matriculants would adhere to the oath so that at the end of our studies here we will be proud of ourselves and graduate with joy.

This then brings us to the question “What are our expectations of university life”? Although we hear various stories about what to expect, which are both good and bad, we are eager to meet new people and make new friends to help us network for the future. We will definitely learn new things and grow older and more responsible during our stay at the University. Crossing from the secondary school life to University life, we have gained a level of independence, but we should exercise caution in the way we use this independence. Now, we will begin to take decisions on our own. In our studies, we may also face some academic challenges. But in all these, let us resolve to face these challenges while celebrating the joys that we will experience. Let us be mindful of the fact that when we strive to do our best, there will be light at the end of the tunnel. No matter what the circumstances are, let us strive to achieve our individual goals.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians who have sacrificed so much and invested to bring us this far. Dear parents, we appreciate every effort you have made for us to be here. We promise you that we will not let you down. I will also like to appeal to the government to see to the needs of our lecturers and administrators and all employees of the University so that we will have a conducive and environment for learning.

In conclusion, I would like to charge you, fellow matriculants, to aspire to realise your visions, to meet your goal of learning and endeavour to make a positive impact on your communities and society at large. This way, we will be proud of our success at the end of our studies in the University.

God bless the Matriculation Class of 2016
God bless the University of Ghana
God bless us all.

Thank you.

