



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NO. 871

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017

VOL. 54

NO. 18

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
(GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
NOVEMBER 19, 2016**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, November 19, 2016, 9.00 a.m.

Procession

The Congregation is asked to stand

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:

Mr. Kwame Asante, Member of University Council (Representing Chairman,
University of Ghana)

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor

Guest Speaker: Albert Ocran

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands

- PhD
- MPhil
- MA
- BSc.
- BA
- Diplomas

Valedictory Address: Ms. Ramatu Fuseini

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

The Congregation is asked to remain seated until all officials and graduands have left the Hall.

**OPENING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY MR. KWAME ASANTE,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL)**

Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Education
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University, I welcome you all warmly to this morning's ceremony. I also extend Mr. Annan's greetings and best wishes to all of you gathered here on this important occasion. The Congregation ceremonies that have been planned for this weekend are significant in two weeks.

These will be the second set of congregation ceremonies for the 2015-16 cohort of student. The first set of congregation ceremonies for the 2015-16 cohort of graduation students were held in July 2016.

This ceremony is one of two that are happening concurrently. The other ceremony is taking place at R.S. Amegashie Auditorium for graduate student of the College of Humanities. As you may know the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance in 2014, since that time congregation ceremonies have been organised on college basics.

I take the opportunity to wish the graduands, who are being presented today, the very best on this very important occasion. We share in your joy on the successful completion of your programmes of study and we are very proud of you.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to declare this morning's assembly, duly constituted for the award of degrees and diplomas of the University of Ghana to successful graduands.

It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give a report, at Congregation, on developments in the University over the last academic year. I invite the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu to present his report to congregation.

Thank you.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION BY PROFESSOR EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU

Chairman of the University Council
Members of the University Council
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Officials of sister universities
Your Excellencies – Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Niime, Naamei, Nananom
Members of Convocation
Graduating Students
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

It is my privilege and honour to welcome you all to today's Congregation Ceremony one of the sessions in my first series of congregation ceremonies since I assumed office as the Vice Chancellor of this great University.

Congregation is a very important occasion in the life of a University. It is a time to recognise the academic progress of the graduands and to publicly acknowledge their achievements. It is also an occasion to review the work of the University during the last academic year in line with its stated vision and to inform stakeholders about the true state of the University and the way forward. Today's ceremony focuses on the second batch of students who completed their programmes of study in the 2015/2016 academic year; the first batch having graduated in July 2016. It is my fervent hope that all of us here present will help in making the ceremony a memorable one.

Acknowledgement

I assumed office as the 12th Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana on 1st August 2016 to provide leadership and an enabling environment for the realization of the University's vision of “becoming a world class research intensive 'go to’ university over the next decade”.

I would therefore like to acknowledge the immense contribution of all my predecessors and hardworking employees of the university (past and present) for

the visibility and respect the University of Ghana currently enjoys on both the local and international scene. By dint of their collective vision and foresight over the past 68 years, our university is today ranked as one of the best Universities in Africa. Consequently, Mr Chairman, I am glad to inform you that, The University of Ghana has been chosen to host the next (16th) conference of the International Association of Universities, together with the Association of African Universities.

Vision

At my induction, I outlined my vision for making the University of Ghana a first choice establishment in the circle of academic institutions in Africa and beyond.

I spoke among other things about my commitment to position the University of Ghana as a world class "Go to University"; I identified key actions that I intend to roll out during my tenure to make this vision a reality. These include: my passion to tailor the teaching and research in the University to the needs of our stakeholders; review the curricula to ensure that students educated at this institution are equipped with the skill-set needed to adapt quickly to the demands of the job market; promote learning, research and scholarship by providing the needed enabling environment to maximize achievement and excellence.

The others are to make our surroundings and environment green; improve upon our global and Africa-wide rankings by aligning budgets to support effective implementation of actions that would promote the core business of the university; promote positive attitudinal change and character-moulding as the underlying theme of all our engagements; and to subject our institution to external review.

Chairman of Council, ladies and gentlemen, Currently, management is trying to redouble efforts to diversify funding sources, manage our financial resources judiciously and have a prudent debt utilisation and management system aimed at making the University financially viable over the next five years through engagements with government, the private sector, industry leaders, and donor partners.

I am happy to report that the vision to position the University of Ghana as a "Go to University" has started in earnest. Management has set up Strategic Teams with the responsibility to come up with strategies that would advance this vision. The teams which were inaugurated on 3rd November, 2016 are;

- a. Institutional Advancement Team
- b. Agriculture Centres Commercialisation Committee

- c. University of Ghana Rebranding and Marketing Team
- d. Medical and Dental School Expansion Team
- e. University of Ghana Regional / World Ranking Team
- f. Vice-Chancellor's Green Team
- g. Independent Power Supply Team
- h. Laboratory Modernization Team

The teams are made up of highly qualified members and I am confident that they will come up with the roadmap for the realization of our “Go to University” vision. It is our expectation that all members of Convocation, staff, students and other key stakeholders will give the teams all the necessary support to make their work fruitful.

New Appointments

The tenure of the University Council, under the able chairmanship of Professor Justice Samuel Date-Bah, came to an end on 31st July, 2016. I would like on behalf of management, staff and students to extend my sincere gratitude to members of the former Council for their sacrifice and tireless contributions to the development of the University. I would also wish to welcome the new Council under the Chairmanship of Professor Kwamena Ahwoi. I take this opportunity to assure the new Council of our unflinching support in defining and steering the strategic direction of this University.

Some senior administrative appointments also took effect from 1st August 2016. New Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments, have been appointed to provide academic and administrative leadership in the various units of this university. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and thanks to all Heads, Deans and Directors whose tenure came to an end in July 2016. Your services to this university are well noted and I hope we can fall on you to take up other assignments in the future. I would also like to thank the new Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads for their willingness to serve. I trust you will share in the University's new transformational agenda built on the pillars of the 2Rs i.e., Respect and “RINER” which stands for Relevance, Innovation, Excellence and Resource Mobilisation.

It is my fervent hope that all the new appointees will bring their varied experiences and skills acquired in University administration over the years to advance the vision of this great university.

Admissions

For the sixth year running, the University created the platform for Ghanaian and other applicants in the West African sub-region who completed their WASSCE in May to enter the University in the same year. I salute the teams who worked hard to make this a reality.

At the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year, for the main campus, Accra City campus Korle-Bu campus and Distance Education programmes, the University offered admission to a total of 24,312 applicants made up of 20,621 undergraduate students and 3,691 graduate students. At the undergraduate level 3,841 or 50.47% of the registered students are male while 3,770 or 49.53% are females. At the graduate level, 1,702 or 57.89% of the registered students were males while 1,238 or 42.11% were females. The figure shows that the University has made significant progress in reducing the gap in access to higher education between the genders. We are therefore close to achieving the national objective of 50:50 male - female ratio in tertiary admissions. Further admissions will be made during the course of the year for Special programmes and Sandwich programmes.

The University continues to increase access through its policy of offering the opportunity of university education to applicants from Less Endowed Schools and applicants with disability. The admission of sports men and sports women through the UG Policy for the Admission of Athlete Students (PAAS) policy is also in its third year and already bearing fruit.

In June-July 2016, Team UG participated and performed excellently at the Federation of African Universities Sports (FASU) Games in South Africa. The team competed in five out of the nine disciplines and won 4 Gold medals, 7 Silver medals and 5 bronze medals to place 7th out of 35 universities. We are extremely proud of Desmond Aryee, who was ranked the 4th best performer in athletics by the competition organizers, after running an impressive personal best 10.40 seconds to take the men's 100m final in the track and field championships. It has been reported that more than half of the medals were won by athletes we admitted through the UG-PAAS. There is therefore no doubt that our strategy to use this means to enhance our performance at various national and international events is working and we need to continue firming up these achievements by investing in our sporting infrastructure.

At Legon, we place high premium on the cross-cultural experience that is made possible by the presence of international students on our campuses. We are happy

to report that for this academic year, 761 undergraduate and 229 graduate international students of various nationalities were admitted into our programmes.

Undergraduate Studies

Mr. Chairman, in the 2010/2011 academic year, a new four-year degree programme was implemented with the introduction of new courses and programmes and revision of existing ones. The grading system was also overhauled and the thresholds raised with the aim of improving the quality of graduates from the University of Ghana.

We are in the seventh academic year since the implementation of this restructured degree programme and today's graduating undergraduate class is part of the fourth cohort of students under the revised programme. The University will review the programme and provide recommendations to make our graduates and programmes more relevant to national development.

This academic year also saw the offer of new programmes. It includes the re-introduction of the Bachelor of Arts in Administration programme in the College of Humanities to offer students the opportunity to combine business related subjects with other subjects in the Humanities.

The College of Education has also rolled out new programmes. These are the Bachelor of Arts in Education and Bachelor of Science in Education to offer more choices to our undergraduate students.

Graduate Studies

Mr. Chairman the new four (4) year Ph.D. programmes which commenced in the 2012/13 academic year are also on course. The adoption of the 4-year research programme is in line with the University's vision of becoming a world class research-intensive institution. Most departments have revised their doctoral programmes and are also developing new ones to meet the exigencies of the times. We look forward to graduating the first cohort in 2017.

The University has also developed the following new Masters programmes which have received accreditation from the National Accreditation Board:

- MA in Educational Leadership and Management
- MSc. in Geo-Information Science

Students' Financial Aid and Scholarship

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to announce that the Students Financial Aid office which was established in 2005 has contributed immensely to providing access to university education to many bright but needy students. An average of 120 students are sponsored each year through the benevolence of some corporate bodies, churches, NGOs, individuals and alumni. To date 2,596 students have benefited from the fund. On behalf of the management of the University I wish to thank all our benefactors for their kind gestures and their services to humanity. I would like to encourage all who wish to support these students to come forward, to help us to put a smile on the face of a student in need, bring hope to a family and support capacity building for our nation's development.

Let me make special mention of the aid initiated by the students themselves. This is Yibiboa under which a percentage of SRC dues paid by all students is assigned to support the Students Financial Aid initiative.

Careers and Counselling Services

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, enhancing the educational experience of our students outside the formal setting is one of our cardinal outputs. Our Counselling and Placement Centre, which has been renamed Careers and Counselling Centre, offers us the opportunity to achieve this objective. The name change is to reflect how the services of the Centre have significantly evolved to embrace new requirements in the world of work.

The Centre's strategic goals which are in tandem with the University's strategic priorities, includes working with recruitment experts to identify students with leadership potential. It also provides opportunities for experiential learning for our students and makes counselling support easily accessible for employees and students. We believe the centre is well placed to achieve its set objectives.

Research and Staff Development

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the University recognises its human capital as its primary asset. It therefore continues to develop strategies to enhance its capabilities. The University continues to experience growth in its research portfolio with funding from both internal and external sources and a general push to enhance research governance and management structures, to facilitate cutting-edge research and dissemination.

The University is keen to support its faculty members by raising the profile of research and thus has increased the amount of funding available to faculty members for research. Since 2008, the university has through its own internally generated funds (IGF), provided about 5 Million Cedis to 182 faculty members to undertake various research projects. Some of these projects have also leveraged additional external support for bigger projects. In the year under review an amount of GH¢ 901,526 was awarded as research grants to faculty members. Again through IGF, an amount of USD 123,582 was provided as conference support to faculty members in the year under review. As you may be aware the University, in 2008, set its self the target to support faculty development to ensure that all teaching faculty acquire PhDs or terminal degrees by 2018. Each year the university provides some funding support to faculty members enrolled on PhD programmes as part of this scheme. To date, 93 faculty members have benefited from the scheme which has helped to chalk a 98% success rate before the end date.

The University will now focus on post-doctoral fellowships to provide the necessary capabilities to its faculty. The Colleges are also developing continuous development programmes for staff.

Based on the success of these initiatives, Legon has received tremendous support from its donor partners, notably the Carnegie Corporation of New York which in October this year, provided its third grant to the university since 2010 to implement the Building a New Generation of Academics in Africa (BANGA-Africa) Project. The project is a follow-up to the UG Next Generation of Academics in Africa (UG-NGAA) Project aimed at helping to build a critical mass of a new generation of academics in UG. All these initiatives are to enable Legon develop a critical mass of faculty to achieve its research-intensive academic outlook.

We have also won a grant for the Building Stronger Universities (BSU II) project, which is funded by DANIDA. The overall objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the University of Ghana to achieve its objective of transformation into a first-class research University. To achieve this laudable objective the university will, through the project, strengthen its capability to deliver high quality research PhD education and training; strengthen newly established Centres of Research Excellence and improve research administration processes, support and training.

All these initiatives continue to contribute to the University of Ghana's effort to reach a threshold where a critical mass to faculty are well equipped to help the



**Mr. Kwame Asante, Member of University Council delivering the
Opening Address**



**Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu Vice-Chancellor,
addressing the gathering**



**Prof. Michael Tagoe, Dean, School of Continuing and Distance Education
acknowledging international students of the College**



**Mr. E. A. Amartey, Director, Academic Affairs, making Opening Remarks at
the ceremony**



Rev. Albert Ocran, delivering the Guest Speaker's address



Ms. Famatu Fuseini delivering the Valedictory Address



Graduands seated at the Congregation ceremony



Some parents, guardians and invited guests at the ceremony

university achieve its research-intensive outlook and also raise its research profile.

Infrastructural Developments

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, as you drive through the Okponglo entrance to our beautiful campus, you will notice that the road has been named "Academic Freedom" road; very soon, the arch which is under construction will be completed to create the - "Academic Freedom Arch". Let me emphasize that the arch is to serve purely as a security post and not as a toll booth!

Our physically enabling environment is being developed block by block to ensure that our students and employees live in a decent and sanitized environment. To this end, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to inform you that the Green project which is expected to turn campus green and ensure efficient waste management system, has begun in earnest.

Work on physical infrastructural projects started by the previous Vice-Chancellor are on-going and have reached various stages of the construction process.

We recently cut the sod for a construction of the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) at the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology (BCMB), College of Basic and Applied Sciences, (CBAS). All these facilities when completed will add to our stock of physical infrastructure to enhance the delivery of our academic programmes.

Global Trends in Education and World Rankings

Globalisation is here to stay and education can and should play a role in changing the behaviours, attitudes and expectations that make a difference. Education as a powerful tool for reducing inequity and its role of providing skills and competencies needed to operate in this new world cannot be over emphasized. The new Global Education Monitoring Report by UNESCO shows the potential for education to propel progress towards all global imperatives outlined in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has also been reported that education needs a major transformation in order to fulfil that potential and meet the current challenges facing humanity and the planet. We are very much aware that some major transformations should take place in order for us to achieve this potential and meet the current challenges. Our University is therefore working hard to place its self at the forefront of this role expected to be played by the education sector.

World university rankings are very important to our work at the University of Ghana's. As has been reported, it is from these rankings that the viability of our working processes get interrogated, potential donors secured, best crop of students won over and collaborations for major research work forged.

The 2016 Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings once again placed the University of Ghana ahead of its peers in Ghana and West Africa. It is my pleasure to inform you, Mr. Chairman that the University of Ghana was ranked in the 5th decile of this year's ranking; and our strongest pillar this year was research. This is definitely a great achievement, given that we were ranked in the 4th decile in 2015, with our strongest pillar that year being international outlook with a rank in the 5th decile. It is worthy of note that our efforts at becoming a world class research intensive University is well on its way.

We are currently the highest ranked University in West Africa and the 7th in Africa. This enviable feat could not have been achieved without the concerted effort of all colleagues, students and stakeholders of the University. I am most grateful and confident that with the establishment of our Strategic Teams and continued support of all of us, our rankings will soar higher at both the continental and the international level.

Security

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can report that security on campus has witnessed tremendous improvement. The University has also recently put together a strategic document to combat security challenges on our campus. A major constraint however has been the fact that the security office is greatly understaffed. Management of the University is however working assiduously to find avenues to improve the current staffing situation. We have also organized face-to-face discussions to educate students on the need to be security conscious. The goal is to create individual and ultimately a holistic awareness of the necessity to be security conscious on campus. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Regional and District police command as well as national security for beefing up our security efforts, volunteering security briefs, and helping maintain law and order on campus.

Graduands

Mr. Chairman, this address will not be complete without acknowledging parents and guardians, some of whom are here today to witness this milestone achievement

in the lives of our graduands. It is your love, sacrifice and dedication which has brought these graduands thus far and I salute you. I also entreat you to continue to nurture them in the next phase of their life's journey. It is my fervent prayer that you will enjoy the fruits of your labour in the coming years.

Now, graduands, today marks the beginning of another major milestone in your life's journey. Today, most of you are taking your first step into the career world and the knowledge you have acquired in this University will hopefully guide you to make the right choices.

The recent World Economic Forum held in June 2016 identified ten most critical skills needed for the job market in 2020. These are complex problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, people management and co-ordinating with others. The rest are emotional intelligence, judgement and decision making, service orientation, negotiation and cognitive flexibility. I believe you have developed some of these skills through the academic programme and the University of Ghana Required Courses (UGRCs) offered. You should also understand that education is expected to continue beyond the walls of the lecture hall into the community and the work place and into adulthood.

As you enter the job market, I urge you to continue to improve upon these critical skills. Remember that it is a competitive world and to be in the lead, you need to always strive to make a difference; just a one degree shift from the norm and you will be in the lead.

As our fresh alumni let me encourage you to contribute to your alma mater. The University of Ghana will be 70 years in August 2018 and we believe we can count on your support to make Legon proud. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary, Jubilee Hall was constructed as a birthday present from the Alumni to the University. To make this happen the alumni contributed 1% of their salary for three years towards the project. We are anxiously waiting for the 2018 birthday present for which your contribution will be most appreciated.

Once again, we congratulate you on your achievements, and I thank you for your attention.

GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY REV. ALBERT OCRAN

The Chairman of the University Council,
The Vice Chancellor,
Faculty,
Staff,
Graduands,
Parents and Distinguished Guests,

Twenty-nine years ago, I took the matriculation oath in this Great Hall with a sense of pride but little insight into what lay ahead. Returning to give a commencement address here means a lot to me. God has indeed been good.

I trust that my thoughts will go some way to help each of our 1,550 graduands to achieve your own life goals. I am speaking on how to move from DEFICIT to SURPLUS and my message is simply entitled "**STRETCH.**"

Foundational Thoughts

Let me start by establishing three foundational truths:

A. Natural Deficit. Each of us starts life with a deficit. A child is born vulnerable, dependent and inadequately equipped to deal with the harsh demands of a hostile world. When you're born in our part of the world, you inherit some additional deficits that have nothing to do with you. Economic inequalities, a seeming lack of opportunity and an often hostile environment all conspire to alienate you from the global stage. You design a great product or write a book in Ghana and probably need ten times the effort of your colleagues elsewhere to be noticed and to breakthrough.

B. Potential for Change. You may have no choice about how you start life or where you start from but you have a responsibility to move yourself from a deficit to a surplus. You need to create a better life for yourself, your children and others after you. Don't die at the same level where you start. Determine to move from the back to the front. Will there be competition? I bet you. But you can become a world changer if you apply yourself to it.

C. Critical Choices. There are proven choices that can rapidly move you forward in life. In a very competitive environment, there are things you can do to stand out

from the pack and guarantee yourself an advantage. It is some of these choices that form the basis of my message today.

I have chosen to summarize seven key attributes in the acronym "STRETCH" for ease of remembrance. After all, one has to really stretch to move from a deficit and be able to generate a surplus. Each of these has nothing to do with your degree or talent but can make a real difference in determining how high you reach. So how do we stretch?

1. **Smile.** Life can be stressful and everyone wants to hang around someone with a pleasant personality who cheers them up and lifts up their spirits. You may be competent at what you do but if you always have a frown, people will easily be put off. Whether you're a banker, lecturer, doctor or pilot, a pleasant outlook will enhance your appeal make you more valuable to your clients. A New York University research on personal branding indicated that within 7 seconds of people meeting you, they would have formed a lasting impression about you. Really? Count up to seven and ask yourself how much of your true nature or inner beauty a person can see in seven seconds. It is evident that your smile is the mirror of your soul and an important first indicator to others of who you really are inside. Smile!!!
2. **Timeliness.** Punctuality is another enabler that like a smile requires no talent and has nothing to do with your GPA. The unspoken rule in any organisational arrangement is that the person who is always on time is serious and dependable. If you know you're not too talented, resourced or well connected, compensate for your deficits in life with an amazing sense of punctuality. You will easily be noticed and you will rise. Punctuality is not debatable. 6am is always 6am even if someone doesn't like you. Be serially punctual.
3. **Relationships.** Cultivate valuable relationships on your way. Many people are too busy looking for money to care about who they travel life's journey with. I was blessed with priceless relationships in Legon that have served me well throughout my life. One of the most important choices I was privileged to make right here in Legon was to find my wife Comfort. There is a positive correlation between your relationships and your progress in life. Marry the right person, choose the right business partners and hang out with the right friends. One of the most incredible pieces of advice I ever got was to carefully prepare a list of the 100 most influential people in my life and to connect with each of them at least once a month. Strategically select and deliberately lubricate your relationships and your life and career will flourish.

- 4. Excellence.** This is the quality of being unusually good and surpassing ordinary standards. The difference between being excellent and very good is that extra touch, that commitment to read over the script once more. It is the boldness to reject what every one else says is okay. In my days as a print executive, I voluntarily offered to reprint, at no cost to the client, 10,000 copies of a book that had a minor defect which could easily have been ignored. It sounded like a very bad business decision. But the client was so impressed by the sense of professionalism that he publicly recommended us to others and became a number one client for years. Excellence pays.
- 5. Tenacity.** Tenacity refers to the strength to take responsibility for your life and keep moving it till you reach the place where you desire. Many of us enjoy blaming everyone else for our circumstances. It is fashionable to blame our parents, government, the university, our employers and even our friends for one thing or another. List your deficits today and take responsibility for changing every one of them. American motivational speaker Nido Qubein once told a story about how he landed from Jordan with only \$50 and no knowledge of the English language. He desperately wanted to become a public speaker and so he learnt to memorise 10 words and their meanings every day for 6 days in a week and to rehearse his weekly "Vocabulary" on the 7th day. He did this for years and eventually become the president of the American Speakers Association and president of his own university. Take responsibility and be tenacious!
- 6. Curiosity.** Years ago, I visited a printing fair in Düsseldorf that had several nationalities present. As I stood next to the multi-million euro equipment that was the centerpiece of the fair, I noticed something interesting. Everybody was taking pictures but the interests seemed to be different. The Asians climbed the machine and took pictures of the engine at work ostensibly with the aim of building superior technology. The Europeans took pictures of the machine's output with the intention of buying the machine and trading with it. The third category of people took selfies next to the machine that would probably end up on Facebook. Earlier in today's ceremony, the Vice Chancellor cited a World Economic Forum report from June 2016 and listed the 10 most critical skills needed for the job market in 2020. As he spoke, I noticed that very few graduating students seemed to be writing down the points. It would seem that many of you were more interested in the pictures you would be taking while receiving your certificates. I wanted the information badly. Immediately he sat down, I took my phone requested his speech and took a picture of that page. My

friends, ask the right questions and you will always find yourself better informed and more competitive. What am I hired to do? What are the critical success factors? How do I make a greater impact? Why is my competitor so successful? Rudyard Kiplin alluded to six honest servants who taught him everything he knew. They were all questions - Who, Where, Which, How, Why and When. Ask questions and you will significantly accelerate your journey.

- 7. Honesty.** This last attribute is the most critical of them all. Several top CEOs were asked for the single most important attribute they would look for in promoting people and they overwhelmingly chose honesty - integrity, trustworthiness or reliability. Keep your word. Be true to who you are. More people are dismissed all over the world for lack of integrity than for their technical deficits. Build a reputation of being honest and it will follow you all the days of your life.

So there you are. When I say STRETCH!!! I mean Smile, Timeliness, Relationships, Excellence, Tenacity, Curiosity and finally Honesty.

I want to thank the college and the faculty for preparing these leaders for the next stage of their lives. Let me take time to thank all parents who have invested your all to fund your children's education. I want to specially salute you. On behalf of my 77-year old mother Dora who gave up so much and sold all she had to educate me I celebrate all parents here and say AYEKOO.

I would like to congratulate the new graduates as you step out to the next level. Believe! Begin! Become! Dare to dream that you can be the next big achiever to emerge from Africa. May a young person out there about to start life look at you and say "It is possible."

I want to tune in to the global news networks in the next decade and see you celebrated all over the world because you dared to **STRETCH**. That is when you would have moved from **Deficit** to **Surplus**.

God bless the College of Education!
God bless Legon, my alma mater!!
God bless our homeland GHANA!!!
God bless us all!!!!

Thank you.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY RAMATU FUSEINI

Chairman of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Members of the University Council
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Education
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Guest Speaker
Members of Convocation
Niimeike Naame, Nananom
Parents, Guardians, Families and Friends
Fellow Graduands
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Isn't it amazing? Is it not incredible? Does it not seem like it was just yesterday that we all walked through these gates and similarly gathered at the Athletics Oval for our matriculation ceremony? How joyful we were then to have finally made it to this great institution to further our studies. Today, that joy escalates to the sky as we gather here to mark our very much deserved graduation. The journey has indeed been laborious but we didn't waver. We fought through it all; through the endless deadlines we had to struggle to meet to submit our assignments, through the hustle of making it to class on time, through the long hours of sleepless nights, through having to abandon our homes, spouses, children and other demands just to attain our dreams as students. So, yes, fellow graduands, we have made it and today is the day where our great efforts are being crowned.

The story of our journey through our education here cannot be contained in a single book. I remember our very first lecture at the Jones-Quartey Building, room twenty-four (24). It was quite phenomenal as I realized that things were a bit different from the usual classroom system that we were all so used to, there were so many people who looked so intelligent in their smart outfits. People contributed in class with an air of confidence and brilliance. Then came our Interim Assessment, the popular IA, then our first exams, followed shortly by our results. For some of us, it was a huge 'bomb'. It was then that it dawned on us that we were indeed in the university, and to win, we had to do things a bit differently. The surprises kept coming; I had the erroneous impression that one offers only his or her courses of

preference. Imagine my shock when it came to my notice that University of Ghana Required Courses or UGRCs were in fact, compulsory for everyone.

At the end of the day, there are those of us who have received the miracle of our lives right here, there are those who have had life-changing breakthroughs, and there are still those of us who may not have so pleasant memories to share. Despite the differences, besides our struggles, gains, achievements and experience, we have all emerged victorious and to that, we must sing and dance and shout 'Thank You God, thank You God for our success.'

Every single one of us here, enrolled in this institution with at least one common primary focus, - to acquire an education that would equip us with knowledge that would bring about positive transformation in our families, societies, nation and the world at large. I believe that no matter how difficult the journey was for us, we have in one way or the other, achieved the primary focus for which we came here.

Though we beat our chests with pride and shout, 'We made it', we made it only with lots of help. Right from kindergarten up till this stage we have leaned on God, our teachers, professors, lecturers, tutors, administrators, and our loved ones. And just exactly how do we proceed without acknowledging them? On behalf of the graduating class I duly express our profound gratitude to you all who put in your best and honored your duties even in difficult times. You made us who we are today and we are truly grateful. In the light of this, may all graduands rise and with a round of applause, show our appreciation to every one of our 'makers'.

As we exit the University, I am confident that we each hold the key to the advancement of this nation. I see among us great leaders and thinkers, academics, politicians, musicians, social workers, administrators, economists and so many other intelligent professionals whose work will have unimaginable positive impact on our nation. My colleague graduands, we need to wake up to the reality that the future of our country no longer rests solely with our weary elders but with us as well. We have been handed a mantle and we need to meet our social and moral responsibilities with the full force of our might and minds to help build our country. Our success wouldn't be complete if we just memorized the theories and passed our exams, it is time to take up the challenge to be smart, work hard and intelligently to effect the change we so badly desire.

My fellow graduands, a year ago, a gentleman in a similar capacity as I am now called on his graduating class to go out and be ambassadors of change. I echo that call

today, I call on us all to proceed with integrity as the motto of this great institution urges, for we owe this to ourselves and to our country.

Bravo, soldiers, we have won the battle, but we have a greater task ahead.

Congratulations to us all!

God bless the University of Ghana!

God bless Mother Ghana!

God bless us all!

Thank you.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY MR. KWAME ASANTE,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL)**

Hon. Minister for Education
Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Education
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Fresh Graduates,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As we end this ceremony, I would like to salute all who have worked hard to ensure a successful event, especially all those who played various roles in the planning and organisation of this event.

Our new graduates have also worked hard over the periods that they have been students at this University and they deserve all the laurels that they have acquired. You, our new graduates, have been part of the changes that have taken place at the University of Ghana over the past few years; we look forward to receiving some of you back soon, as faculty or as administrators, to support the university's drive to become a research-intensive University.

I congratulate you on your achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of your *alma mater*. I wish you success in your future endeavours.

Our thanks also go to all teachers, the management team and the managers of the various units, who have worked together to ensure that your stay in the University has been fruitful. The University appreciates the effort that everyone has put into this enterprise.

We are also happy that so many parents, guardians, family members and friends of the graduates were able to join in this celebration.

To our Guest Speaker for today, invited guests, alumni and friends of the University, we appreciate your presence and participation in the ceremony. I wish you all a safe journey back.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is now my privilege and duty to declare today's congregation officially dissolved.

Thank you.

