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**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
(GRADUATE PROGRAMME)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 22, 2017**

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**OPENING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY PROFESSOR EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU,
VICE-CHANCELLOR)**

Vice-Chancellor,

Guest Speaker,

Members of Convocation,

Staff and Students,

Alumni,

Graduands,

Invited Guests,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I take on my first official duty as Chairman of the University of Ghana Council. I wish to congratulate all Council members for their appointment to this high office. I pledge, on behalf of all fellow council members, to give off our best to uphold the University of Ghana tradition.

I now welcome you all warmly, to this morning's ceremony on behalf of the Chancellor of the University of Ghana, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan.

I have been duly informed that the Congregation ceremonies that have been planned for this weekend are the first set of congregation ceremonies for the first batch of students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year. Another set of congregation ceremonies for the 2016-2017 cohorts of graduating students will be held in November this year.

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 basis.

We know that these ceremonies are memorable for the graduands who are being presented. I take the opportunity to wish you all 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, diplomas and certificates of the University of Ghana to successful graduands and also to receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor.

It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give us his report, at this forum, on developments taking place in the University over the last academic year. I therefore invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to congregation.

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION
(REPRESENTED BY PROFESSOR SAMUEL KWAME OFFEI,
PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC
AND STUDENT AFFAIRS)**

Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts,
Distinguished Guest Speaker,
Chairmen and Members of College Advisory Boards,
Officials of Sister Universities,
Your Excellencies,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Members of Convocation,
Niime, Naamei, Nananom,
Graduating Students,
Parents and Guardians,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

WELCOME

It is my singular privilege and honour to welcome you all to this Congregation ceremony. When I assumed office as Vice-Chancellor in August last year, I became even more fully alive to our role as custodians to the many lives we are mandated to mould for societal advancement. I am very grateful to all faculties, administrators and other stakeholders for the support provided in charting this course. We also appreciate the time parents and invited guests have taken

off their respective schedules to converge here to celebrate with our graduands.

This ceremony is part of the first of two sets of graduating ceremonies for students who completed their programmes in the 2016/ 2017 academic year. A total of 3858 students will be graduating today and tomorrow at various levels from all four Colleges in the University. This number is made up of 1148 at the post graduate level, 2449 at the Bachelor's level and 261 at the Diploma level. Another set of ceremonies will be held in November this year.

Update on the State of the University

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, kindly permit me to use this opportunity to give an update on the state of the University of Ghana.

Strategy Execution

In line with the University's vision to position itself as a "world-class research-intensive University" over the next decade, a strategic plan was launched in 2014 to serve as a roadmap towards attaining this vision. Thus, nine strategic teams were formed and inaugurated in November 2016 to drive this University to the status of a "Go to University" which potential students around the world would desire to attend. These teams are the:

Institutional Advancement Team

Agricultural Centres Commercialization Committee

University of Ghana Rebranding and Marketing Team

Medical and Dentistry School Expansion Team

University of Ghana Regional/World Ranking Team

Vice- Chancellor's Green Project Team

Independent Power Supply Team

Laboratory Modernization Team

Committee to Review the Four-year Undergraduate Programme and Grading System

Through the collective efforts of the strategic teams, a lot of progress has been made with regard to the achievement of the core mandates. May I use this platform to express my heartfelt appreciation to the chairpersons and members of the respective teams for championing the progress of the University's strategic direction. The common motive of the strategic teams is to ensure resource mobilization, create a university that has immense international visibility, and create an environment that is green to ensure the needed congenial atmosphere for teaching and learning is hugely provided. Through the efforts of the respective teams,

- Some private companies have expressed interest to collaborate with the University to generate electricity supply through solar and biogas systems, redesign our grounds as part 3 of the green project, and partner us to ensure there are enough trees and green coverage, as well as develop and complete a waste disposal system that will rely on separation of waste, to serve as a model for our dear nation.
- Several investors have approached the University to invest in commercial activities operated by the University's Agricultural Centres.
- One-day seminar series on Living the University of Ghana Brand through Enhanced Customer Service have been held for all categories of staff. The seminars educated participants on how to; represent the University brand through great customer care; maximize productivity through proper work ethics and conduct; and ensure professional and pleasant interactions with stakeholders.
- The Registrar's Office, in June this year, organised the 2017 Registrar's Seminar on the theme, Achieving Research-Intensive University Status: Walking the Talk. This seminar prepared Senior Administrative and Professional Staff and selected Senior Staff as ambassadors to facilitate the strategy execution.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the University is making a headway in work on achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan, and I am hopeful that the relentless efforts of the strategic teams and the input by all categories of staff and stakeholders, will add the much needed push to advance the vision.

Academic Affairs

Admissions

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our admissions process reflects the diverse nature of our student population. I am happy to note that during the 2016/2017 academic year, the University admitted students to the various programmes run on the Main Campus, Korle-Bu Campus and Accra City Campus and by Distance Learning. A total of 12,405 students, made up of 9,465 undergraduates and 2,940 graduate students enrolled.

These numbers include a total of 754 international students from across the world who accepted offers of admission and enrolled on programmes in the University of Ghana. Let me, however, note that the 2016/2017 academic year saw a slight decline in international students' enrolment following some external factors. The University is taking the necessary measures to address this and other factors that militated against enrolment during the 2016/2017 admissions session.

Research, Innovation and Development

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, any higher educational institution worth its salt must ride on a vibrant research portfolio. Having declared our intention to become a research-intensive university, the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) is taking the lead in ensuring that we meet our set goals.

Research, Faculty Development and Conference Grants

At the end of the review process for the most recent call for proposals for faculty development grants, eight grants with a total value of GH¢244,302

(two hundred and forty four thousand, three hundred and two Ghana cedis) were awarded to faculty. The tenth call for research proposals by ORID yielded 17 awards with a total value of GH¢881,733 (eight hundred and eighty one thousand, seven hundred and thirty three Ghana cedis). This year, ORID has disbursed 82 conference grants with a total value of US\$111,142.00 (one hundred and eleven thousand, one hundred and forty two dollars).

Capacity Building

The University of Ghana was part of a consortium of five higher education institutions which were awarded an amount of EUR 1,359,975 (one million, three hundred and fifty nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy five euros) to run the Africa Regional International Staff Student Exchange (ARISE II) programme under the Intra-Africa Project. Under this project, applications are being reviewed for both staff and student exchanges. Through the efforts of ORID, the University is hosting two full time master students at the Department of Crop Science under the ARISE Phase I project

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University of Ghana is one of seven universities that have been selected by the World Health Organization (WHO) to host an international postgraduate training scheme for masters and PhD students. The first cohort of students under this scheme completed their programme in July 2016 and the second is expected to complete later this month. The third call of applications has been processed and five applicants have been selected to receive awards.

In addition, the University, through ORID, co-ordinates the Climate Impact Research Capacity Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) programme under which four CIRCLE visiting fellows from Tanzania, Nigeria and Uganda have been admitted to one-year fellowships with departments in the University.

The University of Ghana (the Lead Institution), together with its partners (Aarhus University and University of Copenhagen) has submitted a proposal for a grant of 13 million Danish Kroner to run the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) Phase III programme. Under the current phase of the

programme, four PhD scholarships have been awarded and six short courses on research have been organised for faculty and postgraduate students.

Faculty and Student Fellowships

Faculty members have also benefited from the Cambridge-Africa Partnership for Research Excellence (CAPREX) Phase II programme, the Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship and the Fox International Fellowship Scheme to spend time teaching at prestigious universities in Europe and North America.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that you agree with me that our investment in research is paying off. As a university, we will continue to dedicate resources to research as we work towards attaining our vision.

Partnerships/Collaborations

I will now touch on a few major partnerships and collaborations that have been entered into in the 2016/2017 academic year.

The Government and people of Japan through a bilateral agreement, have provided US20 Million for the construction of an advanced state-of-the-art laboratory at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR). The sod-cutting ceremony was held on 3rd May 2017. The provision of the facility is a commitment by the Government of Japan to support the University's research into infectious diseases. When completed, the laboratories will enable the University to:

- Increase capacity for conducting clinical trials;
- Undertake research into molecular characterization of laboratory animal strains, including research into diseases such as Diabetes and Hypertension;
- Increase the number of journal articles and conference reports for policy initiatives.

The University, through NMIMR continues to function as a supporting centre for the World Health Organization (WHO) and the African Region in the following capacities:

- Hosting students from the School of Engineering Sciences for industrial internships;
- Offering workshop facilities to students from the School;
- Provision of tools and equipment worth USD 2,000,000 to the School over a period of ten (10) years.
- Provision of a 30-seater bus by TGCL to shuttle students from the School to the training centre.
- Establishment of a scholarship scheme for bright but needy Engineering Science students.

The University, through the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, has established several partnerships with local and international companies targeted at promoting contract research, student internships, product development and capacity building. Notable among these partnerships is an agreement signed with Fuji Oil Group in March 2017 to conduct a one-year research into Shea Butter Quality and Yield Improvement.

Physical Development

Ladies and gentlemen, for the University of Ghana to have the required capacity to achieve its vision and to absorb the increasing need for higher education across the world, quality infrastructural facilities are necessary. Walking around our campuses, one would notice a plethora of projects which when completed, will provide lecture halls, residential facilities and office spaces for our staff and students. Currently, there are about 15 ongoing projects which are at various stages of completion. These projects include the multi-purpose School of Performing Arts facility, new blocks for the School of Pharmacy, the Department of Nutrition and Food Science and the Department of Earth Science; the West African Centre for Cell Biology of

Infectious Pathogens (WACBIP) building, the multi-purpose building for the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), and buildings to house each of the four Colleges.

We thank our local and foreign partners who have contributed to funding for these projects, and as a University, we will continue to prudently source for funds to complete these and other ongoing projects.

ICT

The University has made huge leaps in in the provision of ICT services. The University of Ghana Computing Service (UGCS) has been able to migrate the email system to the cloud to ensure stability, availability and excellent performance. In addition, a number of installation works have been done to augment internet access. A major wireless replacement exercise has been conducted to provide student hostels with Wi-Fi. Installation works have been completed at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research to serve as a Data Backup Site. UGCS has also been instrumental in the use of the SAKAI Learning Management System and TurnitIn Plagiarism Software for academic purposes as well as the provision of eLearning services to the various units of the University.

UGCS has been very resourceful in the development and redesign of websites for units in the University as well as the development of a security management system to safeguard the University's integrity and online services.

Training programmes continue to be organised to equip students with skills in digital literacy and Microsoft Office, and in this vein, a two-week boot-camp for IT skills was recently organized for visually impaired students to enhance their academic work.

Financial Aid to Students

Ladies and gentlemen, the Students Financial Aid Office was set up to ensure that financial need does not deny any student equal access to quality education.

Donors to the needy brilliant students fund span individuals, students, alumni, corporate and international bodies to units of the University. Contributions are also made by the University through internally generated funds, and by the student body through the "SRC Yi Bi Boa" scheme.

During the period under review, 429 scholarships worth a total of GHc931,494 (nine hundred and thirty one thousand, four hundred and ninety four cedis) were awarded to students. This amount represents an increase of 27 per cent over the GHc681,842 (six hundred and eighty one thousand, eight hundred and forty two cedis) worth of scholarships disbursed in the 2015/2016 academic year.

Sporting Activities

Ladies and gentlemen, physical activity, sports and games are an integral part of who we are as a University. The University's Sports Directorate has made significant contributions to our sports output by lifting the name of the University through recent competitions.

At the end of the 2017 Bilateral Games held in April 2017, the University emerged the overall winner in Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Table Tennis and Debate. The University also placed second with 10 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 11 bronze medals at the Universities Sports Association (GUSA) games held in January 2017 at the University of Cape Coast.

Just last week, the 2017 University of Ghana Staff Games were held, and I am glad to note that attendance and participation by all categories of staff in the various activities was very encouraging.

The University of Ghana Sports Fund (UG-SF) has been instituted to support needy brilliant sports students and to retain their interest in sports while pursuing their studies. I encourage everyone interested in supporting our student athletes to contact the Sports Directorate to discuss ways in which they can support the initiative.

Issues Affecting the Smooth Running of the University

Ladies and gentlemen, I have spoken extensively about matters that are affecting the University in a positive way. Permit me to speak briefly about a number of issues that are hindering the smooth running of the University.

The absence of a Council over the past seven months meant that many important decisions affecting the University could not be taken. I am pleased to announce that the newly constituted Council of the University has now been inaugurated. We look forward to working with Council to move the University forward.

The continued lack of financial clearance for recruitment means that the University is severely constrained in the employment of faculty, administrators and other staff to replace those who leave the services of the University. This situation is adversely affecting academic work as there are simply not enough staff to teach and provide the necessary support services.

We have received notification that public universities are required to cede 34 percent of their Internally Generated Funds (IGF) to government. The University of Ghana, like other public universities, depends heavily on its IGF to operate, as government funding is woefully inadequate. For instance, allocation for goods and services for the tertiary education sub-sector ranges between 1 and 3 percent of the sub-sectors total budget, making it virtually impossible to carry out planned activities. Also, as I mentioned earlier, the University has not received clearance to employ new full-time staff, a large chunk of IGF therefore goes towards paying critical staff whom the University has taken on, to ensure that academic work is not negatively affected. Having to relinquish 34 percent of IGF will put the University in a very dire financial state.

It is my humble appeal that government will revisit these two issues and grant financial clearance as well as allow public universities to retain 100 percent of their IGF, so that they can operate at optimal level and continue training the next generation of leaders for the nation.

Well Wishes to Graduands

And now, I devote my attention to our graduating students, who are the reason we are gathered here today.

Your graduation today is a testament to the fact that you have worked hard and burnt the candle at both ends; you have withstood challenges in the academic arena and have sacrificed your energy and time to achieve success. Today, the University is officially dispatching you into the wide world as its able ambassadors.

I challenge you to raise the bar of excellence, and to be team players wherever you find yourselves. As you go out and make indelible marks on the world, I encourage you to reflect on these thoughts:

- Nothing can stop your aims in life when you work out of a clean heart and your determination is to achieve your goals rather than to challenge others.
- Great success lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative teamwork effort. The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

I wish you well, and once again, congratulations on your achievements!
Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.



**Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu Vice-Chancellor
delivering the Opening Address.**



**Professor Samuel Kwame Offei,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs**



**Prof. Samuel Agyei-Mensah, Provost College of Humanities
acknowledging International students of the College.**



**Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia, Registrar,
delivering the opening Remarks at the ceremony.**



Mrs Frances Adu-Mante, delivering the Guest Speaker's address



George Asamoah -Baah delivering the Valedictory Address



Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries.



Some parents, guardians and invited guests at the ceremony

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS
BY MRS. FRANCES ADU-MANTE**

SALUTATIONS

Vice Chancellor

Members of the College of Humanities Advisory Board,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

It is with great pleasure and delight that I participate in this afternoon's Congregation at which post graduate degrees will be conferred on our distinguished personalities who have successfully completed studies in various disciplines.

I know how it feels since I have gone through this process three times: first, as an LLB Honours graduate in 1976, then as a professional on attainment of the Qualifying Certificate in Law and subsequent enrollment at the Bar in 1978 and finally upon graduation with an EMBA (Finance Option) from the University of Ghana Business School in 2004. They were all such exciting times.

The exhilaration almost immediately gives way to anxiety after the ceremony as family & friends will expect the paper to be handed over to you today to translate into affluence tomorrow. They expect immediate & significant improvement in your circumstances and by extension theirs as well. By this I mean, your post graduate certificate is supposed to be the answer to the numerous needs including financial needs of family & friends even to the extent that some may believe that you, being matured executives, will henceforth be in a position to place them or their children in lucrative jobs, or that they can now spend without budgeting & possibly splurge at will.

My mandate is to "encourage you, our post-graduate graduands from the College of Humanities as you prepare to make crucial decisions on the next

steps in your careers" and where necessary, share some personal experiences with you.

Certainly, the job you decide to do, the undertaking you decide to pursue or the department/division you request to be transferred to is critical to your future success.

This is the time to pray for wisdom and not rely on your own insight or understanding. The Bible says:

"A wise man is strong,

Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength;

For by wise counsel you will wage your own war,

And in a multitude of counselors there is safety." [Proverbs 24:5-6 NKJV]

Remember, also, the adage: "Rome was not built in a day". I am sure, as mature people, this has been proven over and over again through numerous experiences that you have had.

I am certain that your confidence is soaring and it's as though, equipped with your Post-Graduate Degree or Certificate, you can achieve anything you conceive of. That certainly is possible but subject to many considerations and conditions a few of which I would like us to reflect on because I believe they are tips for distinguishing you from others in an increasingly competitive world.

- **Continuous Education and Innovation**

Today marks a significant milestone in your lives and the beginning of continuous education on life's stage. Continuous practical education will be the hallmark of improvement in every and any endeavor that you will be engaged in.

As an Executive Director, Retail Banking and an EMBA graduate who had successfully completed a program that included Marketing, I knew that it was imperative that the customer's needs and demands are met. However, in our bid to reduce the transaction processing burden on the institution, our task was to get the customer to gravitate towards electronic channels. That was regardless of whether or not the customer wanted to relate to human beings & not machines for banking transactions.

This posed a big challenge for me as an EMBA graduate.

I had to be innovative. I got my team together and after brainstorming, we decided to study global trends and eventually came up with an eProducts proposal including a marketing & financial plan that would re-orient the customers towards electronic channels and highlight the measures taken by their bankers to provide ease, convenience, flexibility, and unhindered access to their bank accounts.

And voila! We made it.

Albert Einstein said that "the development of general ability for independent thinking and judgement should always be placed foremost not the acquisition of special knowledge".

You are expected to use your technical and academic proficiency as vehicles for social and economic change through continuous education.

- **Aim High; Aspire to Excellence**

Aim high and inspire your Team to join you in this mission. It has been very gratifying seeing former members of my team excel and now head departments and affiliates. I encouraged each one of them to avoid complacency and strive to exceed expectations i.e. delight the customer with skill, speed and expert knowledge of products and procedures, surpass the profit budget, reduce cost, beat competitors in a professional manner.

In your pursuit of excellence, I recommend that you research current trends and best practices even for mundane things.

- **Planning and Critical analysis**

- The popular maxim by Benjamin Franklin that you have heard many times over is that "if you fail to plan, then you are planning to fail". Planning and Critical analysis are required in all aspects of life if you must be structured in what you do. An effective and efficient executive must plan the day, plan for a meeting, plan for the department, always plan. You must have a passion for the constant development of accurate and objective assessment of what needs to be done even in complex and difficult situations.

- **Integrity**

This has been succinctly encapsulated in the Coat Arms of the University- to wit – "Integri Procedamus". Proceed with integrity. Be sincere with yourself & all others. I strongly recommend that you do the right thing all the time whether or not there is a CCTV camera. Make a conscious effort to know polices, practices and procedures of your organization or if self-employed establish standard operating procedures and apply same consistently. This will ensure fairness at all times.

Again, I will encourage you to develop a passion for the time-tested values of society and your organization in particular. I have always believed in the philosophy that a man or woman of integrity will never listen to any plea against conscience.

It is imperative that you know your skills and competencies so that in all things, you do not overextend yourselves; do everything in accordance with your capabilities - financially & professionally. Ostentatious living leads to bad practices; rather, be modest and ensure to save for a rainy day.

- **Personal Values and Life Objective.**

Please permit me to share my family motto with you. It has been the guiding principle in all that I do:

"There is great gain in godliness with contentment".

This motto was derived from the Bible which says, inter alia: "There is great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world;" [1 Timothy 6:6-7 RSV]

A lot of the greed and avarice, decay and corruption that have plagued our Country and Society today is largely due to the failure or inability of some well-educated certificate wielding graduate and post-graduate citizens to recognize that truly they brought nothing into this world and can never take anything out of it. Perhaps, it will be useful to develop some personal values for yourselves and uphold them steadfastly.

- **Hard work**

My commitment to and advice on godliness with contentment is never to recommend mediocrity, complacency or average performance. It is rather to encourage you to have a mind that is focused on true achievement or even over-achievement which alone guarantees godly satisfaction and contentment.

Let me remind you of our great philosopher and composer, Dr. Ephraim Amu, who admonishes us in a choral thus:

"Momma yenko so mforo, yereforo, yereforo,

Momma yenko so mforo,

Adesua ye koko a yereforo,

yereforo apere aben atifi.

Momma yenko so mforo,

Yereforo, yereforo,

Momma yenko so mforo,

mpere mmen atifi,

Koko no atifi da so wo akyirikyirikyiri.

Yegu so reforo

nso yennya mmen atifi ara e,

Momma yenko so mforo

abotoase ne ahoyere mu,

adwene-mu-da-ho ne owen dennen mu,

Momma yenko so mforo,

mpere mmen atifi

Adesua koko no atifi

na yerepere ara ako akodu ho."

In a nutshell, education is like a hill that we are climbing. We have not reached the summit so we must persevere. This is an admonition for continuous hard work and advancement as well as avoidance of complacency.

- **Dare to be different**

If you are going to impact positively on our society, you must develop the mettle that will enable you exhibit the courage of your convictions. In our society today, too many people are happy being like everybody else. You must have your own considered opinions on issues and speak up when you disagree

with others, stating your own beliefs or opinions confidently but respectfully. Dare to be principled. Dare to do the right thing at all times. Dare to stand out in pursuit of excellence.

- **Work-life balance**

I have already admonished you to continuously work hard and strive to over-achieve. You must remember, however, that you can only achieve if you are alive, strong, healthy and happy. Therefore, you must maintain a balance between work and reasonable pleasure. Spend quality time with the family, programme regular breaks and holiday for yourself and the family and make exercise and health assurance a regular feature of your life.

Above all, remember that he or she who does not find time for his God in the morning is not likely to find Him in the rest of the day.

Conclusion

With these few tips, and in conclusion, it is my most sincere hope that you will all succeed in your future endeavours.

I wish you all the very best of God's blessings. May you go out to 6 make Ghana and the world a better place as others are challenged to adopt you as their role models.

Congratulations.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS
BY MR. GEORGE ASAMOAH-BAAH**

Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provost of Colleges
Honourable Guest Speaker
Members of Convocation N
Niime, Naamei, Nananom
Fellow Graduands
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I deem it a great honor to stand before you on this august occasion to deliver the valedictory address on behalf of the July 2017 graduating class. We are most grateful to you for taking some time off your busy schedule to join us in our celebration.

These years of hard work and successful completion of the course could not be possible without the unfailing grace of the Almighty God, who makes all things beautiful in His own time. We are very thankful to Him for keeping us and giving us the strength to not only finish but to finish well.

It looks like just yesterday when we attended orientation and had our first lectures in the University of Ghana, the premier university in Ghana. Time indeed flies!! Today we are gathered here to fulfill the final milestone in the journey towards acquiring a post graduate degree and this calls for celebration. Fellow graduands, over the last few years we have put in much effort to learn a lot from our respective elective and core courses. We recall the immense effort we had to put in to grab concepts like Langrange, Hypothesis Testing, Regression Analysis, and also doing research assignment using the R-Studio software under quantitative research methods. It was all fun and stressful but in the end we have all sailed through. Again, for the first time, some of us learnt the golden rule of Accounting, which is debit the receiver and credit the giver and I recall the struggle some went through to overcome. Even though we

passed the accounting paper, I believe we still cannot explain why asset has a debit balance and liabilities and capital have credit balances.

Memories of all the happy and challenging moments on this campus come to mind. We cast our minds back to days when we had to do some extra studying to prepare for difficult end-of-semester examinations. And for those who were working full time, we can think back on occasions of disappointment of being denied leave, which made studying very frustrating. There are countless stories of the activities involved in completing our long essays and thesis before deadlines; the search for relevant topics, the search for data from various institutions and then the usual search for our supervisors for their inputs.

For me the biggest take away of the graduate programme of the University of Ghana is the creative skills it offered. Perhaps, this has been made possible by teaching methodologies such as the writing of term papers, case study, book and article reviews and above all the long essays and thesis. These approaches to teaching are what make graduate programs unique compared to professional programmes. We have also gained public speaking confidence through the opportunities that were given us to make presentations in class. The group work also enhanced our team player skills and attitudes even though most of the time only few students participated while others were free riding. With hindsight, these methods of teaching have been helpful, even though at the time we thought our lecturers were tasking us too much.

I must admit that the special programmes introduced by the University of Ghana such as the Weekend, Evening, Sandwich and Distant Learning programmes that allow workers the flexibility to maintain their jobs while studying at the same time, have contributed immensely to the human resource base of this country. I think it is about time, such tailor-made programmes are extended to PhD Degrees and replicated in other Schools of the University because the idea is excellent and should be given due consideration, bearing in mind the quote by Victor Hugo, 'that no army or no force in the world can resist an idea whose time has come'.

To those who intend to pursue further studies it is advisable that you take your studies extremely serious and you would surely succeed. It has taken a lot of time and material sacrifice for all the graduating students to have come this far. I for instance, had to take residence on campus in the second year, leaving my family to stay on campus usually on Wednesdays to Sundays just to be able to make time for academic work, not to talk of tight office schedules and religious duties as Elder in the Church of Pentecost where I worship. Thank God the sacrifices have paid off. Indeed, with hard work, coupled with the grace of God one is bound to keep succeeding. And always be guided by the words of Arthur Ashe, "Success is a journey and not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome".

Finally to my fellow graduating students, I congratulate you for being able to finish the academic race of your respective post graduate degrees, implying that a chapter in your lives has been closed and the doors for more useful chapters have been potentially opened. It is up to us to take advantage of the new opportunities by leveraging on the knowledge we have gained in this distinguished University to serve humanity and mother Ghana. The best place in life is reserved for those who can solve more problems for mankind. We should be prepared not only to pass academic exams, but also the trials and tests of life in general, because as Socrates put it 'an unexamined life is not worth living'.

Mr. Chairman, we want to use this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to our lecturers and administrative staff of the University of Ghana, not forgetting our spouses, parents, guardians, relatives and friends who have contributed in one way or the other to make our dream of earning post graduate degrees come through. We pray God's blessings for all of them.

We pray God's blessings for all of them.

Thanks a million for your attention.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR YAW TWUMASI,
CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA COUNCIL**

Vice-Chancellor
Distinguished Guest Speaker,
New Graduates,
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.

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, and the management teams 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, our 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.

