



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NO. 900

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018

VOL. 56

NO. 5

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES (UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 20, 2018**

CONTENTS

Order of Proceedings	2
Opening Address by Chairman of Council	3
Vice-Chancellor's Address	5
Address by Guest Speaker	28
Valedictory Speech	32
Closing Address by Chairman of Council	36

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday, July 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Procession

- Members of Convocation
- Council

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose: Professor Yaw Twumasi,
Chairman of Council

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu,
Vice-Chancellor

Congregation Speaker: Mr. Ivor Agyeman-Duah

Valedictory Address: Ms. Naa Oboshie Anang

Conferment of degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Humanities
(Undergraduate Programme)

- BSc. Administration

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR YAW TWUMASI,
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provost and Deans,
Guest Speaker,
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of
Humanities,
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. Mr. Annan would have liked to be here today as the congregation ceremony scheduled for today and tomorrow will be the last during his tenure as Chancellor. Official duties however prevent him from being here.

As you may know, the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance in 2014, and since that time, congregation ceremonies have been organised on college basis.

Congregation ceremonies are very important to the University of Ghana because it provides us the opportunity to reflect on how well we are doing in terms of providing the needed academic services and corporate support to ensure that students graduate and graduate on time. Management of the University is committed to improving upon graduating rates and student

satisfaction and will continue to do all in its power to provide students with a memorable student experience.

During today's ceremony, graduates and undergraduates of the College of Humanities (Undergraduate Programme) who have satisfied the requirements for graduation will be presented and graduated.

Graduands I wish you 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, it is my pleasure to declare this afternoon's assembly, duly constituted for the award of degrees 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 now call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu to present his report.

Thank you.

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

Chairman of Council representing Chancellor
Members of University Council
Pro Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provost and Deans
Guest Speaker
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of
Humanities
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Parents / Guardians
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

WELCOME

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this congregation ceremony. A total of 3,184 students will be graduating at various levels from the four Colleges of the University, namely: College of Health Sciences; College of Humanities; College of Education; and College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

This morning's ceremony will confer degrees on undergraduate students from the College of Humanities.

Another congregation ceremony will be held in November this year for students from all four Colleges, and a third batch, made up mainly of Distance Education students, will graduate in April 2019.

Let me use this opportunity to express my gratitude to faculty, administrators and other stakeholders for their support in keeping alive our role as custodians and making this day possible. I will also like to appreciate the time

parents and invited guests have taken off their busy schedules to respond to our invitation to this ceremony.

Update on the State of the University

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, kindly allow me to provide update on exciting developments at the University of Ghana.

Admissions

Our admissions process reflects the diverse nature of our student population. I am happy to note that during the 2017/2018 admission cycle, a total of 14,128 students, made up of 11,707 undergraduates and 2,421 graduate students accepted offers of admission and enrolled in various programmes run on the Main, Korle-Bu and Accra City Campuses, as well as by Distance Learning. These numbers include 389 international/visiting students from across the world.

Review of 4-Year Degree Programme

After eight years of implementation of our 4-year undergraduate programme, the University has set in motion a process reviewing the 4-year degree programme and the Grading System. The report from the Review Team has already been discussed by Management, Colleges, and the Business and Executive Committee. The composite report is being finalized for implementation.

New Programmes and Courses

A number of new courses and programmes have recently been approved by the University Academic Board. These include the Executive Master of Science in Fisheries Administration and Management, Doctor of Philosophy in Health Physics and Radiation, and a functional law course for undergraduate students. The Academic Board has also approved revisions to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Master of Philosophy in Nursing and Midwifery programmes. The new courses would be made available once they receive accent by the National Accreditation Board.

The West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), has received international accreditation for its postgraduate programmes from the Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study programmes (AQAS), Germany, a noted body for accreditation of higher education institutions and programmes. This accreditation opens the doors for strategic collaborations with other institutions.

Governance

National Accreditation Board Cyclical Review

The University recently underwent a statutory cyclical review by the National Accreditation Board. The four day review focused on governance, institutional development, internationalization, growth, research and grants, community service, academic matters, future outlook, information resources and finances. Meetings were held with university management, faculty and staff, as well as with students. Management of the University is committed to implement the recommendations from the review, which will enable us improve on our efforts at providing high quality teaching, learning, and research experience for our students and employees.

Review of Collegiate System

Chairman of Council, the University adopted the collegiate system of governance in the 2014/2015 academic year, mainly to promote efficiency, reduce bureaucracy and free senior management to have time for the most important administrative functions. The statutes of the University were amended to make way for the creation of the four colleges, i.e. Basic and Applied Sciences, Education, Health Sciences and Humanities. Four years after the adoption of the system, a panel has been set up to review the collegiate system. The remit of the panel are to: review of the current collegiate system of governance with the view to identifying the shortcomings in the governance structure and making recommendations for improvement; make new proposals to improve the governance structure to achieve the twin goals of effectiveness and efficiency; and develop a set of governance principles, policies, standards, and practices that optimally support the university's strategic priorities.

The panel, chaired by a former Vice-Chancellor of University of Ghana, Professor Akilakpa Sawyer is currently interacting with major stakeholders of the University and will present its recommendations soon.

Strategy Execution

The nine strategic teams that were constituted in November 2016 to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana have been working very hard and have already made some gains.

The Independent Power Supply Team

The University of Ghana currently spends about 29 million Ghana Cedis every year on electricity which is equivalent to 10 Megawatt amperes (10 MWA). The Strategic Team on Energy was therefore set up to find a sustainable way to reduce this huge cost by 40% using an energy mix (solar, biogas and others).

The Team in collaboration with the Electricity Company of Ghana has installed a net meter at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), which provides data on the amount of energy used at the Institute and the excess energy made available to the rest of the University. I am delighted to inform you that the data from March 2018 indicates that NMIMR pumped into the University system excess energy of 4,498 Kwh from the solar cell facility.

On the issue of double billing, the University of Ghana Electricals Unit and the Building and Revenue Unit of the Electricity Company of Ghana have estimated a reduction of the University's energy bill by 13% every month. This is based on a reconciliation of energy bills paid directly by residents and commercial tenants of the University.

Through an initiative of VSL Holdings a demonstration of the impact of using energy saving devices has been completed. This would be used as a basis for scaling up at other residential facilities. All the traditional halls of residence at the University and some academic buildings are currently migrating from the use of CFLs to LED lamps.

The Danish Government is to provide funds towards the construction of a Biogas Facility at Livestock Production & Research Centre (LIPREC) to generate electricity to power the Research Centre and also for training purposes. This project if completed, will enable Livestock Production & Research Centre to properly manage its waste; produce manure, generate about 53,000KWh of electricity per annum and serve as a facility for teaching and research. The University is in the process of piping the biogas produced at the Alexander Kwapong Hall to the restaurant of the same hall for cooking purposes.

Arrangement for the refurbishment of streetlights (installation of 150 LED street lights) along major streets of the University of Ghana has been completed. Ministry of Energy is in the process of installing an additional 150 LED street lights from Okponglo to the link gate, GIMPA.

As part of efforts to complete the University Stadium, the Energy Strategic Team is exploring the possibility of roof top solar or solar car ports as potential energy sources for the facility.

Bui Power Authority is to install a 600 kW wind turbine on UG campus. A site has been identified and they are waiting for the arrival of wind mast to gather data (wind speed and direction) before the installation of the wind turbine.

University of Ghana is to be a key beneficiary of the ongoing “Race to Retrofits & Renewables” Program under Compact II, which seeks to promote Energy Efficiency Retrofits and Renewable Energy technologies in selected public institutions. Four (4) buildings (Academic Affairs, Vice-Chancellor's Office wing, Great Hall and UGCS) were selected for the exercise. Preliminary Energy Audits and Investment Grade Energy Audits for the 4 buildings were conducted. The first phase of the implementation involves changing of: non-LED light fixtures to suitable LED fixtures; existing air-conditioning and refrigerating systems to suitable minimum 3 star rated inverter type air-conditioning and refrigerating systems; existing fans to super energy efficient fans; and the installation of 15 smart meters at the feeder level and at different floors along with internet communication system and software. The second phase will see the installation of: Four (4) voltage stabilizers; and Solar PV modules for power generation.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the Ministers of Energy, Finance and Education and the Managing Director of the Electricity Company of Ghana Ltd., (ECG) for endorsing our initiative to migrate unto renewable energy. I would also like to acknowledge the technical support received from representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy, ECG, Energy Commission and members of the team from the University.

University of Ghana Regional / World Ranking Team:

Through the hardwork of the Team, the University of Ghana has been ranked within the 101-150 band on the Times Higher Education (THE) Golden Age University Ranking 2018. The Golden Age ranking uses Times Higher Education data to cast a spotlight on the world's best universities established for more than 50 years, but less than 80 years. Institutions from 44 different countries were included in this year's edition of the world's Golden Age University Rankings. Thus makes the University of Ghana the only ranked university in Ghana and the number one ranked University in West Africa.

Institutional Advancement Team:

The Team successfully spearheaded the launched of the 70th anniversary of University of Ghana on Tuesday 20th February, 2018 at the Great Hall on the theme “Celebrating Excellence, Shaping Futures.” As part of the anniversary, the UG Endowment Fund was also launched by the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on Monday 7th May, 2018. The Endowment Fund will be used to support scholarships, bursaries, tuition waivers, research grants for students and faculty, additional facilities and resources to enhance research and teaching through the provision of equipment, teaching aids and space, upgrading the quality of internet coverage in all University of Ghana campuses and improving on library resources.

I wish to cease this opportunity to reach out to all stakeholders to contribute generously to the fund.

The Green project Team is partnering a number of institutions to re-design our grounds to ensure that 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 Ghana. Some of the institutions and organizations that are supporting the University in this drive are; the Forestry Commission, ADRA, WECARE, Y & M Regeneration Limited and the Republic Bank. The tree planting and landscaping initiatives were recently launched in separate events under the auspices of the Green Team.

Since the launch of the tree planting exercise on 1st December, 2017, the Green Project Committee and the PDMSD have led the University Staff (TEWU, GAUA, FUSSAG and UTAG) and some Student Groups to plant over 7,500 tree seedlings on the main campus of the University and the Staff Village. The Green Project Committee and the PDMSD are also supporting two students groups, CIYZOE-Legon and Technology without Borders, to implement the University of Ghana Plastic Recycling Project (UGPRP) which begins in the 2018/2019 academic year. The project involves awareness creation aimed at attitudinal and mindset change, and to effect waste segregation at source. Special bins will be positioned at vantage points at the halls of residence and hostels for students to drop empty water sachets and plastic bottles.

A unique feature of this initiative is that it is students-led. I will like to commend the groups and entreat the entire students' body to embrace the concept to facilitate the proper disposal of waste on campus. As a prelude to the implementation of the project, the student volunteers have already launched a programme to discourage littering during this congregation. I am appealing to you all to cooperate with them and drop waste in the bins that have been provided.

In addition, plans are far advanced to institute a comprehensive waste management system for the University to serve as a model for the country. This will involve compost production using litter fall from trees and biodegradable waste from commercial centres and eateries. The compost that is generated will be used for grassing, horticulture and crop production by the University.

The University of Ghana Mining Research Group: Our Director of the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies sent out a message to the

University research community on the need for the University of Ghana to provide a holistic solution to the “Galamsey” issue. Over 50 researchers from all Colleges of the University responded and came together to form the University of Ghana Mining Research Group. The broad objective of the group is captured in the acronym STIMULATE: Solutions Targeting Illegal Mining Using Legislation, Appropriate Technology and Education. The Group, with the support of Office for Research and Development and the Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Studies, organized a symposium on the theme “Engaging the Artisanal Mining Industry in Ghana: Practical Ideas toward Sustainable Livelihoods and Ecological Stability”. An interaction between the group and a team from the University of York has yielded some dividend with the later agreeing to commit some core funding to support its staff to do research work in Ghana. Members of the mining research group have also been involved in the roll out of the Government's flagship programme the 'Multi-Sectoral Mining Integrated Project' (MMIP) which is being implemented by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

Research, Innovation and Development

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana is committed to re-defining itself as a research intensive institution and actively encourages faculty to engage in research activities. We seek to engage in policy relevant research that will inform the development agenda of our dear nation and the African continent at large. The University's investment in research is yielding fruitful results, and already the quantity and quality of research being carried out at the University of Ghana have improved tremendously. In addition, the University has won landmark research grants, which have been utilized to enhance its research profile. In view of this, 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

ORID received a total of 148 applications for conference grants. Out of this number, 72 grants with a total value of approximately US\$ 118,000.00 (one hundred and eighteen thousand dollars) were awarded. The 11th call for proposals for research grants was made using the InfoEd Grants

Management Software and yielded seventy-five (75) applications. Fifty-seven applications qualified for review and are currently being processed.

Agreements

From August 2017 to date, ORID has reviewed and signed 53 research agreements amounting to approximately Eighteen Million United States Dollars (US\$ 18,000,000.00). In addition, 13 MoUs, 1 copyright agreement, 2 Material Transfer Agreements and 1 non-disclosure agreement have also been signed.

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) won grants to initiate 16 new projects during the year. Altogether a total of 128 research projects were initiated at the Institute during the period under review. The Institute continued to function as the as World Health Organisation (WHO) recognised National Influenza Center for Ghana, the WHO Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio as well the WHO supported Reference Centre for the Identification of Rotavirus. It is also the Lymphatic Filariasis Support Centre for Africa, and host to the West African Centre for International Parasite Control (WACIPAC) project. It is worthy of note that the Institute continues to excel and has become a great icon in the world of health research.

Capacity Building

The University of Ghana and its consortium of five African partners have been awarded an amount of €1.3 Million (one million, three hundred thousand euros) from the European Commission within the framework of the EU-Intra Africa Mobility Programme to implement a project titled: Harmonization of Entrepreneurship Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (HEED-Africa) for a period of 5 years. The project seeks to facilitate academic mobility to enhance individual capacities and institutional capabilities in entrepreneurship across thematic disciplines in Africa. The programme will offer scholarships for Masters and PhD students as well as capacity building for academic and administrative staff of the partner Universities.

The West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) received a grant

from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) for the production of early generation seeds in partnership with a private sector player, the Legacy Crop Improvement Centre (LCIC). WACCI is currently undergoing production of breeder and foundation seed of the three improved hybrid maize varieties released in June 2017. The project “Commercialization of West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement released maize hybrids for increased productivity in Ghana” seeks to improve household food security by facilitating the commercialization of the three WACCI hybrids.

Additionally, WACCI has led a consortium to win a US\$1 million grant from the African Union (AU) to work with government and industry partners on Crop and Soil Health Improvement for sustainable Agricultural Intensification towards Economic Transformation in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The 3-year project aims to address issues related to the food and nutrition security objectives of the African Union under its Competitive Research Grants Scheme supported by the European Union.

Faculty and Student Fellowships

Faculty members have also benefited from the Cambridge-Africa Partnership for Research Excellence (CAPREX), Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (QES) Advanced-Scholars Grant, the Commonwealth Doctoral Scholarships and the Fox International Student Fellowship Scheme. For the CAPREX award five applications were recommended by University of Ghana to Cambridge for further matching, out of which three have been successfully matched to Cambridge-based collaborators with the remaining two likely to be matched with “South” collaborators with support from collaborators in Cambridge.

In collaboration with the University of Alberta (U of A), the School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM) won the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (QES) Advanced-Scholars Grant. The Grant will give 7 faculty members of the School the opportunity for a minimum of 90 days stay in Edmonton, Canada. The scholars will have the opportunity of mentorship for research and grantmanship.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University will continue to dedicate resources

towards research as it strives to attain its vision of becoming a research-intensive university.

Innovation

The Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) was established in 2012 to advance the development of Ghanaian industry through the conduct of industry-led research and serve as a vehicle for the transfer of knowledge, technology and innovation from the University to industry. The long term plan of the Institute is to establish a Science and Technology Park. This is intended to provide a holistic state of the art infrastructure for industrial research, transfer of technology and innovation.

The expected location will be at the link gate/GIMPA bypass which was originally zoned for a science park. This facility will be a property based development, providing the requisite infrastructure, associated services and modern amenities. The proposed Science and Technology Park will therefore be a master planned community with the establishment of specialized buildings and facilities to accommodate: Start Up businesses; Incubator Centres and Laboratories; Education/Research/Visualization Centres for programmes; “State of the Art” Office accommodation, facility and business to aid research and development among others.

The Institute has started helping students to set up their own ventures and develop skill sets in innovation and entrepreneurial training. This training shapes the mindset of students to holistically express themselves and act on their innate creative potential. It also creates sustainable model of environment where students are immersed into creative and entrepreneurial endeavors through collaborations, activities, and channeling their entrepreneurial potential into all facets of their lives. The Institute believes that today's skills are not necessarily the ones needed tomorrow. Therefore, our students should be given first-hand experience of the link between academics and entrepreneurship/innovation. It is usually said that today's digital natives are the most adept at using technology, but at the same time they are less certain of the innovative processes that created them. The younger generation needs to learn how to create value in the digital economy, and embrace the opportunities that abound in science and technology.



Officials, Members of Convocation, Guest Speaker and Valedictorian in a group photograph



Prof. Yaw Twumasi, Chairman of Council delivering the Welcome Address



**Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor,
addressing the gathering**



**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. Mavis Otoo-Ayeh, College Secretary, College of Humanities,
speaking at the ceremony**



Mr. Ivor Agyeman-Duah, delivering the Guest Speaker's Address



Ms. Naa Oboshie Anang, delivering the Valedictory Address



Cross section of Graduands at the Congregation ceremony



Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries



Some parents and guardians at the ceremony

Partnerships/Collaborations

Partnerships are very critical in the delivery of relevant and comprehensive knowledge and skill sets to learners in higher education institutions. Effective collaboration with external stakeholders from various fields of specialization provide unique platforms for sharing knowledge and skills that are mutually beneficial. In furtherance of this ideal, the University has forged new institutional partnerships to promote research, exchange of students and faculty with a number of institutions in North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America. New partnership agreements are currently underway and expected to be signed soon.

The School of Engineering Sciences, the CLUE Incorporated from Japan and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) are monitoring the performance of the solar panel farm at NMIMR. The monitoring process includes monthly recording of the kilowatt hour excess electricity pumped into UG by the solar panels using a net meter installed by Electricity Company of Ghana. In order to evaluate the current state of each solar panel, the School of Engineering Sciences and CLUE Inc., will employ the use of drones equipped with infrared sensor to study the surface of the solar panels by flying over the panels. This will help to identify damages and micro cracks on the solar panels that are not visible to the naked eye but affects the conversion efficiency of the panels.

Following the signing of an MOU between the University and Toyota Ghana Limited in April 2017, the parties have gone a step further to put together a project Partnership Agreement which is being finalized for signing soon. Under the partnership, Toyota will support the School of Engineering by building an ultra-modern training Centre to train students, provide equipment worth \$2 million to the School over 10 years, provide a bus to convey students to the Centre as well as provide scholarship worth \$10,000 per year to brilliant but needy students.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the University of Ghana and Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) to establish a Research Chair in Petroleum Geoscience at the Department of Earth Science, College of Basic & Applied Sciences. The Chair seeks to strengthen

Petroleum Geoscience research and education capacity in the University of Ghana in order to support the optimal exploration, delineation and development of Ghana's hydrocarbon resources. Under the agreement, GNPC will commit \$1,000,000.00 (One Million US Dollars) to support the Chair.

Physical Development

Ladies and gentlemen, quality infrastructural facilities are critical to the achievement of the vision and mission of the University of Ghana. There are many ongoing projects on all our campuses, which will provide additional lecture halls, residential facilities and office spaces for our staff and students when completed. These projects include the multi-purpose School of Performing Arts facility, new blocks for the School of Pharmacy, multi-purpose GCB block, Faculty of Arts building, new blocks for Department of Earth Science, Extension to School of Public Health, Asphaltic Overlay of selected roads on campus and the UG Stadium. The following projects have been completed: Department of Economics Extension, Construction and Completion of 4 number B-Type Bungalows at Staff Village. The Confucius Institute building and the ultra-modern West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) building have already been commissioned. The next in line for commissioning is the multi-purpose building for the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI).

We like to express our gratitude to 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 the ongoing projects.

The Graduate Students' Association of Ghana (GRASAG-Legon) has commissioned a number of projects as part of the Association's contribution towards the attainment of the University's vision of becoming a world class research-intensive institution. These include four refurbished reading rooms and one television room at the VALCO Trust Hostel, as well as the refurbishment of an ultra-modern Research Commons at the Korle-Bu campus. I commend these initiatives by GRASAG-Legon and hope that students will make good use of these facilities.

ICT

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has made some progress in the provision of ICT services. A total of about 950 Wi-Fi Access points have been installed in all the campuses of the University including the Research Centres and the Regional Distance Education Learning Centres. A progressive replacement and Wi-Fi network extension exercise is currently underway to address coverage and signal strength frustrations faced by students. The exercise is expected to be completed by the middle of the first semester of the 2018/2019 academic year. The University of Ghana Computing Systems (UGCS) has also received a 100 more Access Points to deploy at other critical places like the Library and departments in addition to some of the Halls.

The University has completed the deployment of a high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure for West African Centre for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP). This is mostly available to the Centre but could be made available to other units based on agreement.

UGCS in collaboration with the University Archives has completed several digitization records. For the period under review, 455 items were added to the University of Ghana Institutional Repository.

Use of the SAKAI Learning Management System for the University's e-Learning programmes continues to improve with an average concurrent usage of 350 and an increase in courses created to 5, 611 as at the end of registration for second semester of 2017/2018 academic year.

Security monitoring of our infrastructure and services is currently ongoing. Security awareness bulletins are published weekly, and the UGCS has organized the first in a series of Cyber Security Awareness Workshops which aim at bringing awareness to the community on how to secure University and personal data.

Financial Aid to Students

Ladies and gentlemen, the Students Financial Aid Office (SFAO) has the mission of minimizing the financial barriers that prevent brilliant but needy

students' access to studying at the University of Ghana. Donations to support needy students grew from approximately GH¢1,100,000.00 (One Million and One Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis) in 2016-2017 to approximately GH¢3,000,000.00 (Three Million Ghana Cedis) in 2017-2018 academic year, representing about 155% increase over the previous year.

During the period under review a total of six hundred and fourteen students (614) out of nine hundred and twenty (920) applicants were awarded scholarships. This represented 66.7% of all scholarship applicants. The 614 scholarship awardees comprised 424 males representing 69.1% and 190 females representing 30.9%.

Management expresses its profound gratitude to all its revered donors for their regular support towards the reduction of the financial constraints of needy students.

Sporting Activities

University of Ghana Policy on Admission of Athlete Students (UG-PAAS), a policy that guides concessionary admission of students talented in sports who meet the minimum UG requirements is in its fourth year of operation. The first batch of students admitted through this policy would be graduating this year. The policy has so far admitted 200 students of which 68 are female and 132 are male. Five students who were enrolled through this policy have obtained scholarships and are currently pursuing further studies in the United States.

The University of Ghana Sports Fund (UG SPORT FUND) is an initiative to motivate and support talented and needy student athletes of the University of Ghana, and to attract potential talents for admission into the University. It is the first and the only sport fund in any public university in Ghana. The fund has enabled the Sports Directorate to sponsor 20 students comprising 4 female and 16 male.

Incoming Chancellor of the University

Ladies and gentlemen, the tenure of His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan as Chancellor of the University of Ghana, expires on July 31st, 2018. Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, who has been elected as the next Chancellor, will be sworn in

by His Excellency, the President of the Republic, on August 1, 2018. I wish to crave your indulgence to join University management to thank H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan for a very successful term, during which he achieved so much for the University, particularly in the area of fund raising, and paving the way for fruitful collaborations and partnerships. We wish H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan well, even as we welcome Mrs. Chinery-Hesse, as the tenth Chancellor of the University, and the first female to hold this high office.

Well Wishes to Graduands

And now, to the Graduating Class who are the reason we are here today, as well as their families who have provided for them throughout their study period. For you graduands, this is a moment that comes with a strong sense of achievement. Today, the University is officially dispatching you into the wide world as its able ambassadors.

I urge you and by extension, the youth of this nation to aspire for the values of discipline, integrity, honesty, modesty and contentment in all your endeavors. Seek excellence, believe in yourself, work hard, plan ahead, be ethical in all your dealings and these virtues will guarantee you success. Eschew greed, quick fixes and crave for money, which are the roots of many evils in our society today.

I wish you well in your journey ahead, and once again, congratulate you on your achievements!

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MR. IVOR AGYEMAN-DUAH**

Chairman and Members of Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Provosts
Registrar
Members of Convocation
Graduating Students
Parents and Guardians
Nii Mei, Naa Mei, Nananom
Members of the Press
Distinguished Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Choices in a World of Strange People.

It is in order that you are finally excited about this closure of campus engagement; together with your parents who have seen you through over the years. But the world in which they brought you years ago, is not the one you go into as young adults. For the matured ones among this graduating class, it is one you may not easily re-connect.

We are in a world of strangers as one Ghanaian philosopher – Kwame Anthony Appiah imputes in a title of his book. The reality of the situation however is that; the world has always been what we have known it to be. In the memorable words of V.S. Naipaul, “The World is what it is; men who are nothing, who allow themselves to become nothing, have no place in it.”

I do not think that you have spent all your time here only to become nothing in the World. But we also know that goodness can come out of little. After all, you came here or many of you did so as strangers but now some of you have become the best of friends and there are, I presume, marriage prospects. It all comes down to choices we make even within the unknown. Naipaul's conclusion came from the fact of growing up in a world like us- in Trinidad of the Caribbean. He wanted to be a writer from the very beginning

and as soon as he graduated from university as you also do today. He became one: in fact, more than that to win the Booker Prize and later, the Nobel in Literature among others even if some readers have had to carry the cross of perceived arrogance.

It is estimated that in the next twenty years when you should be getting to the peak of your careers and developments, thirty percent of the global work availability would have been taken over by digital or artificial intelligence in which sense the world is not always what it is. The road to professional ambitions would have become narrower still. It will be in your generation and your future, to navigate with what you have been taught here. It should only be part of it since your success in community or national endeavors and fulfilments would be among many uncertainties.

What ethical values do you take to this world? How patient can you be to be trained before being a master unto yourself? You may have to sit at the feet of those who were once like you but have reached the heights of your aspirations.

More importantly, fixation of ambition, of self-ordination of particular courses of entertainment or engagements, when all the signs indicate a bad road, as against other known alternatives, is not how the world works.

I once served as a special advisor to the former President, John Agyekum Kufuor on international development cooperation. We had travelled to the Ivory Coast in October 2010 as he headed an international team of election observers including the Carter Center of former US President Jimmy Carter. We visited the contestants- Laurent Gbagbo a former history professor turned president as well as two Opposition leaders, Alassane Quattara and Henri Konan Bedie. We did so with a professor from Emory University and part of the Carter Center team. The options were opened to President Gbagbo should he, the Emory professor made known, felt like teaching at their university should he lose the election. He offered this though in a more diplomatic language than I am telling you.

After the ballots had been cast on October 31, it was clear that there had to be a re-run as none of the contestants won outright. We left for Geneva

weeks after and it was whilst there that the international media started broadcasting on December 2 that Alassane Quattara who was also the former Deputy Managing Director of the IMF and one of the most respected African technocrats in the world multilateral systems, had won. That evening, whilst we were in Geneva and when the formal declaration was yet to be made in Abidjan, Quattara called President Kufuor and requested him to speak to Gbagbo and to assure him that he would treat him with respect deserving of a former President including security protocols.

Gbagbo listened to the advice but disputed the election results and later declared himself winner. With two declared presidents in one Republic, the forces or rebels mobilized from the North of the country and descended into Abidjan.

The South African airplane that decided, one reporter said, to evacuate Gbagbo from the country, was the third and final option available to him. Yet he opted for one that was risky and ended at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

We must remember President Gbagbo was once a history professor who had knowledge and probably taught many students about the rise and fall of leaders. That he was a victim, was more to do with character which is an introvert thing and a quality of which you will need more than unfiltered knowledge.

Sometimes you need not think or contemplate alone. Even the Jews with the longest surviving civilization have a regretted history for doing this when they listened, but alone. Over a century ago, an Australian writer, Mary Gaunt travelled to West Africa and would later publish her travel memoir-*Alone in West Africa* in 1911. I initially found the title intriguing. There were millions of people here at the time so how could she be lonely? But that was exactly her surprise too- a stranger, there was no show of a superior background to the people she met neither did she pretend to understand the environment better than those who lived in it. And so though alone, she was in company and sojourned happily giving us in the course of time, one of the classical works in West African economic anthropology.

These sorts of choices of humility in situations and dilemmas come in different forms and ways- international, national, local, family and in friendship but, the lessons are always the same into the known and unknown. And the answers could be within. We all hear these days of the economic growth and at one time of the fastest growth stories and development of Rwanda. President Kagame is not a trained economist and thus the circumstance of the country's post-genocide reconstruction was outside the conventional approach. But that formula of re-evaluation of the country's poverty profile, investment and redistribution of capital through availability of credit for cattle among the rural villages contributed significantly to poverty reduction and inequality. It was indigenous. I have seen similar indigenous growth strategies in agricultural development in rural areas of South Korea which started the 1960s rapid growth of the South East Asian economy. It has become a template of other countries search for development models.

Yet these models whether in Rwanda of poverty reduction programmes through microcredit like Ghana's Microfinance and Small Loans Centre or the South Korea's version like our district assembly common fund, have been with us for years. Why do these work elsewhere and not ours?

Your years of being here have not given you solutions to problems like these but the analytics to do so and you stand a better chance but not the right of way to do better.

As you paddle your canoes on the calm rivers into the future, we hope that the sun does not set on your travels. And that you do not let past failures and challenges trouble you on the way. And you will not need to look back on them, for if you do like Lot, you will turn into a pillar of salt.

May it be well with you, the Class of 2018.
And congratulations.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
NAA OBOSHIE ANANG**

Chairman of Council representing the Chancellor,
Members of Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts,
Distinguished Guest Speaker,
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of
Humanities,
Members of Convocation,
Staff, Alumni, Special invited guests,
Parents and Guardians, Fellow Graduands,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is with a humble and grateful heart that I stand before you today to represent this year's graduating class of 2018.

Honestly, I was shocked when I got the call from the College that I have been selected as one of the valedictorians for this year's graduation. Then it got me thinking; I have met students at the Accra City campus who are smart and with great potential as future leaders. I also had friends on the main campus who are equally intelligent and determined. This made me realise that the campus or situation in which we find ourselves need not define who we will turn out to be and that hard work and effort will always pay off.

Now, I was faced with the challenge of writing a speech, something I had never done before. So as usual, I went to GOOGLE which always has tons of information. However, it seemed something was missing, and I knew what it was. The valedictory speech is not about me but about all of us here today: our joys, heartaches, achievements and aspirations for the future. Thankfully, with the help of my colleagues from both the city and main campuses we can all own this address.

My fellow graduands and I know that we would not be seated here, at this

graduation ceremony, without the help of many others. We would therefore like to express our gratitude to all who have held our hands and have been a source of inspiration and encouragement to us. We are most grateful to the Most High God, Jehovah, who has kept us safe and given us the power beyond what is normal throughout our four-year stay at the University of Ghana: the trips we had to make from home, the near IA and exams misses and the A's we got when we feared we could get a C. I believe you would all agree with me when I say it has not been easy yet through the grace of God bestowed on us today, we can be called Graduates of the University of Ghana.

We would also like to thank our parents and family members who supported us financially, emotionally and most importantly motivated us to never give up on achieving our goals. You are the driving force behind our education and future plans. Although we may not always say it, we are deeply grateful to you for the time, effort and love that you have provided even when we did not deserve it. Mr. and Mrs. Anang and all parents here, I want to personally thank you all for putting up with us for all these years.

To our lecturers, we want to say Ayeeekoo. We know we were not the easiest students to deal with. Yet, lecturers like Dr. Cletus Agyenim Boateng, Dr. Samuel Nana Yaw Simpson, Dr. Saint Kuttu, Mr. Aaron Makafui, Mr. Augustine Addo and many others taught us to look beyond the grades and seek to acquire knowledge that would benefit us throughout our lives. In addition, Dr. Afful-Dadzie, Prof. Mohammed Amidu, and Dr. William Coffie, we thank you for helping us realise that we will not always have things easy. Instead of giving up, we can achieve results through hard work as Alfred Lord Tennyson in his novel “*ULYSSES*” succinctly puts it, “To strive, to find, and not to yield”. Your style of lecturing always pushed us to step out of our comfort zones and brought out the best in us.

Every journey starts with a first step. Ours started on 24th October 2014, exactly 1,365 days ago. There were struggles and successes, good times as well as bad times. Who can forget the early morning and late evening lectures, surprise quizzes, group assignments, IAs and examinations? In addition, we faced some real challenges at the Accra City Campus, where for instance, there were major issues with infrastructure and space for student

activities. Fortunately, there are signs that the issues are being addressed with a new block behind the Library complex and an improvement on the existing infrastructure.

Positive events that will forever shape our lives also happened during our stay. We met friends who may be our bridesmaids and best men at our weddings. Also, some of us have started businesses because of seminars and workshops we took advantage of when we were on campus. For example, the 2017 entrepreneurship fair held by the late Dr. Buame, Dr. George Acheampong and Mr. Shelter Tayi propelled some of us to transform our entrepreneurial ideas into thriving businesses. Typical examples are my team's Kraft TV; Edward, Alvero, and Seth's Myletech; Delali's Nadel Naturals; La Crème De La Crème and LT Bakery by Augustina etc were all ideas which emerged from the fair and may soon become household names. This is a clear demonstration that the knowledge we acquired can serve as the platform to practically transform our lives by providing jobs for those of us who may not get the opportunity to work in the formal sector.

The lecturing techniques at the University of Ghana Business School where students were made to work as a team also created in us a positive attitude towards teamwork and collaboration. The class presentations helped build our interpersonal skills, time-consciousness and confidence. These have all contributed immensely to some of us already securing jobs in various institutions.

Today marks the climax of those 1,365 days. When we step out of this Great Hall, we will begin a new chapter in our lives. As we leave the boundaries of the University of Ghana, we will take with us knowledge that will guide our future endeavours. In addition, we should not forget the lessons we have gleaned over the last four years: continuous learning, taking advantage of our environment, being team players, holding firm to our values and yet being adaptable and flexible when necessary.

To my fellow female graduands, let us always remember that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, but we would only get that if we know what we are made of. Let us be willing to take the long road if it means we must work hard to obtain our basic needs.

To all of us, a spirit of volunteerism will also help. Always be on the look-out for little opportunities to assist those who are in need. Everyone needs help from time to time. I know I do, and I believe so do you.

Let us set out to make a difference wherever we find ourselves. This includes little contributions like planting one more tree to reduce deforestation or performing beyond what is expected of us at tasks assigned to us.

Gail Lynne Goodwin said, “Our greatest limitations are the ones we place on ourselves”. Indeed, with a little faith, we could become more than we ever imagined. We have already proved that today. So never should we underestimate the power of a determined mind and most importantly our potential. I am eager to see what we can soon accomplish.

I conclude with the words of Dr. Seuss, “You are off to great places, today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so...get on your way”

And as we say these days, I wish you all the very best, Class of 2018.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR YAW TWUMASI,
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

Distinguished Guest Speaker,
New Graduates,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

You agree with me that this morning's ceremony has been very successful. As we end the 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 all 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 the University of Ghana. I wish you success in your future endeavours. But whatever you do, always remember the University of Ghana and the University of Ghana's 70th Anniversary endowment fund.

On behalf of management, I would also like to thank 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 all the efforts that have been put in this enterprise.

We are happy that so many family members and friends of the graduates were able to join in this celebration. I say a special congratulation to the parents of the graduates.

I also thank the guest speaker for today, for the very inspiring message to all of us. To our invited guests, alumni and friends of the University be assured that we appreciate your presence and participation in the ceremony. I wish everyone a safe journey back to your destinations.

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

Thank You.

