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**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 24, 2015**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, 25th July, 2015, 9.00 a.m.

Procession

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:

Professor John Meyer Hyde, Member, University Council

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor

Guest Speaker:

Nene Amegatcher, Managing Partner, Sam Okudzeto & Associates and Chairman, Advisory Board, College of Humanities

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands

- PhD/MPhil/MA
- Executive Master of Business Administration
- Master of Business Administration/Master of Public Administration
- Bachelor of Science: Medical Science
- Bachelor of Arts
- Diplomas

Valedictory address: Mr. Samuel Aboagye

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

**OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. JOHN HYDE, MEMBER OF
THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Members of College of Humanities Advisory Board,
Staff and students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen

I have great pleasure in welcoming you all warmly to this afternoon's ceremony on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University. I also extend his greetings and best wishes to all of you gathered here on this important occasion. The congregation ceremonies planned for this weekend are significant in two ways. These will be the first congregation ceremonies organised since the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance. It will also be first time that the ceremonies are being held on a College basis. I understand it is the first of the two congregation ceremonies planned for 2014/2015 cohort of students. The next one has been scheduled to take place in November 2015. These ceremonies are memorable for the graduands who are being presented this year. I wish the gradunds the very best on this important occasion. We share in your joy from the successful completion of your degrees and we are very proud of you.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to declare this afternoon's assembly duly constituted for the award of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of the University 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 at the University over the last academic year. I therefore invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation.

Thank you.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION: COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES:

Professor John Hyde, representing the Chancellor of the University ;
Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar;
Guest Speaker and Chairman of College of Humanities Advisory Board and President of Ghana Bar Association, Nene Amegatcher;
Members of University Council and Members of Convocation;
Members of the Advisory Board of College of Humanities;
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom;
Graduating Students;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Welcome

On behalf of University management I welcome you all to today's congregation ceremony, the first for the 2014/2015 academic year.

Four ceremonies are being held over two days, with a total of 3,514 students graduating. Another set of graduation ceremonies will be held in November.

This afternoon's ceremony will see a total of 2,062 students of the College of Humanities graduating with the degrees due them.

Governance

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana officially inaugurated the collegiate system of governance at the start of the 2014/2015 academic year. The system has been running for almost one calendar year, and I think now would be a good time to examine what has been achieved over the last year and do a brief assessment of what we set out to accomplish, and how far we have come towards reaching our targets. The introduction of the collegiate system was meant to decentralize decision-making and thereby reduce bureaucracy and free officers at the centre, particularly the Vice Chancellor, Registrar and administrative director from some administrative duties, while creating more room for innovation at the school and college levels. Colleges have become semi-autonomous and able to take more decisions on their academic programmes and administration.

As part of the process, the University's statutes were amended to allow for the establishment of the new Colleges and for the amendment of the structure of the College of Health Sciences.

Officers of the colleges have been appointed, and administrative structures have been put in place. I am glad to say that the Colleges have all started well, and are working towards meeting the objectives for which they were established.

Advisory Boards for all the Colleges have been established and inaugurated, and are working with college administrations to guide the Colleges in developing strategies; fostering effective links between the College and external communities; and helping to maintain and enhance the image and reputation of the Colleges.

The University's strategic plan was completed and launched in December last year, for the period 2014 to 2024, and is expected to provide strategic direction to the University for the next decade.

The colleges are working on their individual strategic plans; with a new focus on research. Other areas of interest are; Teaching and Learning; Strengthening Linkages with Industry; Information, Communication and Technology; Student, faculty and staff recruitment, retention and development; Asset acquisition and management; Financial planning and process management; Gender and Diversity; Internal and external stakeholders and Monitoring and evaluation. The individual plans all dovetail into the University's plan, and are expected to contribute towards transforming the University into a world class university which has research at the core of its functions.

The Colleges have done significant work on the rationalization of programmes and courses; the introduction of new programmes and the revision of existing ones.

Most colleges are doing well in the area of research productivity and visibility, and are taking advantage of the new opportunities and funding available, to carry out groundbreaking research with collaboration from local and international partners. The colleges are also all involved in fund-raising.

As the colleges enter their second year of operation, we shall all continue to work hard to ensure that they meet their targets of increasing efficiency and reducing bureaucracy. A thorough review of the collegiate system will take place after the system has been in operation for three years.

Academic Affairs

Your Excellencies, for the 2014/2015 academic year, the University received a total of 37,326, applications for admission, made up of 30,083 undergraduate and 7,243 graduate

applications.

The University admitted a total of 11, 944 undergraduate applicants and 2, 939 graduate applicants into programmes on the Main, Korle Bu, and Accra City campuses, and into the Distance Education programme. The University has intensified efforts to achieve gender parity in the admission of students, and the percentage of females admitted to all programmes continues to rise.

The University of Ghana Policy on Admission for Athlete Students (UG-PAAS) was introduced at the start of the 2014/2015 academic year. The policy is expected to promote the growth and development of students' performance in sports, thereby creating a sustainable relationship between sports and academic performance. The policy allows for the admission of talented sports men and women whose grades qualify them to enter the university but are not competitive enough for them to be gain admission ordinarily. 32 students were admitted under the policy last year, and all indications are that they are doing well. One of these students won the Ghana Universities Sports Associations (GUSA) cross country event, and four others came within the first ten competitors.

346 foreign students enrolled in programmes in the University in the 2014/2015 academic year, a sharp decrease from previous years. It is obvious that this decline was mainly occasioned by the spread of the Ebola pandemic in the sub-region. We hope that with the end of the pandemic, enrolment figures will go up significantly. The University is in the process of engaging Recruitment Officers to assist the Office of International Programmes achieve international enrolment targets set by the University; and proactively recruit students in the face of increasing global competition. A review of internationalization in the University, which was recently conducted, made very useful recommendations regarding improving student experience and mobility, teaching to international standards, attitudes and perceptions.

Enhancing Skills of Students

To make our students more competitive in the job market, efforts are being made to sharpen their critical skills. This effort is being spearheaded by the Counseling and Placement Centre through various programmes such as leadership training, peer counseling and career week events.

Academic Prizes

The University has approved 18 new academic prizes with a value of over 150 thousand Ghana cedis, making a total of 61 university-wide prizes. More than 80,000 Ghana cedis has been received in the current academic year from individuals and corporate organizations towards the sponsorship of awards.

I encourage all staff members, corporate organizations and other stakeholders to consider sponsoring awards.

Financial Aid for Students

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the 2014/2015 academic year ended with a total donation inflow from both local and foreign donors of GH¢639,912.09 towards financial aid for students. I am proud to note that the University contributed GH¢103,932.00 of this amount from its internally generated funds. Additionally, the University and General Electric, have signed a memorandum of understanding covering a US\$100,000 scholarship package for needy brilliant students of University of Ghana. Under the agreement, one hundred students will have their tuition and residential fees fully paid until they complete their studies.

We salute all our donors and encourage other corporate sponsors and individuals to assist us to fund the education of students who would otherwise have to interrupt or terminate their studies.

Physical Developments

In March 2011, President John Evans Atta Mills, cut the sod at the University for the commencement of work for the relocation of the College of Health Sciences from the Korle Bu campus to Legon. That same year, a loan facility was secured by GoG from an Israeli bank for the construction of a 617 bed Teaching Hospital for the University of Ghana at a total cost of US\$217 million. This project is an integral part of the ‘Medical Village’ concept that is to enable the University produce world-class health educators, experts and researchers in all sub-specialties to make health delivery in Ghana independent, sustainable and progressive.

The Hospital will have state-of-the-art facilities for trauma and emergency services, heart surgery, medical imaging, and a heliport, and will eventually be expanded into a 1,300 bed facility to provide effective teaching, learning and patient care. Future construction will cover a Cancer Centre and a Rehabilitation Building.

When completed, the University of Ghana Medical Centre will place the University of Ghana as one of the most advanced medical training institutions in West Africa.

As part of the project package about 80 Ghanaian personnel will undergo training at the Sheba Medical Centre in Israel.

20 Senior Specialists and Consultants have already started their training in Israel; nurses, administrators, biomedical engineers, and pharmacists will also receive training in the coming weeks.

It is expected that the Hospital will start working by March 2016.

The University of Ghana has entered into a landmark US\$64million project agreement with Africa Integras, a company that invests early-risk capital to develop education infrastructure. The partnership involves Africa Integras helping the University achieve a financially sustainable structure to address its infrastructure expansion needs. The project, which is structured as a 25-year Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT), is the first of its kind with a public university in Africa.

The project will involve the construction of an expanded facility for the College of Humanities, a new College of Education, a new dedicated facility for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, as well as a new facility for the College of Health Sciences, to be located near the new teaching hospital. 1,000 new student hostel beds will be provided under the project, to be divided between undergraduate and graduate students mostly to serve the College of Health Sciences.

Construction is expected to commence by September, 2015 with a targeted completion date of September 2017.

Research, Innovation and Development

Chancellor, you recently called on universities to invest in research if they are to have an impact on the African continent and stay relevant to the needs of the global market place.

I am proud to announce that the four centres of excellence established in the University have been allocated GHC 1 million each as seed money to develop research areas in Climate Change Adaptation; Malaria Research; Food Production and Processing; and Development Policy and Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation to address key developmental issues in Ghana and beyond. The University has earmarked US\$5 million for refurbishment of laboratories and the replacement of obsolete scientific equipment. Through the Chinese phase II ICT project, the University is now in a position to house large datasets for research and also do more computing research than before. I think we can safely conclude that our investment in research is paying off.

At the end of the review process for the 8th call for proposals for UG Research Grants, 31 grants with a total value of GHC 996,723 were awarded in the three grant categories.

39 applications for UG Conference Grants with a total value of GHC 187,990 have been approved for funding so far in the 2014/2015 academic year. A final review session for the academic year will take place later this month

A total of GHC 284,538 was awarded as faculty development grants this academic year. Since the inception of this scheme in the 2008/2009 academic year, a total of GHC

1,083,250 has been awarded to 85 faculty members. Of this number, as many as 31 have successfully obtained their PhDs or other terminal degrees, and returned to active teaching and research duties at the university. We are also exploring alternative faculty development schemes such as a UG postdoctoral research fellowship scheme.

Faculty and students of the University continue to benefit from a number of capacity building grants. Some of these are CAPREx; where faculty members spend up to 6 months at the University of Cambridge to work on a research topic with a Cambridge based collaborator; the Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) Programme, which offers one-year fellowships to support early career researchers on the impact of climate change in Africa; the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan; and the ACU STARS (*Structured Training for African Researchers*) Project.

Others are the Trans-Disciplinary Training for Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa – Phase 2); ARISE (Africa Regional International Staff/Student Exchange): Food Security and Sustainable Human Wellbeing Project); P4PHT (Partnering for Health Professional Training in African Universities); CSAA (Inter-University Cooperation to Train Crop Scientists for Enhancing Agriculture in Africa) ; One Health (Enhancing Community of Practice in One Health for Infectious Diseases through Postgraduate Training)

External Grant Applications and Overview of Research Funding

Since the beginning of the 2014/ 2015 academic year, 37 research grant agreements with a combined total value of USD 9,579,086 have been signed, while 76 research proposals have been submitted to various sponsors/funders. The total value of proposals submitted for the period under review is \$124,060,123, with 24 proposals so far approved with a total value of \$21,221,754.74

2015 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lectures

The 2015 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lectures were delivered by Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, an Indian Literary Theorist, Philosopher and University Professor at Columbia University, and recipient of the 2012 Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy. The topic for the lectures was “Humanities: Asia, the West, Africa”. On the final day of the lectures a special congregation was held, at which Professor Spivak received an Honorary Degree from University of Ghana. The Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Lectures are sponsored by Unibank Ghana Limited.

Rankings

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, permit me to touch briefly on the issue of the



Mrs. Mercy Haziel-Ashia, Registrar, making opening remarks at the ceremony



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



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



Professor John Hyde, Member, University Council, delivering the Welcome Address



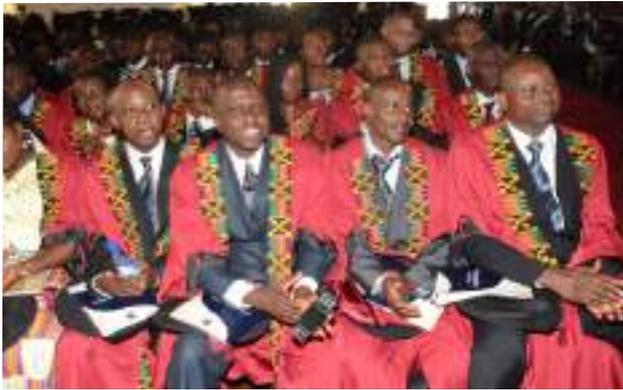
Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, addressing the gathering



Nene Amegatcher , delivering the Guest Speaker’s Address



Mr. Samuel Aboagye, delivering the Valedictory Address



Graduands seated at Congregation





Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries



Members of Convocation seated at the congregation ceremony



Some parents and guardians at the ceremony

University's rankings. Rankings are very important, as they help influence among others, the choice of students to attend particular institutions, funding from donor agencies, research affiliations, and indeed, also grant institutions the chance to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and put in place remedial measures. The latest university rankings compiled by Thomson Reuters places the University of Ghana in the 10th position among African universities. This is the best position we have ever attained in any rankings, and it is exciting to observe that our placement in the rankings has consistently improved across all the major ranking organizations. The Times Higher Education list of the top 15 Universities in Africa places the University of Ghana at number 12. In the Webometrics ranking for Africa, the University of Ghana moved from number 52 in 2009 to 19 at the beginning of 2015. In the QS ranking, we remain one of only four universities from Sub-Saharan Africa listed for the first time ever in 2015. The University of Ghana has therefore become the highest ranked university in West Africa across all the different tables, and I applaud all colleagues, students and stakeholders of the University who have enabled us attain this feat. We will definitely not rest on our laurels, but will work even harder to ensure that our rankings go even higher both on the continent and internationally.

Well Wishes to Graduands

Now to our graduating students:

Seeing you all here, at the threshold of starting the next phase of your lives, brings back memories of my own graduation ceremonies from various educational institutions, many years ago, and reminds me of the excitement, the trepidation about what the future might hold, and the zeal I had to go out and change the world. No doubt, most of you gathered here are going through similar feelings and thoughts. Today's world offers young graduates so many opportunities, yet so many challenges; so many potential positive outcomes yet so many pitfalls along the way. I challenge you all to go out into the world, and do the very best you can wherever you find yourself. Work hard, dream big, plan ahead, be ethical and honest in all your dealings, and you will be well on the way towards success. The future may not be given, but you have a clean slate. Go out there, write on your slate in bold characters and make your mark! I wish you all the very best.

Thank you and God bless.

**GUEST OF SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
NENE ABAYATEYE. O. AMEGATCHER**

Acting Chairman & Members of the University Council
Vice Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities
Registrar
Members of Convocation
Members of the University community, Staff & Students
Alumni
Invited guests
2015 Graduating Class Members
Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen

I am truly grateful for the exceptional honour done me not only to be with you for the congregation of the College of Humanities of the premier university-arguably the finest university in the country, but to share this auspicious moment with the students and families of the graduating class of 2015. I thank the Vice Chancellor and his team for the honour which I accept with a deep sense of humility and responsibility. I see this as an opportunity to sow a seed into the lives of our fresh graduates.

I was in your seat in 1977 and then 1980, and I fully well understand the adrenaline surge you are experiencing now, and your legs feeling like jelly, in turns.

Dear members of the 2015 Graduating Class, congratulations for your hard work. Yes, you made it in spite of the challenges and pressures associated with academic work. Some of you had a two-year course, others three and four years for Bachelors degree programmes and others have also spent four years and beyond for the PHD. You deserve all the praises being showered on you because you made it. Give your fellow graduands a good handshake or hug and say to each other: yes we made it.

This is also a good time to show gratitude to family members, lecturers and friends who supported you through your studies. My dear graduands let me ask you to rise and give a resounding applause to all those who helped you reach this important milestone in your life.

While preparing for my speech today, I contemplated what I would share with you; advice of course, said the inner voice. It is normal with graduation speeches. But what kind of advice can I have for graduands like you who have set upon your adult lives trail? But I can

share with you some of the experiences I have gathered since leaving here over 38 years ago and some mantra I strive to live my life by.

I propose to address you on two broad themes – Pain and Rebirth, incongruous as they may seem.

If you want to be fruitful at whatever you put your mind and hand to, you have to make sure that it hurts. Greatness comes from pain. Like the crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, so will the vicissitudes of life after here refine you if you make sure that what you put into your endeavour hurts. It is what separates the ordinary from the exceptional. I use this invaluable allegory as a constant reminder of the purpose of pain and the beauty beyond the pain. The path of least resistance is safe and comforting. But greatness is not borne out of safety. Greatness is borne out of risk and ambition. Anything is possible and we must challenge ourselves, always. Most people's aspirations are too low and that leads usually to mediocrity if not failure. This permeates every detail of our national fabric. We in the service of the nation, civil, public and private alike, enthusiastically welcome you to join us help build Mother Ghana. The draw-backs in nation-building nowadays are all too evident for us to see. No aim is too high for you. Roll up your sleeves and like Sisyphus: let us together roll the rock of national development up the hill. But unlike Sisyphus, we must prevent the rock from rolling back down the hill.

There is something about humans which is that our potential is limitless. So by all means do not live your lives like a fettered balloon. But I must caution you to live a life free of reproach. Eschew the current craze of the pursuit of political office for monetary and material advantage. There is something unique and great inside of you. Identify it and nurture it. Take your time and study the high achievers, especially our forebears who selflessly charted the path for the creation and advancement of our dear country. As the sages say, there is nothing new under the sun. Assure yourself that, "if they could do it, human as they are so can I". As the songster Nasir bin Olu Dara Jones, better known as Nas puts it (and I believe your generation is much more familiar with Nas than I am), "I know I can be what I wanna be. If I work hard at it, I'll be what I wanna be."

Let the humanity in Humanities resound loudly by your deeds.

The famed words of Shakespeare's monologue in "As You Like It" ring true even today as you leave the relative comfort of this University into uncertain future in an unforgiving world. He begins thus:

"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts"

that bog our dear nation as we welcome you into its service.

Some of you had straight “A”s. Some are graduating “summa cum laude”. That deserves special commendation. Congratulations. But in the real world you will not always get “A”s or be on top of your game all the time. The ebbs and flows of your working life will soon dawn on you. You will experience failure. Don’t be afraid to fail. Be afraid not to confront your fear of failure so as to overcome them rather. Just be bold and take the challenges. Play your part as best you can. I couldn’t say this enough. Now that you’ve made your career choice or submitted to it, the future lies before you. It will not be easy but it is clear and holds opportunities. You have to keep working hard. You have gone through Legon. This fact is a paradox, for as you are ending, you are beginning. It is a start. It must be why the Americans call their congregation, Commencement. On this day of your triumphant graduation, a new door is opening for you. It’s a hodgepodge of rejection and acceptance. It is inevitable. When you apply for jobs, you will either be rejected or accepted. When you are accepted, you are fine. It is the rejection that should interest us. How do you cope with it? You cannot block the pain much. But pain can bring untold rewards. Rejection might sting but usually it has little to do with you. Very often the employer just requires a different type of person.

I’m excited and hopeful to be in a room with a whole lot of young graduates who make me optimistic about the future of our dear country. The ideals our instructors have imbued and imbibed in us in the varying disciplines of this college are what we must follow, to build for Ghana a brighter tomorrow. As the hymnist asks;

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their winds of strife?
When the strong tides lift
And the cables strain
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

May I remind you that you are a young generation and our future leaders. You carry our hopes and aspirations. Perhaps today, more than any time, you are graduating at a very opportune time – ever-advancing information technology at your service, the rule of law and democracy gaining roots rapidly. I invite you to press these to your advantage and challenge the status quo.

If you are already carrying undesirable garbage, like snakes shed skin, please shed it and set yourself upon the path of honour, valour and patriotism. Make a conscientious effort to live right by your deeds wherever the service to humanity which you are groomed for takes you; be a nation builder and not a nation wrecker by playing your part as best you can.

Let Legon be proud of you as you advance the cause of society with your exploits. Be

The path you are treading hence is well-worn. Many before you have played their part and exited. One Act is ending today. The story of your lives transitions into the next Act this same day. No one can walk out on their own life's story. Whatever you do in life after school and whoever you work for, your commitment and zeal should be the same. For those of us who work with statistics and figures, the lure of manipulation is real; for those of us who lean towards research, policy and public interest analyses, unhealthy opinionating is luring; for the legal fraternity, sharp practice is tempting; in the business field, rogue trading is luring. In every facet of professional or vocational work, the temptation for unfair advantage and undeserved financial gain is present. I am not kidding you; the temptations of the fast and easy life are real at the workplace. There are several chinks in the armour of the state, and it is all too familiar and enticing to exploit the chinks to one's advantage. It is painful to refrain from fleecing and milking the institutions or who you work for, especially the state. But whenever the temptation arises, remember you are in a fiduciary relationship with your employers across all the disciplines under the College and the state as well. Let the pain of abstinence hit you hard. The more it hurts, the more worthy your devotion to what is right. Challenge your friend and colleague sitting next to you to live a life of honesty and integrity – a life worthy of emulation. Are we not all products of the same College of Humanities? Yet one may be true to themselves and the other not. If you are true to your own self, it is a given that you will be true to your nation. Will you let your scruples trump corruption or will you surrender to it? Reflect.

I urge you, in the name of Mother Ghana, to not let the end justify the means, but rather the means justify the end. Chew on this. What you think about you become. Ask yourself what you are going to allow yourself to become in the real world. Will you allow yourself to become a degenerate or will you allow yourself to become a patriot? I choose to become a patriot, and I urge you to choose patriotism over and over again.

Certainly, there will be times when your best will not be up to scratch. What reasons account for this could be innumerable. But as long as you give it your best shot, you will be content and even grateful for the opportunity to try. You are not ultimately accountable for the entire Project Ghana, unless of course you are the directing mind. You are responsible for your part in it. When you exit the stage, will posterity remember you with kindness? When I have played my part in life's drama and exited the national and world stage for good, I want to be able to go with the contentment that my deeds will serve as my epitaph. I invite you to think alike, dear graduands.

Focus and put in your all. Collaborate and do your part. I trust you know that friends are the best investment you can make. I assure you it is just as important in your working life as in school. Perhaps more important. You are not Titan Atlas of Greek mythology. You are not carrying the weight of the world alone. All together, we can find solutions to the problems

proud alumni of the University of Ghana and the College of Humanities. Graduands let the humanity in Humanities shine forth. I wish you the best. I thank you for your attention.

God bless the College of Humanities

God bless the University of Ghana

God bless our homeland Ghana

And make it great and strong.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY MR, SAMUEL ABOAGYE ON BEHALF OF
THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts of Colleges,
Members of College of Humanities Advisory Board,
Distinguished Guest Speaker,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Members of Convocation,
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom,
Parents and Guardians,
Fellow Graduands,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am humbled to deliver this address on behalf of the graduating Class of 2015. Truly, many of us are yet to fully believe that it is indeed over and that we are leaving the great walls of the premier University. After seemingly unending days culminating into many weeks, months and years of wondering; wondering whether we could make it to this day, finally here we are, indeed, as resplendent as we imagined it. Our most effusive appreciation; first to God and then to all others who in diverse ways have made such a day possible, not forgetting our parents, lecturers, teaching assistants, non-teaching staff and fellow course mates, to name but a few.

Our journey began almost four years ago when we first entered the unfamiliar confines of this great institution as curious minds eager to fill the unwritten chapters of our lives with new adventures. The beginning was doubtless confusing and bleak, yet as the months wore on, we gradually found our feet. Legon became another home from home as we made new acquaintances, some of whom we now call family.

Life in this institution has been characterized by profound uncertainty. We had to deal with the fear of running late for an early morning lecture, the intimidation of certain courses and the fluster of missing the deadlines for assignments. The late night toil in preparation towards an interim assessment or end of semester examination was also very tasking. Then came the anxious wait for the release of our examination results. I admit those were some of the longest waits of my life, especially where one thought a paper did not go too well. Like fleeting shadows, all the pain and frustrations faded away the minute our efforts were rewarded with the much coveted “A”. Funnily enough and as typical of students, we were as

quick to blame our ineptitude on our lecturers saying “He gave me a C, or D or F”, and never, “I had a C, D, or F”.

Today, we imagine the lecture halls where once we sat, leaning forward in our seats in rapt attention, pens and other writing materials at hand, once in a while erupting in laughter at what a lecturer or colleague said or did. Indeed, some of our most entertaining moments were found within those halls, as well as some of our most sober depending on which course or lecturer was involved.

As all these memories flashback, the true meaning of the Taoist’s proverb: “The journey is the reward” comes to bear. We will forever treasure the important life lessons this journey has taught us; we have no regrets at all.

Fellow Graduands, as we revel in our victory over the odds, let us not be tempted to dwell on it forever. A greater responsibility knocks at our door; our lives will be forever altered after we toss our caps into the air. University of Ghana has instilled in us a tremendous passion for life and a burning desire to make a meaningful impact. In the words of the great Henry Ford: “Whether you think you can or think you can’t, you are right”. Thus, as graduates of the University of Ghana, we can do anything we set our determined minds on. The world pleads our developed minds for a change. Let us all rise to the task for we have all that it takes. Again, let us remind ourselves that if the mind can conceive it, then it can be achieved. However, just as we learned in class, success in life is no serendipity; it does not come by chance. Only the right blend of diligence, fierce determination, resilience and honesty can buy it. I therefore admonish that we commit ourselves to these values and the world will hear of us. Just as the University’s motto opines, let us progress with integrity always.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a humble appeal to my fellow graduands: graduands please let us stand up and give a resounding applause to all parents and guardians seated here for their toil and the hard times they have been through in making us who we are today. To the graduating class, I say congratulations; let us keep soaring on high for we can only get better.

Thank you...God bless us all, Amen

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MEMBER OF COUNCIL,
PROFESSOR JOHN HYDE**

Members of Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Members of the college of Education Advisory Board,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Fresh Graduates,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

As we end today's function, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have worked hard to ensure a successful congregation ceremony .

These new graduates are mostly from the second cohort of the new 4-year degree programme. They had to contend with the new system with its teething problems. They are the ones who did not give up but persevered to the end. They deserve all the laurels that they have acquired.

For the Teachers and Administrators who have had to learn this system alongside the students in order to get them to this point of their graduation, the University appreciates the efforts you have put into this enterprise.

To the Graduate Students who have been part of the changes taking place at the University of Ghana, I hope some of you will consider joining the University to support the drive to become a research intensive university. We expect that those who do not make it back here will consider joining other tertiary institutions in Ghana as well as the public and private sectors.

I salute all those who played various roles in the planning and organization of this event to ensure its success.

All parents, guardians, families and friends of the graduates who have travelled from far and near to join the graduates in this celebration also deserve our thanks and appreciation for being with us today.

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

To our new graduants and fresh Alumni, I congratulate you on your new achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of your alma mater. I call upon you constantly to remember the University's Motto: "Integri Procedamus" or lets make progress with integrity.

I wish you all good success in your future endeavours. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen it is now my privilege and duty as Acting Chairman of the University Council to declare today's congregation dissolved.

Thank you.

