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**COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 24, 2015**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday 24th July, 2015, 9.00 a.m.

Morning Session:

Procession

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:

His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor

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

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Samuel Ofori Onwona, Member, Advisory Board College of Basic and Applied Sciences, and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kasapreko Company Ltd.

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands:

- PhD/MPhil
- Master of Science
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Bachelor of Science

Valedictory address: Dr. Dominic Osei

Chancellor dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

**OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE CHANCELLOR
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. KOFI ANNAN**

Minister of Education,
Chairman and members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Ministers of State and members of parliament,
Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Staff,
Alumni and Students
Graduands,
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all warmly to this morning's ceremony.

The Congregation ceremonies planned for this occasion are significant. These will be the first congregation ceremonies organised since the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance. It will also be the first time the ceremonies are being held on a Collegiate basis. I understand it is the first two congregations in the year 2015. The second one will take place in November 2015.

These ceremonies are memorable for the graduands who are being presented this year. I wish all graduands the best on this important occasion. We share in your joy for the successful completion of your degrees and we are proud of you.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to declare this morning's assembly duly constituted for the award of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates by the University of Ghana to successful graduands and also to receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor. It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give us his report at this forum on developments taking place at the University over the last academic year. I therefore invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report.

Thank you

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION: COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES

The Honourable Ministry of Education, Hon. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, representing His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana;

Your Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of University of Ghana;

Your Lordship Justice Samuel Kofi Date-Bah, Chairman of University Council; Pro-Vice Chancellors;

Registrar;

Provost;

Guest Speaker, Dr. Sam Owona, Member of the Advisory Board of the College of Basic & Applied Sciences;

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Colleague Vice Chancellors;

Members of University Council and Members of Convocation;

Member of the Advisory Board of College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Niiamei, Naamei, 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 morning's ceremony will see 960 students of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences graduating with the degrees due them. This ceremony also marks the first graduation of students from the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine programme, and I take this opportunity to congratulate the students, faculty and staff who have worked so hard to make this possible.

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 Directors 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 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 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 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 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 SPEAKER'S ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. SAMUEL OFORI ONWONA

Honorable Minister of Education representing His Excellency the President,
Chancellor of the University of Ghana,
Chairman and members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Honorable Ministers of State,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and fellow students [fellow students because I am still learning],
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to stand here today to deliver the commencement speech to fellow graduands in the very Hall I received my BSc degree in October 1979.

I would like to talk to us on one simple topic that everyone here will never forget about. It is a topic I believe Ghana needs to hear the most about, so let me invite you to fasten your seat belts and join me on a short but exciting journey. Let me caution that it will be a bit rocky once a while, but you should not be surprised because of the many potholes on our streets today.

The topic is integrity. Incidentally, the motto of the University of Ghana is “*integri procedamus*” meaning, “we proceed with integrity”

The word integrity evolved from the Latin adjective *integer*, meaning whole or complete. In this context, integrity is the inner sense of “wholeness” that derives from qualities such as honesty and consistency of character. Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles that culminate in moral uprightness. It is generally a personal choice to uphold oneself to consistently moral and ethical standards.

Barbara Killinger declares that integrity is a personal choice, an uncompromising and predictably consistent commitment to honor moral, ethical, spiritual and artistic values and principles.

Borrowing from Barbara Killinger’s definition,

A man or woman of integrity is one who by personal choice, has an uncompromising and predictably consistent commitment to honor, moral, ethical, spiritual and artistic values, principles and belief system of the Holy Scriptures. Men and women of integrity are, therefore, doers of the Word of God and not hearers only.

For me as a Christian, the underlying force of integrity is the fear of God that is established firmly upon the foundation of the Word of God. Thus a man or woman of integrity is a person whose value and belief system, behavior and character are dictated by the Word of God.

Being honest about stealing something does not make one a person of integrity, because a person of integrity will not steal in the first place!! True honesty implies a refusal to lie, steal, or deceive in any way. So we have Political integrity, Artistic integrity, Cultural integrity, Academic integrity: as an alumnus of this great institution, I can vouch that you have all earned your degrees with academic integrity, we also have: Financial integrity, Sexual integrity.

Tons of work have been done on this important subject, but I picked up just two examples to share with you, one from an entrepreneur, Amy Rees Anderson, and the other from a Reverend Minister, Prof. Kenneth Boa, President of Reflection Ministries.

Amy Rees Anderson, a very successful American business woman says If she could teach only one value to live by, it would be this that:

Success will come and go, but integrity is forever. Listen to what Amy says:

Integrity means doing the right thing at all times and in all circumstances, whether or not anyone is watching. It takes courage to do the right thing, no matter what the consequences will be. Building a reputation of integrity takes years, but it takes only a second to lose it, so she advises that you should never allow yourself to ever do anything that would damage your integrity.

Amy adds that many prefer to live by “the end justifies the means” principle. So people overpromise and under deliver, so they can make their quota for the month.

- Applicants exaggerate their experience and expertise during job interviews to impress people because they desperately need a job.
- CEOs overstate their projected earnings because they don’t want the board of directors to fire and replace them.
- Entrepreneurs overstate their pro-formas because they want the highest valuation possible from an investor.
- Investors underestimate a company’s value in order to negotiate a lower valuation in a deal.
- Customer service representatives cover up a mistake they made because they are afraid the client will leave them.
- Employees call in “sick” because they don’t have any more paid time off when they actually just need to get their Christmas shopping done. And the list goes on. In each of the above cases, Amy says, the person committing the act of dishonesty will tell you that they had a perfectly valid reason why the end result justified their lack of integrity.

You may gain power quickly and easily by cutting corners and acting without the constraints of morality, but you will pay a very dear price in the end.

So graduating ladies, don't go and sleep with anyone to get a job; and when you get the job, don't entice vulnerable managers with your body to get your promotion. A lady colleague of mine at the African Development Bank had worked for 30 years and was retiring. She came and informed me that some of the Administrative Assistants who had become her boss joined the Bank and served under her, but they had used sexual favors to forge ahead. A manager once slapped her butt (buttocks), and she slapped that manager back in his face! She retired from the Bank after 30 years of honorable service and left with dignity with her marriage intact. Many of those who played around with their bodies had ended up in divorce with untold agonies, yet they were in high positions earning fat salaries. That is what I call "expensive promotion". A lifestyle of integrity will lead you on the path to what I call "cheap, but honorable and lasting promotion".

And graduating gentlemen, when you move up the corporate ladder, don't ask for sexual favors from vulnerable young ladies before employing them. And don't allow the Jezebels to attract you with their seducing attires, tight dresses and pumping breasts. I have been a manager and a diplomat before, so I am talking from experience. As the Country Manager of the African Development Bank in Sierra Leone, I used to have this experience. A few days after delivering a keynote address at an international conference, I would receive calls from one of the ladies who served as an usher. Once you register for a conference, the ushers get all your details, including email addresses and phone numbers. "Hello, Dr. Onwona, my name is.....; you asked me to call you". Then I will reply, "Sorry, I am a married man; if you call me again, I will give your name and number to Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for harassing a diplomat. One lady from Fourah Bay College pursued me for weeks until the Chief Protocol Officer called and gave her a warning.

Amy states as a matter of fact that several people have used dubious means to become successful without ever being caught, and that gives them a false perception of the path to success that one should follow. Unfortunately, momentary success usually comes at an incredibly high price with far reaching consequences, so beware.

Warren Buffet, Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway said it best; "in looking for people to hire, look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have integrity, drop them (like hot cake), because the other two traits they have will kill you."

These are the smart thieves!! They can swindle whole nations if care is not taken when dealing with them.

Let me share a true story I know of from my secondary school days at the Presbyterian Boys' Secondary (popularly called Presec, Legon) and 6th Form Science College where I earned my Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates.

At Presec, we had a very smart, but troublesome colleague in 6th Form. We were not supposed to go out of campus without permission. This smart guy went to Legon without permission and when he was returning to the “tro-tro” station to take a bus back to Presec, the Music Director of Presec saw him. As the Music Director approached him, this guy cooked up a story and quickly went and bought a loaf of bread. He approached the Music Director with confidence and asked him if he was a teacher at Presec. The Music Director was confident he was talking to this guy, but our colleague was also bold to suggest to the music master that he is a twin brother of the student at Presec. He begged the Music Director to bring the loaf of bread to his “twin” brother and inform him that he will visit him the following week because he was busy preparing for exams. Reluctantly, the Music Director took the loaf of bread and headed for Presec. Then our colleague took a taxi, asked the driver to speed past the Music Director and drop him at his dormitory. A few minutes later, the Music Director came looking for our colleague with the loaf of bread he had given him at the Legon “tro-tro” station. The Music Director informed our colleague he met his “twin” brother and he asked him to bring him the loaf of bread. To make the Music Director believe his lies, our colleague remarked “oh man, didn’t he add some money? That’s what I need!”. A few weeks later, our colleague got into trouble again and the teachers were discussing him. The Music Director then remarked: “no wonder he is still doing his Advanced Level studies and his twin brother is ahead of him at the University of Ghana”. That’s when another teacher confirmed to the Music Director that our colleague is the only child of his father, and that his father has no twins! Of course, when the truth came out, our colleague was severely punished for deceiving his teacher.

So, Amy warns that a person’s dishonesty will eventually catch up to them. It may not be today, and it may not be for many years, but you can rest assured that at some point there will always be a reckoning. See what is happening to Bill Cosby, popularly known as Dr. Huxtable in the Cosby Show. After 40 solid years, his sexual molestation of vulnerable young ladies who saw him as a father figure and a mentor has come out to the open. The Cosby Show was rated No. 1 Show in America for 5 consecutive years from 1984 to 1989, but see what the lack of sexual integrity has done to Bill Cosby’s image within a very short time.

So, Amy Anderson strongly advises that if you wish to become a person of integrity then avoid those who are not trustworthy and have nothing to do with them. Do not be enticed into believing that while they are dishonest with others, they will never be dishonest with you. She makes the point that if someone is dishonest in any aspect of his/her life you can be rest assured that he/she will be dishonest in many aspects of his/her life. Birds of the same feathers flock or fly together. So, if you want to build a reputation as a person of integrity then surround yourself with people of integrity.

Mr. Kenneth Boa, President of Reflections Ministries has put it this way:

The best way to discern whether or not we are living a life of integrity is to ask ourselves,



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



Mr. Emmanuel Baidoo, College Secretary,
College of Basic and Applied Sciences,
speaking at the ceremony



Prof. Ebenezer Odum Oduro Owusu, Provost, College of Basic & Applied Sciences,
acknowledging international students of the College



H.E. Kofi Annan, Chancellor, delivering his Welcome Address



Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, addressing the gathering



Dr. Samuel Ofori Onwona, delivering the Guest Speaker's Address



The Minister of Education, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku Agyeman delivering remarks on behalf of His Excellency the President of Ghana



Dr. Dominic Osei delivering the Valedictory Address



Graduands seated at Congregation



Above: PhD graduands being robed
Below: Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries





Member of convocation, officials, guest speaker and the minister of Education in a group photograph



Some parents and guardians at the ceremony

“how do I live when no one’s looking?” He says, it’s easy to look like a person of integrity when people are watching, but if you do not live your private life with the same level of consistency as you live your public life, then your integrity is questionable! Kenneth says we make every effort to maintain a good image for the public eye. We do our best to get people to think about us the way we want them to think about us.

John Ortberg suggests, “human conversation is largely an endless attempt to convince others that we are more assertive or clever or gentle or successful than they might think if we did not carefully educate them.” The Lord Jesus Christ made it very clear that we should be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If we do, we will not have any reward from our Heavenly Father.”

Yes, it’s possible to live one life publicly and a completely different life privately. Kenneth Boa says that’s not integrity, but an invitation for God’s discipline. He advises us to live with consistency in public and in private, because God, our Heavenly Father “sees what is done in secret”. Thus, being faithful in the small and secret things is a big deal. Kenneth warns that it may be the case that God is far less concerned with your public persona than he is in your private character. God may be more concerned with how you manage your personal checking account than how well you administer the books of a big company. He advises that it’s in the small, secret places of self-evaluation that God’s grace changes and shapes us into the image of His Son.

Kenneth asserts that in the end, who we become reveals our real desires. If we desire the praise of men, then we will become a certain kind of person whose actions are dictated by what people will say. But if we desire to please God, then integrity will need to become a priority, and the fear of God will drive every action and decision we take, publicly and/or privately.

Excellencies,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,
Fellow students and graduands,

Permit me to share a few integrity quotes with this august audience

Warren Buffet

It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you’ll do things differently.

Michelle Obama

We learned about honesty and integrity - that the truth matters... That you don’t take shortcuts or play by your own set of rules... And success doesn’t count unless you earn it fair and square.

W. Clement Stone

Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.

Oprah Winfrey

Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.

Confucius

The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.

Zig Ziglar

With integrity, you have nothing to fear, since you have nothing to hide. With integrity, you will do the right thing, so you will have no guilt

Henry Kravis

If you don't have integrity, you have nothing. You can't buy it. You can have all the money in the world, but if you are not a moral and ethical person, you really have nothing.

Rick Warren, author of the Number 1 Best Seller, "Purpose-Driven Life"

"Integrity is built by defeating the temptation to be dishonest; humility grows when we refuse to be prideful; and endurance develops every time you reject the temptation to give up."

I posit and believe that national integrity derives from the integrity of the people who make up a nation. So when we water down ethical and moral standards to downplay integrity for illegitimate and stolen wealth, we are effectively weakening the very fabric of our nation's integrity, and hence, its strength.

Let's take a quick look at a few Biblical examples of integrity

1. Samuel the Prophet, was a man of integrity

Listen to his excerpts of his farewell speech to the people of Israel, "I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you. Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day. Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the lord and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these, I will make it right."

Then the people of Israel replied:

"You have not cheated or oppressed us; You have not taken anything from anyone's hand."

How many heads of state, across the globe, can stand publicly and open themselves up for public scrutiny on all the investment projects they have done for their country during their term of office?

2. Daniel, (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego):

Daniel moved from slavery to Vice-President who served two kingdoms (Babylon and Persia) and four kings from Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar to Darius to Cyrus. True men and women of integrity will survive kingdoms, change of government and political parties. They don't sell their birthright to ruling parties, ruling governments and heads of state. They maintain their positions of integrity to please God and God alone!

3. Joseph is another man of integrity

He moved from slavery to Prime Minister of Egypt. He refused sexual harassments from his boss, Portiphar's wife, ended up in jail, excelled there in jail and got promoted to the post of Prime Minister. Very similar to the Late President Nelson Mandela's story of integrity. He stood his ground and paid the price of 27 years of incarceration at Robben Island, but came out victorious in the end. Integrity can be very costly, but pays off big time, far beyond its cost. It is a net gain to lead a life of integrity!

4. Esther was a woman of integrity

She was an orphan in a foreign land, being cared for by her uncle, Mordecai. That's a recipe for a lifestyle of prostitution, but Esther kept herself pure and ended up as queen in a foreign land of the greatest kingdom of her time. - 27 provinces from Ethiopia to India. A whole book in the Bible is reserved for her story! Integrity pays off!!!

Excellencies,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Fellow students and graduands,

Now, let me briefly share a couple of my personal testimonies with you.

1. As Assistant Deacon at Presec, I was responsible for counting the offering and bringing the funds to the Chaplain's residence after every Sunday evening service. My pocket money was just two Ghana cedis, and every Sunday, I would carry over 100 Ghana cedis in coins to the Chaplain. All I needed were two 50 pesewa coins and my weekly supply of hot "bofrot" (doughnut), meat pie and ice-cream would be assured. Yet because of the Presbyterian discipline and the fear of God (from home), I did not touch a pesewa from the school offering. Indeed as Confucius has stated, a nation's strength derives from real integrity that has its roots and foundations at home. The school forum then builds on it to prepare us for society and national development.
2. As a World Bank staff, I was once sent on a mission to Nigeria to go and close down a

project in which 34 project vehicles had been taken by a State Governor for his newly formed cabinet. On arrival, I met with the project management team and all the project staff had apparently been warned to lie to me that all the vehicles had been returned to the project. After the meeting assuring me that the vehicles had been returned, I stepped out of the conference room and was on my way out to do a field visit when a young lady sneaked out of her office, left a slip of paper in my hand and dashed back quickly into her office. When I opened the slip and read it, it said: “don’t believe any story they have told you about the vehicles; none of them has been returned by the State Governor”. I went back into the conference room to confront the project manager, who finally admitted that indeed the vehicles had not been returned, and the military Governor had warned he would fire anyone who disclosed the truth to me. I led the project team to meet with the military Governor who also confirmed the vehicles were still with his office. I advised him to take a couple of the project vehicles for the agriculture ministry and do likewise for other sector ministries financed by the World Bank and the donor community, instead of completely immobilizing the agriculture project. Of course, the military Governor was not happy with what I had done and wanted to get back at me. He organized a dinner in honor of the World Bank mission and brought cultural dancers to grace the occasion. The following morning, I went to say farewell to the Governor and he gave me a parcel shaped in the form of a VHS cassette. It was typical for the State Governments to give us a copy of the video cassette of the program done in our honor, so I initially thought it was a VHS recording of the night dinner held in honor of my mission. However, just before going to the local airport to fly back to Lagos, God spoke to me to check the parcel, and to my utter shock, it was full of 25,000 brand new naira notes! I went immediately to report the matter with the Governor of the state next to this Governor and left the funds with him. I could not return to the Governor who tried to bribe me, because I would have missed my flight to Lagos. I asked the other State Governor to warn his colleague that the next time he attempts to bribe me, I would do a press conference and expose him. Upon returning to the World Bank resident office in Lagos, I reported the incident to the Resident Representative for the record. This incident took place during President Ibrahim Babangida’s regime when military governors had real power.

God himself is the rewarder of men and women of integrity, so aim at pleasing God if you want to be a man or woman of integrity.

Let me talk briefly about bribery and corruption

Bribery and corruption have become a canker in our society, as it is in many other countries. Here are some facts and figures on corruption that i gleaned from the UNDP anti-corruption website.

- The World Bank Institute estimates that \$1,000 billion (1 trillion) are paid in bribes per year

- The Asian Development Bank estimates that corruption can cost a country up to 17 percent of its GDP.
- The 2010 annual report of Global Financial Integrity estimates that us\$1.8 trillion was the volume of illicit financial flows from Africa between 1970 and 2008.

Corruption has the power to undermine human development and even democracy. It arrests the supply of public goods and services in general by diverting public funds into private pockets. Many enter politics poor and become wealthy overnight. In 2009, the UN Secretary-General made the following statement for the international anti-corruption day: “When public money is stolen for private gain, it means fewer resources to build schools, hospitals, roads and water treatment facilities. When foreign aid is diverted into private bank accounts, major infrastructure projects come to a halt. Corruption enables fake or substandard medicines to be dumped on the market, and hazardous waste to be dumped in landfill sites and in oceans. The vulnerable suffer first and worst.”

Is it not a shame for Ghana that after 58 years of independence, as the first nation south of the Sahara to become independent, the best city road in our capital was financed by a foreign nation! Look at the “tatale” roads we make, yet we have the best engineers. Lack of integrity makes us sign off on mediocre work with sub-standard performance contracts. If we break our own procurement rules and build sub-standard highways, we will suffer for it. I wonder what roads Ghanaians expect to drive on when they import expensive flashy cars that can go up to 240-300 km/hr. Those expensive cars were built for first class roads, not the cheap ones we are cutting corners to build. We have become excellent dodgers of potholes and end up driving in zig-zag manner with horns blowing every second. What chaos! And that is our own making! Not the IMF, not the World Bank, nor the African Development Bank or any donor country. It is time to re-examine the poor levels of performance we have compromised our standards to. Whatever standards we choose to accept knowingly or unknowingly, directly or indirectly, ultimately determine the quality of life we end up with.

Peter Eigen, a former colleague of the World Bank, set up Transparency International, and came up with the Corruption Perception Index, CPI

The CPI scores and ranks countries/territories based on how corrupt a country’s public sector is perceived to be. It is a composite index, a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions. The CPI is the most widely used indicator of corruption worldwide.

Switzerland was ranked 5th out of 175 nations. Ghana was 61st in the world ranking and 8th in Africa, but has probably slipped in 2015 rankings.

Nigeria was 136th in world ranking but Abacha's money was at the Swiss Bank.

So, here is the catch that very few people are talking about, The Swiss Banks operate under their principle of code of secrecy and have ended up protecting stolen wealth and/or honest wealth trying to escape and dodge the payment of national taxes. The USA is pushing the Swiss Government to drop the code of secrecy and release information of American citizens trying to dodge taxes. The USA has helped to put pressure on Swiss banks to return the stolen monies from Abacha of Nigeria and Aquino of the Philippines.

So, to the Swiss bank taking deposits of stolen wealth, I say, aiding and abetting theft is equally damaging as stealing stolen wealth. If my son goes to my bank manager to deposit GHS 10,000 in his bank when my bank manager knows that I give my son pocket money of just GHS200, and the bank manager fails to alert me, he is equally culpable.

So Transparency International should do a more comprehensive analysis and examine both the demand and supply sides of the corruption problem. If they do so, Switzerland may well be far below Nigeria and other African countries on the CPI ratings if we factor into the CPI, the code of secrecy that Swiss banks use as their justification for taking on some of the funds that they know are stolen wealth.

In short, integrity cannot be a respecter of persons and/or nations alike

Fellow students and graduands,

As you move on into the reality of life, go and use the knowledge you have acquired here to think about how you can make a lasting contribution to Ghana and humanity.

Don't go and join or set up an association of the unemployed graduates; don't look for an uncle or powerful politician to fix you a job in the public sector that you are least qualified and trained for. Rather, go and work hard to find a job you are qualified for or become an entrepreneur to employ people.

It is only in developing nations that the public sector is the largest employer of people; in developed nations, the private sector is the lead employer. That is why our politics is upside down. People with average incomes trying to make a living, enter politics and find themselves in the public sector amassing ill-gotten wealth to drain the national coffers. Some of our politicians (past and present) have become parasites preying on public funds to flaunt ill-gotten wealth. Only a few are living a symbiotic relationship with the public sector by providing selfless service that warrants the benefits they are receiving from tax payer's funds.

Governments past and present should promote private sector development, and stop harassing companies seen as opposition party companies. If you destroy them, they take

their capital away and create more unemployment to burden government. Rather, Governments should encourage all private businesses whether they support your party or not and tax them to generate more public funds to provide public goods and services. That is what development is all about. In America, the republicans and democrats are sworn arch enemies fighting all the time, but none of them goes against each other when it comes to promoting business and making wealth to grow their economy. Let us grow up and stop the vindictive behavior we caption as politics.

It is a selfless attitude underpinned by integrity and an innate desire to help humanity that receives divine approval for true and lasting wealth. Some 40 years ago, Bill Gates saw the value of computers to society and wondered why the main frame computers could not be at the desk of every home. That is how Microsoft was birthed. He ended up becoming the richest man on earth, giving us\$250 million research grant for Africa and developing nations, every year! Think about it!

Elizabeth Holmes is the latest American billionaire under 40 years. She is the only billionaire and woman among the ten richest young Americans who did not get their billions from social media or inheritance. She said on a CNN documentary that she hates to see too much blood drawn from our bodies to do simple tests, so researched hard and came up with a solution that relies on nanotechnology to take just a drop of blood from the fingertip to get every conceivable medical result that a medical doctor needs to diagnose medical problems of patients. For your information, Elizabeth was a drop out from Stanford University but has managed to create a medical services company (Theranos). That's a drop out who used her thinking cap to develop something beneficial to assist humanity.

So, go and think likewise, and become a CEO of your own company to help build Ghana.

I am expecting millionaires and billionaires from this group.

I will like to end my speech by saying a short prayer for you. I did not check this with the university authorities for political correctness. I am sharing on the basis of my personal beliefs as a Christian.

Many will frown at this because this is supposed to be a learned institution. Look at the “aka pompo” gowns all over the place! But i know and have seen men dressed in suits consulting fetish priests and other satanic sources for promotion in the corporate world. When the African Development Bank was retrofitting its office infrastructure to introduce internet some years back, black pots with all kinds of charms in them were found sitting in the ceiling of many offices. A senior management staff at the African Development Bank was rushed to a hospital on an emergency, and when he was de-robed to put on the typical hospital dress gown, all kinds of charms and amulets were found hidden under his suit on

his body. An Indian colleague at the World Bank invited me to his house for dinner, and right at the entrance of one of his rooms, there was an altar with burning incense, and he was proud to show me his Buddhist altar without any apologies!

Politicians across many countries and here alike are slaughtering innocent lives, including burying pregnant women and children alive to get power. Fishermen are burying albinos on the sea-shores of Ghana and other African countries to appease the gods in order to have more fish harvest. This is evidence from UN staff I know who were doing surveys in fishing villages, so we are not talking theories here.

So, as a practicing Christian, I cannot end this Commencement Address without bringing God into the picture. My 30 year experience at the World Bank and African Development Bank has opened my eyes to see what goes on in the corporate world. It is war, to say the least! It is deadly competition of survival of the fittest, and qualified, educated and elite professionals use all kinds of dubious means to get ahead of their colleagues.

Fellow students and graduands,

A life of integrity underpinned by the fear of God is what I present to you today. Go and shine by living a lifestyle of integrity. Fear God and work hard, for God will not bless the lazy and indolent.

Finally, let me remind you that:

You did not choose your parents,

You did not choose your sex (male or female),

You did not choose your nationality,

Neither did you choose your race,

You did not choose the continent and country of birth. (in fact, if God had allowed us to do so before our birth, Africa will be probably an empty continent today)!

You did not choose the day, place and time of your birth

And if you live a normal life, you will not choose the date of your death.

If you did not choose your arrival to and departure dates from the Earth, plus all of the above, what makes you think you can handle the life in between without recognizing the one who placed you here on earth?

This is my prayer for you.

May God bless you and empower you to achieve the destiny He fashioned for you before your arrival on planet Earth, and may He give you the courage to stand for the truth and speak out no matter the consequences. May He bless the work of your hands and make you a blessing to your family, your community and your nation in Jesus' Mighty Name! If you

agree with that simple but powerful prayer, let me hear a resounding AMEN from you!!!

Congratulations to all the graduands!
God richly bless you.
And thank you for your kind attention.

VALEDICTORY SPEECH DR. DOMINIC OSEI

2136 days of wondering, wondering if we would make it to this day as the graduating class of 2015. Fellow graduates, join me in welcoming our esteemed guests:

Honourable Minister of Education,

Chancellor of the University of Ghana,

Chairman of the University of Ghana Council,

Vice-Chancellor,

Honourable Ministers of State,

Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences,

Chairman of the Veterinary Council of Ghana,

Your Excellencies and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Members of Convocation,

Parents and Guardians,

Alumni,

Fellow graduates,

Invited Guests,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am greatly privileged to deliver the valedictory speech on behalf of my fellow graduates. This is a moment replete with mixed feelings because we are torn between the joy of our memories and the excitement of our future.

First, we give thanks to the Almighty God. He deserves the praise for all the bliss we see and the joy we have today. A song of gratitude we sing for our parents and guardians; Ladies and gentlemen, I believe you will all agree with me on the irreplaceable role our parents play in our lives; they serve as a conduit for the care, love, training and support that God has wielded in life for us.

I will like to say congratulations to my fellow graduates for their hard work. Our hard work has indeed paid off. We entered the confines of our cherished University as an unwritten book eager to fill the pages; a book that would be written on our own terms. University of Ghana did not only provide us with a place to learn, but a true home. Fellow colleagues, let us give thumbs up to the leadership of this great university for creating a suitable aura for the achievement of the success we see today.

It seems like just yesterday when we had orientation and moved from one place to another searching for our lecture halls. We came onto campus with different backgrounds and different life experiences. We are now leaving this campus as a collective unit to show the world what we are made of we are the class of 2015. Let us put aside the mixed feelings; for as Mother Teresa said: “be happy in the moment, that’s enough.” At this moment, we are in absolute bliss.

University of Ghana has instilled in us tolerance, a passion for life and a desire to make our world better than we met it. Our experiences in this highly esteemed university have been a mixed bag, full of good and seemingly bad times. All these I believe, have contributed to the characters we now possess.

Today marks a point in the success story of our lives. A success story that seeks to better our world. If we take a look around us, what do we see? We see a society in immense need of solutions and progress. Our society needs us; and that is what this university has prepared us for. We are not better unless our country is made better; we will only be remembered for the change we bring into our society. So let our hearts burn with new ideas as we continually add value to our personalities and to our society; we want change and I believe we are the change for today and tomorrow.

Ladies and gentlemen, today marks the culmination of the many events that we have gone through as students. Graduating today as a Veterinary Doctor reminds me of the times my colleagues and I had to wake up around 4 a.m. so as to make trips to the abattoir, the sleepless nights spent inside the laboratory; not forgetting the day we were chased in a pen at Amrahia Farms by an enraged bull after it had been restrained and treated. I wish you were there to see how we took to our heels in different directions. These experiences amongst many spur me on to want to do something to advance veterinary knowledge in our country and beyond. I am certain that my colleagues in other disciplines have similar stories to tell and similar aspirations in their fields.

Fellow graduates, let us continue to uphold the excellence, good character and diligence that we all stand for; with this I believe we can stand tall and compete anywhere in this world. For knowledge alone is inadequate; knowledge only finds its best place in managing and building the society if it is nurtured with good character and goodwill.

Long Live University of Ghana! Long Live Ghana! God bless us all!

THANK YOU!

**REMARKS ON BEHALF OF H.E. THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED BY
PROF. NAANA JANE OPOKU-AGYEMANG, MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Honourable Ministers of State,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduating Class of 2015
Invited Guests, Distinguished
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me much pleasure to join the University of Ghana to present students from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences for graduation at the July, 2015 Congregation ceremony.

I congratulate all the students of the College on their graduation from this great institution of higher learning, of which I am also an alumnus. The Government of Ghana will continue to look for closer partnerships with the institutions of higher learning to propose solutions based on sound research, in order solve problems and to meet the needs of the nation.

I am informed that the first cohort of eight (8) Veterinary Doctors are to graduate from the School of Veterinary Medicine, under the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, since the establishment of the School of Veterinary Medicine and subsequent admission of students in the 2009/10 academic year. I wish to recognize the University, the College administration and all those who brought the School into being.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express felicitations to the PhD students who are graduating today. It is gratifying to note that the University's drive to become a research intensive University is achieving results, especially in the Basic and Applied Sciences, the engine for our national development.

Please allow me to share some interventions at the tertiary level of education with you, with special emphasis on the University of Ghana. I note the Vice Chancellor's appreciation for support from the Government and wish to thank all private donors to the University.

In our bid to close the gap with industry, the Ministry of Education organized a 2-day conference with all relevant stakeholders to help find a lasting solution to this issue.

The conference came out with a 16-point communiqué to inform policy. Prominent among them were the institutionalization and the prolonging of the period of internship for students. The National Council for Tertiary Education in collaboration with COTVET has set up an industrial liaison desk to strengthen the partnership between Education and Industry.

I am happy to note and do commend the University of Ghana for attracting two of the regional centers of excellence into the country and by extension the KNUST, for attracting one. The total project amount is US\$24. The Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Education has played its part in ensuring the success of the project. We look forward to great results in 3 delivering regional, demand-driven, quality training and applied research in partnerships with regional and international academic institutions as well as relevant employers and industries.

In 2014, government completed the ICT distance education project at the University of Ghana under a Chinese government funded loan. The project created modern facilities at each of the regional centers of ICDE by building a minimum of a fifty (50) seat computer laboratory, a video conference center connected to Data Centre at the Legon Campus over the Vodafone National Fiber Backbone.

In our bid as a government to close the gap with industry, the Ministry organized a 2-day conference with all relevant stakeholders to help find a lasting solution to this issue.

The conference came out with a 16-point communiqué to inform policy. Prominent among them were the institutionalization and the prolonging of the period of internship for students to enable them appreciate what is taught in class and at the work place and also the involvement of industry and employers in the labor market in the design of Education and training curricular.

In furtherance with the Ministry's post-2015 science education agenda, the Ministry of Education and the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO will host an Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition from the 14th -16th September 2015 under the theme: 'Harnessing Light and Light-based Technologies for Africa's Development' as part of the celebration of International Year of Light and light-based Technologies IYL, 2015. The International Year of Light stands to promote the central role of light in enhancing the many opportunities derived from the utilization of light and 4 light-based technologies for the welfare of humankind. We look forward to the active participation of graduates from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Through a closer cooperation between government and institutions of higher learning, we can work to formulate policies through sound research outputs

Now to the graduating Class of 2015: I congratulate each and everyone of you. I urge you all to become worthy ambassadors of your alma mater, while allowing your lives to impact positively, various communities and the nation as a whole.

I also take this opportunity to salute all those who have supported you through your education; parents, family, the university, they deserve to share in you joy today. Congratulations!

I wish you the very best in all your future endeavours.

May God continue to bless our homeland Ghana.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHANCELLOR HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. KOFI ANNAN**

Dear friends, as we end today's function I would like to express my appreciation to the Minister for representing the President here today.

This is the first of four congregation ceremony in 2015. It has been a success as you heard from the Minister and I am sure all of you feel the same way. Your presence here has set the tone madam Minister.

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 say we look forward to receiving some of you back as faculty or administrators or in other professional capacities to support the drive to become a research intensive university. We expect that those who do not make it back here will go out there and make an impact in other tertiary institutions in Ghana as well as the public and private sectors.

I heard a lot about change today and I urge you all to go out and be the change you want to see.

I salute all who have worked hard to ensure a successful congregation ceremony. I refer to all 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.

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

I thank you.

