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- **PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009**

- **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR
DR. CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN, FIRST VICE-CHANCELLOR
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 8.30 a.m. Guest to be seated
- 8.45 a.m. Academic Procession
Dawuro
- 9.00 a.m. National Anthem: Ghana Police Band/Methodist
Presbyterian Union Choir
- 9.05 a.m. Chancellor welcomes guests
and declares Congregation
duly constituted H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
- 9.10 a.m. Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. C. N. B. Tagoe
Interlude: University of Ghana Methodist
Presbyterian Union (MPU) Choir
Valedictory Address: Emmanuel Nii Boye Quarshie
Address by Guest of Honour: His Excellency Prof. John Evans
Atta Mills, President of the
Republic of Ghana
Interlude: Ghana Dance Ensemble
Special Awards:
Conferment of degrees: School of Research and Graduate
Studies, Faculty of Arts and
Faculty of Social Studies, Affiliate
Institutions (See list below)
University Anthem: Methodist Presbyterian Union
Choir
- 12.30 p.m. Chancellor dissolves Congregation
National Anthem
Recession

AFFILIATE INSTITUTIONS

- Ghana Institute of Languages (GIL)
- National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI)
- Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ)

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR,
HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. KOFI ANNAN**

Your Excellency, President Mills,
Honourable Minister of Education,
Mr. Vice-Chancellor,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Members of Congregation,
Graduands,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be here in my capacity as Chancellor of the University of Ghana, to welcome all of you to this morning's Congregation ceremony. I extend a special welcome to His Excellency the President, and I thank him for accepting our invitation to be with us this morning. Your presence here, Mr. President, is a clear indication of the special value that you attach to higher education.

Distinguished Guests, in my speech at the Great Hall last August, accepting the University's invitation to me to become Chancellor, I noted that the right to education is one of the basic and fundamental rights enshrined in the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I also stated that it is only through education that one can find freedom and opportunity.

It gives me great pleasure to note that most Ghanaians, whatever their political persuasion, are agreed that the surest path to development for our great nation is through education. It is equally pleasing to note that in the President's recent address to Parliament, he singled out the education sector for special consideration.

Your Excellency, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: last year was a most eventful year for the University of Ghana. The University turned sixty years old and there were several activities to mark this anniversary, including a colourful congregation at which honorary degrees were conferred on twelve individuals. We all know that the University of Ghana has trained the majority of people supplying the highest level of manpower that we have in this country. By this record of achievement, the University of Ghana has earned an enviable place in the league of universities in Africa, and is recognised

worldwide. I am truly proud and honoured to be the Chancellor of such a renowned University.

Distinguished Guests, last year was also a memorable one for our country Ghana because we were able to conduct elections quite peacefully, and eventually we were able to witness another change of government without much turbulence.

I would like to submit that these are indeed great achievements and that we, as a people, should be justifiably proud. I am certainly proud to be a Ghanaian.

I have been told by the Registrar that I should keep the length of my remarks within three minutes; and that on occasions like this, only the Vice-Chancellor has a right to make a long speech.

I have also been told that my role as Chancellor is to confer degrees on deserving graduands and to dissolve Congregation when the ceremony is over. With due respect for the role of the Chancellor as defined by Statute, it is my pleasure to declare this morning's Congregation as duly constituted for the business of receiving a report from the Vice-Chancellor on the work of the University over the past year, and for conferment of degrees on deserving graduands.

Your Excellency, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasant duty to invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation.

**ADDRESS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR C .N. B. TAGOE**

The Chancellor of the University, who is presiding over this ceremony;
His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana;
Honourable Minister of Education;
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament present;
Chief Director, Ministry of Education;
Executive Secretary, National Council for Tertiary Education;
Pro-Vice-Chancellor;
Registrar;
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Colleague Vice-Chancellors of sister Universities (KNUST, UCC, UDS, UEW, UMaT) and their Registrars ;
Past Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of this and sister Universities;
Members of Convocation;
Niime; Naame; Nananom;
Graduating Students;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

WELCOME

I wish you a warm welcome to today's graduation ceremony, the second for the 2008/2009 academic year. Your Excellency, Mr. Chancellor, you are very welcome to your first Congregation ceremony since your investiture. We trust that this will be the first of many Congregations that you will grace.

Your Excellency, President Mills, let me on behalf of the University of Ghana and indeed on behalf of my colleagues of the public universities, once again congratulate you on your election to the high office of President of the Republic and wish you God's blessings for a successful tenure. I wish to also welcome you back home to the campus of the University of Ghana. I am certain that today's ceremony will bring back fond memories of the many years you spent here, first as a student, then as a member of the Faculty of Law.

Our sector Minister the Hon. Alex Tettey-Enyo, you are most welcome also. As a seasoned educationist, having occupied the seat of Director-General of the Ghana Education Service before and having being at one time the ranking member on the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education, few

know more about the challenges facing the sector than you do. You have our best wishes. We will give you the necessary support to achieve your vision for the sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, last November saw the graduation of students of the Faculties of Engineering, Law and Science, together with those of the Business School, the School of Agriculture and the Graduate School. The College of Health Sciences will hold its congregation on the 4th of April, God willing. At this morning's ceremony, deserving postgraduate students and undergraduate students from the Faculties of Arts and Social Studies will be awarded degrees, diplomas or certificates as the case may be. The day is to celebrate our graduands, and as has been the practice for sometime now, members of the graduating class will come up and shake hands with the principal officers of the University and the dignitaries on the dais. Speeches will be kept short; and more detailed information on the work of the University in the period under review can be found in my full address which appears in the Congregation brochure, and in the Annual Report of the University, which are both available at today's ceremony. I ask for the cooperation of all present to make it a truly memorable one for all of our graduands.

GOVERNANCE

Visitation Report Implementation

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, during the year under consideration the University Council received and accepted with a few minor changes, the report of the Visitation Panel that reviewed the operations of the University in 2007. I am pleased to report that the Visitation Report Implementation Committee (VRIC) that was inaugurated in August last year to implement recommendations of the Visitation Panel is making steady progress in its work.

The seven-member committee, chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, has so far implemented some key recommendations in the Report. Significant among these is the ongoing review of the semester/course-credit system, which has been in operation since the early 1990s and is facing considerable challenges.

I would indeed like to put on record, the University's appreciation to the Chancellor, Mr Kofi Annan, for his efforts in getting the Carnegie Corporation to sponsor fully the appointment of Dr French with an amount of \$200,000.00.

Promulgation of Revised University of Ghana Act

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the implementation of several policy decisions and recommendations arising from the Visitation Report, however, has had to await the promulgation of the revised University of Ghana Act by Parliament. These include the revised composition of the University Council, student representation on key statutory boards and committees, as well as a restructuring of the University's financial administration.

It is my hope that this Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic will speedily promulgate the new University of Ghana Act, to enable us to see the full impact of the Visitation Panel recommendations.

Revision of University of Ghana Statutes

Alongside the Visitation Report implementation, the University statutes are also being revised, and the final draft of the revised statutes prepared by the Kofi Kumado Committee, is currently receiving additional input from the University community.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Student Numbers/Admission

Your Excellencies, for this academic year, the University received a total of 22,865 applications for admission. Of the 20,277 undergraduate applicants, 11,700 were admitted to read various programmes, and 6,272 eventually enrolled on the main campus, with 1,479 registering at the Accra City campus. 2,588 candidates applied for postgraduate admission, out of which number 1,352 gained admission, and 1,023 registered to pursue programmes.

The total student population of the University now stands at 35,017, including 508 regular and 492 special admission foreign students. There is an overall male to female ratio of 59:41. The University also oversees the work of another 7,675 in our affiliate institutions.

We have started the process for admissions to the University for the 2009/2010 academic year, and, to facilitate the process, this year, the entire procedure will be on-line. Initial figures show that prospective candidates are keeping up with the new system, and we are hopeful that soon after the closing date for the submission of applications, on March 31st, we will be

ready to start the processing of the applications, to enable admission letters to new students be issued in good time.

Distance Learning

Your Excellencies, a year after the take-off of the Distance Education Programme we continue to see increasing numbers of students applying to undertake their studies through this mode. Currently, there are 2562 in the programme but judging by the interest being shown by Ghanaians in it, I predict that this will reach over 10,000 within the next two to three years. Courses in History, Social Work, Accounting/Management and Information Studies have been added to the original five courses on offer through the Distance Education programme. Preparations are far advanced to add Bachelor of Science in Administration courses.

I would like to commend the Management Team and Advisory Board of the Programme as well as the course writers for effectively coordinating the programme and producing quality teaching modules.

Library Services

The Balme Library, as well as other libraries in the University, is working towards the provision of e-books, improved on-line data access, and access to library resources via the intranet. All these are being done alongside a major increase in the stock of printed books and journals, and the training of staff in the new functions. During the year under review, the University allocated GH¢1,000,000 to support the activities of the Balme Library. The Journal Donation Project has with effect from January 2009 also allocated a total amount of \$12,500 for the acquisition of journals for the Balme Library.

Works on the extensions to the Balme Library are almost complete and will be open to students next academic year.

New Programmes

Your Excellencies, during the year under review, the programme in Pharmacy commenced with the first batch of 34 students.

The Academic Board also recently approved for commencement during the coming academic year, a programme in Veterinary Medicine in the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences.

Other programmes which were approved during the past academic year include a Master of Arts degree programme in Social Policy Studies, run by

the Centre for Social Policy Studies, an elective course in Health Communication and a sandwich Master of Arts Programme in Communication Studies, both run by the School of Communication Studies. A Master of Arts Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies has been introduced in the Department of Archaeology (now the Department of Archeology and Heritage Studies), which has also revised its undergraduate programmes to meet the demands of the market. A preparatory course in Chinese has taken off in the Department of Modern Languages, and Masters Degree programmes in the Department of Classics have been re-activated.

Many Departments are in the process of revising their academic programmes, at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, to make their students more knowledgeable and marketable, and to conform to similar programmes offered by universities worldwide.

Your Excellencies, with the recent oil finds in the country, the University is far advanced in plans to introduce relevant courses with the view to contributing to the development of human and technical resources for the emerging petroleum sector of Ghana's economy. I am happy to announce that the Academic Board has already approved, among other courses, a Masters Degree course in Petroleum Geosciences to be run by the Department of Geology in the Faculty of Science. Other Faculties such as Law and Engineering Sciences are expected to complete developing their courses and bring them on board soon.

A fifth option, Earth Sciences, has been added to the undergraduate curriculum in the Faculty of Science, alongside Biological, Bio-mathematical, Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

Research

Your Excellencies, in the 2007/2008 academic year, the University made available GH¢500,000 from internally-generated funds to Faculty members to conduct research, and for attendance at conferences. The University has again in its budget for 2009 made a similar allocation. We expect the GETFund to at least match this amount.

The Research and Conferences Committee has put in place measures to facilitate the accessing of funds for research, and I believe committees are in place at the Faculty level to review applications for support.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am again pleased to report that in spite of extensive teaching commitments involving large student numbers, members of Faculty

continue to collaborate on research projects with colleagues both within their own Departments and in other departments and institutions in Ghana and beyond. The Vice-Chancellor's report, which is available at this ceremony, catalogues over 1000 on-going research projects, which have so far netted a total of 857 publications of various types. I congratulate you, colleagues, and urge you to continue to work hard on research and publications, which go a long way towards enhancing research and scholarship as well as personal advancement in the University.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Academic Board recently approved for commencement during the coming academic year, a programme in Veterinary Medicine in the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences.

SPORTS

Chancellor, we know that as a keen sportsman and sports administrator, issues related to sports are very dear to His Excellency the President's heart. As a University, we have, since 2005, begun a process to better integrate sport into our academic programmes and have also taken steps to focus more on wellness issues for students and staff. This has involved significant administrative, infrastructural and programme development.

Mr. President, key sports facilities on the University campus are near completion. The turf and tartan tracks of the stadium have been laid to international competition standard, the Olympic size swimming pool has been completed and is undergoing testing, and the gymnasium has been completed and is currently awaiting equipment. We however still lack an indoor sports hall for all-weather sporting activity, as well as quality ball game courts for tennis, basketball, handball and volleyball.

We would like to appeal to the corporate world to take advantage of the sponsorship and branding opportunities that our new facilities and programmes offer and invest in University of Ghana sports. The presence of these facilities, together with increased funding from sponsors will not only enable us achieve our aim for sports in the

University, but also enable the University play its rightful role with regard to the country's strategic plan for sports.

We also appeal to your government to take steps to ensure increased awareness of the importance of sports in our everyday lives. As the adage goes, a healthy nation is a wealthy one, and it is our wish to see sports reintroduced as the important part of the curricula that it should be, at all levels of our education system.

STAFFING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the University is tackling the issue of faculty development as vigorously as it can. With the support of the GETFund and with its own resources, it is funding the training of many MPhil and PhD students both here and abroad. Indeed, the academic year under review saw the graduation of 16 PhD candidates in various fields. Plans have been draw up by the School of Research and Graduate Studies for another 26 M.Phil-holding Faculty members to embark on doctoral studies. Orientation programmes, teaching innovation funds, start-up research grants and mentoring are to be reintroduced to assist young lecturers and to improve capacity for teaching and research.

The staffing position of the University is provided in the Table on page 33 of the Programme.

With a Faculty strength of 951, we have an overall student:teacher ratio of 39:1. It is our hope that with the new Faculty development measures put in place, we should make progress towards the approved norms in the coming years.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Your Excellencies, the past year saw the granting of a concessionary loan of nearly US\$8.2 million by the Chinese government for the improvement of ICT infrastructure in the University. A Value-for-Money Assessment, which is necessary for drawing down the loan, is currently being carried out. Despite the addition of 4Mb/s via SAT3 to the University's bandwidth portfolio, we still encounter difficulties with speed of access to increase internet access. The University is therefore procuring another 20Mb/s of

bandwidth. It is expected therefore that, come next academic year, the University will operate on 25Mb/s and hopefully, these difficulties would have been resolved.

BENEFACTIONS

Ladies and gentlemen, various Departments and Units of the University received very kind donations from individuals and organizations in the period under review and for which the University is most grateful. The donations were in the form of books, journals, teaching and audio-visual equipment, research equipment and reagents, scholarships, prizes and money to support specific programmes and projects. Notable among these is an amount of US\$677,000 from the Generation Challenge Programme to the West African Centre for Crop Improvement, for PhD training in Plant Breeding. Further details are presented on pages 26-32 of the Congregation Programme.

STUDENT ISSUES

Student Governance

As I reported at the last Congregation, elections held in May last year to choose new executives of the Students' Representative Council, were marred by irregularities, and some results had to be cancelled. The Secretary of the SRC has therefore for the past academic year acted as SRC President. It is my hope as they go into a new round of SRC elections in a few weeks' time, our students will take a cue from last year's national elections, and see to it that the elections are held in a free and fair manner. I also call on all lawfully appointed officers who have a role to play in the elections to ensure that they are impartial and carry out their duties to the best of their ability, so that at the end of the process, fairness and democratic principle will be seen to have prevailed.

Financial Support for Students

For the 2007/2008 academic year, the Students Financial Aid Office (SFAO) awarded financial aid to a total of 319 students from the three campuses of the University. For the 2008/2009 academic year, the SFAO has so far awarded scholarships to 200 students.

Total scholarship disbursement by the office increased from GH¢12,100 in the 2005/2006 academic year to GH¢45,331.52 for the 2007/2008 academic year, with significant increases in the number of students applying for and being awarded assistance.

Since the 2005/2005 academic year, almost 1000 students from Senior Secondary Schools classified as less-endowed by the Ministry of Education have benefited from fee waivers awarded by the University, amounting to over GH¢ 130,000.

The office continues to receive substantial financial support from individuals and organizations, and I wish to acknowledge the following donors:

- Ghana Reinsurance Company Ltd.
- HFC Bank Ltd.
- All Nations Education
- Educational Pathways International (USA)
- Fidelity Bank
- International Central Gospel Church (Legon Branch)
- Legon Interdenominational Church
- Lebanese Women's Association
- Ecobank Ghana Ltd. Ghana Commercial Bank
- Christ Anglican Church, Legon

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with much pleasure that I report that a 1998 alumnus of the University has recently established a fund known as Goodwill Help, and has committed \$320,000 to support up to 40 students over an eight year period, beginning from August 2009.

We are indeed grateful, and I wish to call on other public spirited persons and institutions to help us come to the aid of brilliant students who without assistance may not be able to pursue their dream of acquiring a university education.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Ladies and gentlemen, the infrastructural development projects on all our campuses are progressing steadily. Particularly impressive is the pace of work on the hostel project being undertaken on the southern side of the campus. It is hoped that some of the blocks will be ready for occupation next academic year. With the 7120 residential places that will become available when the entire project is completed, we will take steps to decongest the traditional halls of residence.

At this juncture, I would like to commend the GETFund for its kind support over the years, which has enabled the University embark on a number of

infrastructural projects which are pushing us nearer to reaching our goal of significant increases in enrolment in the Sciences. The Physics Laboratory and the School of Public Health buildings have been completed, while work on the Central Science Laboratory and the Faculty of Engineering Sciences building is progressing steadily.

Also, refurbishment of a number of laboratories in the Faculties of Science and Agriculture will commence in the next few weeks. On completion, these laboratories will be equipped at the cost of 6 million Euros.

The current status of major projects being undertaken can be found on pages 36 and 37 of the Programme.

GRADUANDS

Performance

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, 4,737 students are graduating today, and the breakdown is as follows: 351 diplomates, 4,135 undergraduates and 251 post-graduates; which number includes 4 doctoral candidates.

18 per cent of the diplomates obtained distinctions, with 9.5 percent of undergraduates obtaining First Class degrees, 31 percent Second Class Upper degrees and 51.8 percent Second Class Lower degrees. Congratulations to all of you.

As you go out into the real world, I wish you well, and I urge you to be worthy ambassadors of the University of Ghana. There are bound to be challenges, but I am certain that the academic and social training you have received here will serve you well in facing any obstacles you meet.

To your parents, guardians and in some cases spouses of our graduands, I salute you as well. Your support and sacrifice have played a major part in the success your loved ones are celebrating today. I urge you to remain solidly behind them and continue to encourage them as they embark on their life journeys.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, before I take my seat, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of members of the various Boards and

Committees that see to the smooth running of the University, as well as the contribution of members of faculty, administrators, and students. I encourage you all to continue with the good work.

It is with mixed feelings that I inform you that this Congregation is the last on for our Registrar Mr. Alfred Teddy Konu who retires at the end of this academic year, after 39 years of service to this great institution the last 10 of which he has served as Registrar. I would like to use this occasion to thank him on behalf of the University for all his contributions to the work of the institution. Few parallel the dedication he has exhibited over the years.

I would also like to again thank the government and people of Ghana for the continued support for the University of Ghana, through subvention and funds provided by the GETFund. We are indeed grateful.

Your Excellencies, Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for gracing this occasion with your presence, and wish you well.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, PROFESSOR JOHN ATTA MILLS

His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University of Ghana
Honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Alex Tettey-Enyo
Mr. Vice-Chancellor
Mr. Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Members of Convocation
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Niimeɛ, Naameɛ, Nananom
Graduands
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure to be here with you at this morning's Congregation ceremony. This occasion also marks a sort of homecoming for me. As many of you know, I was a student at this great University and I also taught here for well over two decades before straying into national politics. Believe me therefore when I say that my heart is still here at Legon.

Mr. Chancellor, I would first of all like to thank all those from the University of Ghana who sent me congratulatory messages on my election to the high office of President of the Republic of Ghana. To you Mr. Chancellor, I would like to say a special word of thanks in public acknowledgement of the crucial role that you played in ensuring a peaceful transition from the Kufuor administration to my administration. I thank you all for your good wishes and I promise not to let you down.

Mr. Chancellor, we are here to celebrate the achievements of these young men and women gathered here today. It is therefore not an occasion for long speeches and I do not intend to do that. I only have a short and simple statement to make to Congregation and indeed all Ghanaians.

The message is that my administration believes passionately in the crucial role that education is expected to play in our vision of building a better Ghana. My administration will therefore ensure that to the extent possible, adequate financial and material resources are made available to the education sector so that every Ghanaian child is able to develop his or her talent to the optimum. As I clearly stated in my State of the Nation Address to Parliament some few weeks ago, my administration will address the management inefficiencies which affect equity and quality in the educational system. We will also take a

critical look at the utilization practices of the GETFUND with a view to ensuring that the GETFUND is used for its proper objects.

Mr. Chancellor, I note that the University of Ghana last year celebrated its 60th Anniversary. I have followed very closely the programme of activities that marked the celebration. I would like to publicly congratulate the University of Ghana for the leadership role that it has played and continues to play in the provision of tertiary education in Ghana and the sub-region.

To the staff especially, I would like you to know that I do appreciate your hard work and sacrifice. I would also like you to know that Government believes that teachers generally, deserve to be better remunerated. My administration will work hard to ensure that teachers from Primary School to University are treated more equitably. In short, Mr. Chancellor, education comes topmost in my scheme of priorities. I hope I can count on the support of the Universities at all times in our quest for a better Ghana.

Mr. Chancellor, I also note that my own Faculty, that is the Faculty of Law is this year celebrating its golden anniversary. I know very well the contributions that the Faculty has made in training lawyers for this country. I congratulate the Faculty for this achievement and I wish it many more successes in the years to come.

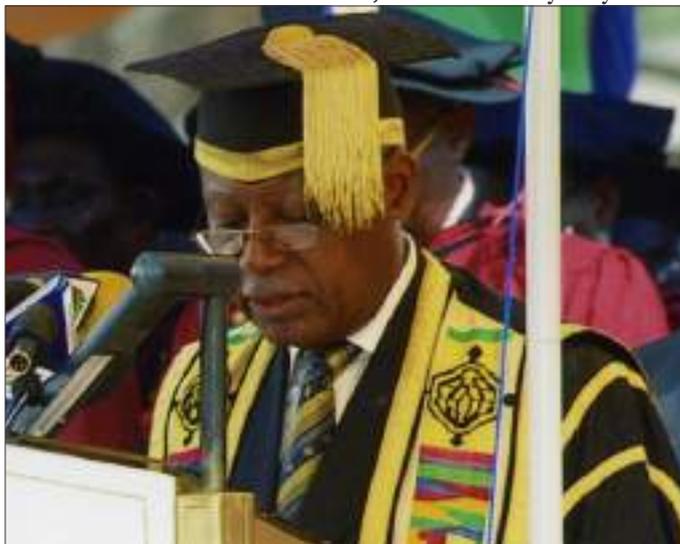
Mr. Chancellor, I must state that I am very impressed with the vast infrastructural developments that are taking place on the Legon campus. We will work hard to ensure that these projects are completed within the shortest-possible time so that our students can begin to benefit from them.

And now, Mr. Chancellor, my final word is to the graduands. You have all worked hard to earn your various degrees. You have my congratulations. I urge you all to put your knowledge and skills to good use, so that together, we can build a better Ghana for ourselves and for generations to come. Let the principles of honesty, integrity and fairplay be your guide in all that you do. God bless you all and God bless the University of Ghana.

Thank you.



His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor, delivering his Welcome Address during the Congregation. Seated behind is His Excellency Prof. John Atta Mills, President and the Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Alex Tettey-Enyo.



Professor C.N. B. Tagoe, Vice-Chancellor, delivering his Keynote Address



His Excellency Professor John Atta Mills, President of the Republic of Ghana delivering his Address



Mr. A. T. Konu, Registrar. Behind him are His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor; His Excellency Prof. John Atta Mills, President Of the Republic of Ghana.



Procession of dignitaries and officials to the Congregation Grounds



Mr. Emmanuel Nii Boye Quarshie delivering the Valedictory Address.

AYEKOO

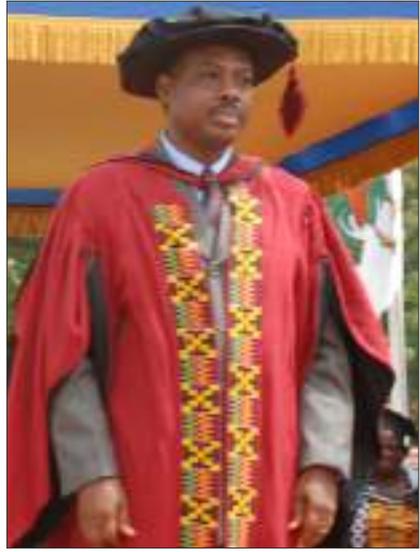


A proud moment for Graduands at Congregation

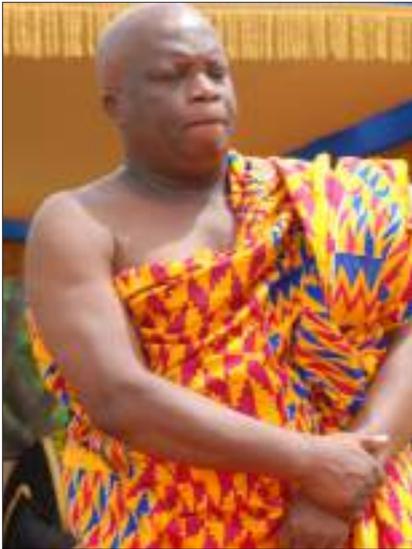
SPECIAL AWARDS



**Professor William Reginald Phillips
Distinguished Award for
Meritorious Service**



**Professor Kwadwo Ofori
Best Teacher Award for the
Sciences**



**Mr. Nana Yaw Boachie-Danquah
Best Teacher Award for the
Humanities**



**Hajia Reikia Haruna
Best Worker Award**



First Class graduands receiving acknowledgement from Platform Party.



Mr. Jonas Awindago Alalbila, physically impaired student who graduated with a First Class, being acknowledged by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana.

VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. EMMANUEL NII-BOYE QUARSHIE

His Excellency Professor J. E. A. Mills

His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, the Chancellor of the University of Ghana
The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana and other Vice-Chancellors
of sister Universities

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor and other Pro-Vice-Chancellors of the sister
universities

The Registrar and other Registrars of sister University's present
Provosts, Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, Senior Members
Nii mei; Naa mei; Fellow Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel so much honoured to stand before you on this august occasion to deliver the valedictory speech covering a reflection of life as an undergraduate, the expectations as a graduand and the hopes as to how to translate these expectations into the practical real life situation outside the University. I deem it extremely humbling but also exciting, today being the culmination of a goal completed the celebration of the end of an exciting chapter of our lives. We all came to the University of Ghana submerged in a sea of dreams so varied from each other but with one common unifying ambition: to get to this point, to be right here...to graduate.

There is a known saying that, "Life is NOT measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away". The passage of our undergraduate years has indeed recorded periods of distress, frustration, great joy and tension most of which will be indelibly etched on our memories. These memories are the building blocks upon which our goals, dreams, aspirations and our future are built. I am sure every graduate here will recall the moments of eagerness and anticipation during our "freshers" orientation days, and the first week of the semester, how we strived to familiarize ourselves with the pseudonyms of places on campus such as "tingi-tingi" (for Jones Quartey Building), "Tsunami" (New N-block), the "Bermuda triangle" (for the three-tiered location of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science departments) among others. More importantly, we cannot forget how the "In-Out-Out-In" students' residential policy introduced in our year (despite the vehement opposition by students) automatically made some of us "perchers" and "floating perchers". We cannot forget the times when friends saved seats for us during lectures,

moments when we had to squeeze up in the then ever crowded lecture halls together, the times of stumbling into the wrong lecture rooms, the moments when we were chased out of libraries at their closing times by the sound of “Pavlovian conditioning bells”, and the moments when we had to photocopy notes and handouts to prepare for impending interim assessments and seminar presentations.

Fellow graduates, the twists and turns of campus life, the humbling experience of learning that sometimes we do not know it all, the taking of a step of faith to get to know new friends and lecturers, to trust them and open our hearts to them are priceless lessons that money cannot buy. When we were students, we craved Legon for higher grades, a degree, a diploma and a job but we have received skills, knowledge, self-discipline and virtue the arrows we need in our quiver to go out there and chart our individual career paths in the realms of philosophy, languages, mathematics, economics, sociology, psychology, politics, the performing arts among others.

Herbert Spencer, a British philosopher and sociologist said, “The great aim of education is NOT knowledge but action”. As we leave the sheltering walls of Legon many of us will head along different paths. Some of us will travel the world. Some of us will continue our education at the graduate and post-graduate levels. Some of us will enter the job market right away. But our mandate is clear: “to proceed in unity to uphold the public cause” and to transform society. The outside world may bring out harsh realities where the pressures of life will continue to grow and the tempting tendency to get rich quickly will stare us in the face. I believe one of the immediate challenges we will face is the age-old society ills of greed and corruption. What we should remember is that honest hard work still rewards and it is that which will bring you fame and recognition. Indeed, it is the community around us that has shaped us into who we are today. Let us be patient and work assiduously for timely rewards. Where and when necessary, let us volunteer our ideas, skills, knowledge and physical strengths to building society.

Apart from our personal aspirations, we should endeavour to make society a better place than we came to meet it for ourselves and for future generations. We must learn to take time to reflect over our own thoughts and behaviours and if granted to change our perception and behaviours. We must learn to foster genuine, honest relationships and value people as worthy and unique individuals. We must learn to think before we speak, and consider the consequences of our actions. We must learn to take time to care, to listen and

to respond to the cries of the poor and vulnerable in society.

During the past four years, we have seen Legon transform and grow. There have been (and still on-going) commendable administrative changes and structural face-lift thereby making the institution a multi-cultural and a stimulating educational community. However, for the sake of posterity, I wish to recommend that the pace of the transformation process should be doubled to foster the good work of departments especially those within the Arts and Social Studies Faculties. Every academic year these faculties receive the highest number of students yet they suffer structural and staffing constraints. The department of psychology, for instance, recommends the scientific methodology for its research activities yet, it lacks a laboratory. Every semester, the departmental library and the offices of lecturers are converted into laboratories to make way for the practical modules of courses. In several departments of the two faculties, lecturers are virtually crowded in their offices and teaching assistants (of whom I am one) have no common rooms at all. Mr. Chancellor, these present disincentive for sacrifice. I believe, if left alone, Legon, cannot solve these problems any moment soon. Hence, I passionately appeal to government, the entire corporate world and all stakeholders to come on board to help expedite the structural transformation process of the University of Ghana especially within the Faculties of Arts and Social Studies.

Before I bring the curtain down on my delivery, let me seize this moment to say that, it is not easy to sacrifice knowledge for other people. Can you compare just the “winning bonus” of a sportsman like Michael Essien to the monthly salary of a professor in this University? It is against this backdrop that, I, on behalf of my fellow graduates extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who pursued the vision to establish this great tower of learning; all who have gone out of the walls of this university as professors, senior lecturers, lecturers and tutors and to all those who are still toiling tirelessly to ensure that the University of Ghana stands the test of time.

May the good Lord bless them all.

Mr. Chancellor, in humility, may I implore you to permit me ask all parents here to be on their feet. Let us together give them a re-sounding applause to show them our appreciation for their sacrifices and unflinching support to see us through the times and seasons of our undergraduate education.

Fellow graduates, face your fears and live your dreams as sons and daughters of this great tower of learning proceeding in “truth and integrity to make our nation proud”. I wish you all the best. May God bless and keep us all.

THANK YOU.

CHANCELLOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Your Excellency the President, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have come to the end of today's business and I should proceed to declare the ceremony closed. Before I do so, however, just a word or two of advice to the new graduates.

The University of Ghana is very jealous of her reputation, and expects that the performance of her products should redound to her credit. As graduates of the University of Ghana, this is the first duty that you owe to your alma mater and to yourselves. I congratulate you on your achievements. But you must remember that you have a responsibility to use your education and the training you received here, for the benefit of Ghana. I wish you all continued success as you embark on your various careers.

To the parents and guardians of our new graduates, the University of Ghana thanks you for your support.

My thanks also go to the teaching staff and to our invited guests.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege and duty to declare this morning's Congregation dissolved.

Thank you, and God bless us all.

SPECIAL AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, 2008 CITATION

WILLIAM REGINALD PHILLIPS, distinguished scientist and Associate Professor of Chemistry: You obtained Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees from the University of Ghana in 1968 and 1969 respectively. You were appointed Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry in October 1972, promoted Senior Lecturer in July 1983, and Associate Professor in March 1997. You served as Head of the Department of Chemistry from September 1996 to September 1998.

In the 36 years that you have worked in the University of Ghana, you have supervised countless dissertations at various levels, and mentored numerous students and junior colleagues. Indeed, you taught or supervised many of the current faculty in the Department of Chemistry. You have contributed immensely to the development of new courses in the Department of Chemistry, and have played a leading role in the strengthening of undergraduate and post-graduate programmes and research in the Department. You have published extensively in both local and international books and journals.

You served as consultant to the then Data Processing Centre and initiated the computerisation of students' personal and academic records. You continue to assist in streamlining the processing of student records. For many years you have assisted with efforts to enhance the efficiency and integrity of the admissions process in the University. You have served as Departmental Examinations Officer as well as Examinations Officer for the Faculty of Science, and are currently coordinator in the Quality Assurance Unit.

You have served with distinction on numerous Boards and Committees, both within the University and outside, and have promoted the image of the University far beyond its walls. You have contributed immensely to the moral and spiritual moulding of students of this University.

You have for many years served as an examiner in Chemistry for the West African Examinations Council.

In all these, you have established a reputation for diligence, honesty, and selfless commitment. In recognition of your immense contribution to the University and the nation, the University of Ghana is proud to confer on you the **DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, 2008.**

We congratulate and salute you.

AYEKOO!

BEST TEACHER AWARD FOR THE SCIENCES, 2008 CITATION

KWADWO OFORI, Associate Professor, Department of Crop Science, College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences. You graduated from the University of Ghana in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. You were appointed Lecturer in the Department of Crop Science, University of Ghana in August, 1989, promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer in June 1999 and Associate Professor in September 2005.

Since joining the Department, you have worked with zeal and rendered meritorious service at the Department of Crop Science and in other Departments where you teach. Your approach to teaching has been commended by your students, who have noted that your patience and methodology adopted in class ensures that students have a good understanding of the subject. The innovations you have introduced into teaching have created an instructional environment which has promoted understanding and also demystified complex topics.

Your colleagues testify that you demonstrate a high level of expertise and professionalism in your extension practice as well.

Besides your distinguished service as a teacher and researcher, you have demonstrated sterling leadership qualities; as Head of the Department of Crop Science and recently as Vice-Dean of the School of Research and Graduate Studies. Your dedication, commitment and intellectual work have been acknowledged by your peers.

In recognition of your contribution to promoting the University of Ghana as a place of learning and excellence, the University of Ghana is proud to confer on you the BEST TEACHER AWARD FOR THE SCIENCES, 2008.

We salute and congratulate you.

AYEKOO!

BEST TEACHER AWARD FOR THE HUMANITIES, 2008 CITATION

NANA YAW BOACHIE-DANQUAH, Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana Business School: You were appointed a Teaching Assistant in the then School of Administration in January 1979, Lecturer in February 1983, and promoted Senior Lecturer in February 1991.

For over thirty years, you have faithfully and selflessly dedicated your life to the service of the University of Ghana in particular and the nation in general, as a teacher of exceptional qualities. In carrying out your duties, you have endeavored to inspire your students to work hard and to achieve their utmost. You have over the years served as a model to young faculty members at the University of Ghana Business School, with qualities such as breadth of knowledge, communication skills, interest in and respect for students, that distinguish you as an exceptional teacher.

Your students are eager to be in class because you are able to relate your real-world experiences to the concepts that you teach. You deliver interesting effective lectures and give relevant assignments, and are noted for giving personal attention to students, even in large classes.

In recognition of your singular contribution and reputation in effectively and efficiently imparting knowledge to students, the University of Ghana is pleased to confer on you the BEST TEACHER AWARD FOR THE HUMANITIES, 2008.

We congratulate and salute you.

AYEKOO!

BEST WORKER AWARD, 2008 CITATION

REKIA HARUNA, Senior Administrative Assistant, College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences. You were employed by the University of Ghana as Clerk Grade II in November 1976, and assigned to the Regional Institute of Population Studies. You have worked assiduously since your appointment, and gained promotions as follows: Clerk Grade I in January 1986, Senior Clerk in July 1993, Administrative Assistant in July 1998 and Senior Administrative Assistant in July 2003.

You have on your own initiative pursued a number of short courses to improve upon your professional capabilities and have successfully brought the knowledge gained to bear on your work.

You accept additional responsibilities at work, and have always discharged your duties with diligence. Your supervisors have described you as exhibiting maturity in whatever you do, and have praised your approach to handling matters pertaining to work.

You have proved to be a reliable and conscientious worker, willing to do more than your share of work without complaint, and have generally been a good influence in whichever office you have found yourself.

You have played a mentoring role towards younger colleagues, and encouraged them to work hard and to prioritise their professional development.

Over the years, you have had responsibility for very sensitive matters in the Departments in which you have worked, and have carried out your duties with honesty, dedication and integrity.

In recognition of your conscientiousness, dedication to duty and meritorious services, the University of Ghana is proud to confer on you the BEST WORKER AWARD, 2008.

AYEKOO!

JOINT & MEMORIAL SERVICE

FOR

DR. CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

(BA, PhD (Dublin), Hon. DLitt (Ghana))

**FIRST VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
(1962-1965)**

**ON SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009,
AT ATHLETICS OVAL**

ORDER OF SERVICE

PART I

7.00 – 7.55 a.m.

- Opening Prayer - Prayer Secretaries
- Praise & Worship - Praise & Worship Tem
- Prayer Time - UCF Prayer Secretaries
- Song Ministration - Mass Choir
- Announcements - UCF Secretary
- Song Ministration - CVC Choir

PART II

8.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.

- Call to Memorial Service - Rev. Prof. Elom Dovlo
- Hymn: - MHB 427: Through all the Changing
Scenes of Life
- Eulogy: - Prof. Alexander A Kwapong
- Introduction of Guest Preacher - Rev. Prof. Elom Dovlo
- Song Ministration - Methodist-Presbyterian Union Choir, Legon
- Sermon - Rev. Peter M. Kodjo
- Song Ministration - Pax Romana Choir
- Memorial Rites - Rev. Prof. Elom Dovlo
- Minute Silence - Rev. Prof. Elom Dovlo
- Anthem - Methodist-Presbyterian Union Choir, Legon
- Song Ministration & Offertory - CCF Choir
- Closing Hymn - MHB 896: Now Praise we Great and
Famous Men
- Closing Prayer & Benediction - Rev. Dr. B.Y. Quarshie
- University Anthem



The late Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR ALEXANDER A. KWAPONG ON THE OCCASION OF THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE DR. CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Senior and Junior Members of the University, Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Nananom, Niimeɪ, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am extremely pleased and honoured to have been invited to pay this tribute to the memory of our beloved first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien. I do so as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor who worked closely with him during his three-year tenure of office when I saw him almost on a daily basis. I found him to be an excellent Vice-Chancellor, a warm and loyal colleague and, in the end, we became firm friends.

Conor agreed to accept the three-year appointment as Vice-Chancellor offered him by President Kwame Nkrumah, Chancellor of the University of Ghana, only after he and his wife Maira had made an exploratory visit to Legon and had satisfied himself that he would be welcomed not only by the President and members of his Government but also by the faculty of the University.

He was well aware that the fourteen-year old University that he was asked to head in 1962 had been in a year long crisis of transition and he saw that his major challenge was to heal the turbulent and fractured relations between the University and the Government and quickly move the University from its first phase of "special relationship" with London University and transform it into a truly independent African University.

To this formidable challenge, Conor brought very impressive credentials: a high international profile and political clout; his bona fides as an anti-imperialist (who had just published his widely-acclaimed book - *To Katanga and Back* - that was very popular in Ghana and is still a classic); his scholarly and intellectual brilliance as a historian and man of letters; and, above all, his fearless personal integrity and courage. Conor quickly demonstrated to the staff and students of the University and indeed the country as a whole that he was the right man for the right occasion. The Chancellor's choice turned out to have been a real masterstroke, but hardly in the way that he had envisaged.

Conor's tenure was for three years, three momentous years that proved to be critical for the University's future survival and development as a viable African institution of higher education and research, second to none.

The first year was a honeymoon period of harmony and collaboration between the new Vice-Chancellor and the President/Chancellor and his Government. Within the University itself, there was a period of internal stability, academic ferment and growth and new curricular initiatives. New Statutes were enacted under the University of Ghana Act and a new motto was adopted for the University: *Integri Procedamus: Progress with Integrity*.

But in his last two years, 1963-64 and 1964-65, this harmony between the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor and the University began quickly to unravel, and by third year it had evaporated and the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor were hardly on speaking terms and waging an epistolary war during this period of impasse.

The following is a typical exchange: Conor Cruise O'Brien: "My dear Chancellor, if you have lost confidence in me and wish me to leave, you only have to tell me." President Nkrumah's response: "My dear Vice Chancellor, If you no longer wish to continue in your job, you only have to tell me and you can go." (Game set one- one draw, match!)

Four issues were at the centre of this breakdown of relations: the sudden abrogation by President Nkrumah of the University Medical School Project that was supported by the United States; the fracas over the Law Faculty and Nkrumah's demand that O'Brien should dismiss all expatriate members of that Faculty, which he refused to do. The two most senior members were both Americans: Professor William Harvey, the Dean of the Faculty, and Dr. Robert Seidman, Senior Lecturer and they were subsequently deported. The third issue was the demand that all students of the University should undergo a new course of "citizenship training", i.e. a course in political indoctrination that would have radically transformed the University on the lines of the Ideological Institute in Winneba. Conor skillfully deflected this demand with an offer to institute in its stead the Inter-Faculty series of lectures, the first of which he himself delivered, (followed by mine on the

topic *The Illiterate Graduate*). The fourth issue was the arbitrary transfer of the Institute of Education from Legon to Cape Coast without due academic process.

In conducting his successful resistance to these demands, Conor could count on the support of the overwhelming majority of the staff and students of the University. In response, the full force of the state and party apparatus was unleashed against the University and it was subjected to fierce daily attacks by the state media and party press and denounced as a "hotbed of subversion" and "neocolonial elitism." First, there were the arrest and detention of the Master of Commonwealth Hall, Professor J. C. De Graft Johnson under the Preventive Detention Act and the arrest and subsequent deportation of Denis Osborne, a British expatriate and Senior Lecturer, also of Commonwealth Hall at a time when the students were sent home to participate in the One Party State Referendum. Their return to the campus was soon followed by the Government's issuing of deportation orders of six other expatriate members of the University, mostly Americans and including the already mentioned Harvey and Seidman. These events brought the deepening crisis in the University to a head on February 7, 1964 when some 3000 party activists and demonstrators drawn from all parts of the country launched a massive preemptive invasion of the Legon campus in a show of force to deter the students from demonstrating against the six deportations. The restive students heeded Conor's advice to remain calm and not be provoked. We were able to defuse the tension in a separate dialogue with the leaders and very serious violence and possible loss of lives were thereby averted.

Conor's public response to these attacks on the University's autonomy and academic freedom came in his Congregation Address in March 1964. It is one of the most brilliant and eloquent addresses in the history of this University and deserves to be read and reread in its entirety by Ghanaians of today. I give the following brief excerpts from Conor's address:

The values to which we adhere have nothing in common with colonialism or neocolonialism. Respect for truth; intellectual courage in the pursuit of truth; moral courage in the telling of truth - these are the qualities of a real, of a living university. Since

the days of Socrates in Greece and Mencius in China these values have been asserted, and have been attacked. None of us, alas, is Socrates or Mencius - and philosophy seems to have fallen on evil days - but no member of an academy can forget, without being unfaithful to his calling, how Socrates lived and how he died ... These are not European values; they are universal values. Mencius taught in China very much in the same spirit as Socrates taught in Greece In Europe, and in America, these values have had at least as many enemies as defenders, as the names of Dr. Goebbels and Senator McCarthy remind us.

This ancient continent of Africa, which gave the world one of its first and richest civilizations, has the right to share in and contribute to the universal intellectual heritage which we associate with Socrates and Mencius. The University has the duty, not only to transmit intact that heritage, but to provide intellectual conditions in which a modern African genius can make his own fresh and unpredictable contributions to the development of the human mind. We are here to provide, in Yeats' phrase:

..... NOT WHAT THEY WOULD/BUT THE RIGHT TWIGS FOR AN EAGLE'S NEST.

Thirty-five years after Conor pronounced these words in the Great Court of this University, he himself has resolutely adhered to these values, in his brilliant and many-sided career since he left the shores of Ghana to be: Albert Schweitzer Professor of the Humanities in New York University; member of Parliament and Government Minister in the Irish Republic; Editor-in-chief of the London Observer; intrepid defender of freedom and democracy, in Biafra, Apartheid South Africa; a lifelong fighter against sectarian and ethnic violence in his native Ireland; and a prolific man of letters.

At this memorial service, we are here to salute and cherish the memory of Conor Cruise O'Brien and acknowledge the great debt of gratitude that this University owes him for his dogged defence of its academic freedom and autonomy and strengthening its commitment to the development needs of our dear nation. Thanks to Conor's inimitable contribution, Legon was able to emerge from the nascent crisis of the mid-sixties relatively unscathed to become the great African university that we know today.

His dearly beloved wife, Maire, played a vital role in Conor's outstanding achievements here in Legon and in his subsequent career elsewhere. Our gratitude also goes to her and we take this opportunity to send to her and her children our deepest condolences and sympathies in their hour of sorrow.

Conor, the University of Ghana for which you did so much, will always remember you.

Rest in Perfect Peace.

