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PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

8.30 a.m. Guests to be seated

8.45 a.m. Procession:
Academic Staff
University Council

Dawuro

9.00 a.m. National Anthem

9.05 a.m. Chairman of Council welcomes guests and declares Congregation duly constituted: Justice Dr. S. K. Date-Bah

9.10 a.m. Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. C. N. B. Tagoe

Interlude: Ghana Dance Ensemble

Address by Guest of Honour:
Mr. Edward Effah, Managing Director,
Fidelity Bank Ghana Limited

Valedictory Address: Ms Eunice Agyeiwah Agyepong

Interlude: University of Ghana Jubilee Choir

Conferment of degrees:

- School of Research and Graduate Studies
- College of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Engineering Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Business School

University Anthem

12.30 p.m. Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

Recession:
University Council
Academic Staff

OPENING ADDRESS BY JUSTICE DR. SAMUEL KOFI DATE-BAH, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Registrar
Guest Speaker
Senior Members, Staff and Students
Graduands
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am presiding over this morning's congregation for the first time as Chairman of the University Council on behalf of the Chancellor of the University. This is because the Chancellor, although he would have liked to, is unable to be with us on this occasion. I would, therefore, like to begin by conveying the Chancellor's greetings and best wishes to you and to welcome all of you to the function.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the new members on the University Council who, like me, are attending their first congregation as Council members. Also, at the beginning of the academic year, Mr. Joseph Maafo Budu, who had earlier been appointed Registrar of the University assumed duty. To Mr. Budu and the new Council members, I convey the Chancellor's welcome and best wishes for a fruitful time in office.

On a sad note, I must mention the passing away of Dr. John Kobina Richardson, a former Chairman of the University Council from 1992 to 1997 and whose mortal remains were laid to rest on Saturday 31st October 2009. Ladies and gentlemen, shall we rise and observe a minute's silence in honour and memory of Dr. Richardson.

Ladies and gentlemen, we now proceed to the main business of the day. So soon, another year has gone by and we are here to witness the graduation of another batch of students. Our gathering here this morning is to perform the normal traditional functions of congregation which include the receipt of a report from the Vice-Chancellor and the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates. In the old days when student numbers were much smaller than they are now, there used to be only one congregation held in an academic year. These days, there are three held in a year, with the main one held in March. At today's congregation, we are graduating students from the Graduate School, the Business School, the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, and the Faculty of Science.

I am told that on past occasions, graduands have been in the habit of deserting their seats after having their turn at the dais and thus marring the beauty of the ceremony. I would appeal to you not to repeat the errors of your predecessors and wait till the whole ceremony is over before leaving. I am sure we would all like to have good memories of this occasion.

Since this is the first time that I am presiding over a Congregation Ceremony, permit me to make a few preliminary remarks before inviting the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation.

“Legon” has been at the cutting edge of the higher education movement in Ghana for over 60 years. During this period, the old certainties of liberal education have come under challenge. The traditional conception of higher education, particularly of universities, was that of a community of scholars and students that pursued knowledge and truth. This pursuit of knowledge and truth was considered to be intrinsically worthwhile. Accordingly, the subjects studied in higher education institutions did not have to have an immediate economic or applied societal value. The process of study was supposed to educate the mind and thereby free and intellectually empower the mind of the individual engaged in the study. In contemporary times this paradigm has been challenged by a more functionalist conception of the aims of higher education. Given the financial contribution that Government makes to higher education, many believe that a criterion for assessing higher education is its contribution to the growth of the economy and to development in general. Thus, for instance, governments, including our own, have demanded that universities serve national economic and social interests. Industry has demanded that graduates from our universities should have marketable skills that it needs. Students, in turn, have demanded university courses that serve their individual economic goals and so on.

The liberal paradigm of higher education, which is basically what the University College of the Gold Coast inherited in 1948, is based on particular institutional assumptions. One of these is academic freedom. The scholars and students of the institution in question must be given as much freedom of choice as possible to pursue their preferred area of academic interest, without undue outside intervention or interference, whether from government or special interest groups. This academic freedom requires a certain degree of institutional autonomy for the institutions of higher education. Thankfully, the institutional autonomy of the University of Ghana has survived the vicissitudes of time relatively intact.

My perception of what higher education is all about is influenced by both the ideas of the liberal paradigm as well as those of the functionalist school, with the functionalist ideas being more dominant. I do not believe that in practice an

institution has to choose the one approach or the other. To analyse the aims of university education in terms of education for its own sake or the usefulness of the education to society and the economy is to present a false dichotomy. For, an educated mind, whether trained in a vocationally oriented discipline or not, is a valuable economic and social resource. The inculcation of a capacity for rational discourse and thought at the individual level is an important element in the development process. Higher education is thus valuable to the development process, independent of any vocational or professional training it may provide. Nevertheless, given the needs of modern day industry, private enterprise, society and government, it is vital for a dynamic contemporary university to respond to the training needs of the economy and the society. Universities, and higher education in general, are of central national importance in the twenty-first century, with the contemporary increased movement towards a knowledge-based economy. Knowledge creation and interpretation are, of course, the business of universities. The Council of this University is mindful of this fact and also of the fact that it has responsibility for a key element in Ghana's emerging knowledge-based economy. Council will do all that we can to ensure efficacy in Legon's fulfilment of its role.

Your Council will also defend relentlessly the institutional autonomy and academic freedom of Legon; at the same time, we realise that this academic community owes an obligation to the country, continent and society in which it is located and to humanity in general to advance the learning and knowledge that will enhance societal well-being and development. Legon should therefore be committed to working towards beneficial social outcomes for the higher education it imparts, in addition to the intrinsic merit of the academic reflection and study which takes place within its walls. What is needed is balance. However, Legon, being located on the soil of a developing country, should naturally give prominence to the needs of development. Research directed at the needs of development should, therefore, to be accorded high priority.

Luckily, your new Council, which took office in June of this year, has inherited a game plan from the old Council which responds to both the needs of liberal education and the demands of a functional orientation. I refer to the report of the Visitation Panel, whose continued implementation the Vice-Chancellor will doubtlessly address during the delivery of his Report.

Your Council is determined to be abreast with new developments in higher education. Accordingly, we will endeavour to spot factors of change which appear on the horizon and give leadership on the management of the change that the Vice-Chancellor and his administration will need to craft and, with our support, implement.

To conclude, let me affirm that your Council is fully aware of Legon's special responsibility as the preeminent site of academic leadership in this country, having been the first University to be established on its soil. This special leadership brings with it a pivotal responsibility for all its stakeholders, including the Council, the Government, the Vice-Chancellor and his administration, Convocation, students, alumni, labour and so on. Council is determined to play its part energetically in the fulfilment and fostering of this leadership role in Ghana. To the graduands, let me say that as you graduate today, we ask of you to be the frontline ambassadors of this leadership role in Ghana. We are confident that you will not let us down.

Ladies and gentlemen, with these preliminary remarks, I now declare the assembly as duly constituted for its statutory purpose of awarding degrees to successful graduands.

It is now my pleasure to invite the Vice-Chancellor to give his Report.

ADDRESS BY PROF. C. N. B. TAGOE, VICE-CHANCELLOR

SALUTATION

Chairman of the University Council;
Honourable Minister of Education,
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament present;
Members of the University Council;
Pro-Vice-Chancellor;
Registrar;
Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and
Registrars of sister Universities;
Members of Convocation;
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished Guest Speaker;
Niimeh, Naameh, Nananom;
Graduating Students;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

WELCOME

Let me also welcome you all to today's Congregation ceremony, the first of the three that will be held by the University for graduands of the just-ended 2008/2009 academic year. The ceremony will award the appropriate degrees and diplomas to students who have satisfied the requirements for graduation, from the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, the Faculties of Engineering Sciences, Science and Law, the University of Ghana Business School, and the School of Research and Graduate Studies.

Our graduates have worked extremely hard to get to this point, and I trust that as we proceed, we will all reflect on the significance of the ceremony, and do all we can to ensure its success.

My report on the work of the University for the 2008/2009 Academic Year will be published in March next year. The present address will therefore highlight the significant activities in the Units which are graduating students today. Before I do so, however, I wish to make a few announcements on changes in the governance of the University

GOVERNANCE

Ladies and gentlemen, you will recall that early this year, government announced the dissolution of the Boards of all its agencies, including the Councils of the public universities. Needless to say, this hampered the work of the University.

Government responded quickly to a request to re-constitute the councils of the universities. As a result, the University of Ghana Council received four new government nominees. The reconstituted Council has his Lordship Mr. Justice Samuel Kofi Date-Bah, JSC as Chairman. Other government representatives are Professor John Meyer Hyde, Mrs. Elizabeth Addabor and Professor Robert Domingo Baeta. New student representatives are Mr. John Mark Bekui, the President of the Students' Representative Council and Mr. Moses Adu-Gyimah, the president of the Graduate Students Association. Representatives for the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG), Convocation, the Teachers and Educational Workers' Union (TEWU), and the Alumni Association remain unchanged.

The University has also made a number of substantive new appointments:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Mr. Joseph Maafo Budu | - Registrar of the University; |
| Professor Samuel Agyei-Mensah | - Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies; |
| Professor Naa Ayikailey Adamafio | - Dean of International Programmes, |
| Professor K. Afreh-Nuamah | - Director, Institute of Agricultural Research, |
| Professor Kwame Boafo-Arthur | - Director, Legon Centre for International Affairs (LECIA), |
| Professor Frederick Rodrigues | - Director of the Academic Quality Assurance Unit, |
| Dr. Emmanuel Owusu-Ansah | - Director of Sports, |
| Mr. Philip Mandy | - Interim Director of Finance |

To all the new appointees, I say “Congratulations and welcome on Board.”

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the University management, I would like to join you in expressing deep appreciation to the former members of Council for their role in shaping the future of this great institution of ours. Mr. Alfred Teddy Konu, who recently retired as Registrar, is also acknowledged for his numerous positive contributions to the work and growth of the University during his over 38 years of service here.

Additionally, two appointments to academic chairs have been made: Professor Kofi Anyidoho to the Kwame Nkrumah Chair in African Studies, and Professor Enyonam Yao Kwawukume to the K.K. Bentsi-Enchill Chair in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Other endowed academic chairs which will be filled in the near future are the

COCOBOD Chair in Agriculture and the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana (ICAG) Chair in Accountancy. While thanking all the sponsors for their generosity, I would like to use this occasion to call on other corporate bodies to emulate these examples to foster academic excellence in the University, and also provide a platform for collaboration between business and academia, which will ultimately benefit the nation's development efforts.

VISITATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Chairman, the Visitation Report Implementation Committee continues with its mandate of implementing accepted recommendations of the Visitation Panel which in the 2007/2008 Academic year, thoroughly reviewed the University's academic programmes, infrastructure, resources, administrative and governance structures. The Implementation Committee, or VRIC, as it is widely known, under the chairmanship of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kwesi Yankah, continues to work towards achieving improvements in these areas.

Notable among the work done by VRIC is:

- The restructuring of the School of Research and Graduate Studies, with a view to mainstreaming and upgrading research as a principle function of this University, and also sharpening the link between University research and industry.
- The University is also working on the development of a four year degree programme to be started next academic year, which will enable academic work done at Level 100 to count towards the attainment of a degree. The notion that Level 100 is 'non-scoring' will soon be a thing of the past. This should hopefully plunge students into serious academic work as soon as they are admitted to the University.

As part of the work of implementing the recommendations of the Visitation Panel, a consultant, Professor Peter French, has been retained for the University by the Carnegie Corporation, and is doing extensive work on re-vamping the course credit system.

A major part of the implementation is the replacement of the University's Act, and I am pleased to note that our sector Minister is making all efforts to get the new law passed this year. We thank him most sincerely for this.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Student Numbers

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, with the enrolment this year of 9,361 new students, the University of Ghana now has a total student population of 33,039.

This number includes 4,438 at the Accra City Campus and 4,358 undertaking their studies by the Distance Mode. Also included in this number are 2,401 post-graduate students.

The presence of foreign students on our campuses does much to enhance the quality of academic and social life on our campuses. Many of our past foreign students have maintained life-long ties with their Ghanaian counterparts and lecturers, and have contributed positively to the establishment and maintenance of relationships between their home institutions and the University of Ghana.

The total number of foreign students currently studying in the University is 902.

Science and Agriculture

Changes in Names of Departments /New Academic Programmes

Mr. Chairman, two Departments in the Faculty of Science have undergone a change of name to better reflect what the Departments now do in terms of teaching and research, to give them new orientation and direction, and to bring them in tune with developments worldwide. The Zoology Department has been renamed the Department of Animal Biology and Conservation Science, while the Geology Department is now the Department of Earth Science.

I am also pleased to report the introduction of several new programmes in the period under review. The Department of Earth Science, formerly Geology, has introduced a number of new courses and programmes. These are the Master of Science in Engineering Geology, Master of Science in Petroleum Geoscience, Master of Science in Mineral Exploration and Groundwater Resources Management. In addition, the undergraduate programme in the Department has been reviewed, and Earth Science is now offered as a fifth option available to Level 100 students in the Faculty of Science, in addition to Biological Science, Bio-Mathematical Science, Mathematical Science and Physical Science.

Revised undergraduate courses in the Department of Physics have been approved. Also approved are undergraduate courses in the Biochemistry Department which combine key elements of Biochemistry, and Cell and Molecular Biology. Two new M Phil programmes have been introduced at the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences. These are Nuclear Earth Sciences and Computational Nuclear Sciences and Engineering.

These are clear indications that there is indeed a major transformation of the Sciences in the University of Ghana in response to national requirements, and we urge future applicants to take full advantage of the new structures the University is creating.

A postgraduate programme in Biotechnology has started at the School of Agriculture, and the School of Veterinary Medicine, also in the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, has admitted its first batch of 11 students.

Ladies and gentlemen, faculty members continue to attract significant research projects to the University, often collaborating with partners from other institutions.

One such project involves the establishment of a center of excellence for training and research in community nutrition. The Nutrition Centre, which will be located at Asewewa in the Upper Manya Krobo district in the Eastern Region, will serve as the training and research site for maternal and child nutrition projects over the next five years, and has the potential to become a nutrition training centre for sub-Saharan Africa. This project is collaboration between researchers in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science and other partners, and has received funding to the tune of US\$280,000 from the Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Programme.

The Department of Nutrition and Food Science has also received a total of Canadian \$1,000,000 from the International Development Centre (IDRC) Chairs Initiative at McGill University in Canada, for the renovation of laboratories, research and graduate studies.

The West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) which is located in the University, and which trains plant breeders needed to develop improved varieties for food security in West Africa, has received additional funding of over 900,000 US dollars. The Centre has therefore received a total of over \$6.8million to enable it carry out its programmes.

Science Education

Mr. Chairman, the ability to create sustainable wealth depends on a strong knowledge base in science-related fields, and we cannot overemphasize the importance of education in science and technology in achieving the development goals of this nation. Developing nations such as Ghana must, as a matter of urgency, train more scientists and devote more resources to science education if they are to compete in a globalized economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is well-known that the vision of the Ministry of Education is to achieve a Science: Humanities ratio of 60:40 in student enrolments. This appears to be a mirage and several reasons might be adduced for problems with science education at all levels of the Ghanaian educational system: the disparity



Procession to Congregation grounds: University officials and dignitaries



Members of Convocation pose for a group photograph after the ceremony



**The Chairman of Council, Justice Samuel Kofi Date-Bah,
delivering the opening address**



**The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C. N. B. Tagoe,
delivering his address**



The Registrar, Mr. J. M. Budu addressing Congregation



The Guest Speaker, Mr. Edward Effah, Managing Director of Fidelity Bank Ghana Limited, delivering his address



Ms. Eunice Agyeiwah Agyepong delivering the valedictory address



University officials and invited dignitaries
rise for the University Anthem



A proud moment for a PhD graduand at Congregation – Dr. Amos Laar, the first PhD graduand from School of Public Health



IGP Paul Tawiah Quaye receives congratulations on successful completion of EMBA Human Resource Management



First class graduands receiving acknowledgement from officials



PhD graduands at the congregation



A cross-section of graduate (Masters) level graduands at congregation



A cross-section of undergraduate level graduands at congregation



Chiefs and other special guests who graced the occasion



A section of parents, guardians and the general public who came to witness congregation

between the cost of courses in the sciences and the humanities; the time required for bench work in laboratories; scarcity of support and encouragement for practical science education, and the use of outmoded equipment. The science curriculum is often very theoretical, making it difficult to relate to everyday life, there is a lack of apparatus, teachers are poorly paid, there are not enough teachers and the few available are overworked. Teachers who are frustrated will often take this out on their students. All of this leads to negative attitudes towards science.

Mr. Chairman, to reverse these trends, we need to properly motivate teachers, right from the lowest levels, and get them to be passionate about science, so that they can in turn transmit this passion and curiosity about science to the children they teach. We need to allocate adequate funding for equipment, laboratories, chemicals and motivation for teaching staff, all of which will come together to make science less abstract, and more interesting to the student, and make them more interested in pursuing science-related programmes at the higher levels.

Additionally, there is the need for a link to be drawn between what is taught in school and what happens outside the classroom, and for science to be taught using up-to-date equipment and modern technology.

For its part, the University of Ghana will ensure that when students reach this level, they are provided with all they require to make the study of science a rewarding experience. Therefore, with support from the GETFund, the University has spent an amount of 6,124,832 Euros to install various specialized laboratory equipment, greenhouses, glassware and chemicals for selected Departments and Units in the Faculty of Science and the School of Agriculture. The refurbishment also included the provision and installation of multimedia systems, computers, large screen accessories and other accessories at a total cost of 708,562.16 Euros.

Additionally, laboratories in the selected units and Departments were structurally rehabilitated from the University's own internally generated resources, at a cost of nearly GH ₵700,000 to accommodate the installation of the new equipment. Most of the equipment procured has been installed and is already in use. The project further provides for training of some Senior Members, Technicians and students in the operation of the equipment.

A new physics laboratory has been completed and is in use. The Central Science Laboratory, which will house the Department of Biochemistry as well as a new Department of Microbiology, is now 96% complete.

Law Faculty

Mr. Chairman, the Faculty of Law celebrated its 50th anniversary in the 2008/2009 academic year, with a focus on the Faculty's contribution to education, governance and socio-economic development. A highlight of the celebrations was reflection on the reforms needed to ensure that the legal education offered students of the Faculty remains relevant within our educational system.

A number of new postgraduate courses in the Law Faculty have recently been approved. These are the LLM, Master of Arts and Master of Philosophy in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Master of Arts in Human Rights and Administration and the LLM and the Master of Philosophy in Oil and Gas Law. Another course, the Introduction to Oil and Gas Production Systems is to be introduced as a collaboration between the Faculties of Law and Engineering Sciences.

The Faculty also aspires to build a reputation as an institution of choice for legal scholars from around the world to conduct research and interact with students and members of Faculty.

Business School

The Department of Finance at the University of Ghana Business School has introduced a number of new courses which will enroll students as from next academic year. These are the Master of Philosophy in Risk Management and Insurance, Master of Science in Development Finance, and the PhD in Finance.

The Physical Development Committee of the University has approved the construction of a Graduate Complex for the Executive MBA programme of the Business School and work on this will soon start.

STAFFING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman, the University has, in the past three years, considerably boosted its budget for research. Through the Research and Conferences Committee, in the 2008/2009 academic year, close to eight hundred thousand Ghana cedis was disbursed to members of faculty for the conduct of approved programmes of research and for attendance at conferences. I must say that it is encouraging that increasing numbers of faculty members continue to take advantage of these resources to enhance their teaching and research in the University.

Mr. Chairman, a Code of Conduct for Senior Members of the University has been approved. The Code is meant to regulate the conduct and behaviour of Senior Members in order to maintain the highest standards in work output, and to enhance public trust and confidence in the University's deliberations.

An Academic Quality Assurance policy for the University has been approved. The Academic Quality Assurance Unit continues its mandate, and in the year under review organised workshops for newly appointed academic staff in pedagogic techniques and assessment of students. Participants were taken through various teaching methods likely to lead to good learning habits, reliable assessment procedures and practices, how to handle large classes, and ways of conducting effective tutorial sessions.

A seminar was also held for newly appointed Heads of Department, Vice Deans and Deputy Directors of academic units. Training was given in Academic Leadership, the Duties and Responsibilities of a Head of Department, Effective Leadership and Teaching, Budgeting, and the laws of the University.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Chairman, the expansion of the University's ICT infrastructure is progressing steadily. With the assistance of MTN and a government-facilitated concessionary loan from the Chinese government, much improvement is expected in the coming months. The Chinese government assisted ICT-based distance education project has kicked off. The following are highlights of the deliverables of the project, which will be rolled out in phases by June next year:

- A total of 500 computers for student laboratories are to be delivered.
- There will be improved connectivity to the halls and faculties using fibre optic cables.
- A modernised Network Operating Centre will be set up to facilitate the ICT-based Distance Education programme.
- Powerful servers and terabytes of disk storage space will be provided to facilitate e-learning on campus.
- There will be substantial improvement in bandwidth usage; and
- A modernised telephone exchange will be set up.

The completion of the project by the middle of next year will pave the way for the roll-out of wireless hotspots in the University.

In recent times the University has increased its bandwidth from 13 Mbps to 25 Mbps, which has significantly improved Internet access speed.

The video conferencing facility at the Staff Development and Learning Resource Centre has been completed and is now fully functional.

GRADUANDS

Output and Performance

Mr. Chairman, a total of 2,134 students are graduating today. This number is made up of 335 diplomates, 1,149 undergraduates and 650 post-graduate candidates. The postgraduates include 8 PhDs, many of whom are teaching staff of the University.

7.7 percent of the undergraduates are graduating with first class degrees, 26.3 percent with second class upper division, and 51.7 percent with second class lower division degrees. 9 percent of the diplomates obtained distinctions.

Well Wishes

Dear graduands, as I stated earlier, today's ceremony is all about you. You have worked hard and burnt the midnight oil, and deserve your moment in the spotlight. I wish you all well as you embark on this new chapter of your life, in which most of you will venture out into the world of work for the first time. It is a tough world out there, but I am certain that the academic and character training you have received at the University of Ghana will serve you well, and you will stand out among your peers as products of the premier University. I urge you to stand up for what you believe in and to let honesty and integrity be your guide in all that you do. I urge you to reflect on the words of the University anthem:

*“May we excel in what'er we do
As we prepare to face the world
With a mind ready at all times
And a conscience quick to feel ...
May we proceed in truth and integrity to make our nation proud”.*

As I noted at Matriculation a few months ago, the undergraduate degree is gradually becoming only a first step to securing a good job placement. A second degree is increasingly becoming the ticket to securing well paid and satisfying employment, so I would urge those who can, to let their achievements which are being recognized today, be only the stepping stone to going on to pursue further academic work.

I would also like to take this opportunity to salute the parents and guardians of our graduands for seeing them through what has definitely been a very challenging period. Your support and encouragement definitely played a major part in their success, and for this you deserve commendation. I urge you to continue to encourage them as they move on to the next chapter of their lives, and to offer them the needed counsel and advice, which they will definitely need.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands.

Before I resume my seat allow me to express our sincere thanks to the government and people of Ghana for supporting the University in diverse ways. We are particularly grateful to the GETFund for its continuing support of infrastructural development in the University and without which we could not have moved closer to our goal of producing scientists with cutting edge skills and expertise.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

**ADDRESS OF GUEST SPEAKER MR. EDWARD EFFAH,
MANAGING DIRECTOR, FIDELITY BANK GHANA LIMITED**

Chairman and Members of University Council

Vice- Chancellor

Members of Convocation

Nananom, Niime, Naamei

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Alumni of the University

Graduands

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure to be the Guest Speaker at this November 2009 Congregation to confer degrees on Graduands from the School of Research and Graduate Studies, Business School, College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Engineering Sciences.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Vice-Chancellor of this entire community of the University of Ghana who in diverse ways have contributed to making this Institution a center of academic excellence in the sub region, through trying and challenging times. It is indeed an honour for me to be associated with such a great institution.

Mr. Chairman, we all agree that the generation and dissemination of knowledge through teaching, research and extension is a core work of the University and that research output is one of the major determinants of a University's reputation and standing. Research is also the source of new knowledge and inventions without which growth and development will be undermined. In view of these, I am happy to note that quite a sizeable number of persons are graduating today with post graduate qualifications. I note further that the disciplines covered in today's ceremony are either professional or practical oriented.

Those of us in industry are often anxious to see how research result can be applied to our businesses to enhance performance and success at whatever we do. I believe that there is a lot that both sides of the divide can gain through effective collaboration and I would urge the University community to continue to explore possible avenues to the fullest. I know a number of Universities elsewhere have created Science or Business Parks, which are run very successfully for mutual benefit and we can learn from these examples.

Mr. Chairman, the increasing demand for tertiary and university education in particular, has led to dramatic increases in student numbers without the

commensurate increases in the human, physical and financial resources available to these institutions. These present serious challenges to all concerned, but I believe that with dedication and good will on the part of all, the issues arising can be addressed satisfactorily. It is therefore gratifying to note that the introduction of the Distance Education programme in most tertiary institution, including the University of Ghana, has been very helpful in allowing qualified Ghanaians to pursue further studies without leaving their homes.

Distinguished Graduands, this is a moment of joy for you all after years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. I join the Chairman of Council and Vice-Chancellor to congratulate you on your achievement. Education they say is not an end in itself but a means to an end. I therefore urge you to see the conferment of Degrees and Diplomas on you today as the beginning of another phase of your life, strive to widen your horizons and acquire diverse skills to enable you become even more relevant and marketable in the corporate world. Your parents and society have invested so much in you and it is your turn to give back to them.

Mr. Chairman, let us be reminded that we are in a period of severe global economic recession, where businesses are folding up, many people have lost their jobs and new opportunities are hard to come by. Hence, I will entreat you all to be innovative and take the initiative to set up businesses on your own. For example, our Bank, Fidelity Bank is in a sector that would benefit greatly from ongoing research and insights to help understand the new financial services landscape and how we are to manage in such turbulent times. This is just one area amongst a host of others that presents an opportunity for some of you young researchers to set up a Market Research firm to meet the needs of this sector. I am confident that there are a lot more areas where your skills and knowledge can be put to good use, and I urge you all to take up this challenge, as I believe you are all very capable.

The world is at a stage where only those who are daring and ready to take risks stand the chance to succeed. Let the training you have gone through in this premier institution permeate all aspects of your life and endeavour to excel wherever you find yourself. This will go a long way to promote the good image of your alma mater.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. God bless us all.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY MS. EUNICE AGYEIWAH AGYEPONG
ON BEHALF OF THE 2009 GRADUATING CLASS**

Chairman of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor,
Registrar,
Representative of the Honourable Minister of Education
Honourable Guest Speaker
Honourable Ministers of State,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Past and Present Vice-Chancellors of this and our Sister Universities,
Past Registrars of this University,
Registrars of our Sister Universities,
Members of Convocation,
Niime, Naamei, Nananom,
Fellow Graduands,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great honour to stand before you on this august occasion to deliver the valedictory address on behalf of the 2009 graduating class. Four years ago, we entered the perimeters of this university with various dreams, goals and aspirations. Thank God one of those dreams of becoming a graduate has become a reality today. Indeed He makes all things beautiful in His time.

As we sit here today, memories of all the happy and sad moments on this campus come to mind. University life is known to be one of freedom, but it comes with lots of responsibilities. We cast our minds back to days when we had to deal with difficult end- of-semester examinations, interim assessments, assignments and long essays; the stress in waiting for examination results, praying for miracles in papers we know did not go too well and also the shock when we got grades lower than what we expected. When we excelled, it was usual for us to say we made the A's; but when we fared badly, we claimed those grades were given to us by the lecturers. We also reminisce of those days of joining very lengthy queues just to have a signature appended on a registration form, rushing for lectures, booking of seats, being sanctioned when phones rang during lectures and we refused to own up, burning of midnight candles, just to mention a few.

In spite of all these, we had a great deal of fun. We cannot leave out the good times shared with the friends we made, the funny comments the girls received on passing by the male blocks, the hall weekend activities and other entertainment

shows. On these grounds, lots of relationships have been nurtured and already wedding bells are ringing. On the whole it has been four years of hard work, determination, fun and pleasure.

Mr. Chairman, life on this campus has not been without some persistent challenges, and we call on University authorities and other stakeholders to do their possible best to improve conditions for those behind us. With the present 'Freshers First' policy, most continuing students had difficulty in securing affordable places of residence and some had no choice but to resort to 'perching', which we know is illegal. Inadequate learning facilities, which results in students queuing so early in the library for space, coupled with inaccessible and outdated reading materials made researching very burdensome for some students who were already stressed out.

During the past four years, this noble institution of ours has undergone various transformations to make life on campus better. In fact we must commend University authorities for the laudable policies and some steps taken to improve living and learning conditions on this campus. We are grateful to the authorities for the various building projects to ease the accommodation problem and large numbers in lecture halls. Also, efforts of making this university an information technology driven one (for instance, the on-line registration process and ICT Centres in various halls and departments) is much appreciated. However, we believe there is still more room for improvement. We suggest that the various building projects should be accelerated and accommodation should be made more affordable to students. Also, we would be grateful if our libraries are stocked with current and recommended textbooks and journals to facilitate learning and research and to keep students abreast with global trends. Furthermore, more computers should be provided in the various halls of residence and departments. We also believe that making the whole registration programme on-line in a premier university such as UG should not be a far-fetched dream.

Mr. Chairman, please permit us to make this humble appeal to the Deans of the various schools and faculties to collaborate with industry players and other stakeholders for internships for their students and also to solicit for more scholarship programmes for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Having made this long but essential list of suggestions, we believe the University cannot achieve all this alone. We would therefore want to make a passionate appeal to government, alumni and friends of the University, private organizations and other stakeholders to come on board and help make life in Ghana's premier university better.

As we graduate today, we are leaving the world of academia to the world of work,

perhaps only for a little while. For some of us who would wish to pursue graduate work, we hope to come back. Fellow graduands, I believe that the knowledge and training gained here goes beyond discounting of cash flows and testing of various chemicals. I implore each and every graduand here to go out there and bring to bear all the knowledge, skills, values and virtues acquired to make Ghana and the world as a whole, a better place to live. In all our endeavours, let us strive hard to exhibit values such as honesty, integrity, truthfulness, confidence, and discernment, abiding by the University's motto: *Integri Procedamus*. Let us go out there as men and women of integrity and virtue, as agents of positive change, as living waters to thirsty lands, and as worthy ambassadors of the University of Ghana.

Ebenezer! Thus far has the Lord brought us and we are so grateful unto him. We would also want to thank the University and all others who have contributed in no small measure in helping us come this far.

Mr. Chairman, I would humbly want to make a special appeal to all parents and guardians seated here to be on their feet so that we give them a resounding applause for their toil and the hard times they have been through in making us who we are today. To the graduating class, I say congratulations and keep on soaring high because our creator has given us all it takes to soar. For us, the sky is not our limit; it is only the starting point and we will go beyond it.

God bless us all. Thank you.

