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PROCEEDINGS CONGREGATION MARCH 12, 2011

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 8.30 a.m. – Guests to be seated
- 9.00 a.m. – Academic Procession
University Council
Dawuro
- 9.15 a.m. – National Anthem
- 9.20 a.m. – Chancellor welcomes guests and declares
Congregation duly constituted:
His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan
- 9.25 a.m. – Vice-Chancellor's Address:
Prof. Ernest Aryeetey
- Interlude – University of Ghana Jubilee Choir
- Valedictory Address – Mr. Richard Yeboah
- Address by Special
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 Graduate Studies
Faculty of Arts
Faculty of Social Studies
- University Anthem – University of Ghana Jubilee Choir
- 12.30 p.m. – Chancellor dissolves Congregation
Recession:
University Council
Academic Procession

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

Honourable Mrs. Betty Mould Iddrisu, representing His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana,
Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Senior Members, Staff and Students
Graduands,
Alumni
Invited Guests, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy for the opportunity to preside over this morning's Congregation ceremony. This is my third congregation since becoming Chancellor and I cherish every moment of it. I warmly welcome all present and convey to you my personal greetings and best wishes for the occasion.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is now with great pleasure that I declare this morning's assembly, duly constituted for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University of Ghana to successful graduands and also to receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor.

I have been following with keen interest, although at a distance, events at the University of Ghana and I am aware that a number of interesting things have happened since we met in March last year. The Vice-Chancellor is the most appropriate person to provide the details of these and that is why he is required to present a report each year. I therefore invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation.

**ADDRESS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR ERNEST ARYEETEEY**

Your Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University of Ghana;
Your Excellency, Professor John Evans Atta Mills, President of the Republic;
Your Lordship, Justice Samuel Date-Bah, Chairman of the University Council;
Mrs. Betty Mould Iddrisu, Honourable Minister of Education;
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament;
Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Colleague Vice-Chancellors and Registrars;
Members of the University Council and members of Convocation;
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom;
Graduating Students;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

WELCOME

I would like to welcome all to the campus of the University of Ghana for today's graduation ceremony, which is the second ceremony for this academic year. Mr. President, we are indeed honoured to have you with us today as we graduate students who, having satisfied the requirements for their courses of study, are being awarded the degrees due them. Graduate students from various faculties will be graduating today, as will undergraduate and sub-degree students in the Faculties of Arts and Social Studies.

I would like to focus my speech today on a number of developments that have taken place in this University recently.

GOVERNANCE

Soon after I took office, I set up a Governance Review Committee to review the effectiveness of the governance structure in the University. The Committee was tasked to thoroughly assess the governance structure of the University, advise on what could be done to eliminate some of the overly hierarchical and bureaucratic practices which hinder innovation and initiative;

review the relationship between Colleges of the University and the Central Administration; evaluate the effectiveness of Directorates of the Central Administration and review the relationship between the component units of the Colleges and the College administration.

The committee has presented its report, which is currently being studied by Management, and I am certain that many pertinent issues will emerge, which will strengthen our governance processes. I am particularly interested in recommendations made by the committee on how enhanced governance can be used to facilitate the management and development of academic programmes. It is my view that Heads of Department and Research Centres should be given greater authority in the management of resources and decision-making. We are therefore working to make this possible. As part of the initiative to decentralise decision-making in this University, Management has taken the first step of making the interviewing process for new senior member appointees a faculty affair as from 1st March 2011.

Following the recommendation of the University Council, Management has made a lot of effort to achieve the buy-in of all categories of staff and students towards the vision of making this University a World Class one. A series of workshops have been held involving all categories of staff to collate views and suggestions on how the University can distinguish itself, as well as ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the process. Discussions at these workshops have been very insightful, and I am certain that staff of the University, from the oldest professor to the newest cleaner, will now see their way clearer with what we seek to achieve.

Many office holders of the University will be retiring at the end of July this year; and so this is the last congregation they will be attending in their official capacities. Mr. Chancellor, I am sure that you would like to join me to celebrate these Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department, who have contributed immensely to the growth of the University, and who over the years have played an active role in the formulation of policy and managing the affairs of the Units they have headed. I urge all concerned to enjoy their retirement while encouraging them to remain actively involved in the activities of the University. To the retirees, rest assured that we will not hesitate to call on you for advice and counsel. We are hopeful that those who will be appointed to take up your positions will also be persons of vision and foresight, and they will join us to bring much needed reforms to the University of Ghana.

Mr. President, we thank you for signing into law the new University of Ghana

Act 2010. The Act gives us the authority we need to pursue the lawful business of a publicly owned and independently managed University. That is the ideal upon which this University was founded. It is our hope that in the course of using the Act to guide the Management of this Institution, any areas of tension with other national laws and administrative practices that undermine the said independence, would be resolved to our mutual satisfaction.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

As I reported at Congregation in November, the University has extensively restructured undergraduate programmes in the Sciences and Humanities, with many new courses and programmes introduced, and existing ones revised. Credits obtained at Level 100 now count towards graduation, and the grading system has been overhauled.

Other key features of the restructuring are the reintroduction of continuous assessment, the reduction of class sizes, and the ceding of some of the duties of lecturers to graduate and teaching assistants.

Having run the restructured programmes for a semester, we have been able to identify some of the shortcomings, which we are addressing. The changes have generally been well received by both staff and students, and are running smoothly.

Admissions

Your Excellencies, the University has introduced a number of changes to the admissions process. These arise partly because the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), on which the University normally relies for most of its undergraduate admissions, was not written in June 2010. Candidates writing the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in May/June this year will have the opportunity to enter the University this September rather than having to wait for a year as is usually the case. The University's re-opening schedule for fresh undergraduate students, which would normally have been in August, will be shifted slightly to accommodate this change.

There are also changes regarding aggregate scores required for admission for those presenting WASSCE results. The calculation of aggregate scores for admissions, based on the results of the WASSCE has been altered for greater simplicity and fairness.

A committee set up to review admissions into the University has submitted its report, and has come up with several recommendations regarding our admissions processes, which we hope to implement starting from this year.

Mature Students' Entrance Examinations

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my painful duty to report that there was once again a leakage of questions for the examinations which are held annually to assess mature applicants for admission to our undergraduate programmes. A four-person committee appointed to look into the leakage has submitted its report, and police investigations into the leakage are continuing. Mr. Chancellor, we have put in place additional measures to ensure the integrity of all examinations in the University, and are taking extra precautionary measures to ensure that this situation does not recur. Management will soon be reviewing the process for the admission of mature students to the University. The review process will include asking ourselves whether there is still a valid argument to be made for continuing to organise these entrance examinations when there are many other opportunities for mature students to study for degrees in this and other universities.

Institutional Affiliations

The University has put in place a programme to strengthen its relationship with the 20 local institutions affiliated to it. To this end, the University is in the process of setting up a desk in the Academic Affairs Directorate to improve upon the services offered affiliate Institutes/Colleges, and to guide the relationship between them. The desk will be in charge of coordinating the activities of affiliate institutions, and will be expected to arrange annual evaluation visits to each affiliate institution, as well as ensure that the University is adequately represented on all relevant Boards and Committees of the affiliate institutions, to ensure the integrity of their admissions, examinations, graduation, staffing, appointments and promotions.

We currently have over 70 active and recognised linkages with institutions outside Ghana. These linkages involve staff and/or student exchanges, and are mutually beneficial to the University and to our partners in terms of building cultural as well as academic links. I call on colleagues to work towards institutionalising the ties that they have with other universities, either individually or at the departmental level, so as to maximise the benefits from such relationships.

Information and Communication Technology

I reported in November on efforts to convert the University's paper-based distance education programme to an ICT-based one and to introduce an e-learning system to improve the quality of teaching, learning and research at the University. The e-learning software has been installed and tested, and will facilitate the integration of ICT into teaching and learning. An implementation committee has been inaugurated with the mandate to oversee the full exploitation of the software.

An additional 45Mbps bandwidth will soon be added to the current 45 Mbps internet bandwidth to bring the total bandwidth to 90 Mbps. The expected completion date for this project is the end of April 2011.

A new and improved e-mail system for students has been implemented, and efforts are being made to encourage students to move away from using their other e-mail providers to using their University assigned addresses. It is expected that this will facilitate the flow of information in the University, and also cut down the number of paper announcements which are printed out and litter the University's campuses.

I am pleased to note that members of staff are increasingly using ICT in their teaching and research, and in communicating with one other and also their students. I hope that we will soon develop our systems far enough to become a university that uses less and less paper.

At present, the University has made available about 2,000 computers to students, and 950 to staff. We are working towards increasing this number even further.

Relocation of College of Health Sciences

Your Excellencies, an eleven-member committee has been appointed to oversee the relocation of the College of Health Sciences (CHS) from Korle-Bu to the Legon Campus. The move is to provide greater opportunity for interdisciplinary research and teaching, which is essential for broad-based education within a university environment, and to increase interaction between students and faculty of the College with other constituents of the University. I am happy to announce that His Excellency, the President, cut the sod this morning to mark the beginning of work on the construction of a new teaching hospital for the University as part of the relocation exercise..

We will take advantage of the move to enhance the facilities available for modern medical and health science education, and although the price tag for the move will be high, it is our considered opinion that the long term benefits to the College and to the University as a whole will make this a prudent investment.

SECURITY

Ladies and Gentlemen, I can report that security on campus has improved greatly even though robberies on campus and the activities of confidence tricksters remain a problem. There is an on-going education programme to educate members of the University community on ways to protect their persons and property from the perpetrators of these acts. The University is in the process of employing additional security personnel to boost security on campus, and a project to erect additional street lights all over the campus is also underway. The installation of close circuit television cameras on our campuses, which started in 2009, with funding from GETFund, is about 50% complete.

NEW YEAR SCHOOL AND CONFERENCE

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we are, as a university, committed to building our relationship with the community, and contributing to the national discourse in various sectors. It is in the light of this that over the years, the annual New Year School has been organised by our Institute of Continuing and Distance Education. This year, the 62nd New Year School was held here at Legon from the 9th to the 16th January, 2011 on the theme “*Harnessing the Power of the Youth for Accelerated Development*”. The school brought together participants from all over the country, to deliberate on the best way to harness the human resources of the youth to promote accelerated socio-economic development of the country.

An innovation in this year's school was that it was organised as a conference, with scholarly papers on selected topics presented during parallel sessions. The papers presented will go through the normal review process and those accepted will be published in a special edition of the Ghana Journal of Adult Education and Literacy. It is our hope that this will attract more of our colleagues in academia to participate actively in subsequent schools, and also close what is often seen as the insurmountable gap between academia and the “real world”, by exhibiting and bringing to the fore some of the research being conducted in our institutions of higher learning.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to announce that the University has been awarded a grant of US\$1,638,677 by the Open Society Institute for the implementation of the first phase of a project on climate change adaptation, “Building Capacity to Meet the Climate Change Challenge (B4C) – Ghana”, which is a partnership between the University of Ghana and the Open Society Institute. The award is the result of a proposal submitted by the University in response to an international competitive call for proposals announced by the Institute. The goal of the project is to develop the University of Ghana as a centre of excellence in global environmental change with capabilities to contribute effectively to climate change adaptation in Ghana for sustainable development. I wish, on behalf of Management of the University, to thank all the Faculty members who played critical roles in the development of the proposal. I also urge all faculty members, particularly the younger ones, to take up the challenge to embark on collaborative research with colleagues both within the University and beyond.

A policy document to guide the promotion of academic Senior Members has been developed and is currently being refined to achieve an appropriate weighting for different categories of publications. The document is being discussed by faculties.

I am pleased to note that in spite of heavy teaching and administrative loads, staff continue to apply themselves to conducting research and giving presentations at conferences and workshops culminating in various kinds of publications. As many as 792 publications, 1158 research projects and 835 conferences are listed in the current Vice-Chancellor’s Report. I encourage colleagues to set specific targets for themselves in terms of the number of publications they will work towards every semester or academic year, and strive to work towards achieving these targets. Realizing the importance of promoting academic excellence through significantly expanded and relevant research and extension, the University has made available substantial amounts of funding for research, and I take this opportunity to urge colleagues to put in proposals for funding when these are announced.

A steering committee to oversee the process of creating a multi-disciplinary Institute of Applied Scientific Research at the University of Ghana has been inaugurated. The work of this Institute, when established, will be central to a significant expansion in the research output of the University and also to major

growth in the graduate programmes in the sciences. The focus of the Institute will be to contribute significantly to addressing the production problems of industry in Ghana and Africa.

The work of the Institute could be in such areas as food processing, and the development of materials for various production processes including packaging and environmental conservation. The basic question for the Institute will be how best it can facilitate industrial transformation in Ghana and in other parts of Africa.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Financial Aid and Scholarships

The Students Financial Aid Office (SFAO) continues to provide among other things, financial support to brilliant but needy students of the University.

The office engages in sustainable fund-raising efforts and activities in order to make funds available for student awards. It receives support from the University of Ghana, organizations and individuals, and it is anticipated that with time, the base of support will be broadened to include an even wider range of donors.

I once again call on individuals and corporate institutions to donate to the University through the Needy Students Fund, and also to consider offering vacation and part-time employment to our students.

The University continues to receive funding from individuals and organizations for the sponsorship of scholarships and academic prizes. At present, we have over 30 such prizes for various categories of continuing and graduating students. An awards ceremony will be held in a few weeks to honour such deserving continuing and graduating students. I encourage others to support these prizes, which serve as encouragement to students to work hard to excel in their various courses.

Student Accommodation

As I reported in November, the first phase of the hostels project embarked on a few years ago has been completed, and a number of students are currently housed at the complex, which has been named after Dr. Hilla Limann, President of the Third Republic. A programme to upgrade facilities in the traditional Halls of residence is also on-going, and it is hoped that by the start of the 2011/2012 academic year, these would be of a significantly improved

standard, to enable us deliver on the promise of decongesting the traditional halls, all in an effort to improve upon the overall university experience for our students.

Decongestion will involve giving all students the option of choosing what facilities they would like to stay in. It will also mean that, regardless of where students choose to stay on campus, they will enjoy similar experiences and opportunities,

Student Leadership

It will soon be time for elections to various student leadership positions, and it is our hope that this time around, the elections will go smoothly, and there will be no irregularities. As the future leaders of this country, students are encouraged to set the example towards the establishment of a society free of corruption, in which leaders seek office not because of the benefits they hope to gain, but because of an innate desire to serve their constituencies.

AGGREY-FRASER-GUGGISBERG MEMORIAL LECTURES

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Professor Sir John Edward Sulston, winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine will deliver the 2011 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lectures at the Great Hall of the University later this month. A British physiologist, Sir John is well known for his work on the human genome project and population. He is currently Chair of the Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation at the University of Manchester.

He will deliver a two-day lecture series in the Great Hall of the University and will also lead a workshop on population jointly organised by the University and the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. Sir John will also meet with faculty members and graduate students from the Faculty of Science. On behalf of the University I extend an invitation to all of you to attend the lectures, as I am sure we will all benefit from Sir John's extensive knowledge in his field.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in pursuit of the University's desire to provide an enabling environment for teaching, learning and research, work is continuing on a number of infrastructural development projects aimed at providing accommodation and facilities for staff and students. Below is the current status of major projects:

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Project	Completion Status	Source of Funding	Contractor
Lecture/Examination Hall	60%	GCB	Consar Ltd.
Multi Purpose Facility - SPA	60%	GETFund	Micsat Ltd.
Faculty of Arts Building	21%	GETFund	Adanko Ltd.
International Programmes Office	98%	UG	Trump Ltd.
Sports Complex - Stadium Phase 2B	32%	GETFund	Consar Ltd.
Faculty of Engineering Sciences - Phase I	70%	GETFund	Wilkado Ltd.
Accra City Campus Library	95%	UG	Antarctic Cont. Ltd.
1 of 4 Students' Hostels – Kingdwosco	98%	UG/Banks	Kingdwosco Limited
1 of 4 Students' Hostels - Jescan	80%	UG/Banks	Jescan Ltd.
1 of 4 Students' Hostels - Adanko	98%	UG/Banks	Adanko Ltd.
1 of 4 Students' Hostels - Berock	100%	UG/Banks	Berock Ltd.
Volta Hall Womens' Resource Centre	60%	Volta Hall Alumni	Kuottam Ltd.
School of Allied Health Sciences - CHS	20%	GETFund	Lemet Ltd.
Extension to Existing Chalets, Institute of African Studies	100%	UG	Lemet Ltd.
ISSER Conference Facility	62%	UG	Wilicann Ltd.
Rehabilitation of South-West Legon Estates Kisseman	100%	UG	Various Companies (19)
Construction of 4No. Bore holes	100%	GETFund	Heisa Engineering
Legon Estates Kisseman	100%	UG	Various Companies (19)
Construction of 4No. Bore holes	100%	GETFund	Heisa Engineering
Creche for University of Ghana	42%	UG	Wilkado Ltd.
Extension to Emergency Ward, Univ. Hospital	70%	UG	Bawahuud
Re-construction of N-2 Lecture Hall	100%	UG	Consar Ltd.
Central Science Laboratories	100%	GETFund	Antarctic Contract Wks

Many of the projects which have been completed or are near completion are in use, and have helped ease the challenges we face in terms of staff and student accommodation, lecture and office space.

Work has started on a multi-purpose court at the Sports Complex for the University. The complex, which is being financed by AngloGold Ashanti, will include a handball court with in-built dimensions for basketball, tennis and volleyball. We are grateful to AngloGold Ashanti and the National Sports Council for spearheading the construction of the facility, which, when completed, will facilitate our drive towards making sports an integral part of academic life in the University.

BENEFACTIONS

Your Excellencies, the University has received gifts in various forms from numerous benefactors in the past year. We are indeed grateful to all, particularly those who have supported us with resources and infrastructure to improve upon teaching, research and learning in the University. While time will not permit me to mention the names of our benefactors here, I take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support to the University, and to encourage other individuals and corporate bodies to support the work of the University. Details of various gifts received can be found in the detailed annual report to congregation.

GRADUANDS

Output and Performance

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, Chairman of Council, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, a total of 4,408 students are graduating today. This number includes 846 post graduates, including 21 doctoral candidates, many of whom, I am proud to note, are University of Ghana faculty members. There are 2,976 undergraduates and 565 diploma and certificate graduands.

12 percent of the undergraduates obtained first class degrees, 31 percent, second class upper division and 49 percent second class lower degrees. Some 16 percent of the diplomates obtained distinctions.

Well Wishes to Graduands

I would like to end my address by extending hearty congratulations to all our graduands!! I know that it has not been easy getting this far, but I am sure that it has been well worth the effort. I challenge all of you to see this as just the beginning of the next phase of your lives, and to work even harder towards

achieving your ambitions. I urge as many of you as can manage it, to go on to pursue further studies, which will definitely benefit you regardless of whatever field you decide to enter. I also encourage those of you with a flair for teaching and research to consider entering the challenging yet exciting and rewarding field of academia, and join us to help train the next generation of Ghanaian students.

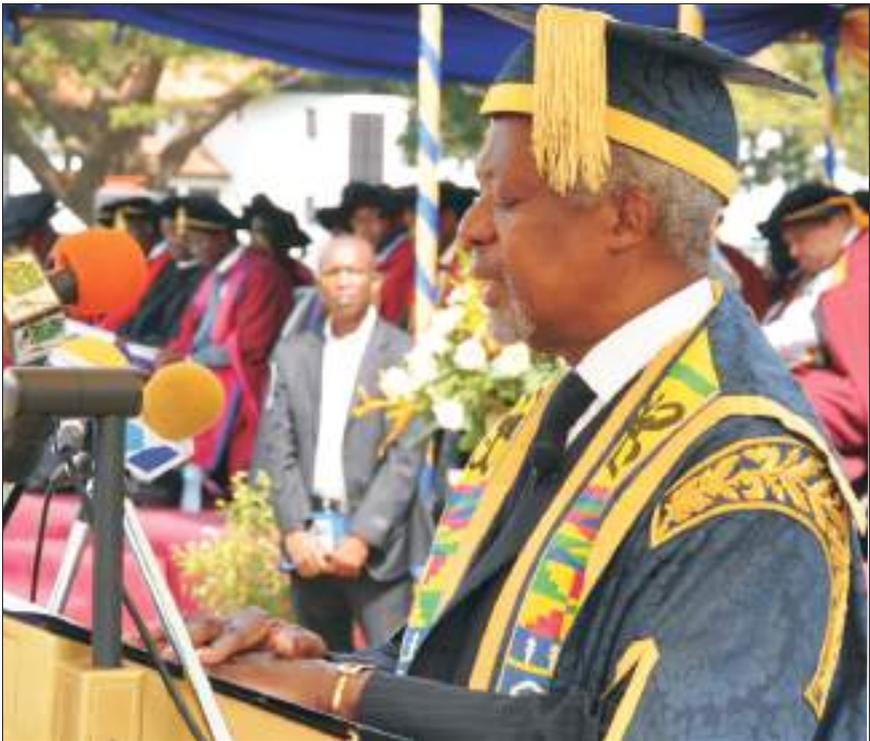
I salute your parents and guardians, and in some cases, your spouses, who have sacrificed so much to make this day come true. Ladies and gentlemen, the time, resources and effort you have put in are well appreciated, and may you all live long to reap the profits from your investment.

A new council under the chairmanship of Mr. Paa Kwesi Yankey has been elected to steer the affairs of the University of Ghana Alumni Association from 2011 to 2013. As fresh alumni of the University of Ghana, I would like to encourage all of our new graduands to play an active part in alumni affairs, and to act as proud ambassadors of this great institution. I challenge you to put the values and training you have received here into practice wherever you might find yourselves, and to let dignity, integrity and honesty be your hallmark so that all you come into contact with will see the distinctiveness of graduates of the University of Ghana. I wish you well in all your endeavours, and to paraphrase a line from the University anthem, “may you succeed in what'er you do, as you prepare to face the world...”

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, Chairman of Council, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for your attention, and hope you enjoy the rest of today's event.



A section of the Academic Procession at the Congregation grounds



His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor, delivering his Welcome Address during the Congregation.



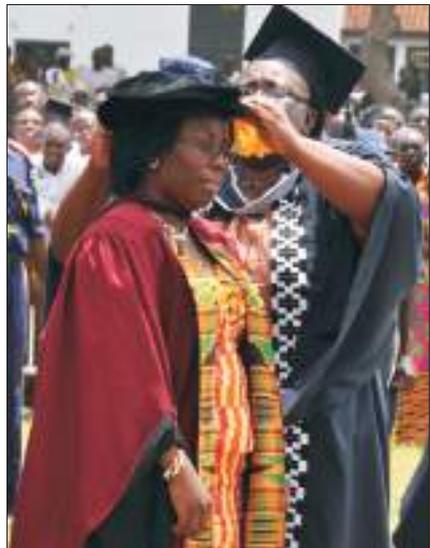
Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, addressing the gathering



Mrs. Betty Mould Iddrisu, Minister of Education, delivering the Guest of Honour's Address on behalf of the President of the Republic of Ghana



Richard Yeboah delivering the Valedictory Address.



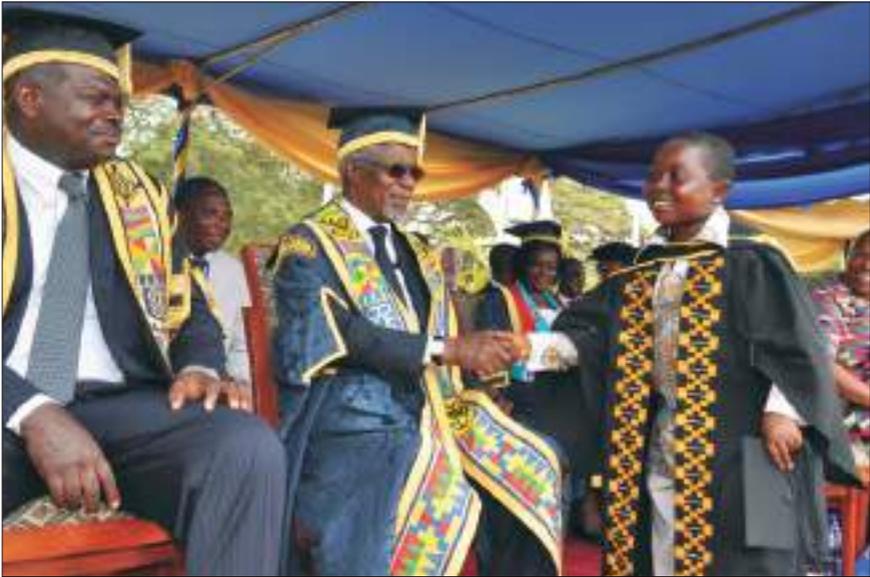
PhD graduands, being robed:

Left – Dr. Musah Adams (Archival Studies)

Right – Dr. Deborah Dede Akleh Atobrah (African Studies)



A graduand receiving acknowledgment from the Chancellor



It was the turn of Mr. Owusu-Ansah to be acknowledged by the Chancellor

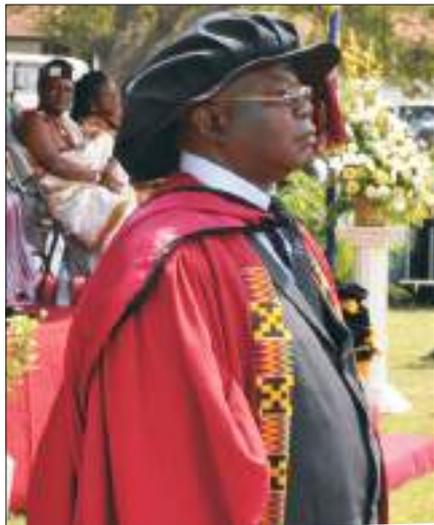
SPECIAL AWARDS



Professor Yaa Ntiamoah-Baidu
Distinguished Award for Meritorious Service



Professor Kwame Boafo-Arthur
Best Teacher Award for the Humanities



Professor Patrick Kwabena Ofori-Danson
Best Teacher Award for the Sciences



Solomon Okyere
Best Worker receiving a hand shake from the
Chancellor, H. E. Mr. Kofi Annan

**ADDRESS BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR, HIS EXCELLENCY
JOHN EVANS ATTA-MILLS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA (DELIVERED BY MRS. BETTY MOULD
IDDRISU, MINISTER OF EDUCATION)**

Chancellor of the University of Ghana
Chairman and Members of the University Council
Ministers of State and Members of Parliament
Vice Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Members of Convocation
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom
Invited Guests
Graduands
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to be the Guest of Honour at this year's congregation ceremony to confer degrees on graduands from the Faculties of Arts and Social Studies, School of Graduate Studies and affiliate institutions. I have, on an earlier occasion, had the privilege of attending a Congregation of the University of Ghana and this would have been my second attendance since assuming the office of President. I nevertheless cherish the opportunity to share a few thoughts, although not in person.

Mr. Chancellor, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Vice-Chancellor and the entire staff of the University of Ghana who in diverse ways have contributed to making this Institution a centre of academic excellence in the sub-region. The achievements of the University of Ghana are a source of encouragement and pride to all of us as Ghanaians. Having just completed celebrating our 54th anniversary as an independent nation, it is fitting and proper to take account of important assets that we own as a nation. I regard the University of Ghana as one such important national asset. It is significant to note that you celebrated your 60th anniversary three years ago, ahead of the nation, Ghana. I know that on the occasion of this celebration, my predecessor, President Kuffour made a promise of GH¢60 million to be paid over a period of ten years. I am told that there have been some difficulties in the fulfillment of this promise in the initial years. Mr. Chancellor, I wish to assure you that the promise will be made good, without delay. This should send

encouraging signals to all who desire to assist the University in its growth and development to contribute their quotas to strengthening this great institution. It is in the same vein that I agreed to cut the sod for the hospital complex of the College of Health Sciences. This is another landmark in the effort at meeting the high level human resource requirements of the nation and beyond.

Mr. Chancellor you will recall that a few weeks ago, I also cut the sod for the commencement of the University of Energy and Natural Resources in Sunyani and the University of Health and Allied Sciences at Sokode, near Ho. These activities are a demonstration of my government's commitment to increase access to tertiary education. The presence of new tertiary institutions in the two regions could serve as a motivational factor for increased enrollment and retention of the youth in the two regions in particular and the country as a whole. The establishment of these institutions would go a long way to establish geographical balance in the distribution of knowledge centres and create a pool of local expertise to support regional development. It is expected that the University of Ghana will provide quality support for these new institutions in the form of mentoring and training of human resource, to give them the right foundation for take-off.

Mr. Chancellor I want to assure you that government is still committed to providing adequate infrastructure and other facilities to all public tertiary institutions to promote quality education. Ghana has earned much international acclamation for the quality of her education, making the country a hub for international students. We all should be proud of this and work at maintaining this status.

As partners in development, I want to challenge the university authorities to provide education that broadens the outlook of the youth to equip them with the necessary skills so that they can contribute to employment generation. This calls for periodic review of the university's curricula, research and teaching programmes to meet world class standards.

Mr. Chancellor, industrial relations between the government as an employer and our hard working university staff has been greatly tested in the recent past. I would like to assure you that government will not renege on its promise to resolve all outstanding issues in due course. My government is doing all it can to lay the perennial disharmony to rest permanently.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the socio-economic circumstances of our country will

be improved if we have men and women of integrity. The culture of respect and concern for one another is fast eroding. When individuals serve the nation in various capacities in the world of work, it is expected that their self interest will not override their patriotic instincts. Sadly however, the impact of one's actions and need to look out for one another is hardly given a thought. We all need to be circumspect in our dealings. We must put our country first, by doing what is best for our country despite our individual interests.

To our graduands, let me join the Chancellor, Chairman of Council and the Vice-Chancellor to congratulate you on your achievement. Education is a lifelong process. You should therefore see the conferment of degrees and diplomas on you today as the beginning of another phase of life. Continue to expand your horizon to become even more relevant and marketable. Society has invested in you and it is your turn to give back to society, your alma mater and your country. As you make your entrance into the productive sector of the economy, eschew dishonesty. What mother Ghana requires of you is commitment, loyalty and the upholding ethical standards. These qualities will make you stand tall among your peers.

Thank you and God bless you.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
RICHARD YEBOAH**

Your Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University;
Your Honour Justice Samuel Date Bah, Chairman of the University
Council;
Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor;
Mrs. Betty Mould Iddrisu, Honourable Minister of Education;
Ministers of State and Members of Parliament;
Members of the University Council;
Members of Convocation;
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom, Togbewo;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Invited Guests;
Fellow Graduands, Friends and Families;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I must say in commencement that, this is the doing of the Lord and it is indeed marvellous in our sight.

Today marks a turning point in each of our lives. We have spent the past four years wandering the halls of this University and now we are ready to move on. We have laughed, loved, gotten into trouble and most of all matured together. But today does not just concern reminiscing about the past; it is also about looking forward into our future.

Now we are graduating and some of us will be starting entry-level jobs that will mark the beginning of our careers, others will start graduate school once again at the bottom rung of the ladder. But this time the opportunity exists for us to keep on climbing to heights we have never achieved before. Inferring from the words of Carl Jung; *“your vision will become clear only when you look inside your heart...”* I admonish us all to look into our hearts, and make the right decisions concerning our future, lest we consent to dreams that are not ours as Jean Nidetch states *“it’s choice, not chance that determines your destiny”*.

As I look over the many faces I behold today, I see a shift of paradigm, I no longer see people as they were or are; I see them as they will be, so rather than seeing a young man or woman studying to make good grades, I see the next Kofi Annan making the world a better place to live. I see the next decade's great

presidents, academics, political, business and world leaders and I am certain that all of us graduates will contribute our piece to the fabric of the future we so much desire.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, it is worth acknowledging that the University's invaluable contribution to our success cannot be understated. We are thankful for the improvements we have witnessed in academic and residential infrastructure, such as the extension of the Balme Library, the Limann Hostel and the ongoing Mensah Sarbah Hall Annex project which will see many more students gaining residential status. We are also grateful for other developments geared towards the enhancement of academic activities, such as the system that allows students to apply, register and view academic records online, the revised grading system, which makes interim assessments much more important in the determination of final grades, and the efforts made towards controlling overcrowding in our lecture halls through the introduction of a policy that limits the size of classes. The University must also be commended for the award of scholarships and financial aid to needy but brilliant students through the Students' Financial Aid Office, from which I personally benefited.

Notwithstanding these commendations, I must admit that most of us have become more resilient due to the challenges we encountered during our stay in the University, which we wish would be addressed by the authorities. These include the high cost of residential facilities, accessibility and reliability of the ICT system, the quantity and quality of teaching aids such as projectors, white boards, markers, and public address systems. My ultimate expectation for this premier University is that within the next decade, the University of Ghana, currently ranked 16th in Africa will rise up to the apex of the rankings, setting the pace as the premier University for others to follow, offering its students a world class education to complement the political stability and sterling performances on the world sporting stage which have gained this country great global recognition.

Fellow graduates, our contribution to our motherland and to the world will not be measured by the personal wealth we acquire or the accolades we receive, but by the way in which we share our unique gifts and bring to bear our wealth of knowledge and experiences in solving the problems that confront our world today.

Colleagues, the real world will hold many challenges for us, but I am certain

that we will approach these with the same boldness and equanimity with which we tackled the challenges we faced in this University. I am certain that many of the virtues we learnt here, such as effective time management, respect and tolerance for persons of diverse and opposing views, team work, leadership, transparency and accountability will serve us well as we enter into the next phase of our lives. We are the personification of the confidence, pride and opportunities open to graduates of the University of Ghana. We ignite mental fires, plant seeds of hope, form dreams and inspire change in our societies, and we are indeed poised to propel economic, social, political and cultural development in Ghana and beyond.

As students of the premier University, we have been exposed to academic excellence and we will all definitely benefit from what we have learnt here. We are therefore extremely grateful to the administration and especially to our lecturers without whom we couldn't have come this far.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, our time in the University presented us with many ups and downs and it was always good to know that we had our families in our corner, throwing their weight behind us along the way. In appreciation of their contribution towards this feat we have achieved, I humbly ask all parents and guardians to rise with pride as we give them a rousing applause. Thank you mom, thank you dad. We would not have been here today without you.

Finally, we can be thankful for each other, for as someone wise once said, a journey is best measured in friendship rather than in miles. I am pleased that the friendships that we have developed will forever reflect the incredible trip we have shared. To everyone who played a role in our success today, we say thank you.

As graduates, we assume office this day as ambassadors of change. I urge us all to proceed with integrity, as the motto of this great Institution urges us, for we owe this to generations to come. To us all I say *ayekoo*.

Long live the University of Ghana, long live mother Ghana and long live Africa.

Thank You.

CHANCELLOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Honourable Mrs Betty Mould Iddrisu, representing His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana,
Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Senior Members, Staff and Students
Graduands,
Alumni
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As we end today's function, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have worked hard for the successful holding of the March Congregation.

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

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

To our new graduates and alumni, I congratulate you on your achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of your *alma mater*. I wish you all good success in your future endeavours.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my privilege and duty as Chancellor of the University of Ghana to declare today's Congregation dissolved.

Thank you.

SPECIAL AWARDS**DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE
CITATION**

YAA NTIAMOA-BAIDU, first student to obtain a first class in Zoology from the University of Ghana, you were appointed as a temporary lecturer at the Department of Zoology at the same university in 1985. Ten years later, in 1995, after an intense period of research, teaching and publication, you were promoted to the grade of Associate Professor. Continued impressive strides in your field earned you a place among the Professors of the University of Ghana in 2003, making you the first female Professor of Zoology in Ghana. Since then you have chalked one remarkable achievement after another in research, teaching, administration, management and fund-raising.

As Head of the Department of Zoology (now Department of Animal Biology and Conservation Science) from 1995 to 1998, during a resource crunch at the University, your innovative management approach helped to raise funds for upgrading of facilities at the Department. In addition, you mobilized over one million dollars to establish the Centre for African Wetlands, a sub-regional facility for the deepening of research capacity in wetland science and management.

Your period as Dean of the School of Research and Graduate Studies (now School of Graduate Studies), from 2008 to 2010 brought fundamental and radical changes to the operations of the School, which contributed immensely to the remaking of the image of the academic programmes of the University of Ghana. New systems for record keeping at the School; routine tracking of theses under examination; skills enhancement for graduate students were among the measures you introduced to revamp the process of graduate student examination. The remarkable reduction in the time taken to examine dissertations and theses that followed these reforms is well known to all in the University. Today, a graduate student can expect to have his or her thesis marked in six months down from 24-57 months in the past.

Many young faculty members of this University owe to you the opportunity to complete their doctoral studies, through a grants facility that you spearheaded. Your unrelenting efforts at expanding and improving research at the University of Ghana, and your obvious talent for turning organizations into winning

operations led to your appointment as the first (Acting) Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID). Currently you are engaged in a major drive to upgrade research capacity and increase the success rate of faculty research proposals in the University. In your first year at ORID you raised \$3.5 million US dollars to support faculty research.

The University of Ghana joins others in applauding you. You have already received a number of meritorious awards in recognition of your contribution to wildlife research, training and conservation capacity development in Africa. Your awards include the *Officer of the Order of the Golden Ark*, awarded by His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands for contributions to wildlife research. You are also a *Member of Honour*, conferred by Bird Life International for distinguished contribution to the conservation of wildlife. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK, awarded you the *Medal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds* for your work in Ghana.

Professor Yaa Ntiamoah-Baidu, for your contribution to the academic programme of the University of Ghana, as well as its extension work with policy makers and development practitioners, and not the least, for your resourcefulness in fund-raising for research, the University of Ghana holds up your exemplary scholarship and leadership as deserving of the Distinguished Award for Meritorious Service to the University, 2010.

AYEKOO!

**BEST TEACHER AWARD FOR THE HUMANITIES, 2010
CITATION**

KWAME BOAFO-ARTHUR, Professor, Department of Political Science and Director, Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD); you joined the University of Ghana as a Lecturer in 1985, after obtaining a Masters degree in Political Science from Carleton University in Canada. The University of Ghana awarded you a Doctorate in Political Science in 1991, and in 1997, you were called to the Bar as a lawyer and a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana. You have risen through the ranks and were appointed Professor in 2004.

For the 25 years that you have worked in the University, you have taught numerous courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Your handling of various topics in International Politics has transformed courses in this area into the most sought after by students in Political Science at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. You have introduced innovative teaching and examination techniques that encourage students to attach equal weight to every topic studied.

You have supervised uncountable student long essays, dissertations, and theses at both undergraduate and graduate levels, and your students attest that your firmness has contributed greatly to the self-discipline they have acquired and which continues to guide them long after leaving the University.

You served as Head of the Department of Political Science from 2002 to 2009, and it was during your administration that major revisions were introduced into graduate and undergraduate programmes in the Department, taking into consideration global changes and dynamics in the discipline of Political Science. As Head, you were instrumental in the introduction of the sandwich Master of Arts programme in Public Affairs.

Perhaps the greatest contribution you have made as a University teacher has been your mentoring of younger colleagues, encouraging them to go beyond the limits and raise standards in quality teaching and research.

Your mastery of the subjects you teach, your sense of professionalism, your firm, yet affable demeanor and excellent teaching skills, have greatly endeared

you to your students. Your expertise has been sought well beyond the classroom, and you serve on numerous national and international bodies.

For these and numerous other contributions to the University, the University of Ghana is proud to confer on you the Best Teacher Award for the Humanities, 2010.

We salute and congratulate you.

AYEKOO!

**BEST TEACHER AWARD FOR THE SCIENCES, 2010
CITATION**

PATRICK KWABENA OFORI-DANSON, Associate Professor, Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, and Director of the Ecological Laboratory Centre; you obtained your Master of Science and Doctorate degrees from the University of Ghana in 1981 and 1998 respectively. You were appointed as a Senior Lecturer in 2001 and promoted to an Associate Professor in 2005. You have served with distinction as Head of the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, Coordinator of the Environmental Science Programme, and currently as Head of the Ecological Laboratory Unit of the University.

Over the past ten years, you have taught several courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and supervised numerous student dissertations and theses.

Your teaching, according to your students, is characterized by commitment, enthusiasm, and a thorough knowledge of your field. Your mastery of the subjects you teach, your delivery and elucidation, have endeared you to your students, who have described you as a passionate teacher always available for consultation. Your passion for teaching has inspired many promising young students to take up positions in research and academia.

You have published extensively in both local and international journals, and have served on many national and international bodies in areas like ecology, conservation and biodiversity. Based on your expertise in these fields, you have on several occasions been invited to provide specialized advice to international agencies.

In recognition of your commitment to promoting the University as a place of learning and excellence, and your devotion to the training of the next generation of scientists for Africa's development, the University of Ghana is proud to confer on you the Best Teacher Award for the Sciences, 2010.

We salute and congratulate you.

AYEKOO!

**BEST WORKER AWARD, 2010
CITATION**

SOLOMON OKYERE, Senior ICT Clerk, Finance Directorate; you were employed by the University as a messenger/cleaner in 1986. Determined to improve upon your educational background, you privately sat for and passed the West African Examinations Council Ordinary Level examinations, and were upgraded to the position of Senior Headman in 1994, and to your current position in 2009. You also pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in this University, successfully completing the programme in 2007.

Over the years, you have gained considerable expertise in various computing applications, and play a key role in processing vital information in the Data Processing Unit of the Finance Directorate. You have undergone several training programmes which have positively influenced your work output.

Your supervisors have consistently reported positively on your mastery over assigned duties, efficiency, sense of responsibility, and eagerness to learn, and you have constantly attracted impressive remarks in your annual assessment.

You have often gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that vital tasks are completed on time, and you play a crucial role in the work of the Data Processing Unit

For your dedication to duty, and your willingness to go the extra mile in your work, the University of Ghana is proud to confer on you the **BEST WORKER AWARD, 2010**.

We salute and congratulate you.

AYEKOO!

