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**PROCEEDINGS OF 2013 MATRICULATION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2013**

CONTENTS

	Page
Order of Proceedings	2
Vice-Chancellor's Address	3
Expectations of University Life Address	11

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday 9 November 2013, 9 a.m

Procession
(The Congregation is asked to stand)

Nationa Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose
Justice Dr. S. K. Date-Bah, Chairman of Council

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

Congregation Speaker:
Mr. Frank B. Adu, Managing Director, CAL Bank, Ghana Ltd.

Conferment of degrees:
• Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences

Valedictory Address: Ms. Yeng Saanchi

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession: Covocation

ADDRESS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR ERNEST ARYEETEEY

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of the University Council;
Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar;
Provosts, Deans and Directors;
Heads of Department and Heads of Hall;
Senior Tutors;
Members of Convocation;
Freshmen and Women;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

INTRODUCTION

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you all on behalf of the University Council to the University of Ghana and to this year's matriculation ceremony. I am particularly delighted to welcome our fresh men and women who are to be matriculated today into the University of Ghana and congratulate them for gaining admission into the various programmes available here.

The matriculation ceremony marks the formal admission of students into the University. It is also the occasion during which matriculants pledge their allegiance to the authority of the University and are enjoined, through the administration of the oath, to be obedient to the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Disciplinarian of the University, as well as all other officers of the University. In pledging to be of good behaviour, the freshmen and women are committing themselves to be disciplined and worthy ambassadors of the University. It is my hope that matriculants will take this ceremony seriously and will also endeavour to live in accordance with the rules and regulations of the University, while pursuing their programmes. We need the support, loyalty, commitment and cooperation of both students and staff to make this University a world-class institution of higher learning.

ADMISSIONS

A few years ago, the University of Ghana took up the challenge of admitting WASSCE candidates into the University just a few weeks after their results were released. The process has been very stressful for students and parents. Large numbers continue to apply to this University yearly and each time, we are faced with the painful decision of having to turn down the applications of many otherwise well qualified applicants due to limitations of our staff and facilities. The situation was worse this year due to the fact that two cohorts of students sat the WASSCE examinations in May/June this year.

Graduate	2013			2014		
	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled
Total Graduates	4,480	2,547	2,081	5,768	3,630	3,053
Foreign Graduates	216	212	142	599	260	131
% Total as Graduates			21%			20%
Undergraduate	2013			2014		
	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled
Total Undergrads	36,537	18,303	9,601	52,202	14,695	8,981
Ecowas Students	2,530	249	66	2,993	345	56
International Ghanaian	298	77	35	360	135	81
International Students	431	414	313	306	253	209
Other African Countries	65	6	1	98	22	5
Regular Ghanaians	31839	17111	8888	45885	12989	7988
Fee-paying Ghanaian with Foreign Background	0	0	0	10	10	9
Full Fee-paying	1374	446	298	2550	941	633

The University has admitted students into programmes on the Legon, Korle Bu and Accra City Campus. The academic calendar for Distance Learning has been modified with effect from this academic year, and will begin in January 2014. Applications into Distance Learning will, therefore, remain open until 31st October 2013. Statistics presented here for the 2013/2014 admissions therefore excludes those for Distance Learning. For the 2013/2014 academic year, the University received a total of 52,202 undergraduate and sub-degree applications made up of 48,445 from Ghanaians and 3,757 from international applicants. For the undergraduate applicants, 23,966 were female with 28,236 being males. The total number of undergraduate and sub-degree applications received last year, which included those for Distance Learning, were 36,537. This shows an increase of almost 70%.

Despite the constraint on facilities and staff, the University managed to admit more students this academic year than it did last year. At the undergraduate level, 14,695 applicants were admitted excluding Distance Learning as compared to 18,303 who were offered admission in the 2012/2013 academic year. Out of the admitted figure, 6,489 are females with 8,207 being males. The number of registered students stands at 4,152 females and 4,832 male, which brings the total number of registered undergraduate students to 8,984. The projected figure for the 2013/2014 Distance Learning admissions is 5,400. This will bring the total figure for the 2013/2014 academic year to over 20,000.

With admissions being done a few weeks after the first results are released, waiting for WAEC to finish with all investigations and complete the release of all results remains a challenge. The results of many eligible applicants were released by the

West African Examinations Council (WAEC) after the University had accessed the results of applicants to the University and at a time when admissions were almost over. The University was unable to include them in the admissions process as quotas had already been met. The admissions process was delayed because the University initially decided to wait until all results had been released before starting admissions but since the release delayed unduly, we eventually had to start with admissions. As a result of this, 881 applicants who obtained between aggregates six to nine were unable to gain admission into the University of Ghana.

Another major challenge identified was the fact that applicants complete and submit their online application forms before the release of results by WAEC. To reduce the burden and uncertainty for students and guardians, the University has decided that starting with the 2014/2015 admissions, once results are released, applicants will be given the chance to go back to their online application forms to review and make changes to the programmes selected if they so wish.

The cut-off points for the 2013/2014 admissions were as follows:

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	–	20
Bachelor of Science in Family & Consumer Sciences		
Food & Clothing Option	–	20
Family & Child Studies	–	20
Bachelor of Pharmacy	–	06
Bachelor of Science in Nursing	–	07
Bachelor of Science in Administration	–	07/08 – Affirmative
Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery	–	07
Bachelor of Dental Surgery	–	07
Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Sciences		
Medical Laboratory Sciences	–	12
Physiotherapy	–	12
Radiography	–	12
Dietetics	–	12
Occupational Therapy	–	12
Bachelor of Science in Engineering		
Computer Engineering	–	10
Biomedical Engineering	–	10
Food Process Engineering	–	15
Agricultural Engineering–	15	
Material Science Engineering	–	15
Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences: First Choice cut-offs		
Actuarial Science	–	08 (A1 in E. Maths)
Animal Biology & Conservation Science	–	14
Biochemistry, Cell & Molecular Biology	–	10
Botany	–	15



Some Officials at the ceremony (from right, E. K. Osam , Pro-Vice-Chancellor (A. S. A), John Owusu Gyapong, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, (R.I.D) and Mr E. A. Amartey)



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, delivering his Address.



Mrs Mercy Haizel Ashia, Registrar, administering the Matriculation Oath.



Matriculants taking the Matriculation Oath.



Miss Brenda Yirenkyiwa Awuku delivering an address on the Expectations of University Life, as her colleague freshmen/women listen attentively.





Miss Brenda Yirenskiwa Awuku signing the Matricula under the supervision of Mr Enoch Amartey Amartey, Senior Assistant Registrar, Academic Affairs Directorate.



A section of students at the Matriculation ceremony.

Chemistry	–	14
Computer Science	–	11 (B3 in E. Maths)
Earth Science	–	15
Information Technology	–	13
Marine & Fisheries Sciences	–	15
Mathematics	–	15 (B2 in E. Maths)
Nutrition & Food Science	–	13
Psychology	–	13
Physics	–	15 (B3 in E. Maths)
Statistics	–	14 (B2 in E. Maths)
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	–	06
Bachelor of Arts		
General Arts Background –		13/14 - Affirmative
Fee-Paying	–	18
Science/Business/Vocational Background	–	09
Accra City Campus: First Choice	–	22
Bachelor of Fine Arts	–	18 (First Choice)
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	–	13

At the postgraduate level, 5,370 applications were received as compared to 4, 878 received for the 2012/2013 academic year. In line with the University’s plan to increase graduate intake by 15%, 3,630 applicants were offered admission into various postgraduate programmes for the 2013/2014 academic year as compared to 2,547 for the 2012/2013 academic year.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University of Ghana continues to attach great importance to the cross-cultural experience that is made possible by the presence of international students on our campus. Their presence adds to the cultural enrichment of the social and academic setting. In the bid to increase its international population, an Internationalization Committee was inaugurated in January this year to develop policies and strategies that will help renew the interest of international students in the University and also help feed the University’s broader goal of achieving higher enrolment of international students’ in its programmes.

Even after the University began admitting applicants who had written the WASSCE in Ghana in May/June of the same year, international applicants continued to be admitted based on results available and submitted as at the deadline for submission of applications. Starting from this year, the University decided to also consider applicants from the sub-region who wrote the WASSCE in May/June, thus enabling qualified applicants to enter the University just a few months after they had completed Senior High School.

For the 2013/2014 academic year, the University received 3,988 applications from international applicants including students on exchange programmes from our partner institutions in the United States of America, Canada and Asia, with 2,988 or about 75 percent coming from Nigeria. The rest were received from countries which include Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Cote D'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, South Korea, Liberia, Namibia, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom, United States and Zambia. 619 international students were offered admission for the 2013/2014 academic year.

NEW PROGRAMMES

For this academic year, the Faculty of Science introduced two new courses, namely; Actuarial Science, offered by the Department of Statistics, and Information Technology, offered by the Department of Computer Science. Secondly, all students who are offered the Computer Science/Mathematics/Statistics combination will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Competition for admission to the University of Ghana has become keener and keener over the years and we have been unable to offer some students the courses they opted for. In such cases, alternative courses have been offered based on the student's academic background.

With the full take-off of the Collegiate System, in the 2014/2015 academic year, we shall attempt to meet a greater part of the course demands of our applicants.

I would like you to note that the undergraduate degree is gradually becoming only a first step to getting a good job placement. In most cases, less emphasis is put on the courses or programme the student studied, with greater emphasis placed on the quality of the degree obtained.

MEAL PLAN FOR STUDENTS

The University plans to introduce improved food catering services to students by getting them to sign up onto meal plans. The proposal, which was for the 2013/2014 academic year, has been deferred until the 2014/2015 academic year. The idea is to give students more nutritious and healthy food within a safe environment and at a reasonable price in their halls of residence. The service will initially target fresh men and women but will be available to continuing students as well.

FINANCIAL AID

The University's Student Financial Aid Office is located on the main campus at Bungalow Number 11, East Legon. It offers financial assistance to qualified students who may otherwise not be able to meet their educational expenses at Legon. The aid is available in the form of scholarships, either in full or in part. Approximately 120 students are sponsored each year through the benevolence of

individuals and corporate bodies. Currently, application for sponsorship for 100 students is on-going. I would like to acknowledge the sponsors for the 2012/2013 academic year and to encourage others to come on board. Students facing financial challenges are encouraged to apply for consideration for the various support schemes when they are advertised.

Being sensitive to the plight of students, the University has made provision for students to pay half of their fees in the first semester and the second half, before the beginning of the second semester.

CONCLUSION

Life at the University can be intellectually and socially exciting, but in the midst of it all, one can easily lose focus and stray into unproductive ventures. I would like to remind you that your primary aim here is to successfully go through your prescribed academic programme and achieve excellence by graduating with flying colours to make your parents and guardians proud. This means everything you do here should be geared towards that purpose. You must be able to have the right balance to achieve excellence. Know how to balance your academic work with your social, religious and other forms of engagements. You must know how to develop critical thinking and be analytical.

Your primary aim for coming here is to study and I urge you to channel your energies in that direction. Remember that you were admitted to the University as an individual and you will graduate as an individual. You are, therefore, solely responsible for all your actions. In the course of time, you will encounter new experiences. New relationships are going to be formed, some of which may be life-long. By all means enjoy yourself, but remain focused.

My dear freshmen and women let me advise you to make time to read notices and pay attention to the University's rules and regulations. That is how you will be guided on how to make the most of your time here. Your lecturers and tutors will be available to guide you, as long as you are willing to be guided. We will give you the support necessary, but only if you use the legitimate means to seek such support.

On behalf of the Council of the University, Members of Convocation and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you on your admission and welcome you once again to the University of Ghana. On our part, we will do all that is humanly possible to make your stay here as pleasant as possible. Enjoy your stay here; take advantage of every facility that is offered to develop yourself and to prepare for your future careers and lives. I wish you well.

Thank you and God bless you.

EXPECTATION ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MISS BRENDA YIRENKYIWA AWUKU

The Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar and other officers of the University,
Special guests, parents, guardians and family members,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,
Fellow Matriculants, on whose behalf I stand here and with whom I
humbly share this honour.

I am very excited this morning, to stand before you to present to you the expectations of university life.

A few months ago as Senior High School graduates, we had positive dreams, great ambitions and high hopes to come into this prestigious university and be a part of the Legon community where the future opens up and where in the right conditions, everything is possible.

Today, as freshmen, being formally welcomed and accepted into the University of Ghana, we cannot help but focus on our reasons for being here. Mr. Vice-Chancellor, as varied as our individual dreams and ambitions may be, we are bound by these common themes and expectations – that we would diligently pursue and acquire knowledge, play hard but fairly and by the rules, learn to live with others as brothers and sisters, strive to become better and better as human beings, and after attaining our full potential, make positive contributions to the social and economic wellbeing of our families, the University community, our nation Ghana and indeed our world.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we have been here, in the University for just a few weeks. As we came in, settled, walked around and started lectures, we have made some observations about the environment; the roads, academic buildings, lecture halls, places of worship and prayer, halls of residence and sporting grounds. We acknowledge and are grateful for the opportunities we enjoy at all these facilities.

We have heard names like JQB, N-Block, NNB, CC and ISH. We have also

noticed the many people who pass through the University each day, the faces; some smiling, others sullen, some stern; different colours and shades of skin and clothing; the shuttle buses; the night market and the trekking routes between residential and lecture halls. For some of us, these observations may have tempered or modified our expectations. While we are really impressed by what we have seen, we call on the university to endeavour to maintain these facilities throughout our stay on campus.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, as freshmen, we are acutely aware of the many challenges that may threaten the realisation of our ambitions or fulfillment of our dreams. In a large community such as ours, the challenges faced by us all is a reflection of what we hear, see and read about life in any Ghanaian city. We would be confronted with issues of physical security, eating good food, maintaining good hygiene, judicious use of time and facilities, activities and events which may be distracting, lifestyle preferences and the temptation to take things easy! We should not be afraid to talk about these things even as we resolve not to be dragged off course by them.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor on our part, we resolve to stand by our matriculation vows; we shall always and in all things, whether at work or at play, in keeping with the university's motto, proceed with integrity and make the university as well as our parents and guardians who have supported and encouraged us this far, proud.

In conclusion, I would appeal to government to resolve the issues which affect the welfare of our lecturers, university administrators and staff of the University in UTAG, GAUA, FUSSAG and TEWU so that nothing will happen to disturb our journey to 2017.

May God bless the matriculation class of 2013

May God bless our parents and guardians.

May God bless the University of Ghana.

Thank you

