



# UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

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**PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION  
JULY 26, 2014**

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**ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Saturday 26th July, 2014, 9.00 a.m.**

**Morning Session:**

**Procession**

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

**Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:**

Hon. Justice Dr. S.K. Date-Bah, Chairman of Council

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

**Guest Speaker:** Prof. Cheryl de la Rey, Vice-Chancellor, University of Pretoria,  
South Africa

**Conferment of Degrees:** Presentation of graduands from

- University of Ghana Business School
- School of Nursing
- School of Pharmacy
- Faculty of Engineering Sciences
- Faculty of Social Sciences

*Valedictory address:* Ms. Irene Narh

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

## **ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Saturday 26th July, 2014, 2.00 p.m.**

**Afternoon Session:**

**Procession**

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

**Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:**

His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor

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

*Guest Speaker:* Prof. Isaac Adewole, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan,  
Nigeria

**Conferment of Degrees:** Presentation of graduands from

- Graduate School
- Faculty of Science

*Valedictory address:* Ms. Margaret Saka Acheampong

Chancellor dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

**WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE MORNING SESSION BY  
HON. JUSTICE S.K.DATE-BAH CHAIRMAN OF  
THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

Members of the University Council,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Guest Speaker,  
Members of Convocation,  
Staff and students,  
Alumni,  
Graduands,  
Invited Guests,  
Niimei,  
Nana nom and other Traditional Leaders,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you all very warmly to this morning's ceremony, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of this University. I also extend his greetings and best wishes on this important occasion to all of you, gathered here.

Today is a memorable one to the graduands and we share in their joy from the successful completion of their degrees. A special welcome also goes to our Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lecturer for this year, Professor Rose Gana Fomban Leke who is also a grandaund today. She is to receive an honorary doctorate.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, i am delighted to declare this morning's assembly duly constituted for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University to successful graduands and our honorary graduand and also to receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor.

As already alluded to, it is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give us his report at this forum on the developments taking place in the University over the last academic year.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Chancellor on his recent re-appointment to a final term of office.

I now invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation. Pray silence for the Vice-Chancellor.

**WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE AFTERNOON SESSION BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY KOFI ANNAN CHANCELLOR OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Chairman and Members of the University Council,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Guest Speaker,  
Members of Convocation,  
Staff and students,  
Alumni,  
Grandaunds,  
Invited Guests,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure, that I welcome all of you this afternoon. This is the first of two congregation ceremonies planned for 2013/2014 cohort of students, the next of which would take place in November. It is an honour to take part in these ceremonies and to celebrate the notable achievements of all our grandaunds. Let me extend my sincere congratulations on the successful completion of your degrees and wish you the very best on this memorable day. I also look forward to the customary report from our Vice-Chancellor on developments within the past year about the University. It is always encouraging to see the many ways in which our University, the oldest in Ghana continues to evolve into a thriving vibrant community.

Distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am therefore delighted to declare this assembly duly constituted for the awards of degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University of Ghana to successful grandaunds and also to receive the report of the Vice-Chancellor. I now invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation.

Thank you.

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

His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan;  
Chairman of University Council,  
Chancellor of the University of Ghana,  
His Lordship Justice Samuel Kofi Date-Bah;  
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament;  
Members of the University Council  
Pro-Vice-Chancellors;  
Registrar;  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
Colleague Vice-Chancellor, Professor Isaac Adewole;  
Representatives of sister universities  
Members of Convocation;  
Niimei, Naamei, Nananom;  
Graduating Students;  
Parents and Guardians;  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

**Welcome**

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to today's graduation ceremonies, the third and final in the series of ceremonies for the 2013/2014 academic year. The University has had a very busy, fulfilling and yet challenging year, and while I will later talk about some of the triumphs and challenges we have had as an institution, I would like us all to remember that our main reason for gathering here today is to celebrate the men and women who, having satisfied the requirements for graduation for their programmes, will be graduated today.

1,442 students are graduating today at various levels. At the Bachelor's level, a total of 45 students representing 7.2 percent of the graduating class, obtained First Class Honours, 229 or 36.6 percent Second Class Upper, 306 or 49 percent Second Class Lower and 34 or 5.4 percent, Third Class.

26.7 percent of Certificate and Diploma students obtained distinctions, with the remaining students obtaining passes.

The 437 post-graduate graduands include 33 Doctor of Philosophy candidates.

**Remembering Departed Colleagues**

I would like us to take a minute to remember Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere, seventh Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, who passed away in May, and was laid to rest last week.

We have also learnt in the last few weeks, of the deaths of two other colleagues, Professor Samuel Kwesi Gaisie of the Regional Institute of Population Studies and Professor John Maxwell Assimeng, of the Department of Sociology. We recall the long association of each of them with the University and their invaluable contributions to the University's growth and development.

May they each rest in perfect peace!

### **A Review Of UG Activities**

Mr. Chancellor, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I start my second term as Vice-Chancellor on August 1, and I think that now would be a good time to examine some of our activities and outcomes as a University over the last four years. In my induction speech I spelt out a vision of what needed to be done in order to make the University of Ghana a world-class institution. In my first meeting with the University Council I brought out the ideas embedded in my vision and these were endorsed by Council. I have spent the last four years pursuing that agenda as best as I could, with the assistance of colleagues at various levels in the management of the University.

This section of my address covers some of the activities and outcomes in the priority areas that I identified in my vision statement. The priority areas were:

- Promoting Academic Excellence through Enhanced Teaching and Learning and Leadership Training
- Promoting Academic Excellence through Significantly Expanded and Relevant Research and Extension
- Overhaul of Governance Arrangements in Administration, Teaching, and Research
- Better Management of University Assets and Facilities
- Scale-up Efforts Towards Equal Opportunity in Gender Diversity
- Enhanced Fund-Raising Activities at Unit and Central Administration Levels
- Mainstream and Enforced Structures and Processes for Monitoring and Evaluation

### ***Improvements in Teaching and Learning***

Our focus has been to improve significantly the environment for teaching and learning for both students and faculty. Improving the quality of academic staff has been crucial in this quest and creating a better set of learning opportunities has always been a major motivation. The following initiatives have been pursued:

### ***Restructuring PhD Programmes***

The University adopted a restructured format for PhD programmes starting from the 2013/14 academic year. The main aim of the restructuring was to improve the quality of

the University's PhD output, and also to place PhD programmes at the University in line with international standards, making them more competitive and attractive and thereby improving recruitment and completion rates. It also aims to make our PhD graduates more versatile in their understanding and application of the intellectual and practical traditions of the selected programme of study.

Provisional approvals were given for a number of departments and centres to begin their programmes at the start of the year, while full vetting of those programmes was being done. The School of Graduate Studies, through its PhD Technical Committee later recommended for approval a number of programmes. 27 PhD programmes have since been approved for full take off.

Mr. Chancellor, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to announce that the University of Ghana has won a grant of USD650,000 to support PhD training through the project: Accelerated PhD Training through University of Ghana - Diasporan Linkages (APT-Ghana). The goal of the project is that the University becomes a hub for African regional doctoral training, drawing on its diasporan partnerships to enhance its PhD programmes, thereby attracting top performing PhD and post-doctoral candidates and enhancing its research outputs. The concept of the project derives from UG's new direction for PhD training.

The UG-APT is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for an initial period of two years and will support:

- the establishment of the UG Pan- African Doctoral Academy - (UG-PADA) to enhance PhD output,
- the expansion and institutionalization of the UG-Diasporan Linkage Programme to support post-graduate programme delivery, and
- the development and delivery of new PhD programmes.

I sincerely thank Professor Yaa Ntiamoa Baidu, PhD coordinator and the PhD Technical Committee for putting together the winning proposal.

### ***Procurement of Science Equipment***

Management developed a programme for the acquisition of modern equipment for the various units of the University undertaking scientific research. We purchased a GC Mass Spectrophotometer to be used by faculty and graduate students. A nitrogen plant has also been set up at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research to produce liquid nitrogen for the use of Legon scientists. The total budget for the purchase of equipment was \$2.5 million. The University also took delivery of other science equipment procured

for the various science units. The HPLC equipment for the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology has been delivered and installed. Delivery of basic science equipment to facilitate practical work in various departments has also been done. XRD equipment has been installed at the Departments of Physics and Chemistry, while NMR equipment is being installed at the Department of Chemistry. Renovation work has been undertaken in these departments to prepare them for the new equipment.

### ***Decongestion of Halls of Residence***

A major aspect of the programme for revamping academic life at UG involved creating a more conducive environment for learning for our students. A first step was to reduce the number of students occupying student rooms from an average of 8, to 3 or 4 and to provide them with better facilities. The process of decongesting halls of residence started in the first semester of the 2011/2012 academic year and was successful. Today, students do not have to suffer from overcrowding.

### ***New Programmes***

A number of new programmes have been introduced at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

- M. Eng and M Phil in Biomedical Engineering
- M. Eng and M Phil in Material Sciences and Engineering
- M Phil in Seed Science and Technology
- M Phil in Molecular Cell Biology of Infectious Diseases
- MSc in Medical Laboratory Sciences
- MA in Theatre Arts
- MSc and MPhil in Applied Geochemistry
- BSc in Dental Laboratory Sciences
- BSc in Respiratory Therapy
- BSc in Geophysics

The introduction of these programmes is in response to the needs of industry, and as we enter the collegiate system, I urge other departments to continue to rationalize their programmes and come up with revised and new programmes that equip our students for the needs of today's competitive job market.

### ***Research And Extension***

Management continues to support the work of the Office of Research, Innovation and Development with increased resources and also research leadership. In addition to the work of ORID, the Institute of Applied Science and Technology and four Centres of Excellence have been created to lead the process of “Transforming Legon into a Research University”, a major pillar of our vision and programme for the University.

The four centres of excellence are:

- Malaria Research
- Enhancing Food Production and Food Processing
- Trans-Disciplinary Research into Climate Change Adaptation
- Development Policy and Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation

These four centres have been created by bringing together multidisciplinary groups of researchers from different academic units to focus on the chosen thematic areas and develop a large body of relevant studies.

The President of the Republic has emphasized government's support for the concept of turning Legon into a research university and has promised to work with the University towards finding the resources needed from various places.

To get the process of transformation going, two of the research teams from the four centres of excellence have recently won \$16 million of research grants from the African Centres of Excellence initiative of the World Bank. The Malaria Group yesterday hosted a symposium on malaria vaccine research aimed at building an African Consortium for Malaria Vaccine Research.

### ***Publication of Readers***

As part of the efforts to enhance the quality of teaching and research at the University of Ghana, especially in view of the difficult access to published historical material that has been re-examined and re-evaluated in light of more recent developments, the development of “Readers” or Collections of related essays on disciplines or sub-disciplines was initiated. A total of 31 have so far been published and launched, and another 20 Readers are at various stages of revision for eventual publication.

This book publication initiative has been very useful for the faculty and provided reading material both for our students and for other students and scholars across the world. The endeavour is partially funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York with a grant of US\$80,000, and by the University of Ghana from its internally generated funds.

### ***Technology Development and Transfer Centre***

The University of Ghana Technology Development and Transfer Centre (TDTC) has been established to facilitate the development and transfer of technologies with the aim of solving key problems in industry and local communities.

The Centre has been set up to bridge the gap between the University of Ghana and industry through the transfer of human driven technologies developed at the University of Ghana. It is my hope that the University of Ghana will be identified as a major player in

innovative research as it repositions itself as a world class institution.

I therefore urge researchers and scientists in the University to work closely with the Centre to ensure a successful technology transfer process that will benefit the society as a whole. I acknowledge the World Bank for providing a grant of about USD 500,000 to fund the Centre, and COTVET and the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) for their support in the realization of this project.

### ***ACE Project***

As I mentioned earlier, the University of Ghana has won two grants, each worth eight million dollars, in the Africa Centres of Excellence Project (ACE) Project, which have resulted in the establishment of:

- The Africa Centre of Excellence for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens hosted jointly by the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, with Dr. Gordon Awandare as the Centre Leader; and
- The Africa Centre of Excellence for Training Plant Breeders, Seed Scientists and Technologists, hosted by the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement, with Professor Eric Danquah as Centre Leader.

The development objective of the World Bank funded Project is to support the recipient institutions to promote regional specialization among participating universities in areas that address regional challenges and strengthen the capacities of these universities to deliver quality training and applied research. Such awards are a major boost to the University's movement towards strengthening its research focus, and I congratulate the teams that put forward the winning proposals.

### ***The Cambridge Africa Partnership for Research Excellence (CAPREx) Project***

Following the second call for applications for CAPREx post-doctoral research fellowships, three University of Ghana faculty have been selected for the next cohort of Fellows after a rigorous shortlisting, matching and interview process. The three selected are from the Departments of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, Animal Biology and Conservation Science and Material Science and Engineering.

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

- Department of Geography and Resource Development/ISSER/IDRC grant of 497,000 Canadian dollars for research on Urban Crime in Ghana
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation institutional support for ISSER on monitoring and

- Evaluation US\$ 1,413,627
- RIPS/IDRC project on Climate Change Adaptation US\$1,400,000
  - Institute of African Studies grant of US\$1, 11,364 by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa for phase one of the project African Presidential Papers and Libraries.

### **Governance At UG**

A major observation I made about the University of Ghana in my induction speech was the fact that it had an over-centralized and unnecessarily hierarchical structure. The outcome of various consultations has been the adoption of a decentralized structure working through a collegiate system.

The migration to the collegiate system was meant to add value to the colleges to be formed and prepare the University for transformation into a research university. The idea was to free the officers at the centre; especially the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellors from some administrative duties in support of academic work and to allow more room for innovation at the school and college level. Colleges would be semi-autonomous and be able to take more decisions on their academic programmes and administration.

As part of the process, the University's statutes have been amended, thus paving the way for the establishment of the Colleges of Education, Humanities and Basic and Applied Sciences, and for the amendment of the structure of the College of Health Sciences. Provosts and other officers for the new colleges will take office on 1st August 2014.

### ***Financial Governance and Regulations***

The University Council approved a new policy on Financial Regulations and Governance which guide all financial transactions and management within the various units of the University. The policy is intended to bring financial management at the University of Ghana in line with best practices around the world.

### ***Development of Human Resource Policy***

A consultant is currently working on a document to develop and consolidate the HR policies of the University. When completed, it will be the first time the University has put in place a Human Resources Policy and Manual to guide policy implementation. The intention is to streamline the relationship between the University as an employer and all the different categories of staff. The new policy document is expected to among others, set the standards and procedures for the assessment of staff performance.

### **Management Of University Assets And Facilities**

A major area of interest in this regard has been to take better care of the University's facilities and infrastructure. We have put in place measures to ensure a more regular

maintenance schedule for University buildings and other facilities. This has been made possible by strengthening the Physical Development and Municipal Services Directorate. As a result most university buildings are seeing some rehabilitation while our roads are being redone and improved. There have been a number of new physical developments and I would like to talk briefly about these.

### ***University of Ghana Teaching Hospital***

A major part of my induction speech was on the need to relocate the College of Health Sciences and all of its units to the Legon Campus, and the establishment of a teaching hospital was essential to facilitate clinical work. I am glad to report that construction has begun in earnest on the new 600-bed University of Ghana Teaching Hospital. This is being done with a loan facility of \$127 million arranged by the Government of Ghana.

Work is 30% complete. When completed, the Hospital will have state-of-the-art facilities for trauma and emergency services, heart surgery, medical imaging, and a heliport, and will eventually be expanded into a 1,300 bed facility to ease the pressure on the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital and provide effective teaching, learning and patient care. Future construction will cover a Cancer Centre and a Rehabilitation Building.

### ***UGBS Multi-purpose Graduate Building***

The University of Ghana Business School's new Multi-purpose Graduate Building was opened a few days ago. The project, which began nearly two years ago, is to accommodate the ever increasing number of graduate students seeking admission into the School. The state of the art facilities are intended to sustain the Regular and Special graduate programmes in the School.

### ***Wi-Fi Deployment***

The University has made it a policy to introduce Wi-Fi internet access to all student rooms in each residential facility. In addition to the Chinese Government assisted project for laying fibre optic cables around the campus, the University has provided a number of Wi-Fi Access Points in all halls.

Other Physical Developments on Campus include:

- Close Circuit Television for Examination Halls
- Faculty of Arts Building
- Rehabilitation of road at Tsito for ICDE
- University of Ghana Crèche
- Multi-purpose facility for the School of Performing Arts
- Extension at School of Pharmacy
- Construction of Small Animal Hospital for School of Veterinary Medicine

**Upcoming Capital Development Projects Include:**

- College of Humanities building to be sited behind the Department of Geography and Resource Development to provide accommodation for all the Deans of the College, and the Departments of Computer Science, Social Work, Political Science, Information Studies, Psychology, and the Centre for Social Policy Studies
- College of Health Sciences to be sited close to the Teaching Hospital
- College of Basic and Applied Sciences and Institute of Applied Science and Technology next to the Adzei Bekoe Building.
- College of Education building between the Jones-Quartey Building and International House
- Central Administration Annex to be cited next to School of Graduate Studies to provide accommodation for the Office of Research Innovation and Development, Academic Affairs, Student Financial Aid Office, Legal Counsel and additional offices for the Central Administration.

***Water Augmentation***

The University has drilled and mechanized 24 boreholes in the last three years to augment water supply.

**Gender and Diversity*****Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee***

Following the passing of the Sexual Harassment Policy by the Council of the University, an Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee was inaugurated in the 2011/2012 academic year. The Committee was tasked to address sexual harassment and sexual abuse issues relating to the University community.

Since its inauguration, the Committee has intensified its efforts to educate the University community about the new rules and regulations on sexual harassment.

In addition to this, a segment on the Sexual Harassment Policy has been introduced as part of orientation programmes for students and for newly appointed staff. More seminars have been planned to explain the main features of the policy.

***Equity in Admissions and Employment***

The University has intensified efforts to achieve gender parity in the admission of students and also in the hiring of staff and senior members. For admissions in the 2013/2014 academic year, 42% of all admitted students were female. In a number of disciplines,

including Medicine, as many as a half of admitted students were female. Some progress is also being made in the hiring of female senior members.

### **University Of Ghana Strategic Plan**

The University has grown from a modest-sized liberal arts University envisaged under the 1961 framework, into a large public University with multiple aspirations that must be carefully restructured if it is to become a world-class University. The preparation of a University of Ghana Strategic Plan for the period 2014 to 2020 has been completed, to help rethink the longer term strategy for the University's development. The Plan has nine strategic priorities which should put the University of Ghana on the path to becoming a world class research university.

The strategic priorities have been defined as follows:

- I. Research: Create a vibrant intellectual climate that stimulates relevant cutting edge research and community engagement.
- ii. Teaching and Learning: Promote academic excellence using the highest international standards of learning, teaching, and leadership development.
- iii. Internal Stakeholders: Provide an environment that will ensure fulfilling experiences for internal stakeholders.
- iv. Gender and Diversity: Create the best environment for equal opportunity in gender and diversity.
- v. Institutional processes: Overhaul all governance arrangements to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency.
- vi. Financial Performance: Enhance the mobilization and management of resources of unit and central administration levels.
- vii. Asset Management: Strengthen the management of the University's assets and facilities.
- viii. Monitoring and Evaluation: Mainstream and enforce structures and processes for system-wide monitoring and evaluation.
- ix. Build stakeholder confidence in the capabilities of the University.

Each of the strategic priorities has a set of strategic objectives and key performance indicators and metrics. The intention is also to draw up a number of projects together with costs within the plan period. It is planned to launch the strategic plan in the next few weeks.

Mr. Chancellor, Chairman of Council, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, from all the points I have enumerated, while a lot has been achieved in our quest to make the University of Ghana a world-class institution, much still remains to be done. It is my intention to continue working hard to achieve our aspirations, and I hope that I can count on the support of all stakeholders in this quest.



Members of Convocation in a group photograph with the Guest Speaker for the morning session and Members of Council



Justice Samuel K. Date-Bah delivering the Welcome Address (Morning Session)



His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor, delivering the Welcome Address  
(Afternoon Session)



Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, addressing the gathering



Prof. Tiaan de Jager representing  
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Pretoria,  
South Africa  
Guest Speaker (Morning session)



Prof. Isaac Adewole, Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Ibadan, Nigeria  
Guest Speaker (Afternoon session)



Ms. Irene Narh  
Valedictorian (Morning session)



Ms. Margaret Saka Acheampong  
Valedictorian(Afternoon session)



Above: PhD graduands being congratulated

Below: Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries





Above: Some members of Convocation

Below: A section of Graduands seated at the Congregation



Now, to other matters

### **Pro-Vice Chancellor/ New Appointments**

Professor Kweku Osam, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic and Student Affairs, steps down on August 1 after one term in office. Professor Osam has been a crucial member of our team, and has been at the forefront of many innovations in academic affairs and improving the student experience. Kweku, we thank you for your contributions to our work, and we wish you well as you return to your teaching and research duties in the Linguistics Department. We welcome as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kwame Offei, who has over the years, served in many capacities in the University. Kwame comes in with a solid track record as an academic of international repute. I look forward to working with Kwame Offei.

### **Internationalization**

The presence of international students in the University does much to enhance the quality of academic and social life on our campuses. 904 international students were enrolled in the University in the 2013/2014 academic year, made up of visiting, regular and occasional students at all levels. This number makes up just about four percent of our total student population. We have many international students as part of today's graduating class. I urge those of you graduating today to maintain ties with your Ghanaian counterparts and lecturers, and also act as worthy ambassadors of the University wherever you might find yourself.

Internationalization has become an integral part of higher education, and it is therefore imperative that the University pays more attention to it. There is the need to better define what the University hopes to achieve through internationalization, and strategically plan towards the resources and partnerships required and how to manage them.

A committee is currently working on a policy on internationalization for the University, to guide the work of the International Programmes Office.

### **Academic Affairs**

#### ***Obtaining Students' Records***

The University has approved guidelines to enable parents and guardians request access to the records of their children/wards. Many parents and guardians have been unpleasantly surprised by their wards being unable to graduate, or being withdrawn from the University because of poor performance. Details of the processes to acquire access will soon be available on the University's website.

#### ***Experiential Learning Course***

There is the need for all of our students to have a component of experiential learning as

part of their programmes. It is in light of this that an Experiential Learning Course, has been approved, to be run initially on a pilot basis. The course is meant to provide undergraduate students with a learning experience outside the classroom that will require the application of concepts and theories learnt in the classroom to real-life situations, and that will result in positive outcomes to both the students and the communities or organizations they work with.

Students on the course will spend 20 hours over a period of 9 weeks in a community or organization, working on a project that among others provides them the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts to real world situations.

### ***Admissions***

Applications to undergraduate programmes closed at the end of June, and we await the release of the 2014 WASSCE results to admit qualified applicants. As one of the few public universities that continue to allow students who completed their WASSCE examinations in May to apply for admission, we have had a deluge of applications, but will not be able to go beyond agreed admission quotas, as we must ensure that we do not overstretch our facilities and in so doing short change our students. For admissions in ensuing years, we will examine our options, and in consultation with our partners and the regulatory bodies, determine the patterns of admissions.

### **The Student Experience**

#### ***Financial Aid***

While the University has been able to reach out to many students with financial difficulties through the Student Financial Aid Office (SFAO), we have been unable to mobilize enough funds to support all needy students. Many more students should be able to qualify for aid but are unable to, due to inadequate funds. We are extremely grateful to all those individuals and corporate bodies who continue to contribute to the financial aid scheme, and I call on others to do the same. I also encourage students who have benefitted from the fund and indeed, all our alumni, to be ready to give back to the University when they graduate, to assist other needy students. As the saying goes, “no donation is too small”, and you would be surprised at the difference that a modest contribution could make to a student's life.

#### **Well Wishes To Graduands**

Before I take my seat, permit me to once again salute our graduands, whose hard work and perseverance have culminated in today's ceremonies. Class of 2014, we are indeed proud of you and wish you well in your future endeavours. As you go out to conquer the world, may your graduation today be just the beginning of great things to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

**ADDRESS BY PROF. TIAAN DE JAGER ON BEHALF OF  
PROF. CHERYL DE LA REY, VICE-CHANCELOR AND PRINCIPAL,  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA (UP)**

The Chancellor,  
Your Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan,  
Chairman of Council, Justice Dr. Samuel Date-Bah,  
The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey,  
Vice-Chancellors from Visiting Universities,  
Honourable Office Bearers,  
Graduandi and Diplomates,  
Parents and Family,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
All protocol Observed,

It is my privilege to extend a warm welcome to each of you present at today's graduation ceremony of the University of Ghana.

It is an honour for me to represent our Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, Prof. Cheryl de la Rey. Prof. de la Rey recently started her second term as VC and could unfortunately not make it due to other commitments.

At this point I would also like to congratulate Prof. Ernest Aryeetey for his second term as VC at the University of Ghana. He has the vision to take this Institution to new heights.

Officiating in this capacity at graduation ceremonies is indeed a pleasure - sharing first-hand in acknowledging the successful completion of their studies by the recipients of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates, a most uplifting and rewarding experience. But we are celebrating not only the achievements of each individual, in many cases against remarkable odds, but also the contribution of the University of Ghana to the wellbeing and future growth and development of this country and all its citizens.

Please allow me to share some relevant information on the University of Pretoria or UP with you.

The number of graduates UP produces annually, which adds up to more than 17% of

all South African graduates over the last almost five decades, constitutes the most visible contribution the University makes to the socio-economic growth and development of our country.

To underscore our commitment to our role as a public university in this regard, one of the five priority goals of our long-term strategic plan, UP 2025, is to strengthen even further the university's impact on South Africa's economic and social development. The key strategies identified to do so are:

- aligning the growth in student numbers to Africa's high-level and scarce skills needs;
- increasing the number of active partnerships with industry and government; and,
- entering into optimal impact partnerships with local communities.

The UP growth policy envisages moderate growth in total student numbers. This is achieved by growing enrolments in postgraduate research degrees, especially doctoral degrees, to meet the country's need for high level skills, as well as in selected professional and general undergraduate degrees in the urgent scarce skills areas.

This year UP has about 63,000 students and as an employer, it generated the equivalent of close to 5,000 full-time posts in the academic, research and support categories and in its business entities.

The situation in South Africa is not unique, and in many cases similar to Ghana. There is a global shortage of health professionals. As the North American and European populations are aging and the need in Africa is ever increasing, we need more graduates.

Universal coverage of health services is critical. Graduates, your commitment to Africa and your country is essential in assuring quality assessable health care.

Community Service is your way to repay your debt to society and the country. It links up with the Hippocratic Oath. It's about service to the community; values and ethics; commitment; and to treat the poorest of the poor with the same dignity and respect as any VIP.

There is a vital need for Specialists, so we want you to come back to the University of

Ghana (or the University of Pretoria) to continue with further studies. Health research is needed to improve quality of life. We need you in the Natural Sciences and I urge you to continue with your higher degree. We need to stimulate a research culture and attract more postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

Society benefits enormously from scientific research. We get new techniques, live longer and healthier lives, and gain deeper knowledge of our continent, planet and Universe. The issue of how to evaluate the fruits of our research confronts scientists and policy-makers. Every country has its own set of circumstances surrounding its research infrastructure, wealth, and economic, environmental & developmental objectives.

The university should build on its strengths and expertise and create Centres of Excellence. Collaboration and partnerships are key. At the University of Ghana you have excellent Centres in Food Security, Climate change and Malaria.

In malaria for example, I believe a trans-disciplinary approach is important, through Departments, Faculties and Institutions. Different disciplines should work together with the same goal. In this case it is to eliminate malaria.

The health care professionals should collaborate with:

- Engineers- developing new methods and technology
- Chemists and pharmacists -for drug development
- Experts on climate change
- Geneticists
- Epidemiologists
- Health economics and mathematical modelling
- Education and health promotion

This is bringing not only the Natural Scientists and Medical Scientists to collaborate, but all disciplines in academia.

The other strategic goals, in addition to "social and economic development", are:

1. To be a leading research-intensive university
2. To strengthen the University's international profile
3. To pursue excellence in teaching and learning
4. To increase access, throughput and diversity.

We cannot reach these ambitious goals without taking hands with you in addressing the needs for Africa and to train our people to help themselves. Together we should address the needs of patients, health care professionals and the health care systems. "Phakamisa" is a Zulu and Xhosa word for up-liftment: to help others to help themselves.

Each of you, who have successfully completed your studies, today joins a cohort of achievers in their own right, who are also proud alumni of this University. We are confident that the determination and values that brought you to this joyous occasion will continue to guide you on whatever path your future may take. I am convinced that this is the start of a bright future for you. Follow your passion, stay true to yourself, and enjoy this moment!

Congratulations to all of you! Thank you.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY PROF. ISAAC ADEWOLE,  
VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN**

The Chancellor of the University of Ghana, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, The Chairman of the Governing Council of the University of Ghana , Prof. Samuel Date-Baah and the members of the Governing Council, The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Pro-Vice-Chancellors and other Principal Officials of the University of Ghana, Celebrated Grandaunds of today, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure, to deliver this keynote address on the occasion of the graduation ceremony of this great University of Ghana. I greatly appreciate the kind invitation extended to me by my friend and brother, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey to attend this important occasion.

As we all know, University of Ghana and University of Ibadan have come a long way and both share a great history. Both institutions were established same year and both have dominated the intellectual landscape of our sub –region for as long as these institutions have existed. Both universities are also major players in the business of developing human capital and knowledge production in the African continent. UG and UI still maintain the bi-annual games which have greatly cemented our relationship.

Yesterday, UG laid an important new foundation for meeting challenges, of developing vaccines to overcome the devastation of Malaria and use ideas side by side to move this initiative forward. I therefore see my presence here as a further demonstration of the good African spirit of brotherliness.

Our foundation day ceremonies at the University of Ibadan shall also be coming up on November 17th, this year and His Excellency and the Vice-Chancellor are hereby invited to the ceremony, where we shall be honoring 5 distinguished Africans among whom is the first African Nobel Laureate in Literature, Prof. Wole Soyinka.

Ladies and gentlemen, convocation ceremonies, which enable the graduating students to be formally admitted to their various degrees, is an occasion to felicitate not only with the graduands but also with the institution and their families. The record of any institution is never complete without successfully turning out its products.

I therefore congratulate University of Ghana on this occasion. Let me also say big congratulations to the parents and guardians of the gradaunds for this day they have desired so much to see. The joy of every parent no doubt, is to witness the materialization of the fruits of their labour while they yet live. I come to congratulate all graduands of today on attaining this important milestone in your academic careers and hope that, you would go into the world firmly resolved to make positive contributions to the collective efforts of addressing your nation and our continents problems.

As you are well aware, the picture African presents globally, is not attractive. Our continent is bedeviled with insecurity and all its manifestations. The disease burden is high, the majority of the people are poor, infrastructure is inadequate and the level of technological advancement is low but to God be the glory we have people and human capital. Africa presents great opportunities, in terms of human and material resources. Our part of the continent, West Africa, is undergoing several levels of changes, which require significant input, and commitment of gradaunds of our great institutions. For us to be relevant in the 21st century, especially in the face of globalization, emphasis must be on promoting a knowledge driven society based on the productive human capital.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our success would depend largely on the development, retention and full utilization of our human capital to achieve desired competitive advantage in our globalized world. You, the graduands of today and your four thousand post-graduate colleagues graduating from Ibadan in November are therefore the kind of human resources the continent needs to spearhead sustainable development. This is a challenge you must rise up to.

Let me on this note, add that the University of Ghana has already shown you the path of honour which you will be expected to tow in life. You have the great challenge by making productive use of the skills and knowledge that the institution has impacted in you. It is also important to remind you not to forget to assist University of Ghana in whatever ways you can in your journey through life. I say this to you because I have observed that when some graduates leave, they hardly look back and you will only see them when their children or wards are seeking admission into their alma mata.

I therefore wish to implore you to give back to the university that has invested so much into you and made you what you are today. The impact of your education must be seen in national and regional development, so that university of Ghana would remain the great source of human capital. The future of our continent, the richest in the world, lies in your hand. We must work together to rescue Africa from the clutches of

vampires and leap forward into the 21st century. We are the only ones that can develop Africa. No one else can do this for us. We must eschew all vices that constitute impediments to our collective resolve to modernize Africa. Banish poverty, hunger, disease and premature deaths. Working together with bold resolve, I prophesy that Africa shall be great again. If Africa thrives, you are a success.

Your Excellency, the Chancellor, the Chairman of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen thank you all for your attention.

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY MISS IRENE NARH**

Chairman of the University Council;  
Vice-Chancellor;  
Pro Vice-Chancellors;  
Members of Convocation;  
Niiamei, Naamei;  
My Fellow Graduating Students;  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

When I was summoned three weeks ago by the Administrator of the School of Nursing for an urgent discussion, never did it cross my mind that it would be to be given this great responsibility of delivering the valedictory speech on behalf of the graduating class. I feel highly honoured and humbled for this opportunity.

The first time I stepped foot in the University of Ghana was in June 2009, when I came for a 15-day Diploma Nursing Top-up programme. I remember vividly how a lecturer from the Psychology Department used to drum into our ears how privileged we were to be in the "Premier University" even if it was just for fifteen days.

He made sure to remind us during our every encounter of this "privilege", as he put it. What at all is this lecturer going on and on about? How special is the University of Ghana from the others? I wondered.

After having successfully completed the BSc. Nursing program, I believe that my colleagues would agree that we are indeed privileged and blessed to be graduating from the Premier University today. The University of Ghana has since its establishment trained high caliber professionals to join the world of work and we the class of 2014 are proud to be part of this tradition.

We entered the University of Ghana as individuals with our own unique set of principles, beliefs and ideologies; but today we graduate as a group intricately bonded together by the priceless experiences and memories we have shared over the years at the base of the Great Tower of Learning.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, our journey through this institution of higher learning began on an exciting and expectant note, as it is with all freshmen. We relished our new found freedoms and liberties. But as the tempo of academic activities

picked up, we were quickly hit by the harsh realization that what we had signed up for was no child's play.

By the time our first examination results were in, we knew we had to step up our game if we were to graduate with our desired academic classes. We remember the many sleepless nights we had to endure to meet the deadlines for assignments, group presentations and project work. This was on top of our fervent preparations towards interim assessments and end of semester examinations. Through hard work, perseverance, determination and self-motivation, we have made it this far.

Student life wasn't all about academics. We shared an active social calendar which afforded us an avenue to de-stress and have a bit of fun time. All students eagerly awaited Faculty, Departmental and Hall week celebrations. And these were times when our organizational abilities were put on display. We enjoyed all the fun trips we embarked on during the years we spent together.

However, it is impossible to reminisce these happy memories without being sadly reminded of our colleagues and friends who began this journey with us but are no more. May they find eternal rest in the bosom of the Lord till we meet again.

Mr. Chairman, our achievements today we owe to the efforts and sacrifices of some individuals without whom our dreams would not have come into fruition.

We are grateful to the Almighty God for His grace and protection from the beginning of our journey till today. We are indebted to our lecturers and tutors for their commitment and dedication which have made us who we are today.

We immensely appreciate the unflinching love and support of our parents, guardians and family members. You've been our backbone and we promise to make you proud. We greatly appreciate your presence here today to share in our Joy.

To our friends turned brothers and sisters, thank you for making our stay together memorable. In the coming years, let us endeavor to keep the bond we have formed alive and strong.

My fellow graduands, the road through school has been long but the journey of life has just begun. The certificates we receive today are not in themselves an end, but a means to open yet another chapter of our lives. Let us not join the bandwagon of

professionals who migrate to seek greener pastures and better the lot of the countries they find themselves in. Together, let us harness our God-given potentials to move our nation and humanity forward. May we strive to achieve excellence in all our endeavours and may we be guided by the popular slogan, "if it must be done, then it must be done well".

Mr. Chairman to conclude, I leave you with the words of the late Nelson Mandela:

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be?  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.  
And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people  
the permission to do the same".

Class of 2014, I say Ayekoo and God bless you.

Long live the University of Ghana and long Live our homeland Ghana.

Thank You.

## **VALEDICTORY SPEECH BY MS. MARGARET SAKA ACHEAMPONG**

His Excellency Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University of Ghana,  
Chairman of Council,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,  
Members of Convocation,  
Invited Guests,  
Fellow Graduands,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am most grateful for the honour given me as the Valedictorian for the graduands of the July 2014 congregation. Today is a memorable day for all of us as graduands. After years of toil and tears, it is time to celebrate! We are here happy and proud to share this moment with all of you.

My fellow graduands would attest to the fact that, this magnificent achievement would not have been possible for each of us without the immense support systems that were available to us. We sincerely thank God who has blessed and watered our efforts to finish well. We greatly appreciate our dear parents, guardians, families and friends for their efforts in making us who we are today. To our faculty and mentors, we can boldly say that, today, we are much better and intellectually more refined people because of how you trained us. And for this, we would forever be grateful to you. To the University administration, we say thank you for providing us the resources to make our studies efficient and effective.

The University did not only provide quality education but gave us a holistic transformation. We have been edified spiritually through the variety of religious activities on campus.

Apart from this, when tensions built up during the semester, there were social activities organised by various student groupings which were fun, enabling us to relax and cool off and for some of us lucky ones, enabled us to find life partners.

As we close this chapter and continue to write the pages of our lives, let us endeavor to work hard to give off our very best anywhere we find ourselves. For any place we enter, let us leave the place better than we found it and let's take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way. Furthermore, my fellow graduands, let's

remember to acknowledge God in all our endeavours.

As a Rotaractor, I would like to urge you to bear in mind 'The Four-Way Test', which is an ethical guide for Rotaractors and Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

Of the things you think, say or do;

First: is it the truth?

Second: is it fair to all concerned?

Third: will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Fourth: will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Your Excellency, Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University of Ghana, May God continue to empower and bless us all. May God continue to let His face shine on the University of Ghana, and may God let the Black Star of Africa shine always.

Thank you.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE JUSTICE S.K.DATE-BAH  
CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
(MORNING SESSION)**

Members of the University Council,  
Vice -Chancellor,  
Our Guest Speaker,  
The Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lecturer for this year,  
Members of Convocation,  
Niiime, Naame, Nananom, other Traditional leaders,  
Staff and students,  
Alumni,  
Graduates,  
Invited Guest,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

As we end today's function, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have worked hard to ensure a successful congregation ceremony today. To all those who played various roles in the planning and organization of this event to ensure a success, I say thank you. All parents, guardians, family 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, alumnae and friends of the university, we say we appreciate your presence and participation in this event. I wish you a safe journey back. To our new graduates and alumnae, I congratulate you all on your achievement and urge you to be worthy ambassadors of your Alma Mater. I call upon you constantly to remember the university's motto, *integri procedamus* which I am sure you all know means, let make progress with integrity. I wish you all good success in your future endeavors.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it now my privilege and duty as Chairman of the University of Ghana Council to declare today's congregation dissolved.

I thank you.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY KOFI ANNAN  
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA  
(AFTERNOON SESSION)**

Dear friends, as we end today's ceremony, I would like to express my appreciation to all who worked so hard to make today's Congregation such a success. Let me also thank our Guest Speaker Prof. Adewole, all invited guests, alumni, and friends of the University whose presence and participation in these events is always welcome. Let us also acknowledge all the proud parents, families and friends who have travelled far and near to join the celebration.

To our new graduates and fresh alumni, congratulations to you on your achievements. Not only have you successfully completed your degrees, you were the first cohort to do so under the new four year degree programme. This is no simple feat and you deserve all the laurels you have received.

On behalf of the University, let me express my gratitude to the teachers and administrators who worked so hard to implement the new system. You have had to both teach and learn and to teach and learn at the same time is not easy. Without your dedication and commitment our graduates could not have succeeded.

Today our graduates move on to take up new challenges. As you do, I call upon you to constantly remember, the University's motto, *integri procedamus* or let make progress with integrity. I wish you every success in your future endeavors and I am sure that you would prove to be worthy ambassadors of your Alma Mater. I am sure you would cooperate and work together and remain friends and support each other as you demonstrated that this afternoon by giving yourselves the greatest applause.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is now my privilege and duty as Chancellor of the University to declare today's Congregation dissolved.

Thank you.

