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**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
(GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES)  
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION  
APRIL 27, 2019**

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## **ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS**

Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Procession

- Members of Convocation
  - Council
- (The Congregation is asked to stand)*

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose: Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse,  
Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Professor Kwame Offei,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
(Academic & Student Affairs)

Congregation Speaker: Mrs. Ellen Hagan

Valedictory Address: Ms. Deborah Nana Ama Abbey

Conferment of degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Humanities

- MA · BA · BSc Administration
- BSc Information Technology · BSc Nursing · Diploma

Chancellor dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY CHANCELLOR  
MRS. MARY CHINERY–HESSE**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you all warmly to this morning ceremony and extend my best wishes to all of you gathered here on this important occasion. I am sure those graduating today are especially excited, you are very welcome to enjoy the day. As you may know the University of Ghana adopted the College system of governance in 2014 and since that time congregation ceremonies have been organized on college basis.

Congregation ceremonies are very important to the University of Ghana because of the opportunity they afford us to reflect, on how we are doing in terms of providing the needed academic services and corporate support to ensure that students graduate and on time. Management of the University remains committed to improving upon Distance Education graduation rates and students satisfaction and will continue to do everything within its power to provide students with the memorable student experience.

Today's congregation ceremony is being organized specially to graduate Distance Education students who completed the final examination in January as well as some graduate students from the College of Education who have satisfied the requirements for graduation. We are glad that the Distance Education mode of education has come to stay. Other congregation ceremonies will be held in July and November this year to graduate students on regular programmes. I take the opportunity to wish the grandaunds who are being presented today the very best on this very important occasion. We share in your joy on the successful completion of your programmes of study and we are very proud of you.

Today's ceremony will also see the award of academic prizes to deserving students on the Distance Education Programme as well as an award to the Best Worker in the Junior and Senior staff category for 2018.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to declare this morning's assembly duly constituted for the awards of degrees and diplomas to successful graduates. It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give a report at congregation on development in the University over the last academic year.

I now call on the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Samuel Kwame Offei to present the Vice-Chancellor's report. Please enjoy the day.

Thank you very much.

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS PRESENTED BY  
PROFESSOR KWAME OFFEI, PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR  
(ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS)**

Madam Chancellor,  
Chairman and Members of Council,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor,  
Registrar,  
Provosts and Deans,  
Guest Speaker,  
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of  
Education,  
Members of Convocation,  
Staff and Students,  
Alumni,  
Graduands,  
Invited Guests,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the first congregation ceremony in 2019, which is actually the last ceremony for students who completed their programmes as part of the 2017/2018 cohort. Congregation ceremonies will be held in July and November this year for the 2018/2019 cohort of students.

Today's ceremony is dedicated to the College of Education, and degrees will be conferred on graduate students, as well as undergraduate and diploma students who pursued their programmes through the Distance Education mode.

A total of 844 students are graduating today, made up of 6 at the Masters level; 727 Undergraduates and 111 Diplomates. This brings the total number of graduating students in the 2017/2018 cohort to 8,936.

Congratulations to you all on your achievements!

## **The State of the University**

### **Academic Affairs of the University**

#### ***Admissions***

The University of Ghana registered a total of 11,216 (Eleven Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixteen) students into various programmes mounted at its campuses in the 2018/2019 academic year. This number was made up of 5,828 (Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Eight) male students and 5,388 (Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight) female students, including 306 (Three Hundred and Six) international/visiting students.

The total number reflects an overall admission ratio of 51:49 for males and females, meaning that the University is on course to attain its strategic objective of a 50:50 ratio for male and female student enrollment.

#### **Mature Admissions**

Following the re-introduction of mature admissions for the Distance Education programme in the 2017/2018 academic year, an access course and examinations for mature applicants in Mathematics, English and Logic has been successfully held, with qualified applicants admitted to study for Bachelor of Arts degree programmes. The re-introduction of mature admissions led to a steady increase in Distance Education enrolment figures for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 academic years. The access course for 2019/2020 admissions is currently ongoing, and the numbers of applicants registered so far gives an indication that enrolment rates in our Regional Learning Centres will increase. Thus, escalating the College's aim to bring quality education to the doorstep of all, regardless of location.

### **Governance**

#### **Review of Collegiate System**

Madam Chancellor, the collegiate system of the University of Ghana which was established in 2014, has run for over four years and is currently being reviewed. A panel chaired by Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University, has been tasked to collate and review recommendations towards improving upon the system.

## **Strategic Teams**

Madam Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, nine strategic teams were formed in November 2016, and tasked to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana. I am glad to note that all the teams have worked hard and made significant strides towards achieving their mandates.

- The Independent Power Supply Team has explored the possibility of using solar energy to run the University of Ghana Stadium. In furtherance of this, the University is currently in discussion with the Ministry of Youth & Sports for the inclusion of solar panels as part of the stadium roof.

The Team recently met with representatives of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Ministry of Energy as part of H.E. the President of the Republic of Ghana's initiative to undertake a review of the solar rooftop programme and provide a framework for its scaling up. The University is grateful to the President and all other agencies that are driving this initiative.

The Team is also liaising with the Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) under its Energy Compact 2 to undertake a retrofitting of existing appliances in selected areas of the University to improve energy efficiency.

The University has also changed all incandescent lamps to Light-Emitting Diode (LEDs) Lamps to help conserve electricity. The street lights on campus have also been fixed to enhance security and safety of students, staff and all individuals on campus.

- Madam Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen, The Green Team Project is also advancing on its mandate of increasing tree density, ensuring green coverage of campus grounds, developing paved walkways and improving waste management. Through this initiative, the UG Plastic Recycling Project which started at the beginning of the 2018/2019 academic year, has been able to collect over 14 metric tons of water sachets, plastic bottles and other plastic items for recycling.

I wish to use this opportunity to commend the University community for supporting this initiative.

- Through the efforts of the Institutional Advancement Team, two global chapters of University of Ghana have been revived. These are the UG Alumni Association North America (UGAANA) and UG Alumni Association, UK.

The two associations are actively working to mobilize alumni to give back to the University. The UG@70 Endowment Fund continues to receive donations from individuals and groups, and I take this opportunity to encourage our guests and members of the graduating class to also commit to support the University in any way they can.

An Alumni Homecoming event has been scheduled for August this year to climax the activities of the 70th Anniversary of the University.

The strategic teams have made significant progress towards creating an enabling environment for students, faculty and stakeholders. I therefore wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the chairpersons and team members of the nine strategic teams for all the work done so far to move the University of Ghana towards becoming a “Go to University” that would attract potential researchers and students from around the world.

### **Research, Innovation and Development**

The University of Ghana remains committed to its vision of becoming a world class research-intensive institution and already landmark research grants have been won, which have been used to enhance its research profile.

ORID recorded 51 grant agreements from January to December 2017 and 73 grant agreements from January to December 2018. The values of the grants were approximately US\$11,400,000.00 (Eleven Million, Four Hundred Thousand US Dollars) for 2017 and US\$17,300,000.00 (Seventeen Million, Three Hundred Thousand US Dollars) for 2018. There is a clear indication that the university's grant portfolios have been increasing steadily and appreciably for the past 3 years.

Madam Chancellor, the University's investment in research is yielding extraordinary results and there has been exceptional improvement in the quantity and quality of research being carried out by the university.

### ***Research in the College of Education***

The College of Education Research Board awarded a total of GH¢200,000 Cedis as research grants to faculty who were successful in the first call for Research Grant applications. This scheme is modelled after the University of Ghana Research Fund (UGRF), and there are three categories of applicants, meant to stimulate faculty interest in grantsmanship:

- Seed Grant: which is open to all Senior Members in active service.
- Departmental Collaborative Research Grant: which is open to Senior Members who have served at least one year in the College. In addition, there must be at least three members in the Research team.
- Early-Stage Researcher Grant: which is open to researchers in the College who have served the University for five years.

### ***Conferences in the College of Education***

The Department of Physical Education and Sport Studies successfully hosted the 3rd International Conference on Physical Activity and Sports for Health and Development in Africa (IC-PASHDA) in September 2018. The goal of PASHDA is to promote physical activity, sports and health for growth and development in Africa through healthy active living. The conference brought together professionals, scholars and practitioners from various fields across the globe to share knowledge, research findings, experiences and lessons from their professional experiences.

The School of Information and Communication Studies (SICS), in collaboration with the International Communication Association (ICA) hosted the 2018 Africa Regional ICA conference on the theme “African Digital Cultures: Emerging research, practices and innovations” in November last year. The conference brought together scholars from within and outside the continent to share their research and perspectives on the cultures forming around conceptualizations, production and consumption of the digital space in Africa.

The School of Continuing and Distance Education organized the 70th Annual New Year School and Conference on the theme; “Building Strong Institutions for Democratic Consolidation in Ghana” in January this year. The theme for the conference focused on five targets of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16:

Peace, justice and strong institutions, which are to:

- Promote rule of law at the national level and ensuring equal access to justice for all;
- Reduce all forms of violence and related death rates;
- Reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms;
- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; and
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

### **University of Ghana Heritage Museum**

I am happy to inform you that Management has constituted a team to raise funds towards the establishment of a University Museum where objects of historical, scientific, artistic or cultural interest could be stored to preserve the legacy and the heritage of the University of Ghana. In line with this, the University is in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Kalam Smriti International, India, which has expertise in science and space museums. Among others, the MoU seeks to develop a Health, Science and Space Museum and use space science and technologies in advancing health and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies is playing a major role in the pursuit of building the museum.

### **Physical Development in the University**

Madam Chancellor, creating an enabling environment requires quality infrastructure, therefore the University has initiated many projects on the various campuses.

These projects include:

- Construction of School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences Building.
- The refurbishment of the convocation group of buildings, including painting of the tower,
- Asphalted of car parks in academic areas and halls of residence,
- Painting and refurbishment of several academic facilities,
- Landscape works on the Main Boulevard and academic quadrangle,
- The refurbishment of the N'Block group of buildings,
- The construction of a Dental School Building at Korle-Bu.
- Commencement of major arterial walkways to make them disability-friendly.
- Proposal for the construction of world class Astro turf for hockey.
- Completion of phase one of the revised stadium works.
- Completion of the Legon Credit Union Building.
- Completion of 4 residential units at Staff Village.
- Completion of phase one of Merian Centre.
- Complete rehabilitation of campus street lights.
- Agreement with Total Ghana for the relocation of Legon Fuel dump.
- Commencement of park for Legon buses opposite PDMSD.
- Completion of phase one offices for School of Performing Arts.
- Refurbishment of old School of Law Library.
- Completion of offices for Office of Research, Innovation and Development, behind School of Law.
- Refurbishment of Akuafo Hall Kitchen.
- An Advanced Research Laboratory at Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, was recently completed and inaugurated by His Excellency, the President of the Republic.

I appreciate the efforts of members of Staff of the Physical Development and Municipal Service Directorate (PDMSD) who work around the clock to successfully complete these and other projects.

## **University Finances**

### ***Fiscal Discipline and Financial Reforms***

Madam Chancellor, Management of the University with the support of the University Council, has resolved to build strong institutional systems and

structures which will stand the test of time and lead the University into a prosperous future.

University Management and Council have therefore embarked on an initiative to enforce fiscal discipline and prudent financial management. This ongoing initiative aims at freeing fiscal space and making funds available to undertake critical developmental projects, in line with strategic objective six of the University's strategic plan, which seeks to enhance the mobilization and management of resources in the University.

Madam Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to report that since the introduction of these reforms, the University has saved close to 11 million Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 11,000,000.00).

The savings derived from this exercise are being used for various projects in the University.

The reforms have led to a transformed image of the financial practices of the University and enhanced trust of our stakeholders. I wish therefore to appeal to all staff, students and other internal and external stakeholders of the University to embrace the implementation of these reforms to ensure that, together, we make judicious use of our financial and other resources to promote efficiency as we march towards becoming a world-class University.

### **Financial Aid to Students**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Financial Aid Office has made it possible for less endowed but brilliant students to have equal access to quality education at the University of Ghana.

There has been an increase in donations from approximately GH¢ 1,100,000.00 (One Million, One Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis) in the 2016/2017 academic year to approximately GH¢ 3,000,000.00 (Three Million Ghana Cedis) in the 2017/2018 academic year. This represents a 155% increase over the previous year.

During the period under review, a total of Six Hundred and Fourteen Students (614) out of Nine Hundred and Twenty (920) applicants were

awarded scholarships. This represents 66.7% of all scholarship applicants. The 614 scholarship awardees comprised 424 males representing 69.1% and 190 females representing 30.9%.

Distinguished Guests, allow me to commend donors who have supported students to pursue their dreams and aspirations at the University of Ghana, and urge individuals and corporate bodies to come on board and support the University as it provides opportunities for these students.

### **Well wishes to Graduands**

To you, ladies and gentlemen of the graduating class, as we celebrate this milestone with you, I will like to conclude with the words of Winston Churchill: Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

I therefore pray that your commitment to obtain knowledge does not end with your graduation but that you will continue to seek knowledge to enable you make significant changes in your lives and in society as a whole.

I urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of the University of Ghana, and as you move on to the next stage of your lives remember to uphold the values of the University - Respect, Commitment, Integrity and Loyalty.

I wish you all the best in your individual journeys.

Once again, congratulations to you all and may you have success in your future endeavours.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY  
MRS. ELLEN HAGAN**

Madam Chancellor  
Chairman of Council  
Vice-Chancellor  
Pro-Vice-Chancellors  
Registrar  
Provosts and Deans  
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of  
Education  
Members of Convocation  
Staff and Students  
Alumni  
Graduands  
Invited Guests, proud parents,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very grateful to the faculty and leadership of the university for selecting me as Guest Speaker. It means a lot to me. My husband and my Personal Assistant who are here with me and indeed my family and, work family share in this honour. I have two confessions to make. My PA and I have written this speech no less than 5 times, literally tying ourselves into all sort of knots and letting all who have ears to hear know that I am going to deliver the commencement speech! Even though this is not my first time, this is for my own University and so you may understand the reason for the self-inflicted stress to get it done in a particular way. The second confession is that whilst I was getting an education here 3 decades ago, I met my husband and we left the Legon campus not only with our degrees, but with love and by God's grace we have been married for 34 years this July, parents of 4 and grandma and grandpa of 5 adorable grannies. So this is love brewed in the Legon pot!

Oh yes! I am excited for you and can relate to this feeling of wonder, this sense of achievement and for some maybe disbelief? that God has actually brought you this far. For some of you, you may be the first person in your family to chalk up this academic milestone; for others, you probably had to

pay your fees through hard and soft loans; for some of you, you got through all this whilst on your sick bed and through some tragedy or other. Despite your circumstances, you have made it! Congratulations, in my view, does not express it as well as in our Akan dialect Ayeekooo! Class of 2018, Ayeekooo

### **Embrace the “here and now”**

I remember when we were on campus, we students numbered only 3,000 as compared to the over 40,000 of you today. The Central cafeteria, was exactly what its name said it was, not a church or lecture hall. I remember the abandon with which I threw my books into several big boxes and closed them with such finality and relief after the final exams. Before this happy event, I had kept asking myself, as I am sure you did, "When will I be done with assignments, lectures and exams?" The next sets of questions you will probably be asking are "When will I get a job" and when you do, you will ask yourself: "when will I get a job that pays more". I am a perfect example of this. Whenever I organize events, for instance, I would be very particular about the planning, select a good caterer, nice menu and ensure everything is well organized. What happens invariably is that on the day of the event, instead of relaxing, I will needlessly be so involved in micro- managing that I will not even remember to eat. I have learnt over the years that I should be intentional about enjoying life. Class of 2018, take care of your health, find time to exercise; enjoy the blessings that come with living- don't take good health for granted nor the camaraderie that we share with loved ones. Well, with the advantage of hindsight, I will urge you to embrace the gift of “Here and Now”. Enjoy your life, celebrate little victories, and savor the moments. We too often worry about yesterday and tomorrow and forget to enjoy today, which is ours.

### **I will like to say something about legacy**

For some years, you have been privileged to have studied at one of the best universities in Africa. You are walking out of an institution that for the past 70 years has nurtured great minds such as the last three serving presidents of our country. What am I insinuating? You belong to a tradition of greatness. I will like to mention three of my class mates whose names may not be as readily recognizable but are no less a big part of this tradition of greatness- Mrs Carlien Bou-Chedid, the first Woman President of the Ghana



**Officials, Members of Convocation and Guest Speaker  
in a group photograph**



**Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, Chancellor, delivering  
the Opening Address**



**Professor Kwame Offei, Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
(Academic & Student Affairs) presenting the  
Vice-Chancellor's Address**



**Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia, Registrar, delivering the Opening  
Remarks at the ceremony.**



**Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah, College Secretary,  
College of Education**



**Mrs. Ellen Hagan delivering the  
Guest Speaker's Address**



**Ms. Deborah Nana Ama Abbey, delivering the Valedictory Address**



**Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia, Registrar, congratulating the family members of the Late Joseph Namgbe, recipient of Best Worker Award 2018 (conferred posthumously)**



**Prof. Yaw Twumasi, Chairman of Council congratulating  
Mr. Edmond Teye Agbovi as Best Graduating Student  
in B.Sc. Administration (DE Programme)**



**Prof. Yaw Twumasi, Chairman of Council congratulating  
Ms. Deborah Nana Ama Abbey as Best Graduating  
Bachelor of Arts Student (DE Programme)**



**Prof. Yaw Twumasi, Chairman of Council congratulating  
Mr. Benjamin Teyiamo Aburigo as Best Graduating Student  
(DE Programme)**



**Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries**



**Cross section of Graduands at the Congregation ceremony**



**Graduands happily tossing their graduation caps after the ceremony**



Some parents, guardians and invited guests at the ceremony

Institution of Engineers, Prof. Rose Emma Ensua-Mensah, the first woman to do her PhD in fisheries Science in Legon and in West Africa, who first warned us about the consequences of galamsey on our waters in her inaugural lecture on the topic "distressed fishes in dying waters"; Dr. Emelia Afua Laign, who set up Obaatan pa hospital to provide quality care with dignity; where the under privileged would be welcome and receive the same quality care, sometimes a baby's delivery cost is as low as 100gh cedis.

I have been privileged to speak so many times on the subject of success and and yet it was my daughter, who taught me about the different levels of greatness and success in a story which ultimately changed my perception about influence. Class of 2018, you cannot come out of Legon and only be concerned about me, myself and I and my cat at home. It is very easy to get discouraged about the huge problems of our lives and the apparent sense of futility that one feels when faced with tragedy. Ewurabena came to me one day for permission to go to a remote village in the back of beyond where there is no potable water, nor hygienic places of convenience for 6 weeks to teach English language to the under privileged. I was alright with this adventure as I saw it until she returned covered in insect bites called "keklegie" or something akin to pityriasis rosea. I was quite upset so we had a conversation about the futility of her efforts. My daughter explained to me the import of the starfish story and that even if only one student benefitted from her effort, it would still be worthwhile. I am now convinced we can change the world one star fish at a time. Not too long after, there was a flood disaster in Accra which resulted in a lot of people losing their homes and some life! I stopped thinking about the enormity of the problem and the huge numbers of victims involved and rallied my friends to make donations of towels and bedsheets and water.... At that time, I did not even know the price of a whole bag of sachet water was less than five cedis! I partnered with my friend Celia and together we linked up with some churches and I saw first hand the difference a few sachets of water made in a home where flood water had left in its wake sand in what used to be habitable rooms. I saw what difference a few towels and bedsheets made to people just like us whose circumstances had dramatically changed over night.

The effect was tangible and fulfilling. There was another tragedy that resulted in shortage of beds in the hospitals. Instead of thinking "my contribution of

five beds will just be a drop in the ocean and won't solve anything", I sent the beds anyway and I dare say it made a difference to some ten or so inpatients during those tragic days. Class of 2018 we can brighten our little corner where we are. We can do big things, but it is also alright to do small things - Tet's just do something. We can start by being punctual. A life giving legacy does not happen automatically. It takes courage and commitment to risk choosing a lifestyle rather than accepting one. Planting legacies implies looking for opportunities and making your days count. William Jones said "The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it". That is Legacy.

### **Let's remind ourselves about your USP /your uniqueness**

After school, we all expect to be gainfully employed. The world of work presents you with two options: either you find a job or you create one. I have learnt that entrepreneurship is not for everybody and hence, the populist advice that, after school, start your own business may not fit well with some. However, some of you can create jobs for others; you just don't know it yet. We need to have a shift in our mindset that we do not all need to look for jobs. Our philanthropic arm, L'AINE Foundation is deeply committed to raising the next generation of entrepreneurs, right from the juvenile level. We have started with the schools within the Ledzokuku-Krowor municipality, planting entrepreneurial clubs. I do know finding a job is not so easy these days; but this is my advice: vary your strategy. First, design a compelling CV that attracts potential employers and learn about interviewing skills. Second, practice your elevator pitch and be in readiness for an opportunity to sell yourself; Third, offer yourself for non-paid internship slots that provides you opportunity to demonstrate your high work ethic and ultimately, land you a job. In my book "Soft Skills: what gives one job seeker an edge over another", I have indicated that the university education is only a springboard. Having ethical behavior on the job, punctuality, as well as team work are very hardly taught in schools, but are needed in executing on the job.

Madam Chancellor, our "Bridge the Gap" program in L'AINE, short for bridging the gap between academia and industry, has played a pivotal role in exposing students to the world of work and in acquiring employable skills that increase their chances of landing their dream jobs. In Birmingham

University, the manufacturers of the Jaguar have partnered with the undergrads to get them to create more interesting shapes for the car and the young ones have demonstrated that when given the opportunity, they can be creative. I will highly recommend this collaboration between academia and industry.

The one thing to keep in mind is your uniqueness. From someone who has spent most of her life matching the right person to the right job, I know employers are looking for people who are solution oriented and who bring value to the business. Are you one of such? Create a unique selling point for yourself, something you can be distinguished by. Every one of us has been given the ability to stand out, you cannot be the same as the next person. What is your unique selling proposition - why should your next employer choose you over your equally qualified colleague? If you do not know it yet, you should think about it. The best study of man is man himself. Self-confidence, determination, the drive to accomplish, begins from the recognition that you carry something special.

**Now my charge to you, class of 2018, is to think of making the world a better place even when it seems crazy.**

I have always wondered why the early missionaries kept on coming to a mosquito infested country, knowing they were going to die within weeks like their predecessors. They gave us first class education in the schools they set up, Wesley Girls included, but oh a lot of them died, some within days and a few months of arrival. Some travelled with their coffins in the same ship! Now, that is downright crazy, wouldn't you say so? Well, I believe I have done my share of crazy things. Why would we start a school when we know very well we do not have the resources to do so? Yet we did. We started an all-girls school called Legacy Girls College at Akuse in the Eastern region, offering an enhanced Ghanaian curriculum and the British curriculum to develop a new generation of women leaders when we literally had no money to do it - then on the nights when I was up thinking about costs and debts, I used to say to myself; "M'aka p3 mi hu as3m .. ." literally, I have asked for trouble. Those were tough times.

It was a bleak situation as depicted in Kofi Awornor of blessed memory's "Songs of Sorrow" .... Dzogbese Lisa has treated me; It has led me among the sharps of the forest; Returning is not possible; And going forward is a great difficulty; The affairs of this world are like the chameleon feces into which I have stepped; When I clean it cannot go. My people, I have been somewhere; If I turn here, the rain beats me; If I turn there the sun burns me; Oh yes ... Changing the world is crazy business. This may be a cliché but class of 2018, you cannot graduate from the country's premier university- University of Ghana, and yet not be in readiness to literally change the world.

In 1985, two young men met and wrote a song "We are the World". The album sold over 20 million copies and raised over \$63Million for humanitarian aid in Africa and the U.S. The two men were Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie. This story is very instructive, they said we are the world and indeed the world became their world and they literarily brought everyone in the world to their world.

Such is the potency of power that every one of us has, to change the world for the better. You can change the world not only in economic context like Bill Gates, but even at such a micro level like 8 years old Tani, who arrived with his refugee parents in New York about a year ago, homeless and sleeping in a public shelter but learned how to play chess, and about a month ago, the homeless refugee Tani beat all the children of the elite to win a chess championship in New York city for his age group. When the news broke out, the world instantly became Tani's world and within two weeks, the world contributed about \$258,000 to support Tani and his family. Class of 2018, Legon has planted the seed of knowledge in you, you are to start now with this seed to nurture ideas, ideas that can make you rule the world, i dare say, you can! You are the world.

We are the world indeed! We have demonstrated that by creating the world of L' AINE, the first of its kind at the time when there was no blue print. We have created the World of Legacy Girls. Please allow me a moment to address the women in the 2018 graduating class. The reality is that when you are born a woman in our world, you have an additional albatross in the effort of living because we allow ourselves to be stereotyped by society. No matter how

many affirmative action initiatives are passed, that innate desire to be president of an institution or our country starts with ourselves as women and our awareness of our self-worth. It is our responsibility to be hungry and play the central role in national development I just love these two quotes from my namesake Ellen Sirleaf Johnson - "the size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them. If your dreams do not scare you, they are probably not big enough"; "and just because something has not been done yet does not mean it cannot be done".

I must not forget to provoke you to greater works by telling the story of a Ghanaian woman who took on the World and has broken barriers - Dr (Mrs) Justina Akua Baidoo, CEO of Adom Group of companies. She may not have had the opportunity a lot of us had with formal education, yet she has changed our world through her World. This remarkable woman is the only private individual in Ghana to own a dry dock shipyard, where ships are repaired and maintained and her company is one of only three of such in West Africa. As you journey from here know life variables like education, experience, skills, attitude, and mindset, can all be leveraged on to change the World.

### **Conclusion**

Madam Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to conclude, I would like to share with you a few nuggets I have discovered on my journey.

First, have a connection with a spiritual authority. I have made a stand as a Christian and have boldly inscribed "Jesus is Lord" on our 5 story building at Adabraka and on our head office building at Sakumono, because it is in Him I live and move and have my being.

Second, define your purpose. Your purpose is the backbone of your success. Success responds to purpose. In my book "Why are you here?" I have urged all to have a sense of urgency to discover why we are here and execute that purpose while we have life. Even if you live to be 100, life is short. There are two important days in everyone's life, the day you are born and the day you discover why you are born and sadly a lot of us do not discover that second day.

Third, The future is already here. In the past decade, there have been over 25 life-changing technological Advances. A few examples are: the smart phone, self-driving cars, and the bionic eye, offering sight to the sightless since 2013. It's just amazing. One of such technological wonders is Artificial Intelligence (AI). As an HR practitioner, this technological Innovation has made me sit up. We will have automated stores, automated restaurants, and all together, that is going to displace about 40 percent of jobs in the world. As the graduating class of 2018, you cannot ignore the implications of this in the world of work. The future is already here. A video clip that recently went viral depicts a robot being interviewed in our current world. Nothing showed that she was not human. What she said was that the only thing the human being had as an advantage over the robot is having a soul. To be able to overcome the age of robots, one of the ways to remain relevant will be to have characteristics that the computer cannot easily copy, which i dare say is our very "humanness" - our ability to empathize, to forgive, to have values, to be inquisitive etc.

So class of 2018, my wish for you is to be grounded and be humane. I will like to quote Chief Justice John Roberts of USA in this regard, "from time to time, "I hope you will be treated unfairly, so that you will come to know the value of justice. "I hope you'll be ignored, so you know the importance of listening to others

Ayeekoo, class of 2018 and thank you very much for your attention.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY  
MS. DEBORAH NANA AMA ABBEY**

Chancellor,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,  
Registrar,  
Provosts,  
Deans,  
Members of the College Advisory Board,  
Members of Convocation,  
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom,  
Guest Speaker,  
Cherished Parents and Guardians,  
Fellow Graduands,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great joy and honour that I stand before you all to deliver this speech. On behalf of all the graduands seated here today I say a big thank you to our parents and guardians, all faculty members of the various departments, and the management of the great University of Ghana.

My colleagues would be very disappointed if I stand here and pretend that the four year journey has been smooth and without difficulty; from our first examinations through interim assessments, to subsequent end of semester examinations and for some of us, practical works. All of these coupled with the stress of juggling work, family and weekend tutorials. Nevertheless, we managed to strive through with hard work and determination. On the bright side, we have made new friends, and for some, life partners. Therefore, let me congratulate the graduating class of 2018, by saying, Meawoe Wordor, Ayekoo, Nyɛbɔmɔde, Nyɛpenɔ, Moayeadze, Nii Tuma Pam, Imor ya, Well Done.

Let me take this opportunity to beseech management of the University especially the College of Education to improve the quality of tuition delivered to students at the College. Specifically, I plead that the number of

tutorials be increased, communication between tutors and lecturers be improved and if possible, students should be able to meet their course lecturers at least once in a semester. I make this appeal so that our successors will have a better experience of the College than we did and also so that the name of the College and consequently the University will be upheld on a much higher ground than it is today.

This is not to say we do not appreciate what you have given to us, we do. Like the late Kofi Annan, former Chancellor of this University once said, “Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rests the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable national development”. So I reiterate, we really do appreciate the dedication of this noble institution in delivering its mandate of providing higher education of which we are beneficiaries.

Now to my fellow graduands, I would like to speak briefly on the topic “Figure Out Who You Are” Joe Plumeri said and I quote “You can Google for an answer. You can Google for a mate. You can Google for a career. But you can't Google to find what's in your heart, the passion that lifts you skyward”. By the way, I googled for this quote. Some people luckily have already discovered what their passion is or what they would die for but some of us may not have or are still on the hunt. You can only find this great passion when you figure out who you are. Look within yourself, reflect on your best and worst moments as well as performance, and find your passion. When you do, chase it like it's your world's mission.

Sometimes in figuring out who we are, we get scared of being disapproved, of not being liked, or of being shunned. However let me encourage you with a quote from one of my most favorite women, the author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She said and I quote;” It's not your job to be likeable, it's your job to be yourself. Someone will always like you”.

I believe figuring out who you are is a lifetime job filled with triumphs as well as disappointments but most of all, enlightenment leading to success. It brings you a sense of fulfillment not at a latter end or final line like Maslow proposed, but in each and every stage of your discovery and your journey in life.

I quote Kofi Annan again, “We need to keep hope alive and strive to do better”. With God, all things are possible and as the book of James 2:26 says, Faith without works is dead. So I urge all of us graduating today to take the knowledge we have gained here and beyond, with the endless search for who we are, and make ourselves, our families, the country and the world a better place for all humanity.

Like the popular adage goes, save the best for the last. Therefore I give the utmost thanks to God Almighty for giving us life, our parents and guardians, our loved ones, friends, this University and all its stakeholders, and the privilege of being called graduates of this University.

Congratulations Class of 2018!

God bless the College of Education! God bless the University of Ghana!  
God bless us all!

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY CHANCELLOR  
MRS. MARY CHINERY–HESSE**

Chairman and Members of Council,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,  
Registrar,  
Provost and Deans,  
Distinguished Guest Speaker,  
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Education,  
Members of Convocation,  
Staff, Students and Alumni,  
Very Fresh Graduates,  
Invited Guest,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

As we end this ceremony, I will like to salute our new graduates, our latest Alumni, who have worked so hard over the period that they have been student of this University. You deserve all the laurels that you have acquired, in fact, I invite you to make a joyful noise. Congratulations.

Continuing making the joyful noise right to the top. We do congratulate you on your achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of your alma mater. I wish you success in your future endeavours. Normally whatever I touch turns to gold, so since I have graduated you are all golden objects.

Our thanks also go to all teachers and the management teams of the various units who have worked together to ensure that your studies at the University have been fruitful. The University especially appreciate the efforts that has been put in to the successful execution of the programmes and under the Distance Education mode.

We are happy that so many of your family members and friends, have been able to join in this celebration. They have celebrated you and you have to be

grateful to them. They sacrificed to make sure you got where you are today and am calling on you to give off your best to continuing to make them proud of what they have done.

We also congratulate the recipients of academic awards and hope that their awards will encourage all current crop of students to work even harder to help the University achieve its goals. I take this opportunity to encourage corporations and individuals to take up the challenge of sponsoring academic prizes to reward our hard working students. We also congratulate the family of the late Joseph Namgbe who received the Best Worker Awards for 2017 – 2018. May he rest in perfect peace.

To our Guest Speaker for today, our Invited Guests, Alumni and friends of the University, we appreciate your presence and participation in the ceremony. I wish you all a safe journey back to your homes. To end I acknowledge all who have worked hard to ensure a successful event, especially all those who played various roles in the planning and organization of this April Congregation.

Graduates, this is your chance to make one last joyful noise.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my privilege and duty to declare today's congregation officially dissolved.

Thank you for your attention.

