



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NO. 885

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2017

VOL. 55

NO. 6

**PROCEEDINGS OF 2017 MATRICULATION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 8.45 a.m.-9.00 a.m. – Matriculants/Guests to be seated
- 9.00 a.m. – Procession
- Statement of Welcome by Registrar,
Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia
 - Vice-Chancellor’s Address:
Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu
 - Cultural Performance:
Ghana Dance Ensemble
 - Administration of Matriculation Oath
by Registrar
 - Expectations: Miss Maame Ama Saah Mensah
 - Signing of the Matricula
 - University Anthem
- 9.45 a.m. – Recession
- Reception

**WELCOME/DECLARATION OF PURPOSE
REGISTRAR, MRS. MERCY HAIZEL-ASHIA**

Good morning Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the management of the University of Ghana, I welcome all of us to this morning's ceremony.

We are gathered here this morning to matriculate students who have enrolled for courses leading to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates at the University of Ghana, in the 2017/2018 academic year. We will confer on these new students, membership of the University of Ghana, in line with article 31 of the University of Ghana Act, 2010, Act 806 which states that:

1. A student admitted to the University shall take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register.
2. A student who fails to sign the Matriculation Register may be prevented from graduating by the University.

Visiting students and other short stay students who are studying at the University for one Semester or two semesters are not included in this ceremony. However, such non-matriculated students are expected to observe the same rules and regulations as matriculated students, while they are here.

At the University of Ghana the required dress for matriculation is a black gown worn over formal clothes. I am happy to see that our students are in the appropriated academic dress for the ceremony.

The ceremony is in three parts.

Part 1:

We will hear an address from the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu. He will also tell us the significance of the matriculation oath and what the University expects from the students.

Part 2:

Students will swear the Matriculation Oath to be administered by the Registrar of the University – this is the same oath on the website. You will repeat the words of the oath after me when it is time for the oath.

After the Oath, one representative of the students will tell us the expectations of the 2017/2018 cohort of students and ceremonially sign the Matricula; the Latin word for the Register. For this year we have selected a student from the Jean Nelson Aka Hall, to represent the students.

Part 3:

The third part of the ceremony takes place in cyber space! For the first time, each student, whether resident or non-resident will go online and electronically sign the Matriculation Oath. That is the record that indeed you are here. I am informed that as at 7:00a.m. today 9,000 students have sent in their registration online and indeed, accepted to abide by the oath that we are about to swear. Well done.

Mr. Vice Chancellor, this batch of new students have already set a few records in the administrative processes since they arrived on campus four weeks ago. I wish to congratulate all colleagues, at all the levels, for the roles they have played in the process of getting students involved in University activities.

I note that:

1. For the first time, the attendance of freshmen at orientation was so overwhelming that we had to order more chairs for the second day.
2. This morning they have chalked another first. This is the largest number of freshmen attending the matriculation for the regular programmes. All 9,000 plus matriculation gowns have been collected. I am told some students were unable to find gowns and had to come here without gowns.

Students, I hope that you will all return your matriculation gowns on time, so that you do not suffer any penalties.

2017 Matriculation Class, I look forward to seeing positive engagement in University activities throughout your stay in the University.

During the course of the year, the University will hold separate matriculation ceremonies for students in the Distance Education programmes, the Sandwich programmes and the other programmes which will take off in the second semester. So, welcome to the University of Ghana.

It is now time to call on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu to deliver his address.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT MATRICULATION: PROFESSOR EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU

SALUTATION

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

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the University of Ghana, as we begin yet another academic year, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this year's matriculation ceremony. Matriculation marks a special milestone as new faces and new blood are injected into the University. Here at the University of Ghana, matriculation provides an opportunity for freshmen and women who have gained admission into various programmes to be officially inducted as Junior Members into this academically stimulating and socially exciting community.

The ceremony is also significant because it provides the opportunity for you, young men and women, to pledge your allegiance to the authority of the University through the administration of the Matriculation Oath, and you will in due course, be expected to sign a bond to be of good behaviour and to subject yourself to the authority of all in whom authority has been vested in this University. You will also, by the same token, be expected to contribute your quota to enhancing the University's image wherever you find yourself and to ensure that you do not bring the name of the University into disrepute.

Freshmen and women; to arrive here today, you have accomplished a great deal; through your hard work, drive and perseverance you have gained admission to the greatest university in Ghana, and indeed in the West African sub-region. Today, as you officially start the next stage of your educational career, I want you to focus, and realize that in front of you, like a winding road, lie tremendous opportunities and experiences that will define your university experience and set you on the path of your professional and personal life. Indeed, to a large extent, these opportunities and experiences will determine the direction of the rest of your life. Seeing you here today reminds me of the beginning of my own academic journey, and the many twists and turns that have brought me this far. As you embark on your own individual journeys, I hope you will take inspiration from myself and the other persons here, and work hard to achieve your dreams.

ADMISSIONS

The admissions process for the 2017/2018 academic year has just been completed and is indeed the reason why we are here today.

For the seventh year running, the University of Ghana has made it possible for students who completed their WASSCE in May, to enter the University in the same year of writing the examinations. For the 2017/2018 academic year, the University's re-opening schedule for fresh undergraduate students, which would normally have been in the middle of September, was shifted slightly to start in the last week of August, to enable fresh undergraduate students complete their lectures and write their end of semester examination before the Christmas break. I salute the various teams who worked hard to make this a reality.

We continue to work to make our admissions systems as stress-free as possible for students and parents. Large numbers of prospective students apply to this University yearly and each time, we are faced with the painful decision of having to turn down the applications of many otherwise well qualified applicants due to limitations of our staff and facilities. Our four Colleges have been charged to submit proposals on creative ways to be able to offer quality education to many more qualified applicants at all levels.



Members of Convocation and Representative of 2017 Matriculation Class the ceremony



Members of Convocation on procession to the Matriculation grounds.



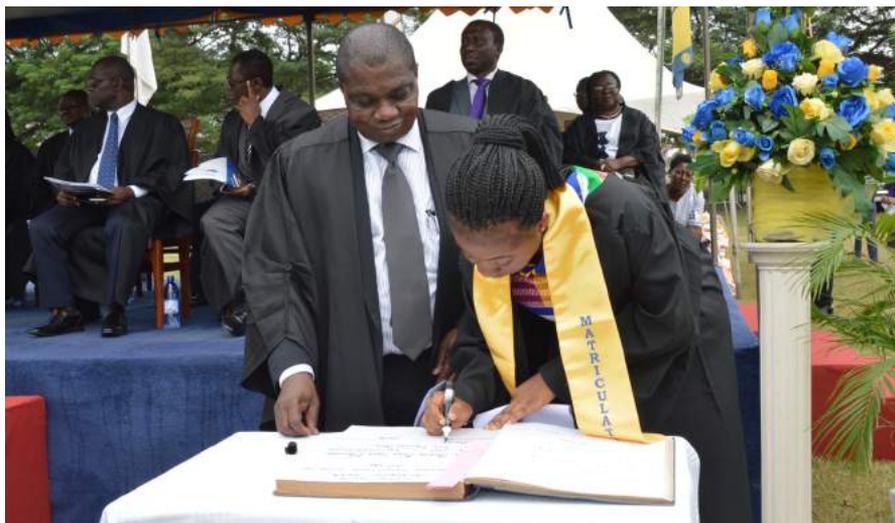
Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, delivering his Address



Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia Registrar, welcoming Matriculants to the ceremony



Miss Maame Ama Saah Mensah delivering an address on the Expectations of University Life



Miss Maame Ama Saah Mensah signing the Matricula under the supervision of Mr. Enoch Amartey, Director, Academic Affairs Directorate



Matriculants taking the Matriculation Oath



Matriculants seated at the Matriculation Grounds



Ghana Dance Ensemble performing at the ceremony



Some parents and guardians at the ceremony

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

For the 2017/2018 academic year, the University received a total of 41,447 undergraduate applications. For this academic year, the University admitted students into programmes on the Main Campus, the Korle Bu Campus, the Accra City Campus and Distance Learning and was able to offer admission to 23,041 applicants. Out of the number of undergraduate applicants offered admission, 10,289 have registered, as against 7,611 who had registered by this time last academic year.

The University continued with its policies of giving the opportunity of university education to women through the Affirmative Action Policy, as well as applicants from Less Endowed Schools on concessionary basis. Following the introduction of the policy on the Admission of Student Athletes a few years ago, the University, for the fourth year running, offered admission to talented sportsmen and women based on their sporting abilities. Students admitted under the policy must first satisfy the general entry requirements of the University, and also show proof of athletic ability. The first three batches of students admitted under this programme are excelling both academically and in their sporting activities. We welcome the fourth batch of students admitted under this policy, and trust that you will work hard to effectively combine your participation in sports with your academic work.

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

For the 2017/2018 academic year, the University received a total of 7,281 graduate applications and was able to offer admission to 4,198 graduate applicants. Out of the number offered admission, 3,107 have registered as against 2, 940 who had registered by matriculation last academic year.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students in any university add to the cultural enrichment of the social as well as the academic setting. It is also our firm belief that any world-class university should have a vibrant multi-national student population. In our drive to attract more international students to this University, we have, since the 2014/2015 academic year, offered

admission to international students who wrote their final secondary school examinations in May/June.

A total of 745 international students of various nationalities have been admitted into various programmes, made up of 530 undergraduate students and 215 graduate students.

Out of the numbers admitted, a total of 285 international students have registered, made up of 216 undergraduate and 69 graduate students have registered. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our international students and urge them to enjoy their stay in Ghana, feel at home, and make use of the services offered by the International Programmes Office.

FINANCIAL AID

In 2005, the University instituted a process to assist students to significantly reduce or eliminate financial barriers that might limit their access to education here. Through the Students Financial Aid Office, financial assistance is provided to qualified students who, without such assistance, may not be able to meet their educational expenses.

This aid is available in the form of partial and full scholarships, with an average of 120 students sponsored each year through the benevolence of individuals and corporate bodies. I would like to salute all donors and encourage other corporate bodies and individuals to assist us to fund the education of students who would otherwise have to interrupt or terminate their studies. Students facing financial challenges are encouraged to apply for consideration for the various support schemes when they are advertised. The Students Financial Aid Office is located at Bungalow Number 11, East Legon (adjacent to Akuafo Hall Annex A).

Financial assistance is also available to undergraduate students who need it from the Students' Loan Trust Fund (SLTF). You can contact the Students Loan Trust Fund to initiate the process of applying for the Students' Loan. Their contact details can be found in your admission letters.

Being sensitive to the plight of students, the University has made provision for students to pay 50% of their fees at the beginning of the first semester, and the remaining, before the beginning of the second semester.

EXCELLENCE AND DISCIPLINE

Dear matriculants, as I bring my address to an end, I want to touch on ways in which you can make your stay in this University more enjoyable, and leave here fulfilled. As you begin your studies, I encourage you to strive for excellence. Excellence does not come from spending 24 hours a day in the library; nor does it come from spending 12 hours a day on religious activities. Spending all your time on entertainment, devoting all your energies to organising hall week and other events will not lead to excellence.

As students, you will be well on the way to achieving excellence if you are able to strike the right balance between your academic, extra curricula and social life. You should carefully apportion the amount of time you spend on your books, on social engagements and on social media. You must develop skills in critical thinking and be analytical, and learn how to question received wisdom in a refined manner. There is nothing wrong with being religious, and we all are. But do not let religion become

an excuse for not engaging your minds intellectually. I will encourage you to be more open-minded and less fundamentalist about religion.

Education comes with responsibility. Those of you, who are fortunate enough to have been admitted to study at the University of Ghana, have an obligation to use your education for the benefit of others. We believe that each of you must become an active citizen of this community and every community that you will be part of in future.

CONCLUSION

Your primary aim for coming here is to study and I urge you to channel your energies in that direction.

Remember that you were admitted to the University as an individual and you will graduate as an individual. You are therefore solely responsible for all your actions.

In the course of time, you will encounter new experiences. Some of you will enter new relationships, some of which may be life-long. By all means enjoy them but remain focused.

We as your teachers, hall tutors and advisors shall be available to guide you, so long as you are willing to be guided. We will give you all the necessary support, but only if you use the legitimate means to seek such support. Remember to make time to read official notices and pay attention to University rules and regulations. These will guide you and help you make the right decisions regarding your time here.

On behalf of the Council and Management of the University, members of Convocation and on my own behalf, I would like to welcome you once again to the University of Ghana. We pledge that we will do all we can to make your stay here as pleasant as possible.

Enjoy your stay here; take advantage of every facility that is offered to develop yourself and to prepare you for your future careers and lives. I pray that the good Lord will crown all your efforts with success. I wish you well.

Thank you and God bless you all.

EXPECTATIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE BY MISS MAAME AMA SAAH MENSAH

The Chancellor,
The Chairman and Members of the University Council,
The Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice Chancellors,
The Provosts,
The Registrar,
Deans and Directors,
Heads of Departments and Heads of Halls,
Senior Tutors,
Members of Convocation,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Parents and Guardians,
Freshmen and Women,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I deem it a great honour to be asked to speak on "Expectations of University Life" on behalf of the freshmen of 2017.

Gaining admission to a University is a major transition period involving new experiences, new people and of course, new surroundings. It is a time of great anticipation, often with equal measures of excitement and fear of the unknown.

Without a shred of doubt, we have all come to the University with expectations. I have come hoping for freedom to do whatever I want, however I want and whenever I want. I have come with the notion that it would be great fun. I was very hopeful that the University environment would help me nurture a new personality, make new friends and view the future with great hope

I am barely four weeks on campus, but I have realized that my expectations will have to be properly focused. I have realized that some thoughts I had of University life are far from reality. Perhaps, we are all faced with a dilemma of "expectation versus reality of University life."

Undeniably, a great number of us attended boarding schools so, staying away from home is not much of an issue. Although we are in a new environment, we are steadily beginning to find our niche.

I vividly recall my first night here. But for the darkness of the evening, I would not have noticed that the day had ended. There was so much ecstasy in the air. I must say, it was a good but confused feeling. As days passed, I observed that students had fun, but not as much as I had thought.

Day in day out, it is becoming very clear that University life is not about fun only. Being here is indeed a very serious business. Academic work is what really determines the pace here. Our adult life has really begun.

The Lecturers, administrators and all other staff in the University are here basically to help us transit into adulthood.

Truly, our first few days here were not only fun but there were also very frustrating moments. We had terrible challenges with the Management and Information System (MIS). It was a struggle to find accommodation on campus and we had to deal with jammed online registration. Registration in the Halls was not less cumbersome. I am hopeful that things would take a better turn next academic year. On a lighter note, perhaps this is the price one has to pay for gaining admission to the premiere University.

I am particularly excited today because this function formally marks the beginning of an incredible journey. To the Class of 2021, I say "Ayekoo" in advance. Rejoice, for you have joined the Legon Family.

As I bring this speech to a close, I would like to remind us all that our primary aim for being here should be geared towards graduating with honours. For this reason, let us always plan our activities with the end in mind. We have a charge to keep. Like our motto says, Let us proceed with integrity.

Once again, congratulations and welcome to the premiere University in Ghana.

Enjoy your freedom but use it responsibly. Thank you and have a fruitful stay!

