



# UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

---

**NO. 895**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018**

**VOL. 55**

**NO. 16**

---

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
(GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES)  
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION  
APRIL 28, 2018**

## **CONTENTS**

Order of Proceedings	2
Opening Address by Chairman of Council	3
Vice-Chancellor's Address	5
Address by Guest Speaker	20
Valedictory Speech	25
Closing Address by Chairman of Council	28

## **ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 8:45 a.m.**

Procession

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose: Professor Yaw Twumasi,  
Chairman of Council

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

Congregation Speaker: Ms. Yolanda Zoleka Cuba

Valedictory Address: Mr. Gideon Awenabisa Atanuriba

Presentation of Academic Awards

Conferment of Degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Education

· MA/MPhil

Distance Education

· Diploma

· BA

· BSc. Administration

· BSc. Nursing

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession:

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR YAW TWUMASI,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA COUNCIL**

Pro Vice-Chancellor,  
Registrar,  
Provost 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

On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University, I welcome you all warmly to this morning's ceremony. I also extend Mr. Annan's greetings and best wishes to all of you gathered here on this important occasion.

As you may know, the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance in 2014, and since that time, Congregation ceremonies have been organised on college basis.

Today's Congregation ceremony has been organized specially to graduate Distance Education students who completed their final examinations in January, as well as graduate students from the College of Education, who have satisfied the requirements for graduation. Other Congregation ceremonies will be held in July and November this year.

I wish the graduands 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 who completed their programmes this academic year.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to declare this morning's assembly, duly constituted for the award of degrees and diplomas to successful graduands.

It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give a report at Congregation, on developments in the University over the last academic year. I now call on the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic and Student Affairs, Professor Kwame Offei, to present the Vice-Chancellor's report.

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

Chairman of Council and Members of Council,  
Registrar,  
Provosts, Deans and Directors  
Madam 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

**WELCOME**

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this morning's Congregation ceremony, which is dedicated to students in the College of Education. The largest groups of students graduating are diploma and undergraduate students who undertook their studies through the Distance Education mode.

This cohort completed their final examinations at the end of January this year, faculty administrators and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that results are submitted and approved, and that all is in place for the graduation of the students.

I would like to especially acknowledge and congratulate the first batch of students graduating with the Bachelor of Science in Nursing under the Distance Education programme. We also have a number of graduating students who are from the Graduate School. We say well done to all of you, congratulations once again.

Mr. Chairman, a total of 1409 students are graduating today; made up of 208 diplomates, 1147 undergraduates and 54 graduate students. 8 percent of diplomates are graduating with distinctions, 2 percent of undergraduates obtained first class, 39 percent second class upper division degrees, 44 percent second class lower and 15 percent third class.

Congregation ceremonies will be held in July and November for the next cohort of undergraduate and graduate students from all four Colleges.

### **Update on the State of the University**

Mr. Chairman, I will now turn to update you on the state University of Ghana. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, kindly permit me to use this opportunity to give you an update.

### **Strategy Execution**

In line with the University's vision to position itself as a “world-class research-intensive University” over the next decade, a strategic team was launched in 2014 to serve as a roadmap towards attaining this vision. Nine strategic teams were inaugurated in November 2016 to move the University of Ghana to become a “Go to University” which would attract potential students and researchers from around the world.

These teams are the:

- Institutional Advancement Team
- Agricultural Centres Commercialization Committee
- University of Ghana Rebranding and Marketing Team
- Medical and Dentistry School Expansion Team
- University of Ghana Regional/World Ranking Team
- Vice- Chancellor's Green Project Team
- Independent Power Supply Team
- Laboratory Modernization Team
- Committee to Review the Four-year Undergraduate Programme and Grading System

The common motive of the strategic teams is to ensure resource mobilization, create a university that has immense international visibility, and create an environment that is green to provide the needed congenial atmosphere for teaching and learning. Through the collective efforts of the strategic teams, much progress has been made with regard to the achievement of their core mandates. I would like to use this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to the chairpersons and members of the respective teams for championing the progress of the University's strategic direction.

## **Academic Affairs**

### *Admissions*

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our admissions process reflects the diverse nature of our student population. I am happy to note that during the 2017/2018 admission cycle, the University admitted students to the various programmes run on the Main Campus, Korle-Bu Campus and Accra City Campus and by Distance Learning. A total of **14,129** students, made up of **11,707** undergraduates and **2,421** graduate students enrolled. These numbers include 389 international students from across the world who accepted offers of admission and enrolled into programmes in the University of Ghana.

The University is preparing to admit a new batch of students in September. Outreach teams have traveled throughout the country to educate prospective applicants on our programmes and requirements and processes for admission, and we look forward to admitting qualified applicants in the coming academic year.

In anticipation of increased numbers of Senior High School students seeking admission to the University as a result of the free SHS policy, we have as a university, started considering ways in which the anticipated rise in numbers can be contained. A proposal on the introduction of additional City Campuses in the regional centres is currently being developed, and we are hopeful that when completed and approved, will we be to admit many more qualified applicants into our undergraduate programmes.

### *Mature Admissions*

Following approval for the reintroduction of mature admissions for the Distance Education programme, an access course and examinations for mature applicants, in Mathematics, English and Logic were successfully held last year, and qualified applicants were admitted to various undergraduate programmes for the 2017/2018 academic year. The reintroduction of mature students' admissions led to a 28 per cent increase in Distance Education enrolment figures for the 2017/2018 academic year. The access course for 2018/2019 admissions is currently ongoing, and the number of students registered so far gives an indication that admission and enrolment rates in our Regional Learning

Centres would increase, in line with the College's aim to bring quality education to the doorstep of all, regardless of location.

## **Research, Innovation and Development**

Mr. Chairman, I will now talk on Research, Innovation and Development within the University.

### *Research, Faculty Development and Conference Grants*

At the end of the review process for the most recent call for proposals for faculty development grants, eight grants with a total value of **GH¢ 244,102.00** (two hundred and forty four thousand, one hundred and two Ghana cedis) were awarded to faculty. The tenth call for research proposals by the Office for Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) yielded 17 awards with a total value of **GH¢ 881,733** (eight hundred and eighty one thousand, seven hundred and thirty three Ghana cedis). So far this academic year, ORID has disbursed 82 conference grants with a total value of **US\$111,142.00** (one hundred and eleven thousand, one hundred and forty two dollars).

### *Capacity Building*

The University of Ghana was part of a consortium of five higher education institutions which were awarded an amount of **EUR 1,359,975** (one million, three hundred and fifty nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy five euros) to run the Africa Regional International Staff Student Exchange (ARISE II) programme under the Intra-Africa Project. Under this project, applications are being reviewed for both staff and student exchanges.

The University of Ghana as the Lead Institution and its partners (Aarhus University and University of Copenhagen, Denmark) have received a grant of **13 Million DKK (thirteen million Danish Kroner)** from the Danish Government (DANIDA/DFC) to implement a third phase of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) Project. The BSU phase III project will run from 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2021.

Furthermore, the National Institutes of Health has also awarded a research grant worth **USD\$ 5.5 Million** to the University of Ghana for a project titled: Sickle Cell Disease Genomics Network of Africa (SickleGenAfrica), which is a three-year inter-related research project in sickle cell disease patients within the

sub-region

The German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) has selected to support a consortium proposal to establish a Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (**MIFAS Africa**) at the University of Ghana. The proposal is a partnership between the University of Ghana and a consortium of German Universities led by the University of Freiburg. The current phase involves a budget of **€1.7 million for a 2½-year preliminary phase**. A subsequent phase of the project will involve an annual budget of approximately **€2 million for a further nine years, making for a cumulative grant of almost €20 million**.

#### *Faculty and Student Fellowships*

Faculty members have also benefited from the Cambridge-Africa Partnership for Research Excellence (CAPREX) Phase II programme, the Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship and the Fox International Fellowship Scheme to spend time teaching at prestigious universities and conducting research in this university.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that our investment in research is paying off. As a university, we will continue to dedicate resources to research as we work towards attaining our vision.

#### *Research in the College*

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to announce that strides are being made in encouraging research at the College level as well. The Department of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration with the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) of the Michigan State University (MSU) has won a research award which aims to promote collaborations with African partners and institutions, and develop capacity for conducting international research for MSU researchers and African partners. The collaboration is part of the MSU-African Alliance for Youth Sport Entrepreneurship (AAYSE) project entitled 'Applying Positive Youth Development through Sport to Nurture Youth Entrepreneurship'.

The School of Continuing and Distance Education organized its 69th Annual New Year School and Conference on the theme; “**Job Creation for National Development: The role of the Private Sector**”. The School, which was opened by the Vice-President, and had Sir Sam Jonah, an international business

man as keynote speaker, was well attended and very fruitful discussions were held. The final communique and report of the School have been submitted to the sector minister for consideration for policy implementation.

The School of Information and Communication Studies has hosted a symposium on **“The Relationship between Journalism and Foreign Aid”**. The symposium was convened to examine the influence and impact of foreign aid on journalism practice and education in Africa and Latin America, and to develop a research agenda to examine issues and problems arising from the intersection between journalism, foreign aid, public diplomacy and foreign policy.

The School will next month, host an international conference on Safety of Journalists, as part of World Press Freedom Day (WPF) celebrations.

The Department of Physical Education and Sport Studies will in September this year, host the **3rd International Conference on Physical Activity and Sports for Health and Development in Africa (IC-PASHDA)**. The goal of PASHDA is to promote physical activity, sports and health for growth and development in Africa through healthy active living. The conference will gather professionals, scholars and practitioners in the broad fields of Exercise and Sport Science, Health, Physical Education, Urban Planning, Nutrition, Sports for peace and Development, Leisure and Recreation Studies, from across the globe to share knowledge, research findings, experiences and lessons from their professional experiences.

The School of Education and Leadership will host the third International Conference on Education Research for Development in Africa (ICERDA), in October this year. The goal of the conference is to promote meaningful and equitable progress in education for sustainable development, drawing on critical perspectives from the experience of African countries, and to create a space for education researchers to meet regularly to disseminate research that critiques discourses of education for development in Africa.

### **Physical Development**

Mr. Chairman, I will now touch briefly on the physical development. Ladies and gentlemen, quality infrastructural facilities are essential if the University of



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



**Professor Yaw Twumasi, Chairman of the University of Ghana Council delivering the Welcome Address**



**Prof. S. K. Ofeei, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs  
(Representing Vice-Chancellor) addressing the gathering**



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



**Ms. Yolanda Cuba, Guest Speaker**



**Gideon Awenabisa Atanuriba delivering the Valedictory Address**



**Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries**



**Graduands seated at the Congregation Ceremony**



**Some parents and guardians at the ceremony**

Ghana is to have the required capacity to achieve its vision and to address the increasing desire for higher education. We have many ongoing projects on all our campuses, and these, when completed, will provide lecture halls, residential facilities and office spaces for our staff and students. These projects include the multi-purpose School of Performing Arts facility, new blocks for the School of Pharmacy, the Department of Nutrition and Food Science and the Department of Earth Science buildings; the WACBIB building, the multi-purpose building for the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), and buildings to house each of the four Colleges.

We thank our local and foreign partners who have contributed to funding for these projects, and as a University, we will continue to prudently source for funds to complete these and other ongoing projects.

### **ICT**

The University has made huge leaps in the provision of ICT services. The University of Ghana Computing Systems (UGCS) has been able to migrate our email system to the cloud to ensure stability, availability and excellent performance. In addition, a number of installation works have been done to augment internet access. A major wireless replacement exercise has been conducted to provide student hostels with Wi-Fi.

Over 900 Wi-Fi Access points are currently installed within the Halls of residence, faculty and administrative areas on the main campus, Korle-Bu, Accra City Campus, as well as our Regional Learning Centres.

### **Financial Aid to Students**

The Students Financial Aid Office was set up to ensure that financial need does not deny any student equal access to quality education. Donors to the needy brilliant students fund span individuals, students, alumni, corporate and international bodies. Contributions are also made by the University through internally generated funds, and by the student body through the “SRC Yi Bi Boa” scheme.

During the period under review, 429 scholarships worth a total of GHc931,494 (nine hundred and thirty one thousand, four hundred and ninety four cedis) were awarded to students. This amount represents an increase of 27 per cent over the scholarships disbursed in the 2015/2016 academic year.

### **70th Anniversary of the University**

Mr. Chairman, I will speak briefly 70th Anniversary of the University Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana is celebrating the 70th anniversary this year. The University College of the Gold Coast was founded by Ordinance in August 1948, and subsequently transformed into the University of Ghana by an Act of Parliament in August 1961.

The year long celebrations were officially launched in February, and an extensive programme of activities has been drawn up.

As we mark this milestone, we are determined to celebrate our past achievements, and also look ahead and work hard towards setting the University of Ghana on its way to attaining its vision of becoming a world class, research intensive, go-to University. In this anniversary year, we commemorate our achievements as a University, and we will continue to challenge our faculty, staff and students to embrace new ways of operating, teaching and learning. We are certain that this will see the University of Ghana well on the way to becoming one of the most renowned and respected universities in the world.

I trust that we can count on the cooperation of all stakeholders, both internal and external, to work towards a successful anniversary year. I encourage you all to participate fully in the various activities lined up.

### **Well Wishes to Graduands**

I will conclude with a few words to our graduating students, who are the reason

why we are gathered here today.

Your graduation is a testament to your hard work and dedication throughout the course of your programmes. Many of you have combined your studies with work, social and economic responsibilities. Today, you officially close this chapter of your life, and move on to the next the stage of your life.

As you go out and make your mark in the world, I urge you to raise the bar of excellence, and to be committed in whatever you do, wherever you find yourselves. During your stay in the University of Ghana, you have hopefully inculcated the principles of **integrity**, transparency, **hard work and good stewardship**. As you go out into the world, with all its challenges, I urge you to put all that you have learnt here into practice, and to be good ambassadors of your alma mater.

I wish you well, and once again, I say congratulations on your achievements!

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY  
MS. YOLANDA CUBA**

His Excellency, Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University of Ghana  
Dr. Ebenezer Oduro, Vice Chancellor of the University  
Professor Francis Dodoo, Pro Vice Chancellor  
Deans  
University leadership  
Faculties  
Invited Guests  
Staff  
Parents  
Friends  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Students of the 2018 Graduation team!

**Introduction**

What a time to be here and to deliver this message! I tell you the truth - you are graduating at a unique time world history. Everything has changed – the human element involved in making things happen across every facet of life – industry, corporate business, manufacturing and the like – is gradually taking the backseat. The fast pace at which technology is moving, through Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning, are gradually taking over the entire globe and it is fascinating as well as intriguing. No one can ignore its power.

You need a special approach to succeed. You can't thrive in the world of work and enterprise you are about to be part of if your mindset is static and can't embrace change. These latest global developments must give everybody; especially you the youth, cause to pause and to think.

Believe it or not, history has always been about the story of the victor over the vanquished. Somehow life has fond memories of those who stand out; the exceptions – those who dared to be different. The world has no time and space for the ordinary. Herein lies the crux of my short message to you today! Life has always been about choices – what you decide today will be integral to what you will become tomorrow. In other words, what we do today, echoes into eternity.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen!

- **I have summarised my message into three key themes:**
- **Purpose in your heart to be extraordinary**
- **Seize the moment**
- **Be deliberate about life**

If you go away from here with nothing, remember these three themes and know that your ability to challenge the status quo; disrupt stereotypes and make them even better; will set you on a path to great success in what you students call “the real world.”

### **Purpose in your heart to be extraordinary**

#### **Anecdote**

**James Earl Jones** (the famous King in the movie, “*Coming to America*”) is globally acclaimed as the world's most expensive voice. He started out as a terrible stutterer. His teachers said he would amount to no good. He loved the arts and purposed in his heart not to let his stuttering define who he was. He didn't settle for that deficiency. He took lessons in public speaking; toiled day and night (especially at night) to overcome it. You know the rest of the story....

This is the greatest time to be alive and for you, this is the best time to thrive as a young person entering into the real world. I say this because never in the history of mankind has knowledge being made available to everyone under the sun, at the same time, by just a click of a button. We therefore, have no excuse not to go beyond the ordinary into the realms of extraordinary. Steve Jobs said “the people who are crazy enough to think they

**can change the world are the ones who do.”**

Our own **Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey** said, “**Don't tell me what you can do. Show me.**” No one remembers an average person. People are sensitive and more open to pay attention to those who are determined to want to disrupt the

## Be deliberate about life

### Anecdote

It is not wrong if you are leaving these four walls without a clear idea of what your career path is going to be. Nevertheless, embrace what you have and strive for only perfection in every task you are given. I discovered my career path when I came into contact with a computer in my Auntie's shop. This was used in digitising the stock system in the shop at the time and it blew me away. Somehow I knew technology was something worth mastering. I wanted to learn as much as I could.

Go for what you have always desired and dreamt about; but be diligent and sincere – because victory lies ahead and it has a pleasant taste. Just don't forget that "*Victory loves preparation*". Let it be a mantra for you and you will encounter no limits.

You are very crucial in our quest to accelerate the African's ability to innovate. You must approach issues with the capacity to think differently. I believe Africa is best placed to win in this digital age because we don't have to change who we are in adopting the new culture of sharing and being adventurous. The new age with its strong ability to disrupt cares little for physical infrastructure and that is to our advantage. It is about how we change our mindset and not our minds. It is time to learn, adapt, think and be flexible. Artificial Intelligence is threatening several static jobs in the world, which should tell you to strive to be versatile and dynamic.

### Conclusion

To paraphrase the American Philosopher, Henry David Thoreau, **“we must all strive to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and not, when we come to die, discover that we had not lived.”**

On this day of triumphantly graduating from this prestigious university, a new door is opening before you. Grab it. Take hold of it. Be passionate about and stand for something – that is the staggering truth of life. We all have to stand for something. Don't be afraid to dream big but remember to back it with action. Otherwise it will remain just a dream.

system. I have heard lots of stories about fresh university graduates in Ghana. Some people give you no chance to succeed in the corporate world. A former CEO in Ghana once said that the average university graduate is literally untrainable. I have read countless of criticisms of the education set-up in this country; that it gives the students a sense of entitlement rather than a sense of patriotism and hard work. Whatever it is, this is your time to sow the seeds that will define your success in future.

## **Seize the Moment!**

### **Anecdote**

My dear graduating students!

When I was graduating from the University, I was determined to prove I was the best and highly capable of becoming whatever I wanted to be in the world. I was thinking global and not local. I knew of the perceptions – I was African and a woman. For most, these were enough to consign them to oblivion and a life of failure. I was determined not to be defined by them. I proved my mettle and at the age of 29, was chosen to become CEO of a Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed and high performing company. The detractors came again; they said I was young, inexperienced and a woman. However, I remained undaunted. I believed in myself. I questioned the system. I was inquisitive and was sensitive to opportunities. Remember the immortal words of the poet, Robert Herrick -

**“Gather ye rosebuds while ye may because this same flower that smiles today, tomorrow will be dying.”** In other words, take the opportunity today and don't procrastinate.

Think of some of this university's alumni such as – **President Nana Akufo Addo, Joyce Aryee, Prince Kofi Amoabeng, Akua Kuenyehia** and a lot more that time will not permit me to mention – these people took NO for an answer. They were unrelenting in their will to win and they did.

Learn to “seize the moment.” Or as the Latin expression goes – *Carpe Diem*. You have to recognise that your time is now and do not procrastinate. You cannot rest on your laurels. Do not be afraid to make mistakes. Not everything that you try out from today will work out. Failure will come. That is not the point. It is what you do subsequently, after it has come, that will define your future and success!

I thank you for your attention.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY  
GIDEON AWENABISA ATANURIBA**

Chairman of the University Council,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Members of the University Council  
Members of the College Advisory Board  
Pro-Vice-Chancellors  
Registrar  
Guest Speaker  
Parents, Guardians, Families and Friends  
Fellow Graduands  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Being called upon to give a valedictory speech on this memorable day is indeed an honor and I am grateful for being given such a special privilege.

Congratulations, Class of 2018, as the Holy Bible in Ecclesiastes 3:2 states, “There is a time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest” (New Living Translation). It is awesome and intriguing that in spite of the obstacles, impossibilities and discouragement, we have made it to this day.

The journey has been made up of periods of joy, anxiety and disappointments, but we cautiously waited and worked hard, and by the Grace of God we are here today. Most of us have yearned for this day; for some, it has been just a few months of waiting; for others, the wait has been longer. However, no matter how long we have waited, there could be no better day than this day, this time, and this moment.

What a joy when I received the text informing me that I had been given an opportunity to study at the nation's Premier University. Then came Matriculation, and it was all joy meeting my new classmates, some of whom were colleagues and seniors in the nursing profession, and also making new friends. The welcoming demeanor of the Provost of the College of Education, and the representative of the Registrar, who had travelled to Tamale for the ceremony made us all feel so special.

The euphoria soon gave way to the real academic work, and I very quickly came to the realization that being a student at the University of Ghana was serious business; the numerous reading assignments; and the large number of slides among others. It is not surprising that by the end of our first examination, my colleagues and I referred to the tedious work that we needed to do as “body cooking” and “body babbling” among others.

The memories still linger, the tireless work; meeting deadlines, completing assignments promptly, preparation for exams; coupled with work, family and numerous schedules. Despite the daunting experience, our determination as individuals in search of knowledge, skills and wisdom had brought us this far without throwing in the towel, and we have come to this graceful end.

Though we are proud and shout, 'We made it', we did this by the help of others: directly and indirectly. Right from kindergarten up till this stage, we have leaned on God, our colleagues, our teachers, professors, lecturers, tutors, administrators, and our loved ones. And just exactly how do we proceed without acknowledging them? On behalf of the graduating class I duly express our profound gratitude to all of you who put in your best and honored your duties even in difficult times and salute you for all the sacrifices you have made. You made us who we are today and we are truly grateful. In the light of this, may all graduands rise and with a round of applause, show our appreciation to every one of our 'makers'.

The story of our individual journeys and varied experiences in this great institution cannot be told in any single book. Some experiences have marked turning points for some of us, yielding breakthroughs we have so long prayed for. Others may have had not so pleasant experiences. While some of these can be expressed in words; many others remain unspoken. In all our struggles, gains, achievements and joyous moments while traversing this great campus and our various Learning Centers, one thing has remained clear in our minds: our primary purpose; to attain higher education. The education that makes our country, societies, our families and us better to serve humanity. An education which will definitely reveal the treasures latent in us, and which mankind would benefit from.

As we exit this great institution, we hold every necessary requisite to influence the world. I see among us great leaders and thinkers: nurses, academics,

politicians, musicians, educators, social workers, administrators, economists, communications experts and so many other intelligent professionals whose work will have a positive impact on our nation and the world.

In this moment of joy, fellow graduands, let us take a moment to reflect on the fact that the advancement of this nation lies not solely in the hands of our elders, but on us as well. Success does not only rely on our ability to memorize facts to pass exams but also on our ability to apply what we have learnt in the real world to solve daunting problems and to effect the change society is so much in need of.

As we bid one another farewell, let us with one accord, make it our aim to influence the world as change makers with discipline and integrity, as the motto of this great institution urges us. We owe this to generations to come, and we must work towards leaving a society much better than the one we were born into and in which we grew up.

Congratulations to us all!!  
Long live the University of Ghana,  
Long live mother Ghana.

Thank You.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR YAW TWUMASI,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA COUNCIL**

Pro Vice-Chancellor  
Distinguished Guest Speaker,  
New Graduates,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

As we end this ceremony, I would like to salute all who have worked hard to ensure a successful event, especially all those who played various roles in the planning and organisation of this event.

Our new graduates, have all worked hard over the periods that they have been students at this University and they deserve all the laurels that they have acquired.

I 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. Our thanks also go to all teachers, and the management teams of the various units, who have worked together to ensure that your stay in the University has been fruitful. The University appreciates the effort that has been put into this enterprise.

We are happy that so many family members and friends of the graduates were able to join in this celebration.

We also congratulate the recipients of academic award, and hope that the awards will encourage all our 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 hardworking students.

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.

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

Thank you.

