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**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
(UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
NOVEMBER 18-19, 2016**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday, November 18, 2016 at 2.00 p.m. - Great Hall

Afternoon Section

Procession

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:

Prof. Kwamena Ahwoi, Chairman, University of Ghana

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Abena Osei-Poku

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands

- Bachelor of Fine Arts(BFA)
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB)
- Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Valedictory Address: Mr. Kwaku Peparah Adjei

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.- Great Hall

Afternoon Section

Procession

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:

Mr. Kwame Asante, Member of University Council (Representing Chairman,
University of Ghana)

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor

Guest Speaker: Mr. Kimathi Kuenyehia

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands

- Bachelor of Arts(BA)

Valedictory Address: Mr. Abdul-Kudus Bkari

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR KWAMENA AHWOI,
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
(Friday, November 18, 2016)***

Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities,
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.

The Congregation ceremonies that have been planned for this weekend are significant in two weeks. These will be the second set of congregation ceremonies for the 2015-16 cohort of student. The first set of graduating student were held in July 2016. As you may know the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance in 2014, since that time congregation ceremonies have been organised on college basis.

I take the opportunity to wish the graduands, 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.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to declare this morning's assembly, duly constituted for the award of degrees and diplomas of the University of Ghana to successful graduands.

* *Opening Address by Chairman of Council (represented by Mr. Kwame Asante, Member of Council)*
Saturday, November 19,

It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give a report, at Congregation, on developments in the University over the last academic year. I invite the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu to present his report to congregation.

Thank you.

**OPENING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY MR. KWAME ASANTE,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL)**

Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

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These will be the second set of congregation ceremonies for the 2015-16 cohort of student. The first set of congregation ceremonies for the 2015-16 cohort of graduation students were held in July 2016.

This ceremony is one of two that are happening concurrently. The other ceremony is taking place at R.S. Amegashie Auditorium for graduate student of the College of Humanities. As you may know the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance in 2014, since that time congregation ceremonies have been organised on college basics.

I take the opportunity to wish the graduands, 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.

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VICE CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION BY PROFESSOR EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU

Chairman of the University Council
Members of the University Council
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Officials of sister universities
Your Excellencies – Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Niime, Naamei, Nananom
Members of Convocation
Graduating Students
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

It is my privilege and honour to welcome you all to today's Congregation Ceremony one of the sessions in my first series of congregation ceremonies since I assumed office as the Vice Chancellor of this great University.

Congregation is a very important occasion in the life of a University. It is a time to recognise the academic progress of the graduands and to publicly acknowledge their achievements. It is also an occasion to review the work of the University during the last academic year in line with its stated vision and to inform stakeholders about the true state of the University and the way forward. Today's ceremony focuses on the second batch of students who completed their programmes of study in the 2015/2016 academic year; the first batch having graduated in July 2016. It is my fervent hope that all of us here present will help in making the ceremony a memorable one.

Acknowledgement

I assumed office as the 12th Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana on 1st August 2016 to provide leadership and an enabling environment for the realization of the University's vision of “becoming a world class research intensive 'go to’ university over the next decade”.

I would therefore like to acknowledge the immense contribution of all my predecessors and hardworking employees of the university (past and present) for

the visibility and respect the University of Ghana currently enjoys on both the local and international scene. By dint of their collective vision and foresight over the past 68 years, our university is today ranked as one of the best Universities in Africa. Consequently, Mr Chairman, I am glad to inform you that, The University of Ghana has been chosen to host the next (16th) conference of the International Association of Universities, together with the Association of African Universities.

Vision

At my induction, I outlined my vision for making the University of Ghana a first choice establishment in the circle of academic institutions in Africa and beyond.

I spoke among other things about my commitment to position the University of Ghana as a world class "Go to University"; I identified key actions that I intend to roll out during my tenure to make this vision a reality. These include: my passion to tailor the teaching and research in the University to the needs of our stakeholders; review the curricula to ensure that students educated at this institution are equipped with the skill-set needed to adapt quickly to the demands of the job market; promote learning, research and scholarship by providing the needed enabling environment to maximize achievement and excellence.

The others are to make our surroundings and environment green; improve upon our global and Africa-wide rankings by aligning budgets to support effective implementation of actions that would promote the core business of the university; promote positive attitudinal change and character-moulding as the underlying theme of all our engagements; and to subject our institution to external review.

Chairman of Council, ladies and gentlemen, Currently, management is trying to redouble efforts to diversify funding sources, manage our financial resources judiciously and have a prudent debt utilisation and management system aimed at making the University financially viable over the next five years through engagements with government, the private sector, industry leaders, and donor partners.

I am happy to report that the vision to position the University of Ghana as a "Go to University" has started in earnest. Management has set up Strategic Teams with the responsibility to come up with strategies that would advance this vision. The teams which were inaugurated on 3rd November, 2016 are;

- a. Institutional Advancement Team

- b. Agriculture Centres Commercialisation Committee
- c. University of Ghana Rebranding and Marketing Team
- d. Medical and Dental School Expansion Team
- e. University of Ghana Regional / World Ranking Team
- f. Vice-Chancellor's Green Team
- g. Independent Power Supply Team
- h. Laboratory Modernization Team

The teams are made up of highly qualified members and I am confident that they will come up with the roadmap for the realization of our “Go to University” vision. It is our expectation that all members of Convocation, staff, students and other key stakeholders will give the teams all the necessary support to make their work fruitful.

New Appointments

The tenure of the University Council, under the able chairmanship of Professor Justice Samuel Date-Bah, came to an end on 31st July, 2016. I would like on behalf of management, staff and students to extend my sincere gratitude to members of the former Council for their sacrifice and tireless contributions to the development of the University. I would also wish to welcome the new Council under the Chairmanship of Professor Kwamena Ahwoi. I take this opportunity to assure the new Council of our unflinching support in defining and steering the strategic direction of this University.

Some senior administrative appointments also took effect from 1st August 2016. New Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments, have been appointed to provide academic and administrative leadership in the various units of this university. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and thanks to all Heads, Deans and Directors whose tenure came to an end in July 2016. Your services to this university are well noted and I hope we can fall on you to take up other assignments in the future. I would also like to thank the new Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads for their willingness to serve. I trust you will share in the University's new transformational agenda built on the pillars of the 2Rs i.e., Respect and “RINER” which stands for Relevance, Innovation, Excellence and Resource Mobilisation.

It is my fervent hope that all the new appointees will bring their varied experiences and skills acquired in University administration over the years to advance the vision of this great university.

Admissions

For the sixth year running, the University created the platform for Ghanaian and other applicants in the West African sub-region who completed their WASSCE in May to enter the University in the same year. I salute the teams who worked hard to make this a reality.

At the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year, for the main campus, Accra City campus Korle-Bu campus and Distance Education programmes, the University offered admission to a total of 24,312 applicants made up of 20,621 undergraduate students and 3,691 graduate students. At the undergraduate level 3,841 or 50.47% of the registered students are male while 3,770 or 49.53% are females. At the graduate level, 1,702 or 57.89% of the registered students were males while 1,238 or 42.11% were females. The figure shows that the University has made significant progress in reducing the gap in access to higher education between the genders. We are therefore close to achieving the national objective of 50:50 male - female ratio in tertiary admissions. Further admissions will be made during the course of the year for Special programmes and Sandwich programmes.

The University continues to increase access through its policy of offering the opportunity of university education to applicants from Less Endowed Schools and applicants with disability. The admission of sports men and sports women through the UG Policy for the Admission of Athlete Students (PAAS) policy is also in its third year and already bearing fruit.

In June-July 2016, Team UG participated and performed excellently at the Federation of African Universities Sports (FASU) Games in South Africa. The team competed in five out of the nine disciplines and won 4 Gold medals, 7 Silver medals and 5 bronze medals to place 7th out of 35 universities. We are extremely proud of Desmond Aryee, who was ranked the 4th best performer in athletics by the competition organizers, after running an impressive personal best 10.40 seconds to take the men's 100m final in the track and field championships. It has been reported that more than half of the medals were won by athletes we admitted through the UG-PAAS. There is therefore no doubt that our strategy to use this means to enhance our performance at various national and international events is working and we need to continue firming up these achievements by investing in our sporting infrastructure.

At Legon, we place high premium on the cross-cultural experience that is made possible by the presence of international students on our campuses. We are happy

to report that for this academic year, 761 undergraduate and 229 graduate international students of various nationalities were admitted into our programmes.

Undergraduate Studies

Mr. Chairman, in the 2010/2011 academic year, a new four-year degree programme was implemented with the introduction of new courses and programmes and revision of existing ones. The grading system was also overhauled and the thresholds raised with the aim of improving the quality of graduates from the University of Ghana.

We are in the seventh academic year since the implementation of this restructured degree programme and today's graduating undergraduate class is part of the fourth cohort of students under the revised programme. The University will review the programme and provide recommendations to make our graduates and programmes more relevant to national development.

This academic year also saw the offer of new programmes. It includes the re-introduction of the Bachelor of Arts in Administration programme in the College of Humanities to offer students the opportunity to combine business related subjects with other subjects in the Humanities.

The College of Education has also rolled out new programmes. These are the Bachelor of Arts in Education and Bachelor of Science in Education to offer more choices to our undergraduate students.

Graduate Studies

Mr. Chairman the new four (4) year Ph.D. programmes which commenced in the 2012/13 academic year are also on course. The adoption of the 4-year research programme is in line with the University's vision of becoming a world class research-intensive institution. Most departments have revised their doctoral programmes and are also developing new ones to meet the exigencies of the times. We look forward to graduating the first cohort in 2017.

The University has also developed the following new Masters programmes which have received accreditation from the National Accreditation Board:

- MA in Educational Leadership and Management
- MSc. in Geo-Information Science

Students' Financial Aid and Scholarship

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to announce that the Students Financial Aid office which was established in 2005 has contributed immensely to providing access to university education to many bright but needy students. An average of 120 students are sponsored each year through the benevolence of some corporate bodies, churches, NGOs, individuals and alumni. To date 2,596 students have benefited from the fund. On behalf of the management of the University I wish to thank all our benefactors for their kind gestures and their services to humanity. I would like to encourage all who wish to support these students to come forward, to help us to put a smile on the face of a student in need, bring hope to a family and support capacity building for our nation's development.

Let me make special mention of the aid initiated by the students themselves. This is Yibiboa under which a percentage of SRC dues paid by all students is assigned to support the Students Financial Aid initiative.

Careers and Counselling Services

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, enhancing the educational experience of our students outside the formal setting is one of our cardinal outputs. Our Counselling and Placement Centre, which has been renamed Careers and Counselling Centre, offers us the opportunity to achieve this objective. The name change is to reflect how the services of the Centre have significantly evolved to embrace new requirements in the world of work.

The Centre's strategic goals which are in tandem with the University's strategic priorities, includes working with recruitment experts to identify students with leadership potential. It also provides opportunities for experiential learning for our students and makes counselling support easily accessible for employees and students. We believe the centre is well placed to achieve its set objectives.

Research and Staff Development

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the University recognises its human capital as its primary asset. It therefore continues to develop strategies to enhance its capabilities. The University continues to experience growth in its research portfolio with funding from both internal and external sources and a general push to enhance research governance and management structures, to facilitate cutting-edge research and dissemination.

The University is keen to support its faculty members by raising the profile of research and thus has increased the amount of funding available to faculty members for research. Since 2008, the university has through its own internally generated funds (IGF), provided about 5 Million Cedis to 182 faculty members to undertake various research projects. Some of these projects have also leveraged additional external support for bigger projects. In the year under review an amount of GH¢ 901,526 was awarded as research grants to faculty members. Again through IGF, an amount of USD 123,582 was provided as conference support to faculty members in the year under review. As you may be aware the University, in 2008, set its self the target to support faculty development to ensure that all teaching faculty acquire PhDs or terminal degrees by 2018. Each year the university provides some funding support to faculty members enrolled on PhD programmes as part of this scheme. To date, 93 faculty members have benefited from the scheme which has helped to chalk a 98% success rate before the end date.

The University will now focus on post-doctoral fellowships to provide the necessary capabilities to its faculty. The Colleges are also developing continuous development programmes for staff.

Based on the success of these initiatives, Legon has received tremendous support from its donor partners, notably the Carnegie Corporation of New York which in October this year, provided its third grant to the university since 2010 to implement the Building a New Generation of Academics in Africa (BANGA-Africa) Project. The project is a follow-up to the UG Next Generation of Academics in Africa (UG-NGAA) Project aimed at helping to build a critical mass of a new generation of academics in UG. All these initiatives are to enable Legon develop a critical mass of faculty to achieve its research-intensive academic outlook.

We have also won a grant for the Building Stronger Universities (BSU II) project, which is funded by DANIDA. The overall objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the University of Ghana to achieve its objective of transformation into a first-class research University. To achieve this laudable objective the university will, through the project, strengthen its capability to deliver high quality research PhD education and training; strengthen newly established Centres of Research Excellence and improve research administration processes, support and training.

All these initiatives continue to contribute to the University of Ghana's effort to

reach a threshold where a critical mass to faculty are well equipped to help the university achieve its research-intensive outlook and also raise its research profile.

Infrastructural Developments

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, as you drive through the Okponglo entrance to our beautiful campus, you will notice that the road has been named "Academic Freedom" road; very soon, the arch which is under construction will be completed to create the - "Academic Freedom Arch". Let me emphasize that the arch is to serve purely as a security post and not as a toll booth!

Our physically enabling environment is being developed block by block to ensure that our students and employees live in a decent and sanitized environment. To this end, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to inform you that the Green project which is expected to turn campus green and ensure efficient waste management system, has begun in earnest.

Work on physical infrastructural projects started by the previous Vice-Chancellor are on-going and have reached various stages of the construction process.

We recently cut the sod for a construction of the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) at the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology (BCMB), College of Basic and Applied Sciences, (CBAS). All these facilities when completed will add to our stock of physical infrastructure to enhance the delivery of our academic programmes.

Global Trends in Education and World Rankings

Globalisation is here to stay and education can and should play a role in changing the behaviours, attitudes and expectations that make a difference. Education as a powerful tool for reducing inequity and its role of providing skills and competencies needed to operate in this new world cannot be over emphasized. The new Global Education Monitoring Report by UNESCO shows the potential for education to propel progress towards all global imperatives outlined in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has also been reported that education needs a major transformation in order to fulfil that potential and meet the current challenges facing humanity and the planet. We are very much aware that some major transformations should take place in order for us to achieve this potential and meet the current challenges. Our University is therefore working hard to place its self at the forefront of this role expected to be played by the education sector.

World university rankings are very important to our work at the University of Ghana's. As has been reported, it is from these rankings that the viability of our working processes get interrogated, potential donors secured, best crop of students won over and collaborations for major research work forged.

The 2016 Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings once again placed the University of Ghana ahead of its peers in Ghana and West Africa. It is my pleasure to inform you, Mr. Chairman that the University of Ghana was ranked in the 5th decile of this year's ranking; and our strongest pillar this year was research. This is definitely a great achievement, given that we were ranked in the 4th decile in 2015, with our strongest pillar that year being international outlook with a rank in the 5th decile. It is worthy of note that our efforts at becoming a world class research intensive University is well on its way.

We are currently the highest ranked University in West Africa and the 7th in Africa. This enviable feat could not have been achieved without the concerted effort of all colleagues, students and stakeholders of the University. I am most grateful and confident that with the establishment of our Strategic Teams and continued support of all of us, our rankings will soar higher at both the continental and the international level.

Security

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can report that security on campus has witnessed tremendous improvement. The University has also recently put together a strategic document to combat security challenges on our campus. A major constraint however has been the fact that the security office is greatly understaffed. Management of the University is however working assiduously to find avenues to improve the current staffing situation. We have also organized face-to-face discussions to educate students on the need to be security conscious. The goal is to create individual and ultimately a holistic awareness of the necessity to be security conscious on campus. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Regional and District police command as well as national security for beefing up our security efforts, volunteering security briefs, and helping maintain law and order on campus.

Graduands

Mr. Chairman, this address will not be complete without acknowledging parents and guardians, some of whom are here today to witness this milestone achievement in the lives of our graduands. It is your love, sacrifice and dedication which has

brought these graduands thus far and I salute you. I also entreat you to continue to nurture them in the next phase of their life's journey. It is my fervent prayer that you will enjoy the fruits of your labour in the coming years.

Now, graduands, today marks the beginning of another major milestone in your life's journey. Today, most of you are taking your first step into the career world and the knowledge you have acquired in this University will hopefully guide you to make the right choices.

The recent World Economic Forum held in June 2016 identified ten most critical skills needed for the job market in 2020. These are complex problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, people management and co-ordinating with others. The rest are emotional intelligence, judgement and decision making, service orientation, negotiation and cognitive flexibility. I believe you have developed some of these skills through the academic programme and the University of Ghana Required Courses (UGRCs) offered. You should also understand that education is expected to continue beyond the walls of the lecture hall into the community and the work place and into adulthood.

As you enter the job market, I urge you to continue to improve upon these critical skills. Remember that it is a competitive world and to be in the lead, you need to always strive to make a difference; just a one degree shift from the norm and you will be in the lead.

As our fresh alumni let me encourage you to contribute to your alma mater. The University of Ghana will be 70 years in August 2018 and we believe we can count on your support to make Legon proud. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary, Jubilee Hall was constructed as a birthday present from the Alumni to the University. To make this happen the alumni contributed 1% of their salary for three years towards the project. We are anxiously waiting for the 2018 birthday present for which your contribution will be most appreciated.

Once again, we congratulate you on your achievements, and I thank you for your attention.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY MRS ABENA OSEI-POKU,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARCLAYS BANK GHANA LIMITED**

His Excellency Mr Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University of Ghana;
Professor Kwamena Ahwoi, Chairman of the University Council;
Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana;
Faculty of the College of Humanities;
Eminent Professors, Lecturers and Staff of the University of Ghana;
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen;
Graduating students and alumni present;
All protocols observed.

Let me first extend very warm congratulations to you, graduating students. Especially, you over there. You know who you are. You, and possibly others - perhaps parents or other members of your family - made important sacrifices to get you here.

You have all come far. You've done so well. Ladies & Gentlemen kindly join me to give our graduating class of 2016 a rapturous round of applause *Mo mm).Mu ay3 adi3. Y3 ma m)) ayee kooooo!*

Nevertheless those bumps, in whatever form, that some, or maybe even most of you faced at various times on this particular journey, don't really go away. They just reappear in various forms. It's about how you tackle them. It's about the choices you will make. Your attitude, and the virtues and values you uphold. That's life. The one you're about to be introduced into as graduates.

Your journey to a successful life has only just begun. Your degree is the diamond encrusted 'bling' key that starts the car. The type of journey, whether you will reach your destination, how short, how far, how enriching, how impactful, will, for the most part, be determined by the choices you make from hereon. Adam Marshall said: *"You only live once, but if you live it right, once is enough."* This quote is even more profound when you read it together with another by a great leader, Abraham Lincoln. The one that says:

"And in the end, its not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."
So, let's start with your diamond encrusted 'bling' key: your university degree. It's the

most appropriate tool to start carving out your working life regardless of if it's a career or as an entrepreneur.

Some will say that achieving success, even changing the world, does not require education to the level that you have just attained. The Bill Gates & Steve Jobs of this world, and bringing it home :our own Folorunsho Alakija (Africas richest woman) , Kwame Despote (of Peace fm , Special Ice , This way chocolate drink, “3nua ni nsuo hyia fame”!) & Joseph Siaw Agyepong Of Zoomlion & Jospong Group..to name a few, were all college dropouts, they will argue.

Trust me, there aren't many of them. These ones made some choices that worked for them because of their talents, their determination, discipline, grace and other qualities not found in such large doses in mere mortals. They probably had a sprinkle of luck as an English man will say or in our local parlance **“Nyame 3hyira)m”**. **God bless you.**

Sometimes you make choices in life. Sometimes choices make you! The choice to educate yourself, to the level that you have all done, is one that is more than likely to lead to achievements.

However, this is where the hard work begins: You are now going to enter the real world where some of you may get married, have children and in some cases have to take care of your parents and other relatives as well.

Alongside this, you will be seeking to achieve your own dreams too: perhaps, one that allows you to turn that bone-shaker into a Mercedes Benz or a Ferrari, or a bus big enough to carry the burdens of others.

I hope that you will define success as one that enables you to impact not just your family but your community, Ghana, Africa and the whole world. And why not?

It may sound rather daunting. Nevertheless in fact it is not. Having completed your various disciplines which have taken 3 years or more, you should have learned how to succeed already.

I have no doubt, coming out of an illustrious university such as this one, which is my alma mater, by the way, that you have been very well prepared. Nevertheless, bear in mind, that nothing worthwhile comes easy. The degrees you have achieved did not come easy, and success as you venture into the world will not come easy



**Professor Kwamena Ahwoi, Chairman Of Council, delivering the
Welcome Address**



**Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu Vice-Chancellor,
addressing the gathering**



Mr. Kwame Asante, Member of University Council delivering the Welcome Address



Prof. Samuel Agyei-Mensah Provost, College of Humanities, acknowledging international students of the College



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



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



Mrs. Mavis Otoo-Ayeh, College Secretary, speaking at the ceremony



**Ms. Abena Osei-Poku delivering the Guest Speaker's Address
(November 18, 2016)**



**Mr. Kimathi Kuenyehia delivering the Guest Speaker's Address
(November 19, 2016)**



**Mr. Kwaku Peprah Adjei delivering the Valedictory Address
(November 18, 2016)**



**Mr. Abdul-Kudus Bukari delivering the Valedictory Address
(November 19, 2016)**

either. Still remember that everything is possible. What appears impossible may just take longer to achieve. Although with hard work, determination, discipline and faith in God, it can be done.

A word of wisdom – don't do it at the expense of others. In so far as it's in your power, do it with them. Always be prepared to help push someone else up the ranks of their ladder. In doing so, you lift yourself up. Determine not to dwell on the challenges and disappointments. Rather, focus on the solutions. They may not always be obvious, but your sense of purpose and determination will help you find them – or create them.

To overcome and soar, you will need courage. It was Maya Angelou who said, and I quote: "Courage is the most important of all virtues because without it you cannot practice any other virtue with consistency." This is the winner's attitude, and his or her virtues. I urge you to make them yours. Combined with your launch pad, your education, you have an edge.

J K Rowling, the first female novelist to become a billionaire, faced numerous rejection letters before the success of the Harry Potter series. In one of them she was advised to join a writing class!

You have written the first half of your story. Tomorrow, step out in confidence, your head up and begin writing the second half. Do remember to stop and smell the roses. And if you can, make a living doing what comes naturally to you, what you enjoy most, what you excel in and where you can make the greatest contribution. Identify a human need and address it!

A graduate degree prepares you for anything that you want to be. Admittedly, it takes some longer to find what that might be. Be ambitious. Take on challenges, but also allow for moments when you may have to mark time, like soldiers do, standing in one place, appearing not to have anywhere to go. It's amazing how much you can learn during those times. It can leapfrog you to uncharted terrains.

That is the time when you have to keep going, honing your skills, developing your career: Pursue an internship, a post graduate degree in an area of interest, a relevant voluntary work in the humanitarian field if you can afford it, set up your own NGO, establish your own business, create wealth, be an employer.

Listen, Get ready for any eventuality. Opportunity will not take “I was fed up”, or “life's been unfair”, for an excuse when it comes knocking and finds you ill-prepared. Let me say this again, a graduate degree prepares you for anything that you want to be. Follow that dream. Don't limit yourself.

I recall growing up when my father asked me what I wanted to be, I whispered softly, expecting to attract his disapproval “a pop star.” He didn't dissuade me, to my surprise. He just advised, very strongly though, “that's fine. But first obtain your university degree, and a masters and a doctorate.”

I didn't become a pop star. I discovered that my voice delivers a speech better than a song and I'm thankful for my education as it continues to open doors and gates on my leadership journey.

Coming from a family of four girls, a strong industrious mother and a father who brimmed with wisdom, I must end by addressing you ladies.

You're all looking good by the way. And guess what? You can continue to flourish and outshine. You can have a well nurtured family and a successful career or business. Sometimes, not at the same pace as the men, still from my own experience, and that of my other successful sisters, I can assure you that you can catch up and surpass them when the babies are older – for those who choose to have children.

I have two sons – a twelve year old and a fifteen year old. When they were younger, there were times when I chose to pass over some opportunities. Let me tell you a story: it was year 2000 and I was pregnant with my first son and the Executive Director at the organization where I worked offered me a 6 month stint at our HQ in Singapore! I had finished my MBA and was extremely ambitious. You can imagine his visible show of disdain when I turned down the offer! With my only reason being that I was expecting and I wanted to experience my baby with my husband! After his stern comments to me which I'd rather not repeat, I rushed to the washroom and cried my heart out! I had always known that international work experience was good for career progression except I am also a family woman and this was a real test in making a difficult choice! A conflicting interest. Totally not what I'd panned or daydreamed about when I was in school! I'm talking about tough CHOICES! . It's real! There is no single, simple key to CHOICES--no grand or magic formula to be adopted.

Thankfully I continued to progress in my career though I had to prove myself twice as much! You will have to make several choices in life and in the world of work.

Choose what is best for you and your family! Now that my sons are older, I can choose to work outside Ghana. I am not recommending you make the same choice. I don't regret the choice I made. Just be prepared to make CHOICES and live with the consequences. Kerry Washington the Oscar winning actress summarises this best: you can follow someone else's script, try to make choices that will make other people happy, avoid discomfort, do what is expected, and copy the status quo. Or you can look at all that you have accomplished today and use it as fuel to venture forth and write your own story. If you do, amazing things will take shape.”

Finally, I urge all of you, our graduating class of 2016, to uphold your integrity at all cost. One slip of ethics, a compromise of morality, can unravel everything. Even then, remember the winner's attitude. For no one is perfect.

Congratulations again our graduates. You are that promising future that your family, our beloved Ghana, our proud continent Africa, and the whole world is still waiting for.

Do us proud. Do yourself proud.

Mo ay3 adi3, di3 aka no y3 3fyi3 nyansaa! Nyame Nhyira Mo. (Twi)

God Bless You.

Thank you.

GUEST SPEAKER’S ADDRESS BY MR. KIMATHI KUENYEHIA

Chairman of Council representative,
Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

A. Introduction

- Thank you for your kind words.
- Thank you for inviting me to speak today as the commencement speaker. It is a great honour and absolutely humbling. Of course, congratulations are in order. And I offer same profusely.
- To our lecturers and families, well done.
- I am so humbled to be your Commencement Speaker today, because I know I am following in some impressive footsteps. As a young lawyer under –40, this is a dream come true.
- At my graduation at the Harvard Law School almost a decade ago, Bill Gates, the billionaire who abandoned his education at Harvard to set up Microsoft inspired us to go make a difference. I was so inspired that I promised myself I will lead an exemplary life. So that my own University of Ghana will ask me to be a commencement speaker.
- Once again, thank you for this great honour.
- I know we are in a hurry to celebrate with our family...so I will make it short. I want to share with you 4 and half points that will certainly make you achieve all your dreams. Some of these values I got from my lecturers like Professor Kwame Gyekye and my own experiences in life.

1. Keep Your Word and Keep your Integrity

The first value you should remember is to keep your word and your integrity.

As a young man who had finished graduate school from Harvard Law School, I had many opportunities to stay in the United States of America and work. In fact I went through a number of interviews but one thing struck me and this strengthened my resolve to return to Ghana.

Through all the interview experiences, I realized that one key to the success of the great firms outside Ghana was their willingness to keep their word no matter the cost. No company was willing to employ someone no matter the potential if that person was not capable of keeping his or her word and more so integrity.

I got hold of this great key, brought it back to Ghana and applied it to the barest minimum in my private practice and I must confess is the major reason for my success as a lawyer.

Our law firm has been continually described as *“a firm which keeps its promise”*. In order to make a difference in life and by so doing to succeed, you must be ready to keep your word no matter the cost. This warrants that you uphold truth, honesty and integrity at all times. It means that no matter the cost, you will not cut your conscience to suit a situation.

Never waste time arguing who a good man should be. Be that one. In the end, you should always do the right thing even if it is hard. This would earn you the trust of great men and buy you allegiances and audience that money cannot buy.

2. Keep Your Manners

When I passed the Common Entrance and was preparing to go to secondary school, one of the books that was listed to buy was *Courtesy for Boys and Girls*. It comes before the shito and Gari on the list. My information is that the book is no more on the list. There are many things that people overlook when trying to map out the road to success. One of such is the Golden Rule (what I call it) – *keeping your manners at all times*.

Your manners speaks great volumes about you. It involves the ability to show politeness at all times irrespective of whoever it is directed at. Always demonstrate an awareness of self-worth, respect others and desire to fit in with all others.

Keeping your manners means showing humility at all times and to all men – from

the cleaner to the Almighty! You always have seconds to make a good impression and a wrong impression created can be the end of a bright future.

Keeping your manners means that you mostly shift attention from you towards others. It means that you are always ready to show gratitude to others and give others credit for their contributions to whatever cause you embark on.

Remember, there is no limit to what a man can achieve if he does not care who takes the credit for his success.

3. Keep your reading and develop your skills

Another great key to success is to cultivate a habit of reading and gaining knowledge always. My experience has shown that a well-read person is able to fit anywhere and is a valuable asset to any employer or client.

In these days where there are so many activities especially over the weekend, it is the one who makes sacrifices over the weekend in order to add to his or her knowledge who is most valuable.

It has been said that a reader lives a thousand lives before he dies, however one who never reads lives only once.

Learn to make time over the weekend to read a book or two. The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. One who reads exposes himself to new things. Reading builds a better version of you. Reading brings the world at your feet. Reading makes you confident and launches you into greater realms that are reserved only for them of great mind.

4. Keep your God

In my experience, there some things that we have no control over. So you need your God. You need to fast, pray, mediate and be generous. And this applies in almost every religion in the world. The Good book says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. I firmly believe this and further say that your ability to cultivate and sustain success lies in the desire to keep your God.

To succeed means to have peace of mind. To succeed means to be protected always and be in great health. To guarantee success, one must remember the God that gives the power to make good success.

5. The Half Point

And now the half point.

No matter what you do, do not become a politician until you have earned a living and established a record of accomplishment. Also do not become a serial caller on radio and do not ask your uncle, the so called big man, to call people for a job.

On that beautiful note, congratulations and go make your university proud

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY
MR. KWAKU PEPRAH ADJEI,**

Chairman of the University Council
Vice Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Members of Council
Members of Convocation
Hon. Ministers of State
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Alumni and Friends of the University
Fellow Graduands
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It has been four years of continuous contemplation awaiting this special day. I deem it a prestigious honour to be selected to give the valedictory speech on behalf of my fellow graduands. In fact, I must concede that it is the favour of the Lord. I therefore wish to use this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to God Almighty who through His mercy and grace has made this day a reality. To His name be the Glory.

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to our parents and guardians who through their immense support and sometimes unseen sacrifices have made our time here a comfortable and successful one. We cannot forget friends and loved ones who in one way or the other motivated and inspired us to earnestly finish the race. To our lecturers and mentors, we thank you for the roles you played.

I remember vividly the very first day I arrived on Legon Campus as a level 100 student. Even though there were ups and downs during the four years I spent at Legon, I am convinced that the gains far outweigh the challenges. Therefore, I would not want to bore you with too many incidents which occurred during our stay on campus, but rather to use the occasion to challenge my fellow graduands.

Fellow graduands, I urge you all to influence our country and the world at large with the lessons we have learnt from the experiences we had on campus. Indeed, the training we have received has made a positive impact on us, psychologically, morally and emotionally. We have had lots of sleepless nights in meeting assignment

deadlines, preparing for examinations and Interim Assessments, but all these have been for our good. We have had to fight a battle of getting a good class by doing all we can, within the rules and regulations, to get as many A's as possible, which we did. Congratulations my fellow graduands for your hard work.

Graduating Class of 2016, it is up to us to make a difference, and have people say honorable things about us and leave an indelible impression that we never gave up. There is so much in us to influence the world at large positively than we can realize. Society counts on us to bring a transformation and we cannot disappoint those who are looking up to us. We have added value to ourselves and should continue at it, for we cannot add value to others if we do not start with ourselves.

Kindly allow me to share with you a few lessons I have learnt in my studies in this University. There is nothing difficult for you to handle, if you find it difficult, it is only new to you. Have a positive mindset concerning any situation you face. Do not entertain any thought of giving up, make an impact first and wealth and fame will ultimately follow.

Fellow graduands, excellence is never an accident — it is as a result of preparation and hard work. Try something new. If you fail to achieve it, go back to it and try again till you achieve results. Knowing is not enough; we must apply the knowledge. Wishful thinking is not enough; we must take action and work at what we want to achieve. Doing it in a day is not enough to determine our growth and success; we must do it daily. Let us also learn to serve our communities, for the only ones among us who will truly be happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dr. David Jeremiah once said and I quote “It is not a matter of whether we should live confidently, but in whom our confidence should be placed”. Place your confidence in God, for with God, as the Bible says, all things are possible. Let us uphold excellence, good character and diligence in all our dealings, and I believe we will stand out wherever we find ourselves.

Long Live University of Ghana! Long Live Ghana! God bless us all!

Thank you

VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY ABDUL-KUDUS BUKARI

Chairman of the University Council
Vice Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Members of Council
Members of Convocation
Hon. Ministers of State
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Alumni and Friends of the University
Fellow Graduands
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I deem it the greatest honour to deliver this year's valedictory speech on behalf of my colleagues. Mr. Chairman, life, they say is about determination. As Bradley Whitford noted “take action: every story you've ever connected with, every leader you have ever admired, every puny little thing that you've ever accomplished is the result of taking action. You have a choice, you can either be a passive victim of circumstances or you can be an active hero of your own life.”

Mr. Chairman, “A journey of a thousand mile as the say, begins with a step. Looking back at our four year-stay in the University of Ghana, one can only give thanks to God for His continuous blessings and His Providence, and the peace that we have enjoyed in the course of our studies. I know these sentiments are shared by my fellow graduands.

My decision to come to the University of Ghana was not taken lightly, and I am sure my story is not different from my colleagues. We had to discard irrelevant and distracting engagements to commit ourselves to a path designed to bring distinction not just to us, but to our generation and those to come after us. Our desire to enroll at the University of Ghana therefore meant that we were willing to go through the rigorous training process. Thanks to the Almighty, today, degrees are being conferred on us, signifying a successful sailing through the academic voyage.

In the year 2002, I lost my sight as a result of an unsuccessful operation that rendered me totally blind for two years. I later regained low vision in the left eye.

Out of a family of six children, I am the only one with visual impairment. With determination, perseverance and the support of my mother who had no formal education, I made it to the university. My early days in the University of Ghana like those of my colleagues, saw me wandering aimlessly in search of lecture halls with some students giving me wrong directions. This meant that, I sometimes got to the lecture hall 30 minutes into the lecture. Gradually, with the aid of friends whose effort I recognize and acknowledge with much gratitude, I was able to find my way around campus and could get to places on my own with little difficulty.

As is usual with every other student, my stay in the University of Ghana was not without serious challenges. In addition to the challenge of being visually impaired, I also had financial challenges. One particular challenge, I must say would forever be etched in my memory - that is when I hit a wall in my hall and lost two of my front teeth! I respectfully call on University and hall authorities to put in place constant orientation and mobility training for persons with disability. Mr. Chairman, a recent medical report has revealed that I will be losing the little sight I have if I do not undergo an urgent eye surgery. The challenge however is how to raise an amount of ten thousand Ghana cedis to enable me undergo this surgery. Although Professor Ransford Gyampo under who I serve as a teaching assistant and the Department of Political Science have started a fund raising exercise, little has been realized towards the surgery. I therefore call on the society to play its benevolent role to prevent this young man from going back to the state of total blindness.

Mr. Chairman, as much as the aforementioned challenges persisted, I must say, they never served as obstacles to my success. Instead, it has taught me the lesson that the only way to success in life is a willingness to overcome the challenges we are confronted with. My fellow graduands, if there has ever been anyone who doubted that we could progress from senior high school to this stage, I believe our graduation today has shattered those thoughts. Today, our efforts have been crowned with good success, and we thank God for this.

Even though our days as undergraduate students are over, our days of service to our communities and society as a whole, has now began in earnest. I am hopeful that our time at the University of Ghana will enable us to be resolute in our conviction to lead by example, to stand firm in defense of the values and norms imparted to us by the University. For me, my role as a member of the SRC General Assembly and also as the welfare secretary for Mensah Sarbah Hall, instilled in me

an uttermost sense of service and an absolute feeling of dedication to the students of Mensah Sarbah Hall and University of Ghana as a whole.

The experiences gained in the performance of these duties have greatly inspired me to zealously nurture my aspirations in academia, global governance and diplomacy. The realization of these dreams would enable me contribute my quota to the development of our nation, and I trust these would be yours too.

Fellow graduands, we will be the decision makers in the not too distant future. We will literally hold the lives and fortunes of others within our power, and if we do not develop our character, we will not be worthy of the confidence this institution has reposed in us. Let us resolve to contribute our quota to Ghana, committing ourselves out rightly to the progress of this nation.

As we exit the four walls of this university, it is required of us to project the image of this noble institution. Hence, our behaviour, attitudes and actions ought to project the motto of the University: “Integri Procedamus”. Fellow graduands, let us remember that our various classes are not the final determinants of our lives and aspirations, but the initiatives which we take after here is what make us the nation's hope and glory as expressed in the University anthem. Therefore, Unemployed Graduates Associations should not be the destination for graduates of University of Ghana.

In concluding this address, I wish to thank the Almighty God whose love, strength and mercies gave us the drive to persevere through these times. We remain profoundly grateful to the University and all our lecturers and teaching assistants, without whose continued guidance, support and understanding we would never have found the motivation to achieve this feat. The time, encouragement and advice you have given over the years have proved to be valuable.

I am overwhelmed with the role played by the Coordinator and the entire staff of the Office of Students with Special Needs in seeing to our needs. Their relentless efforts to produce handouts and other documents into readable forms for my colleagues and I who are visually impaired is commendable. Indeed, we are really grateful. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the University management for a spacious office building for the office due to the fact that the current office structure is not spacious enough for the smooth delivery of services to persons with disability on campus. The office facilities are not also disability friendly.

I crave your indulgence to express my indebtedness to my family, especially my mother Afishata Saaka. I am grateful for the sacrifices and for the contributions you have made in diverse ways to my success in this University. Indeed, your support has been so overwhelming.

I also wish to record my particular gratitude to the University through the Student Financial Aid Office for the financial assistance offered me throughout my stay as a student of the University of Ghana. I say thank you and God bless you for making the dreams of a poor boy from Damongo come through.

Mr. Chairman, please permit me also to publicly acknowledge the generous support of individuals especially Sheikh Salman, Malam Karim, Mr. Alhasan Dramani, Malam Abass and the West Gonja District Assembly. Words cannot express how thankful I am to you all for the help you offered me in diverse ways. Thank you so much for always being there for me.

Fellow Graduands, this is a special day in our lives. We must be joyous and thankful to all who have made it possible. Join me in applauding them once again.

Long live the Nation's premier University, UNIVERSISTY OF GHANA

Long live Ghana

Thank you.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR KWAMENA AHWOI,
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Hon. Minister for Education
Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Fresh Graduates,
Invited Guests,
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 also worked hard over the periods that they have been students at this University and they deserve all the laurels that they have acquired. You, our new graduates, have been part of the changes that have taken place at the University of Ghana over the past few years; we look forward to receiving some of you back soon, as faculty or as administrators, to support the university's drive to become a research-intensive University.

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, the management team and the managers 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 everyone has put into this enterprise.

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

To our Guest Speaker for today, 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.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY MR. KWAME ASANTE,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL)**

Hon. Minister for Education
Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
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