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**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
(UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
NOVEMBER 14, 2019
NOVEMBER 15, 2019**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Procession

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

National Anthem

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

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

Congregation Speaker: Mrs. Doris Y.A. Ahiati,
CEO, Crescendo Consult Ltd.

Valedictory Address: Mr. Keith Oko Cleland

Conferment of Degrees:
Presentation of graduands from the College of Humanities

· BFA · BA

Chancellor dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Procession

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

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose: Prof. Yaw Twumasi,
Chairman of Council

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Academic &
Student Affairs

Congregation Speaker: Mr. Kwabena Adu-Kusi,
Managing Partner, ADU-KUSI PRUC

Valedictory Address: Mr. Jacob Semekor Mordzifa

Conferment of Degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Humanities

- BA

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession

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

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday, November 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Procession

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

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose: Prof. Baffour Agyeman-Duah,
Member of University Council

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

Congregation Speaker: Ms. Linda Saara Selby
Ag. Head of Recoveries and Collections, UMB

Valedictory Address: Mr. Emmanuel Gyasi

Conferment of Degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Humanities

- BA

Member of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
MRS. MARY CHINERY-HESSE, CHANCELLOR**

Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts, Deans and Directors
Guest Speaker
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of
Humanities
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Invited Guests
Members of the Press Corps
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

I would like to welcome all of you gathered here on this important occasion.

During today's ceremony, undergraduate students from the College of Humanities, who have satisfied the requirements for graduation, will be presented and graduated.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 2019 Congregation ceremonies are programmed to span three days, delivering seven sessions. It is evident that the number of students graduating from the University of Ghana is increasing each year. We deem it a good opportunity on these occasions to reflect on how well management, faculty and staff are discharging their responsibility of providing the appropriate academic services and support, to ensure that students have a positive student experience, and also satisfy the requirements for graduation and, indeed, are able to graduate on time.

I can assure you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, that Management of the University remains committed to improving upon graduation

rates and student satisfaction. University Management undertakes as well, to continue to do all in its power to provide students with a memorable experience.

This year has not been without some challenges, as it happen in any human institution. My personal concern has been that the name and reputation of the University would be preserved under any circumstances. It has therefore been worrisome on those occasions when especially press coverage of certain situations has carried the risk of tarnishing the image of the University in the media. One such occasion relates to the difficulties newly admitted students encountered in securing on-campus accommodation.

University Management recognizes that the current number of beds cannot cater for all of our students, it is therefore engaging with various private entities towards the provision of additional hostels in the near future.

We have in this regard taken note of the positive contribution of some alumni in resolution of this particular problem. I refer to the Old Vandals taking the initiative of providing the Commonwealth Hall Annex Facility. As has happened with other prestigious Universities around the world, it is hoped that the Alumni of the University of Ghana would be more intimately involved, among other things, in the provision of facilities and mobilization of resources, especially through the Endowment Fund.

The University was also rocked by allegations of sexual harassment involving some members of faculty. I am satisfied with the measures put in place by management of the University to interrogate the issue, while warning all against indulging in behaviours that contravene the University's Code of Ethics. University Management is fully committed in ensuring that the campus environment would be completely free from all forms of sexual harassment.

I repeat that the University of Ghana will not condone any form of sexual harassment, and mechanisms are currently being championed by the Vice-Chancellor to ensure that there would be zero tolerance to such abuses.

Global statistics lend credence to the fact that such negative practices are common in universities around the world. Management is determined to set an example worthy of emulation by other similar institutions by putting in place robust policies towards this end.

I encourage all students to take advantage of the structures put in place, and report such behaviours, if they occur. I give the assurance that no one will suffer any form of victimization as a result of reporting.

To our graduating students, I hope that on the occasion of your graduation, you will take stock of what you have achieved and make a conscious decision to let your experiences guide you in your future endeavours.

You have played your part, by putting in enormous amount of hard work, spending sleepless nights burning the midnight oil. Your presence here this morning is proof that your efforts have not been in vain. I take the opportunity to wish you 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 of the University of Ghana 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 Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, to present the Vice-Chancellor's report.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS BY PROF. EBENEZER ODURO OWUSU

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

Good morning!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the November Congregation ceremonies for the 2018/2019 cohort.

These ceremonies are dedicated to students of the College of Humanities. A total of 1,179 students are graduating for all three sessions.

THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

Academic Affairs of the University

Admissions

The University of Ghana enrolled a total of 18,212 (Eighteen Thousand, Two Hundred and Twelve) applicants, made up of 15,167 undergraduate and 3,045 graduate students into various programmes mounted at its campuses in the 2019/2020 academic year. The total enrolment this year shows a 51:49 female to male ratio, which implies that 9,288 females enrolled compared with 8,924 males. By this feat, the University has already exceeded its target of achieving female to male enrolment ratio of 50:50 by 2020.

Accommodation

The University's capacity to undertake any further investments to augment the housing stock has largely been impeded by judgment debts and other financial obligations. The University, has for some time now decoupled admission from accommodation. University admission is, therefore, not linked to the provision of beds, hence students have had to compete for the few beds on a first-come basis.

Towards addressing the accommodation challenge, and in anticipation of the influx of the first cohort of graduates from the Free Senior High School Policy, Management is considering various approaches towards improving the situation. Currently, the University of Ghana's Land Lease Committee is in negotiation with a number of private bodies to expand housing options on campus. The Students' Representative Council of the University has also initiated a process of embarking on a 2500-bed capacity hostel project.

Worthy of note is that on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, a sod-cutting ceremony was held for the construction of a state-of-the-art annex facility for Commonwealth Hall by the Old Vandals Association (OVA) and their partners, KPMM Civils Limited with a possible completion of the first phase (2500 beds) within one year. This project is expected to deliver fully-furnished 4660-bed facility, made up of 302 one-bed block, 552 two-bed block, 3806 four-bed block, 32 two-bedroom lecturers flats among others.

Affiliation of Six Colleges of Education to University of Ghana

Madam Chancellor, as you may be aware, the Government of Ghana has initiated policy reforms in teacher education to improve the quality of teaching and learning at basic schools. As part of the reforms, all 46 public Colleges of Education are being converted into University Colleges of Education of public universities that train teachers through a special affiliation agreement for a transitional period of four years to deliver the new four-year B.Ed. curriculum. This agreement is expected to guarantee the institutional integration of Colleges into their affiliated Universities.

In consonance with the above, six public Colleges of Education have been assigned to the University of Ghana with effect from October 2019. The Colleges are Accra College of Education, Enchi

College of Education, Evangelical Presbyterian College of Education at Amedzofe, Peki College of Education, Gbewaa College of Education at Pusiga, and Mount Mary College of Education at Somanya.

Strategic Directions

Madam Chancellor, strategic teams were set up in November 2016 to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana.

The Independent Power Supply Team is spearheading efforts to re-condition the biogas plant at Hilla Limann Hall to generate gas for the four new Halls.

Through the instrumentality of team, the Chief Executive Officer of Virtual Security Africa (VSA)/Aventura has made a commitment to supply, install and commission a solar backed CCTV surveillance System at the University of Ghana. The initiative forms part of the corporate social responsibility of the company and the personal capacity of the CEO as an alumnus of the University. The University is grateful to VSA for this noble gesture.

As part of the efforts of the team, the University recently gave approval for Bui Power Project to undertake geological and geotechnical surveys, and transmission right of way needed to conclude the feasibility studies for a proposed 2.5 Mw solar project.

The Green Team Project is also advancing on its mandate of increasing tree density, ensuring green coverage of campus grounds, developing paved walkways and improving waste management. The team has also earmarked a number of activities on the main campus this year. The University of Ghana Plastic Recycling Project's (UGPRP) effort at institutionalizing source segregation of waste in the university community is commendable. So far, it is estimated that about 23 metric tons of plastic waste has been collected and transferred for recycling. The recycling project is spearheaded by students.

Fundraising Strategy to Modernize Laboratories and Research Facilities at the University of Ghana

Distinguished guests, a fundraising strategy to modernize laboratories and research facilities at the University of Ghana has been developed by the Laboratory Modernization Implementation Committee as part of the strategic initiatives. Establishing state-of-the-art laboratories and developing world-class facilities at University of Ghana will help

bridge and better link theory and practice. A well-resourced university with modern facilities for research can help deliver and advance Ghana's national agenda of self-sustaining development, as well as meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063.

It is expected that all stakeholders will join our four-year fund-raising campaign to mobilize the target of US\$ 500 million needed to modernize our laboratories when the initiative is rolled out later this year.

Research Grants

Madam Chancellor, the Office of Research, Innovation, and Development (ORID), is spearheading the University's vision of becoming a world-class research-intensive institution. For the 2018-2019 academic year, the Office processed about 81 research grant agreements with a total grant value of over US\$ 42.5 million (Forty-Two Million and Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars). This represents over 1,000% (one thousand percent) increase in grant revenue over the last three academic years.

African Centres of Excellence (ACE) Projects

Madam Chancellor, I am happy to report that during the year under review, the University of Ghana won funding to set up three Centres of Excellence under a funding arrangement by the government of Ghana and the World Bank. These centres are part of the Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE II) Projects. They are:

1. Africa Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship
2. West African Genetic Medicine Centre
3. West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens and Non-Communicable Diseases (WACCBIP & NCDs)

The establishment of these centres will go a long way to dedicate funding for research and training of PhD students in Agriculture, Public Health and Medicine.

Allegations of Sexual Harassment

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, following the recent media reports of alleged sexual harassment cases involving some faculty of the University, Management has taken steps to enforce its Anti-Sexual

Harassment regulations. Following the broadcast, Management set up a five-member Fact-finding Committee chaired by Her Ladyship Justice (Rtd) Vida Akoto-Bamfo to conduct an inquiry into the matter.

I am happy to inform you that the Committee submitted its report to me on Tuesday, 12th November, 2019. Management will, therefore, study the report and ensure implementation of the recommendations using the appropriate adjudicatory processes stipulated under the Basic Laws of the University.

Meanwhile, the University has created an anonymous e-mail address and a WhatsApp platform to facilitate and create easy avenues through which sexual harassment cases may be reported. We particularly encourage people who may have fallen victim to such unfortunate incidents to take advantage and report them for redress.

In response to the ongoing discussion on how to tackle sexual harassment issues, going forward, the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA) has been tasked to lead in developing a training programme to educate members of the UG community on what constitutes harassment. It is envisaged that in the not too distant future, every employee of the University of Ghana would be trained in understanding what constitutes sexual and gender harassment and how to respond to it, as a victim. Once the framework is developed, it is proposed that the training would be available both online and in other formats and will also be extended to students.

We are counting on CEGENSA to consult widely and come up with a training programme that is suitable for the University of Ghana and which will deal decisively with the issues relating to sexual harassment.

Financial Aid to Students

Ladies and gentlemen, the Students' Financial Aid Office has made it possible for less endowed but brilliant students to have equal access to quality education at the University of Ghana. I am glad to note that there has been an increase in donations from approximately GH¢1,000,000.00 (One Million Ghana Cedis) in the 2016/2017 academic year to approximately GH¢ 3,000,000.00 (Three Million Ghana Cedis) in 2017/18 academic year. This represents a 155% increase over the previous year.

During the period under review, a total of Six Hundred and Fourteen students (614) out of Nine Hundred and Twenty (920) applicants were awarded Scholarships. This represents 66.7% of all scholarship applicants.

Sporting Activities

The University of Ghana Policy on Admission of Athlete Students (UG-PAAS), which was launched in the 2014/2015 academic year forms part of a broader UG Sports strategy. So far, a total of Three Hundred and Fifty-Eight (358) student-athletes have been admitted through the policy. One Hundred and Ten (110) females and Two Hundred and Forty-Eight (248) males.

Already, the UG-PAAS Policy has yielded some significant results. I am pleased to report that Mr. Benjamin Azameti, a level 300 Marine & Fisheries Science student of the University of Ghana is the fastest human in Ghana and a current 4x100 African gold medalist. Worthy of mention is Ms. Grace Obour, a level 100 Sports and Education student who is the 400 metres champion in Ghana, 6th best in Africa and 42nd ranked in the world. Similarly, the University's male basketball team has remained unbeaten in Ghana, West Africa, and Africa since 2013.

Well Wishes to Graduands

To you, ladies and gentlemen of the graduating class, as we celebrate this milestone with you, I would like to conclude with the words of Winston Churchill: "Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm".

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

As you move on to the next stage of your lives, remember to uphold the values of the University – Respect, Commitment, Integrity and Loyalty.

I wish you all the best in your individual endeavours. Once again, congratulations.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MRS. DORIS Y. A. AHIATI
(NOVEMBER 14, 2019, MORNING SESSION)**

Chairman of the University Council, representing the Chancellor
Members of the University Council
Vice Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Invited Guests
Members of the Press Corps
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
Graduands

Good morning to you all.

I would like to share with you thoughts around self-leadership and in particular, self-leadership in the digital economy.

In this era of industrialisation unlike the earlier ones, we have witnessed great advances in science and technology. We have created artificial intelligence (AI) which competes with but cannot replace the superior human intelligence. AI has proven useful in many fields including the humanities. My speech was typed with the help of a voice to text app.

In the field of science, AI has improved diagnostics while ethical concerns are still being discussed on cloning and gene editing. A team from Ghana, Methodist Girls' Senior High School won an international competition in robotics. Kudos to those young ladies who made us all so proud to be Ghanaians by showing leadership through creativity and innovation.

I want to challenge you graduands to go out and excel like these young

ladies did and in a more continuous and sustainable way, because in spite of advancement in science and technology, humanity is at the core of our existence. Our ability to be human boils down to responding positively to the SDGs. Underpinning this, is the unshakable resolve to lead at every level. That is why I want to call on all to step up into personal leadership. I will share a couple of pointers to becoming good leaders. When you enrolled you were probably pre-occupied with how to make a GPA of 4.0 and leave with a first class degree. That is a good measure of leadership but it is no guarantee of excellence in the modern world.

Stories abound of Mr. Osei Kwame Despite and Archbishop Duncan Williams among others who have set up institutions including those for higher learning but who themselves did not earn first class degree. We need intellectual intelligence and this great university has given you the foundation for that. You also need emotional intelligence which empowers you to lead yourself well and then you can lead others too. Everything rises and falls with leadership (John C. Maxwell). It is time to redefine leadership for Ghana and Africa-that leadership is not positional. How else can one lead from the back without titles? How else can we get the job done if we think leadership is chilling in the air condition and calling the shots without knowing precisely the problem we are trying to solve? You have to be in the problem to develop the most suitable, effective and creative solutions to address them. Becoming a graduate is no longer equal to suit and tie, if that doesn't solve a problem. Graduate is equal to analytical thinking, dissecting of problems to arrive at appropriate solutions and optimizing resource use in a sustainable way. That includes knowing that cotton clothing works better for productivity in our weather. Long live Africa's budding clothing industry.

Success is indeed no longer what it was perceived to be; self-centred, plenty money, beautiful clothes, flashy cars with attendants at your beck and call. Success is now defined by the lives you impact, the effect you leave on your physical environment and the experience you create for people. It is an era where the humanities and fine arts are appreciated. Where are the musicians, poets and the linguists?

The nature of work and work environment is changing just as what used to be considered success has changed. Thanks to AI, humans can be brought together virtually, eliminating the need for a designated workplace and physical presence. Therefore team members at work may be across geographic borders with diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences. To do well, you must know how to interact successfully in a multicultural environment and straddle new technologies to get the work done. Getting the work done must be environmentally, socially and governance (ESG) criteria compliant irrespective of the degree of national progress with this policy.

This is where your personal leadership comes in. You don't have to wait for the politically elected leaders of the land to show the way, lead the way. Leadership today requires individuals who can identify a way, test the way, choose to go the way, prove the results and convince the people in their immediate network with that evidence to join hands and go that way, until we have enough numbers to multiply the effect of this initiative to address problems of national, continental and global proportions. Be creative to challenge the status quo as leaders to originate bespoke solutions to problems facing our world and you will be successful. You don't have to think hard about which problems there are to tackle, look for the UN's SDGs.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a global call to action to end poverty, protect earth's environment and climate and ensure that people everywhere can enjoy peace and prosperity. They comprise 17 interconnected and ambitious goals which address the major development challenges faced by people in Ghana and around the world. The goals are namely:

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy

8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

The SDG goals emphasize the preferred state of general welfare of mankind through poverty alleviation, good sanitation, education, economic empowerment among others. These goals highlight many significant problems, worthy to be tackled. Anything that draws us closer to the goals is a good place to start, and start with yourself rather than contribute to the problem.

You don't need to be big to start. Your contribution need not be what will solve the problem 100%. But even your 0.001% contribution counts. That's why you need to start by being a leader to yourself first. Imagine if each of you commit to respect yourself, respect others and take responsibility for your own actions, to be accountable to yourselves, to be of good integrity, not abuse privileges including company and state resources, protect your environments and apply resources responsibly, that would make a difference right? What if your friends and families are inspired to join you?

The key to your success is knowing how to communicate effectively. Sharing information is one thing but receiving correct information, interpreted correctly to elicit the right response and feedback requires the skill of connecting. Connecting disarms your listener by earning their trust.

This skill of connecting rides on emotional intelligence. Emotionally intelligent people are conscious and aware of their emotions, know how to regulate those emotions for desired outcomes including self-

restraint and self-control. They know what motivates them and use the knowledge to their benefit. This awareness empowers them to put themselves in the place of others including work colleagues and partners, show empathy as appropriate, and exhibit acceptable social skills to communicate effectively and achieve team goals in a sustainable way.

Challenge the status quo in relating with superiors, subordinates and colleagues or co-equals. Speak up, share your views and disagree respectfully. Learn to understand what you meet and seek to improve on it. Innovate by embracing new technologies. Be the difference not just for your sake but also for God and country.

My Story

I grew up in a cocoa growing village in the western region. There weren't many role models beside my parents for me. We didn't have the luxury of social amenities and infrastructure. Beside the library and the church. I can't think of a place to hang out like you can do today in the malls and pubs etc.

I was hungry enough to look for that which would empower me to make a difference in the lives of many people. I thought becoming born again was a good place to start, it helped me learn to be focused. Then I thought it is a good idea to keep learning because there was so much I didn't know and every new discovery or lesson learnt changed my life for the better, so I shared what I learnt to make others lives better. I didn't restrict my scope for learning, I didn't stick to a single discipline even though I specialized in Banking and Finance, I learnt some science privately. Medical Doctors ask me whether I am a Doctor when I interact with them. Then I realised I could only know so much even with continuous learning.

Relationships are extremely valuable. It has been helpful leveraging relationships. Remember your network is your net worth. I could only do so much all by myself so I had to learn how to relate with people. Today networks which thrive on emotional intelligence has become a crucial success factor. Emotional quotient (EQ) requires you to be

self-aware, self-regulated, understand motivation, be empathetic and apply same in social skills. So work on your emotional quotient (EQ), be equipped with social skills for building resilient relationships with colleagues at work. It will help to manage complex situation at work.

At the heart of excellence in relationship building is your personal confidence. Being original and having a continuous growth mind-set makes it easier to be confident by accepting yourself for who you are. Accept that you are okay, you are good enough to start, and with the understanding that you are a work in progress. Never cease to identify and work on those areas that could be improved. Forge positive partnerships; above you, beneath you and sideways, it's a game changer in an age of collaboration.

To conclude, let me reiterate that we are on the verge of the 4th industrial revolution where machines and humans must engage more closely than ever in what might appear to be the final show down. Prof. Klaus Schwab, founder of the World Economic forum says "in the new world, it is not the big fish that eat the small fish. It's the fast fish that eat the slow fish" It might resemble "dancing with gorillas". There will be more disruptions, surprises, more frequently at a faster pace and you must be prepared to deal with them like a leader. A great leader is always prepared, thinks ahead, proactively develops solutions to anticipated situations even before they manifest. A leader learns continually, pays the price of leadership through discipline and sacrifices, is open to new ideas and technologies, knows how to connect and engage with all manner of persons resulting from emotional intelligence, which can be learned.

Great leaders stay informed and think ahead to stay ahead of the curve. Above all, they are energized enough to embrace the challenges that will come and adopt a healthy physical, emotional and spiritual lifestyle.

I believe in you. I believe you have the power in you to excel and to make a difference. If you can lead yourself to graduate today, you can do anything you set your heart and mind to do. Go out there and make the College of Humanities and the University of Ghana proud.

God bless us all.

Thank you very much.



Officials, Members of Convocation, Guest Speaker and Valedictorian in a group photograph (November 14, 2019, Morning Session)



Officials, Members of Convocation and Guest Speaker in a group photograph (November 14, 2019, Afternoon Session)



**Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, Chancellor, delivering the
Opening Address (November 14, 2019, Morning Session)**



**Prof. Yaw Twumasi, Chairman of Council delivering
the Opening Address (November 14, 2019, Afternoon Session)**



**Prof. Baffour Agyeman-Duah, Member of University Council
delivering the Opening Address (Friday, November 15, 2019)**



**Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor, delivering the
Vice-Chancellor's Address (November 14, 2019, Morning Session)**



**Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs, delivering the Vice-Chancellor's Address
(November 14, 2019, Afternoon Session)**



**Prof. Samuel Agyei-Mensah, Provost, College of Humanities,
acknowledging International Students of the College**



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



**Mrs. Mavis Otoo-Ayeh, College Secretary,
College of Humanities**



**Mrs. Doris Y. A. Ahiati, delivering the
Guest Speaker's Address (November 14, 2019, Morning Session)**



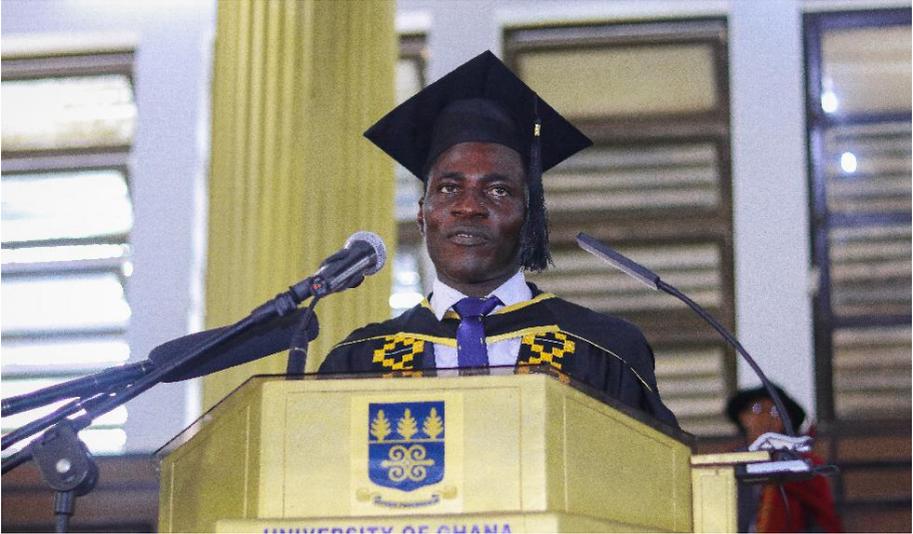
**Mr. Kwabena Adu-Kusi, delivering the
Guest Speaker's Address (November 14, 2019, Afternoon Session)**



**Ms. Linda Saara Selby, delivering the
Guest Speaker’s Address (November 15, 2019, Morning Session)**



**Mr. Keith Oko Cleland, delivering the
Valedictory Speech (November 14, 2019, Morning Session)**



**Mr. Jacob Semekor Mordzifa, delivering the
Valedictory Speech (November 14, 2019, Afternoon Session)**



**Mr. Emmanuel Gyasi, delivering the
Valedictory Speech (November 15, 2019, Morning Session)**



Graduands being congratulated by University Officials at the ceremony



Graduands at the Congregation ceremony



Parents, guardians and invited guests at the ceremony

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MR. KWABENA ADU-KUSI
(NOVEMBER 14, 2019, AFTERNOON SESSION)**

Chairman of the University Council, representing the Chancellor
Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Invited Guests
Members of the Press Corps
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
Graduands,

Introduction

I am deeply honoured to address you today. I must thank the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Registrar and the Provost, College of Humanities for the opportunity to speak at this ceremony.

The first time I came around this Great Hall, it was for my matriculation. The place felt really daunting and intimidating. Twenty-Three (23) years on, I am back here as the commencement speaker and even so, this hall still seems intimidating.

Congratulations to the Humanities Class of 2019. You have graduated from the best University in Ghana and one of the best in Africa!

I know you can't wait to take your selfies and create your snapchat and instagram videos. I should therefore be quick and straightforward in this speech.

To all parents, guardians and family members, a big congratulations to you as well. On behalf of the graduating class, I say thank you for your sacrifice and support throughout these last four (4) years. This class

could not have graduated today without all of your help. Of course, the teaching and non-teaching staff of this University also deserve grave acknowledgement. Your support for these students has been immense and for that, we salute you.

I am a proud graduate of this University. A former student of the Economics Department and Law Faculty. I have many fond memories of the University of Ghana (UG). UG gave me many things: academic foundation, leadership skills, exposure and importantly many enduring relationships.

I know commencement speakers have a responsibility – to advise, encourage and provide hope to the graduating class. There is, however, no guarantee that anything that is said would be remembered anyway. I hope I would be lucky and that a few of what I say today would stay with you for a lifetime.

You are done with one phase of life – you are done with school – are you not? For some of you, this would be a terminal degree. Others may go on to pursue further academic interests. Whatever course you decide to take, the school of life has just been opened to you. Your experiences and training here at the University of Ghana should hopefully help you navigate this new school you are about to enter.

It is however fair to say that your training and experiences here at the University of Ghana, whilst helpful, could not have prepared you completely for the school of life. There are many more lessons to learn. You must, therefore, be open to learn new things and in some cases, unlearn a few things as you face life and the realities of it.

As you graduate, I would like to touch on three of these lessons that are, for me, very important for this school of life:

1. Other people matter
2. Do not be defined by your failures
3. Control what you can and leave what you cannot control to luck, chance or miracle

Other People Matter

In your quest for success and as you climb the ladder of life, remember always that 'other people matter.' Your own happiness and indeed the survival, success and development of your community and country is dependent in part on your realization that other people matter too. This life is not only about you.

Dr. Christopher Peterson, who was a Professor of psychology at University of Michigan noted that positive psychology research has shown that "It is in the company of others that we often experience pleasure and certainly how we best savour its aftermath.... Good relationships with other people may be a necessary condition for our own happiness, even in the markedly individualist cultures like the contemporary United States." So, keep the relationships you have developed in this University well and develop new ones.

It is undisputed that among you would be leaders of this country, Africa and the world in various capacities. Some will be lecturers, teachers, civil and public servants, international public servants, politicians etc. You would have two options set before you; You may choose to act entirely in your self-interest, in which case, you may not mind if you are unethical, corrupt and careless about what other people care about. Alternatively, you may choose to act for the public good, understanding that people matter: be ethical in all your dealings, care about people and what concerns them, including the environment we live in.

Global warming is upon us. The United Nations (UN) has reported shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding. The impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. We need urgent actions from this generation because the future of the next generation is at risk.

I invite you to begin today by taking little steps towards halting global warming and saving our planet. Can you all for starters decide to plant at least one tree within a month of your graduation to commemorate your graduation and invite others to do so too?

I urge you to share in the humanist African philosophy, "Ubuntu" which essentially means, "I am, because you are." In essence, a person is a person through other people.

Your success would be meaningless if it is at the expense of others. Indeed, all successes are meaningless if it is achieved at the expense of others. So, I urge you, remember always that people matter!

Do Not Be Defined By Your Failure

I have had my fair share of failures, even academic failures, for which reason alone I should not be qualified to address this meeting.

In this very University, in my second semester in level 300, I failed one economics course, that really dropped my GPA. I was so determined not to let my failure define me, that I gave thanks publicly in Methodist Presbyterian Union (MPU) on the Sunday following the release of the results to the amusement of the members in Church. I thanked God, even in my failure.

Here I am, addressing you after those academic failures. Indeed, notwithstanding my GPA, I had the opportunity to pursue my Master's degree in Law (LLM) at Stanford Law School, perhaps the best and one of the most difficult law schools to be admitted to, with an admission rate of about 10%.

So, not even my academic failures stopped me from pursuing my academic interest in one of the best universities in the world. After graduating from UG, I took every opportunity seriously and tried to be the best I could.

The point is this: your GPA is important but what you do with your GPA is even more important.

My message is simple, failure is the opportunity to begin again, but this time more intelligently! Failure will never overtake you if your determination to succeed is strong enough.

So, when you have to deal with failure now or in the future do not let failure hold you down.

Control What You Can and Leave What You Cannot Control to Luck, Chance, Miracles

In context, I consider miracles as happenings that are beyond the capacity, capabilities or even expectations of men. Some call it luck, others call it chance. According to the 18th centuries Scottish

Philosopher, David Hume, miracles are “violations of the laws of nature.”

I support dreaming! I am a dreamer myself. I agree that planning and hard work are necessary for survival and success. But I have also realized that there are times when hard work, planning and preparation alone does not seem to work. Please understand this, in the school of life, it is not everything that you can control. It is not everything that depends on your efforts. Sometimes you need a miracle or if like me, you are a person of faith, you need God.

I am however convinced that you must learn to create or improve your own miracles or luck. In your hope to experience a miracle or luck, you must be deliberate and conscientious, prepare yourself by perfecting your craft. You must position yourself in such a way that will give you an advantage when you experience luck or a miracle.

Consider the often used example of the sport of golfing: whether or not a golf ball, hit with a club will land in the hole depends on luck and who hits the ball. If the golf ball is hit by an amateur golfer, the chances of his luck producing the desired result is slimmer, as compared to the ball being hit by a professional golfer, like Tiger Woods. Tiger Woods spends several hours training and preparing and by that he is able to improve his luck. So, you must be prepared for your miracle or luck. Luck is only beneficial to the one who is prepared.

When I started my firm, ADU-KUSI PRUC, formerly Law Bureau, some 11 years ago, I had to hope for a miracle that I would get my first and other subsequent clients. I had left my otherwise very comfortable life as the Head of Legal Department of a reputable bank and later as the Legal Advisor and Company Secretary for a Multinational Company to set up this firm. At that time, money was not the most important consideration for me. I simply wanted to do what I enjoyed and thought I was good at. I had read a book earlier in my professional life which said “do what you enjoy doing, the money will follow.” Besides, I thought setting up a law firm would give me opportunity to take on and train other lawyers.

I started that law firm with absolutely nothing except my personal writing desk and computer. Somehow, by dint of hard work, focus,

a lot of luck and of course the grace of God, our firm has grown to become a significant business law firm in Ghana.

Having worked to the best of my ability, I earned the trust and respect of all my previous employers. Accordingly, all the institutions I worked for in the past continue to use the services of my firm even till date. I did well not to burn my bridges as I progressed.

Bottom line: work hard, control what you can control and leave what you can't control to miracles or luck. Your preparation and hardwork would improve your luck.

The world is now open to you, go on and expore it! Work hard don't let your failures keep you down, remember that people matter, prepare yourself for miracles. Go, make yourself, your family, Ghana and Africa proud!

I must congratulate you once again. I wish you the very best in your future endeavours!

Thank you for your time.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MS. LINDA SAARA SELBY
(NOVEMBER 15, 2019, MORNING SESSION)**

Chairman and Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provost, Deans and Directors
Members of the College Advisory Board
Members of Convocation
Your Excellencies
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Niimeï and Naameï
Invited Guests
Parents, Family, Friends and Graduands

In the first place, I wish to state that I was pleasantly surprised and humbled when I received the invitation to be part of this august occasion and particularly to deliver a speech. Having overcome my surprise and anxiety, I accepted to be here with you today and I feel privileged. I take this opportunity to congratulate each one of you graduating today.

Indeed, it brings back great memories of myself as a graduating student in 2003, after five years of study. I was excited at the thought of going out into the world to pursue a career. I was too excited to remember the message delivered by the guest speaker that day, or to have noticed when the speaker left the podium after his speech. But today, I crave your rapt attention so that at least, each one of us would go home with one lesson.

Since I got this invitation to speak to you, various topics have been flooding my thoughts but eventually I settled on one. For all of you graduating today, I believe that the greater majority will be pursuing their career goals while some of you will opt to pursue further studies. Be it as it may, there are very important lessons that you will need to carry along wherever you find yourself if you want to be ahead of your peers. Today each of you have acquired a certificate in one specialty or

another. It is important to remember that there are several others like you in the same job market with comparable skills set.

According to literature, there are two sets of skills we need to excel and make a difference in our various spheres of life. These are the 'hard' and 'soft' skills. The hard skills comprise academic skills, experiences and level of expertise. These constitute 15% while the remaining 85% stems from our soft skills which will be the focus of my message this morning.

I would like to share my personal experience as a panelist who interviewed graduates for a Management Trainee position in a reputable private company. A little over sixty applications were received and these numbers were pruned down to ten after an aptitude test. Eventually, three candidates who formed the *crème de la crème* were selected for the final interview. All three were supposed to be seated latest by 7:45am on the day of the interview, which they all promptly did. They were professionally dressed and looked visibly excited being part of the final list. During the review of their curriculum vitae, what we noticed which was coincidentally common to all, was that each of them had "exhibition of a sense of ownership" as part of other positive traits.

As panelists, we needed to confirm the candidate who would truly exhibit a sense of ownership when given the nod. At exactly 7:55am on that fateful morning, an officer from the HR Department walked in to welcome and notify them of the sudden breakdown of the elevator hence the need for each of them to use a particular walkway to the interview room which was two floors away. Each candidate was to spend a maximum of five minutes with the panel. Unknown to the candidates, on the second floor and close to the interview room, was a hand washing sink where the tap had deliberately been left flowing. Meanwhile, the cameras on the various floors were actively working.

The first two candidates went to the interview room one after the other when it was their turn. They each saw the running tap but glaringly walked past to the interview room. The first candidate spent a few seconds in front of a mirror right beside the sink to adjust his tie before proceeding to the interview room. The second candidate paused for a second and muttered something to himself. Perhaps he was rehearsing how he would greet or introduce himself to the panel.

On reaching the second floor, when it was her turn, the third candidate who also saw the tap flowing, stopped to turn it off before proceeding to the interview room.

Which of these candidates had indeed exhibited a sense of ownership? After the interview session, all three candidates were invited to meet with the panel to find out which of them had been selected as the best candidate for the role. Each of them had exceeded the required pass mark but before the candidate of choice could be announced, a short video had to be watched. The video showed how each of them had walked through the corridors to the interview room and their reaction to the visibly flowing tap. As a panel, we were very detailed in our search not only for hard skills but also soft skills, hence the decision to record every stage of the interview right from the time the candidates entered our premises.

In the end, the third candidate was selected because her reaction to the environment was a true reflection of the exhibition of a sense of ownership as was captured on her CV.

Graduand; this is a typical example of what soft skills encapsulate. These soft skills could be inherent or acquired. It ranges from an exhibition of team spirit, communication skills, interpersonal skills, work ethics, sense of courteousness, adaptability, problem solving skills, confidence, presentation skills, time management, ability to listen, knowing when to speak and how to speak and what to speak about and in fact all the very little things we often take for granted.

Having acquired all the hard skills, let us remember that it is these soft skills that will make you stand out among your peers and propel you to the heights of the careers and various stages of social life that you dream of. In enhancing our soft skills, we learn precisely when to sympathize, empathize or criticize.

On this note, I would like to congratulate all graduands once again. I wish you well in all your endeavours as you enter the world of work.

Congratulations! Felicitation! Ayekoo!

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED
BY KEITH OKO CLELAND
(NOVEMBER 14, 2019, MORNING SESSION)**

Chancellor
Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts, Deans and Directors
Members of the College of Humanities Advisory Board
Distinguished Guest Speaker
Your Excellencies
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Members of Convocation
Nananom, Nii mei, Naa mei
Parents and Guardians
Fellow Graduands
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

I deem it the greatest honour of my life to be selected to stand before you all to deliver the valedictory address for this morning's Congregation ceremony. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to God Almighty, whose grace and favour abounds. To Him alone be all glory and praise for making this day possible.

In our primary school days, there was always one day we looked forward to the most; the day when we sat back to relax and reward ourselves for enduring an exhausting term. That was the famous "Our Day", and it was always a day of joy and laughter, food sharing and merrymaking. But then, the joy of those days is incomparable to what resonates through us this day as we celebrate the ultimate end of the academic path we embarked on about 4 years ago. Congratulations Class of 2019 and welcome to the greatest "Our Day" of our lives yet! This, indeed, is the day the Lord has made and we will rejoice in it.

We sit here together, not only in celebration of what we have accomplished, but also to reminisce on the journey we began together

and reflect on its invaluable impact on each of us. There is a famous Chinese proverb that says “千里之行，始于足下”，which translates, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” My fellow graduands, our journey of 1,353 days as students on the hills of Legon began with a step four years ago. Although we entered through the same gate, we embarked on vastly different paths with our own distinct expectations but we have all converged at the same finish line in celebration of our success story. We can confidently say that, by God’s grace, we have fought the good fight, we have finished the race. Class of 2019, we made it!

As we come to the finish line, we can now look back with a set of different lenses and truly appreciate where we started from and what we have gone through. Though many of us started this journey alone, we encountered strangers along the way who inspired, and challenged us to be better versions of ourselves. With some, we broke bread, some shared in our struggles, and now they have become friends who will be with us for a life time. We may have started alone, but we are certainly not leaving alone. We are leaving here as strongly bonded, inter-connected body of networks and as better people, and we owe it all to this journey.

Indeed, it is the nostalgia of the beginning that immortalizes the experiences that live on in our hearts. We recall our anxiety from network jam while we tried applying for our first campus residences. We remember our first confusion when, in a desperate bid to find accommodation, some of us naively walked all the way to the Registry only to ask where the porters lodge was. We recollect our first lectures at the Jones Quartey Building (JQB) and our first rush to quickly register for University of Ghana Required Courses (UGRCs), where we come face to face with the almighty ‘modus ponens’ and ‘modus tonens’ of critical thinking, as well as Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Psychological Association (APA) referencing of academic writing. How can we forget the anxiety when we had to check results of our end of semester examination?

As we progressed along the journey, we realized that this different world in which we found ourselves had changed our perceptions of what we thought we once knew. We had to adjust to this new environment which came with early morning lectures, some sleepless nights, group studies and the stress of meeting deadlines.

Admittedly, it was these challenges over the four-years period that shaped us and taught us invaluable life lessons; our capacities were stretched and we realized our full potentials. It was here, that our integrity was tested and we emerged as men and women of character and virtue. It was here, that we learnt to take charge of our own destinies. It was on this journey, within the four walls of Legon, that we dreamt and imagined the future.

At the finish line, as we look back in retrospect, our hearts are filled with gratitude and appreciation. We thank this great world class university through whose gates thousands of celebrated and illustrious sons and daughters of Ghana and Africa have passed; many of whom have attained national and international accolades. Indeed, we are grateful to the hardworking staff of this University for the conducive and enabling environment availed us to pursue our academic dreams. We remain indebted to our lecturers, who inspired, challenged and trained us to become intellectuals worthy of the world. Fellow graduands, our wonderful lecturers deserve applause.

Now, we wish to extend immeasurable gratitude from the depths of our hearts to our parents and guardians who raised, loved, nurtured, and inspired us, They went great lengths and beyond to ensure that our fees were paid, consistently provided allowances for our upkeep and spent years on their knees in prayer for us. Our dear parents and guardians, we sincerely appreciate you more than you could ever imagine. Fellow graduands, let us rise to our feet and appreciate them with a resounding applause.

To my parents, Mr. Ramses & Mrs. Adelaide Cleland, words cannot express my immense gratitude to you. God richly bless you for being loving but very firm to bring out the best in me.

Let us, at this moment, with a short moment of silent prayer, show the greatest appreciation and thanksgiving to God Almighty for the many things that cannot be itemized.

Fellow graduands, we sit here at this Congregation, in celebration of our victory! But as we celebrate, let us not take for granted the quality of education that Ghana's premier University has offered us. We must not forget that this is by no means the end, rather, it is just the beginning of the best chapter of our lives. The Chinese say: "走出学校的小门, 走☒社

会的大门” which means “We walk out of the small gate of school into the grand gate of society”. The world awaits us. Though we may not know, for certain, what the world out there holds, we are optimistic of the choices before us: to accept it as it is or to accept the responsibility to change it.

In the immortal words of Robin Williams: “There have been others before you, they believed they were destined for great things just like you, and if you just listen, you can hear them whisper their legacy to you - ‘carpe diem’, seize the day!” Fellow graduands, we have never been alone. Many have run this same race endured pain and struggles just as ours. Although they have long gone out before us, their immortal words of encouragement and hope resound on the hills of Legon to each and every one of us. If you listen carefully, you will hear them whisper their legacy to you - ‘carpe diem’-seize the day!

They want our lives to be extraordinary; to ride on their legacy to greater heights and beyond. They stir us to dream big without fear of breaking the boundaries of our imagination. They inspire us with the words of Paul Brandt not to believe the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon. They encourage us with the words of David McCullough Jr. to keep climbing, not so the world can see us, but so that we can see the world. They remind us that this is the time to plant the seeds of the future, because the world of tomorrow is in our hands. So let us seize the day, inspire change, push boundaries, and stand virtuous!

I will end with the words of Eleanor Roosevelt: “the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”. So, my fellow graduands, let us. “shoot for the moon and if we miss, we will be among the stars.” (quote from Les Brown). Class of 2019, let us move forward together forward with focus and integrity and make our University, our nation Ghana, Africa and our loved ones proud.

God bless the Class of 2019!
God bless University of Ghana!!
God bless our homeland Ghana.!!! Thank you.

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED
BY MR. JACOB SEMEKOR MORDZIFA
(NOVEMBER 14, 2019, AFTERNOON SESSION)**

Chancellor
Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provost of College of Humanities
Deans
Members of Convocation
Parents and Guardians
Fellow Graduands
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
All other protocols observed

I am very humbled and honored to be the chosen one amongst equally deserving fellows to deliver the valedictory speech on this memorable day that will forever be remembered.

My journey here should have begun in 2005 but I could not make it because of financial difficulties and I know some other colleagues might have faced similar challenges. I had to go into commercial driving but later pushed my dreams further to become a professional teacher and finally walked in through the famous gates of the premier university in 2015, 10 years on. Even though the storylines of how we got here four or five years ago may be different, I believe we came with a common objective; to add value to our lives and become useful to our families and society at large.

Many sacrifices were made by our families and friends to ensure these dreams of ours were achieved and some of those wonderful people are right here with us. By the special grace of God, we made it together as a family and I would like my colleagues to please be on their feet as we give a round of applause to such deserving people. In 2 Timothy

4:7-8, Apostle Paul wrote “I have fought a good fight, I have won the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing”. This statement is very synonymous to what is happening on this day, 14th November, 2019 at this Great Hall.

I remembered as freshmen in 2015, some of us had few friends and others had none . One scene that I recall vividly as though it happened yesterday was how we marched into this same hall for orientation, familiarized with a few people and drew our plans of how to progress. In the first two or three weeks of our lectures, some of us stood right in front of lecture halls and still asked passersby to help us locate them. I remember the jubilation that consumed a serene atmosphere when a lecture was cancelled and how power-point slides of lecturers became the most sought after commodity during interim assessment and end of semester examinations. Funny as these scenarios seem now, we still took every necessary step with the hope of making our dreams a reality and finally, here we are about to walk out with our lives shaped for a better and brighter future.

Why did we choose University of Ghana and not any other institution? As raw materials to be processed into finished products, we searched for the best processing company, Legon emerged top on the list hence we chose the best and our presence here today shows that, the process is complete and the product is ready for the market.

University education at the undergraduate level, I would say, is a package that enables an individual acquire some level of knowledge and skills leading to the award of a degree. However, what goes on in the lecture halls is just about thirty percent of the total work. We would all agree to the fact that, even when we worked on our assignments or studied for exams, we read and researched further in order to perform excellently and that was part of the seventy percent expected from us as students. It is a similar fashion out there in the world of work; you need to update your skills regularly through research, training and being proactive in order to be very efficient in whatever field we find

ourselves. It would be important to revisit our notes where necessary because some would be relevant in finding solutions in the world of work.

Today's world is very versatile and competitive with ICT leading the charge in many sectors. I am therefore very happy that the University of Ghana Computing Systems gave us access to various computing programmes to enable us become competitive in the job market. I therefore expect our dear graduates to be as timeless as GTP cloth because we have been through vigorous training which should make us productive at all times. The certificates we are awarded regardless of its class or course is just proof of our four-year study and that alone is not enough to be successful at what we do. Values such as hard work, discipline, honesty, punctuality, determination and sincerity are important factors to see us through climbing all the giant steps in our lives.

Please, let us bear in mind that we are brand ambassadors of this prestigious institution hence our actions and inactions will have, if not directly, an indirect impact on the image of University of Ghana. I want to encourage us all to see every challenge as an opportunity to solve a problem because problem solvers are rulers of the world.

There are countless achievements and successes chalked by the University of Ghana but I wish to use this opportunity to draw the attention of Management to a problem we faced both as freshmen and continuing students. This had to do with accommodation; some of us had to travel several kilometers to and from Legon for lectures and this affected our studies in various ways. News received when the 2019/20 freshmen reported reveals that, the problem appears to be compounding. Legon is the pride of West Africa hence we do not only want it as a place for higher learning but also a home we can always come back to. Thankfully, we read in the news that the Old Vandals Association have cut sod for the construction of a 4660-bed capacity annex for the Commonwealth Hall. It is our hope that other associations will also come on board to help solve this problem.

Colleagues, unemployment is one serious canker eating very deeply into the fiber of the youth in many parts of the global south. The reality is that the population of job seekers far outnumber the job opportunities available. We must therefore be creative using the entrepreneurial skills we have acquired to be creators of jobs other than job seekers.

Madam Chancellor, looking back, my colleagues and I have a lot to be thankful for; foremost to the Almighty God for his goodness upon us through the journey of life. To the faculty, administrators and other staff of the University, we say thank you. There are some names that ring a bell on this campus especially when it comes to food; 'night market', 'common market for the Vandals' and 'bush canteen', thanks to the vendors for saving us from the claws of hunger. I use this wonderful opportunity to also thank my former college, the Presbyterian College of Education- Akropong Akuapem for the vigorous academic and physical training given me. Again to my employer Ghana Education Service-Asuogyaman District and Eastern Regional Directorate for granting of my study leave.

I wish to end, my speech with the words of Aristotle; "we are what we repeatedly do". Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit. Therefore, if you wish to fail, keep doing nothing but if you want to achieve your dreams, let determination, hard work and discipline be your guideline.

God bless our homeland Ghana, God bless the University of Ghana, God bless us graduates and may God bless us all as we proceed with integrity.

Thank you.

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED
BY MR. EMMANUEL GYASI
(NOVEMBER 15, 2019, MORNING SESSION)**

Member of Council representing the Chancellor
Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Members of the College Advisory Board
Distinguished Guest Speaker
Members of Convocation
Families and Friends
Fellow Graduands
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

I am honoured to address all seated here for this morning's ceremony. It is indeed a proud moment to be nominated as the representative of the eminent Class of 2019 to deliver this valedictory address.

We are gathered here today not only for a graduation ceremony but also to celebrate the completion of a worthy course. This journey began with excitement over a text message that we had been admitted to the premier university, University of Ghana. Amidst all the joy, most of us were probably clueless of what was ahead. Maybe all we had in mind were the stories told of magnificent party sessions in the university. Nevertheless, such hopes were quickly dashed by some of our lecturers who gave out assignments as early as the first day of lectures. Sooner than later, reality dawned on us. The path was going to be different from what our naive minds had envisaged.

Within a few months in the university, we learned to adjust to get over endless lectures, frightening interim assessment and end of semester examinations. We overcame these and many other challenges and by the time the first semester was over, we had a fair range of university standard vocabulary. Our use of terms like "credit hours", "UGRC", "MIS Web" and "GPA" were enough to show that we had indeed settled in our new environment.

After several lectures, project work, cramming sessions, examinations, and fairytale relationships, we sit here today robbed in our beautiful academic gowns. We await the conferment of degrees as testament that we have indeed undergone a transformative process and become part of the community from the 'hill of learning'.

Hearty congratulations to all of us. We made it Class of 2019! Each one of us! Let us be proud of our achievement. Shall we give ourselves a round of applause.

The next step of our journey is not one for us to rest on our oars. Instead, it is a period for us to let lessons learned from the past guide us towards becoming better versions of ourselves.

As we graduate from the university, let us remember that we hold more than just degrees. Over the four years, we have acquired varied skills to make us valuable members of society. We have developed good social networks which will benefit us in the years ahead. Our participation in group projects is an indication that we are now ready to work in teams in the corporate world. The world will make demands on us, we should be prepared to meet them.

Fellow graduands, our generation is profoundly one of the most fortunate in history. The world around us has advanced so much that almost everything is possible. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to make a real difference, a difference that lies within our attitude.

Maya Angelou, the American poet and civil rights activist said "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." In our quest to be change agents, we may feel powerless due to the nature of existing structures. However, if Maya Angelou's words are anything to go by, we are never powerless to change our attitude. Essentially, what I am trying to drive home is the fact that the revolution we hope to see in Ghana starts right from us. It is not only an issue of proposing 'the government must' kind of solutions to our problems. We as a people should be ready to shake off our apathy and in its place, have a desire for nation building. We ought to uphold the values and principles of patriotism, honesty, diligence and accountability.

In our bid to become effective change agents, it is important we identify what we are passionate about. In the words of Frida Kahlo, a Mexican artist, "Passion is the bridge that takes you from pain to change". Today we need to ask ourselves the following questions. What irks us so much? What can we not stand the sight of? Is it the traffic situation that nearly made some non-residential students miss interim assessment and examinations? Is it the poor sanitation situation that continues to expose us to a cocktail of diseases? Is it the child hawking on the street during school hours that hurts us? Finding answers to these questions and more will mean we have the needed catalyst to effect change. We have to channel all our efforts into correcting undesirable situations. We should be relentless in our strive till the status quo is altered.

In addition to the above, let us keep this in mind, we were all born with our uniqueness, just thrive in yours. Never let the fear of losing stop you for you are closer to success than you think. Never feel you are alone in this march to make things better. We are all in this together! Our individual change efforts are never too little to make a difference. For if we all do something small, our combined efforts would eventually lead to something great, something our nation has longed for. We have a chance to make the Ghanaian narrative better, let us not miss it!

In doing all these, we should also not lose sight of the things we love. Let us spend time with family, listen to our favourite music, watch our much-loved football team play and chill at the beach. Always take time off to relax and have some fun. Keep yourself energized so you are always raring to go.

As I conclude this speech on behalf of the Class of 2019, I wish to express our profound gratitude to God for making this day possible. To our wonderfully supportive families, we appreciate you for the sacrifices you made for us throughout this academic journey. Special mention to my mum, you are my world! To our lecturers, university administrators, staff, and mentors we are grateful. Your efforts have shaped us into becoming people of substance. To our friends, the relationships we formed will transcend beyond today. It would have been impossible to have made it on this journey without each other. From our walks to lectures, group studies, time at the TV room cheering our favourite football teams, time spent in worship, the fun we had during hall week celebrations and our 'g)b3'(beans) joint link

ups, we made it together. Finally, as we have reached these milestone in the pursuit of knowledge let us remember this guiding principles; to create a better world and more importantly proceed in integrity.

Congratulations, Class of 2019!

Thank you for your attention.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY
MRS. MARY CHINERY-HESSE, CHANCELLOR**

Members of Council

Vice-Chancellor

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Registrar

Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities

Members of Convocation

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 ceremony. I especially recognize all the teachers, the management teams and staff of the various units, who have worked together to ensure that the time that our graduates spent in the University has been fruitful.

The University appreciates the effort that has been put into this enterprise by all stakeholders.

New graduates, you have all worked hard during the time that you have been students at this University; you deserve the laurels that you have acquired.

Never forget that you are special, having graduated from the premier university in Ghana. As you step out today into the world with your certificates in your hands, always be conscious of the fact that successful graduates who excel in the school of life are the University's best asset. The more you shine in the world of work, the more you bring glory to Legon.

I am recruiting you to be part of the brigade, dedicated in your attainments in whatever station you find yourselves, to uplift the image of your alma mater, in order to improve how we are ranked globally in the academic world. I urge you to maintain your links with the University, and to be active members of the University of Ghana Alumni Association.

You have graduated with knowledge and skills which are essential for the development of Ghana, the continent of Africa and indeed the world at large. You have been given so much, and it is just fair that you also give back to the society which has nurtured you. I wish you every success in your future endeavours. Hearty congratulations.

We are happy that so many family members and friends of the graduates were able to join in this celebration. I have no doubt that the graduates appreciate the sacrifices and prayers of parents, guardians, spouses and friends. Let us recognize their contribution with a clap offering.

I thank our guest speaker as well as our invited guests, alumni and friends of the University for your presence and participation in the ceremony. I wish you all safe travel back to your homes.

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

Thank you all for coming and God bless us all.

