



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NO. 898

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018

VOL. 56

NO. 3

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES &
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 21, 2018**

CONTENTS

Order of Proceedings	2
Opening Address by Chairman of Council	3
Vice-Chancellor’s Address	5
Address by Guest Speaker	30
Valedictory Speech	35
Closing Address by Chairman of Council	38

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, July 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Procession

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

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose: Dr. Ama Essel,
Member of Council

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu,
Vice-Chancellor

Congregation Speaker: Mrs. Mansa Nettey

Valedictory Address: Mr. Malvin Ofosu-Boateng

Conferment of degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Education

- PhD
- MPhil
- MA

Presentation of graduands from the College of Health Sciences

- PhD/DPhil
- MPhil
- MSc
- MBChB
- BDS
- BPharm
- BSc Medical Sciences
- BSc Nursing

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

Recession

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY DR. AMA ESSEL,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL)**

Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provost 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

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. Mr. Annan would have liked to be here today as the congregation ceremony scheduled for today and tomorrow will be the last during his tenure as Chancellor. Official duties however prevent him from being here.

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

Congregation ceremonies are very important to the University of Ghana because it provides us the opportunity to reflect on how well we are doing in terms of providing the needed academic services and corporate support to ensure that students graduate and graduate on time. Management of the University is committed to improving upon graduating rates and student

satisfaction and will continue to do all in its power to provide students with a memorable student experience.

During today's ceremony, graduates and undergraduates of the College of Health Sciences and graduate of the College of Education who have satisfied the requirements for graduation will be presented and graduated.

Graduands I wish you 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, it is my pleasure to declare this afternoon's assembly, duly constituted for the award of degrees 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 his report.

Thank you.

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

Chairman of Council representing Chancellor
Members of University Council
Pro Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Members of College Advisory Boards
Provost and Deans
Guest Speaker
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of
Humanities
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Alumni
Graduands
Parents / Guardians
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

WELCOME

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this congregation ceremony. A total of 3,184 students will be graduating at various levels from the four Colleges of the University, namely: College of Health Sciences; College of Humanities; College of Education; and College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

This morning's ceremony will confer degrees on graduate and undergraduate students from the College of Health Sciences and College of Education.

Another congregation ceremony will be held in November this year for students from all four Colleges, and a third batch, made up mainly of Distance Education students, will graduate in April 2019.

Let me use this opportunity to express my gratitude to faculty, administrators and other stakeholders for their support in keeping alive our

role as custodians and making this day possible. I will also like to appreciate the time parents and invited guests have taken off their busy schedules to respond to our invitation to this ceremony.

Update on the State of the University

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, kindly allow me to provide update on exciting developments at the University of Ghana.

Admissions

Our admissions process reflects the diverse nature of our student population. I am happy to note that during the 2017/2018 admission cycle, a total of 14,128 students, made up of 11,707 undergraduates and 2,421 graduate students accepted offers of admission and enrolled in various programmes run on the Main, Korle-Bu and Accra City Campuses, as well as by Distance Learning. These numbers include 389 international/visiting students from across the world.

Review of 4-Year Degree Programme

After eight years of implementation of our 4-year undergraduate programme, the University has set in motion a process reviewing the 4-year degree programme and the Grading System. The report from the Review Team has already been discussed by Management, Colleges, and the Business and Executive Committee. The composite report is being finalized for implementation.

New Programmes and Courses

A number of new courses and programmes have recently been approved by the University Academic Board. These include the Executive Master of Science in Fisheries Administration and Management, Doctor of Philosophy in Health Physics and Radiation, and a functional law course for undergraduate students. The Academic Board has also approved revisions to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Master of Philosophy in Nursing and Midwifery

programmes. The new courses would be made available once they receive accent by the National Accreditation Board.

The West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), has received international accreditation for its postgraduate programmes from the Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study programmes (AQAS), Germany, a noted body for accreditation of higher education institutions and programmes. This accreditation opens the doors for strategic collaborations with other institutions.

Governance

National Accreditation Board Cyclical Review

The University recently underwent a statutory cyclical review by the National Accreditation Board. The four day review focused on governance, institutional development, internationalization, growth, research and grants, community service, academic matters, future outlook, information resources and finances. Meetings were held with university management, faculty and staff, as well as with students. Management of the University is committed to implement the recommendations from the review, which will enable us improve on our efforts at providing high quality teaching, learning, and research experience for our students and employees.

Review of Collegiate System

Chairman of Council, the University adopted the collegiate system of governance in the 2014/2015 academic year, mainly to promote efficiency, reduce bureaucracy and free senior management to have time for the most important administrative functions. The statutes of the University were amended to make way for the creation of the four colleges, i.e. Basic and Applied Sciences, Education, Health Sciences and Humanities. Four years after the adoption of the system, a panel has been set up to review the collegiate system. The remit of the panel are to: review of the current collegiate system of governance with the view to identifying the short comings in the governance structure and making recommendations for improvement; make new proposals to improve the governance structure to

achieve the twin goals of effectiveness and efficiency; and develop a set of governance principles, policies, standards, and practices that optimally support the university's strategic priorities.

The panel, chaired by a former Vice-Chancellor of University of Ghana, Professor Akilakpa Sawyer is currently interacting with major stakeholders of the University and will present its recommendations soon.

Strategy Execution

The nine strategic teams that were constituted in November 2016 to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana have been working very hard and have already made some gains.

The Independent Power Supply Team

The University of Ghana currently spends about 29 million Ghana Cedis every year on electricity which is equivalent to 10 Megawatt amperes (10 MWA). The Strategic Team on Energy was therefore set up to find a sustainable way to reduce this huge cost by 40% using an energy mix (solar, biogas and others).

The Team in collaboration with the Electricity Company of Ghana has installed a net meter at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), which provides data on the amount of energy used at the Institute and the excess energy made available to the rest of the University. I am delighted to inform you that the data from March 2018 indicates that NMIMR pumped into the University system excess energy of 4,498 Kwh from the solar cell facility.

On the issue of double billing, the University of Ghana Electricals Unit and the Building and Revenue Unit of the Electricity Company of Ghana have estimated a reduction of the University's energy bill by 13% every month. This is based on a reconciliation of energy bills paid directly by residents and commercial tenants of the University.

Through an initiative of VSL Holdings a demonstration of the impact of using energy saving devices has been completed. This would be used as a basis for scaling up at other residential facilities. All the traditional halls of residence at the University and some academic buildings are currently migrating from the use of CFLs to LED lamps.

The Danish Government is to provide funds towards the construction of a Biogas Facility at Livestock Production & Research Centre (LIPREC) to generate electricity to power the Research Centre and also for training purposes. This project if completed, will enable Livestock Production & Research Centre to properly manage its waste; produce manure, generate about 53,000KWh of electricity per annum and serve as a facility for teaching and research. The University is in the process of piping the biogas produced at the Alexander Kwamong Hall to the restaurant of the same hall for cooking purposes.

Arrangement for the refurbishment of streetlights (installation of 150 LED street lights) along major streets of the University of Ghana has been completed. Ministry of Energy is in the process of installing an additional 150 LED street lights from Okponglo to the link gate, GIMPA.

As part of efforts to complete the University Stadium, the Energy Strategic Team is exploring the possibility of roof top solar or solar car ports as potential energy sources for the facility.

Bui Power Authority is to install a 600 kW wind turbine on UG campus. A site has been identified and they are waiting for the arrival of wind mast to gather data (wind speed and direction) before the installation of the wind turbine.

University of Ghana is to be a key beneficiary of the ongoing “Race to Retrofits & Renewables” Program under Compact II, which seeks to promote Energy Efficiency Retrofits and Renewable Energy technologies in selected public institutions. Four (4) buildings (Academic Affairs, Vice-Chancellor's Office wing, Great Hall and UGCS) were selected for the exercise. Preliminary Energy Audits and Investment Grade Energy Audits for the 4 buildings were conducted. The first phase of the implementation involves changing of: non-LED light fixtures to suitable LED fixtures;

existing air-conditioning and refrigerating systems to suitable minimum 3 star rated inverter type air-conditioning and refrigerating systems; existing fans to super energy efficient fans; and the installation of 15 smart meters at the feeder level and at different floors along with internet communication system and software. The second phase will see the installation of: Four (4) voltage stabilizers; and Solar PV modules for power generation.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the Ministers of Energy, Finance and Education and the Managing Director of the Electricity Company of Ghana Ltd., (ECG) for endorsing our initiative to migrate unto renewable energy. I would also like to acknowledge the technical support received from representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy, ECG, Energy Commission and members of the team from the University.

University of Ghana Regional / World Ranking Team:

Through the hardwork of the Team, the University of Ghana has been ranked within the 101-150 band on the Times Higher Education (THE) Golden Age University Ranking 2018. The Golden Age ranking uses Times Higher Education data to cast a spotlight on the world's best universities established for more than 50 years, but less than 80 years. Institutions from 44 different countries were included in this year's edition of the world's Golden Age University Rankings. Thus makes the University of Ghana the only ranked university in Ghana and the number one ranked University in West Africa.

Institutional Advancement Team:

The Team successfully spearheaded the launched of the 70th anniversary of University of Ghana on Tuesday 20th February, 2018 at the Great Hall on the theme “Celebrating Excellence, Shaping Futures.” As part of the anniversary, the UG Endowment Fund was also launched by the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on Monday 7th May, 2018. The Endowment Fund will be used to support scholarships, bursaries, tuition waivers, research grants for

students and faculty, additional facilities and resources to enhance research and teaching through the provision of equipment, teaching aids and space, upgrading the quality of internet coverage in all University of Ghana campuses and improving on library resources.

I wish to cease this opportunity to reach out to all stakeholders to contribute generously to the fund.

The Green project Team is partnering a number of institutions to re-design our grounds to ensure that there are enough trees and green coverage, as well as develop and complete a waste disposal system that will rely on separation of waste, to serve as a model for Ghana. Some of the institutions and organizations that are supporting the University in this drive are; the Forestry Commission, ADRA, WECARE, Y & M Regeneration Limited and the Republic Bank. The tree planting and landscaping initiatives were recently launched in separate events under the auspices of the Green Team.

Since the launch of the tree planting exercise on 1st December, 2017, the Green Project Committee and the PDMSD have led the University Staff (TEWU, GAUA, FUSSAG and UTAG) and some Student Groups to plant over 7,500 tree seedlings on the main campus of the University and the Staff Village. The Green Project Committee and the PDMSD are also supporting two students groups, CIYZOE-Legon and Technology without Borders, to implement the University of Ghana Plastic Recycling Project (UGPRP) which begins in the 2018/2019 academic year. The project involves awareness creation aimed at attitudinal and mindset change, and to effect waste segregation at source. Special bins will be positioned at vantage points at the halls of residence and hostels for students to drop empty water sachets and plastic bottles.

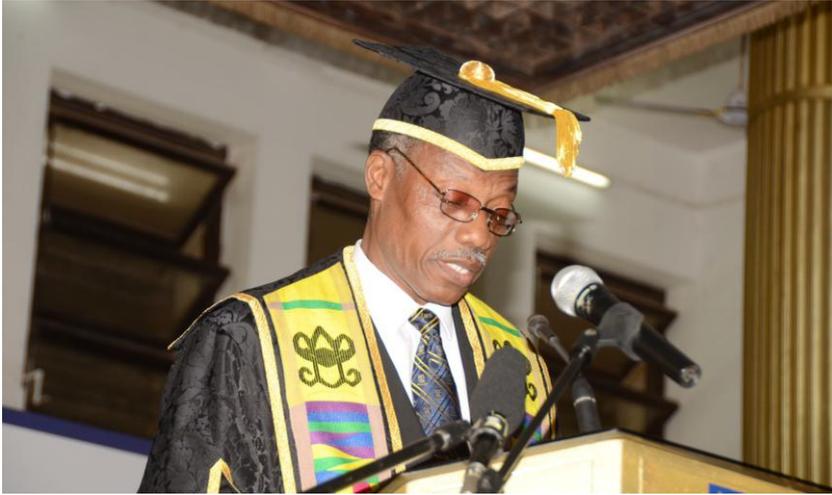
A unique feature of this initiative is that it is students-led. I will like to commend the groups and entreat the entire students' body to embrace the concept to facilitate the proper disposal of waste on campus. As a prelude to the implementation of the project, the student volunteers have already launched a programme to discourage littering during this congregation. I am appealing to you all to cooperate with them and drop waste in the bins that have been provided.



**Dr. Ama Essel, Member of Council (Representing
Chairman of the University of Ghana Council)
delivering the welcome Address**



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



**Rev. Prof. Patrick F. Ayeh-Kumi, Provost, College of Health Sciences,
acknowledging International Students of the College**



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



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



**Mr. Michael Opare Atua
College Secretary, College of Health
Sciences speaking at the ceremony**



**Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah,
College Secretary, College of
Education speaking at the ceremony**



Mrs. Mansa Nettey delivering the Guest Speaker's Address



Mr. Malvin Ofosu-Boateng, delivering the Valedictory Address



Graduands at the Congregation ceremony



Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries



Some parents and guardians at the ceremony

In addition, plans are far advanced to institute a comprehensive waste management system for the University to serve as a model for the country. This will involve compost production using litter fall from trees and biodegradable waste from commercial centres and eateries. The compost that is generated will be used for grassing, horticulture and crop production by the University.

The University of Ghana Mining Research Group: Our Director of the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies sent out a message to the University research community on the need for the University of Ghana to provide a holistic solution to the “Galamsey” issue. Over 50 researchers from all Colleges of the University responded and came together to form the University of Ghana Mining Research Group. The broad objective of the group is captured in the acronym STIMULATE: Solutions Targeting Illegal Mining Using Legislation, Appropriate Technology and Education. The Group, with the support of Office for Research and Development and the Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Studies, organized a symposium on the theme “Engaging the Artisanal Mining Industry in Ghana: Practical Ideas toward Sustainable Livelihoods and Ecological Stability”. An interaction between the group and a team from the University of York has yielded some dividend with the later agreeing to commit some core funding to support its staff to do research work in Ghana. Members of the mining research group have also been involved in the roll out of the Government's flagship programme the 'Multi-Sectoral Mining Integrated Project' (MMIP) which is being implemented by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

Research, Innovation and Development

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana is committed to re-defining itself as a research intensive institution and actively encourages faculty to engage in research activities. We seek to engage in policy relevant research that will inform the development agenda of our dear nation and the African continent at large. The University's investment in research is yielding fruitful results, and already the quantity and quality of research being carried out at the University of Ghana have improved tremendously. In addition, the University has won landmark research

grants, which have been utilized to enhance its research profile. In view of this, the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) is taking the lead in ensuring that we meet our set goals.

Research, Faculty Development and Conference Grants

ORID received a total of 148 applications for conference grants. Out of this number, 72 grants with a total value of approximately US\$ 118,000.00 (one hundred and eighteen thousand dollars) were awarded. The 11th call for proposals for research grants was made using the InfoEd Grants Management Software and yielded seventy-five (75) applications. Fifty-seven applications qualified for review and are currently being processed.

Agreements

From August 2017 to date, ORID has reviewed and signed 53 research agreements amounting to approximately Eighteen Million United States Dollars (US\$ 18,000,000.00). In addition, 13 MoUs, 1 copyright agreement, 2 Material Transfer Agreements and 1 non-disclosure agreement have also been signed.

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) won grants to initiate 16 new projects during the year. Altogether a total of 128 research projects were initiated at the Institute during the period under review. The Institute continued to function as the as World Health Organisation (WHO) recognised National Influenza Center for Ghana, the WHO Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio as well the WHO supported Reference Centre for the Identification of Rotavirus. It is also the Lymphatic Filariasis Support Centre for Africa, and host to the West African Centre for International Parasite Control (WACIPAC) project. It is worthy of note that the Institute continues to excel and has become a great icon in the world of health research.

Capacity Building

The University of Ghana and its consortium of five African partners have been awarded an amount of €1.3 Million (one million, three hundred

thousand euros) from the European Commission within the framework of the EU-Intra Africa Mobility Programme to implement a project titled: Harmonization of Entrepreneurship Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (HEED-Africa) for a period of 5 years. The project seeks to facilitate academic mobility to enhance individual capacities and institutional capabilities in entrepreneurship across thematic disciplines in Africa. The programme will offer scholarships for Masters and PhD students as well as capacity building for academic and administrative staff of the partner Universities.

The West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) received a grant from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) for the production of early generation seeds in partnership with a private sector player, the Legacy Crop Improvement Centre (LCIC). WACCI is currently undergoing production of breeder and foundation seed of the three improved hybrid maize varieties released in June 2017. The project “Commercialization of West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement released maize hybrids for increased productivity in Ghana” seeks to improve household food security by facilitating the commercialization of the three WACCI hybrids.

Additionally, WACCI has led a consortium to win a US\$1 million grant from the African Union (AU) to work with government and industry partners on Crop and Soil Health Improvement for sustainable Agricultural Intensification towards Economic Transformation in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The 3-year project aims to address issues related to the food and nutrition security objectives of the African Union under its Competitive Research Grants Scheme supported by the European Union.

Faculty and Student Fellowships

Faculty members have also benefited from the Cambridge-Africa Partnership for Research Excellence (CAPREX), Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (QES) Advanced-Scholars Grant, the Commonwealth Doctoral Scholarships and the Fox International Student Fellowship Scheme. For the CAPREX award five applications were recommended by University of Ghana to Cambridge for further matching,

out of which three have been successfully matched to Cambridge-based collaborators with the remaining two likely to be matched with “South” collaborators with support from collaborators in Cambridge.

In collaboration with the University of Alberta (U of A), the School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM) won the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (QES) Advanced-Scholars Grant. The Grant will give 7 faculty members of the School the opportunity for a minimum of 90 days stay in Edmonton, Canada. The scholars will have the opportunity of mentorship for research and grantmanship.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University will continue to dedicate resources towards research as it strives to attain its vision of becoming a research-intensive university.

Innovation

The Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) was established in 2012 to advance the development of Ghanaian industry through the conduct of industry-led research and serve as a vehicle for the transfer of knowledge, technology and innovation from the University to industry. The long term plan of the Institute is to establish a Science and Technology Park. This is intended to provide a holistic state of the art infrastructure for industrial research, transfer of technology and innovation.

The expected location will be at the link gate/GIMPA bypass which was originally zoned for a science park. This facility will be a property based development, providing the requisite infrastructure, associated services and modern amenities. The proposed Science and Technology Park will therefore be a master planned community with the establishment of specialized buildings and facilities to accommodate: Start Up businesses; Incubator Centres and Laboratories; Education/Research/Visualization Centres for programmes; “State of the Art” Office accommodation, facility and business to aid research and development among others.

The Institute has started helping students to set up their own ventures and develop skill sets in innovation and entrepreneurial training. This training

shapes the mindset of students to holistically express themselves and act on their innate creative potential. It also creates sustainable model of environment where students are immersed into creative and entrepreneurial endeavors through collaborations, activities, and channeling their entrepreneurial potential into all facets of their lives. The Institute believes that today's skills are not necessarily the ones needed tomorrow. Therefore, our students should be given first-hand experience of the link between academics and entrepreneurship/innovation. It is usually said that today's digital natives are the most adept at using technology, but at the same time they are less certain of the innovative processes that created them. The younger generation needs to learn how to create value in the digital economy, and embrace the opportunities that abound in science and technology.

Partnerships/Collaborations

Partnerships are very critical in the delivery of relevant and comprehensive knowledge and skill sets to learners in higher education institutions. Effective collaboration with external stakeholders from various fields of specialization provide unique platforms for sharing knowledge and skills that are mutually beneficial. In furtherance of this ideal, the University has forged new institutional partnerships to promote research, exchange of students and faculty with a number of institutions in North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America. New partnership agreements are currently underway and expected to be signed soon.

The School of Engineering Sciences, the CLUE Incorporated from Japan and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) are monitoring the performance of the solar panel farm at NMIMR. The monitoring process includes monthly recording of the kilowatt hour excess electricity pumped into UG by the solar panels using a net meter installed by Electricity Company of Ghana. In order to evaluate the current state of each solar panel, the School of Engineering Sciences and CLUE Inc., will employ the use of drones equipped with infrared sensor to study the surface of the solar panels by flying over the panels. This will help to identify damages and micro cracks on the solar panels that are not visible to the naked eye but affects the conversion efficiency of the panels.

contributed to funding for these projects, and as a University, we will continue to prudently source for funds to complete the ongoing projects.

The Graduate Students' Association of Ghana (GRASAG-Legon) has commissioned a number of projects as part of the Association's contribution towards the attainment of the University's vision of becoming a world class research-intensive institution. These include four refurbished reading rooms and one television room at the VALCO Trust Hostel, as well as the refurbishment of an ultra-modern Research Commons at the Korle-Bu campus. I commend these initiatives by GRASAG-Legon and hope that students will make good use of these facilities.

ICT

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has made some progress in the provision of ICT services. A total of about 950 Wi-Fi Access points have been installed in all the campuses of the University including the Research Centres and the Regional Distance Education Learning Centres. A progressive replacement and Wi-Fi network extension exercise is currently underway to address coverage and signal strength frustrations faced by students. The exercise is expected to be completed by the middle of the first semester of the 2018/2019 academic year. The University of Ghana Computing Systems (UGCS) has also received a 100 more Access Points to deploy at other critical places like the Library and departments in addition to some of the Halls.

The University has completed the deployment of a high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure for West African Centre for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP). This is mostly available to the Centre but could be made available to other units based on agreement.

UGCS in collaboration with the University Archives has completed several digitization records. For the period under review, 455 items were added to the University of Ghana Institutional Repository.

Use of the SAKAI Learning Management System for the University's e-

Following the signing of an MOU between the University and Toyota Ghana Limited in April 2017, the parties have gone a step further to put together a project Partnership Agreement which is being finalized for signing soon. Under the partnership, Toyota will support the School of Engineering by building an ultra-modern training Centre to train students, provide equipment worth \$2 million to the School over 10 years, provide a bus to convey students to the Centre as well as provide scholarship worth \$10,000 per year to brilliant but needy students.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the University of Ghana and Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) to establish a Research Chair in Petroleum Geoscience at the Department of Earth Science, College of Basic & Applied Sciences. The Chair seeks to strengthen Petroleum Geoscience research and education capacity in the University of Ghana in order to support the optimal exploration, delineation and development of Ghana's hydrocarbon resources. Under the agreement, GNPC will commit \$1,000,000.00 (One Million US Dollars) to support the Chair.

Physical Development

Ladies and gentlemen, quality infrastructural facilities are critical to the achievement of the vision and mission of the University of Ghana. There are many ongoing projects on all our campuses, which will provide additional lecture halls, residential facilities and office spaces for our staff and students when completed. These projects include the multi-purpose School of Performing Arts facility, new blocks for the School of Pharmacy, multi-purpose GCB block, Faculty of Arts building, new blocks for Department of Earth Science, Extension to School of Public Health, Asphaltic Overlay of selected roads on campus and the UG Stadium. The following projects have been completed: Department of Economics Extension, Construction and Completion of 4 number B-Type Bungalows at Staff Village. The Confucius Institute building and the ultra-modern West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) building have already been commissioned. The next in line for commissioning is the multi-purpose building for the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI).

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

The Graduate Students' Association of Ghana (GRASAG-Legon) has commissioned a number of projects as part of the Association's contribution towards the attainment of the University's vision of becoming a world class research-intensive institution. These include four refurbished reading rooms and one television room at the VALCO Trust Hostel, as well as the refurbishment of an ultra-modern Research Commons at the Korle-Bu campus. I commend these initiatives by GRASAG-Legon and hope that students will make good use of these facilities.

ICT

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has made some progress in the provision of ICT services. A total of about 950 Wi-Fi Access points have been installed in all the campuses of the University including the Research Centres and the Regional Distance Education Learning Centres. A progressive replacement and Wi-Fi network extension exercise is currently underway to address coverage and signal strength frustrations faced by students. The exercise is expected to be completed by the middle of the first semester of the 2018/2019 academic year. The University of Ghana Computing Systems (UGCS) has also received a 100 more Access Points to deploy at other critical places like the Library and departments in addition to some of the Halls.

The University has completed the deployment of a high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure for West African Centre for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP). This is mostly available to the Centre but could be made available to other units based on agreement.

UGCS in collaboration with the University Archives has completed several digitization records. For the period under review, 455 items were added to the University of Ghana Institutional Repository.

Use of the SAKAI Learning Management System for the University's e-Learning programmes continues to improve with an average concurrent usage of 350 and an increase in courses created to 5, 611 as at the end of registration for second semester of 2017/2018 academic year.

Security monitoring of our infrastructure and services is currently ongoing. Security awareness bulletins are published weekly, and the UGCS has organized the first in a series of Cyber Security Awareness Workshops which aim at bringing awareness to the community on how to secure University and personal data.

Financial Aid to Students

Ladies and gentlemen, the Students Financial Aid Office (SFAO) has the mission of minimizing the financial barriers that prevent brilliant but needy students' access to studying at the University of Ghana. Donations to support needy students grew from approximately GH¢1,100,000.00 (One Million and One Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis) in 2016-2017 to approximately GH¢3,000,000.00 (Three Million Ghana Cedis) in 2017-2018 academic year, representing about 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 represented 66.7% of all scholarship applicants. The 614 scholarship awardees comprised 424 males representing 69.1% and 190 females representing 30.9%.

Management expresses its profound gratitude to all its revered donors for their regular support towards the reduction of the financial constraints of needy students.

Sporting Activities

University of Ghana Policy on Admission of Athlete Students (UG-PAAS), a policy that guides concessionary admission of students talented in sports who meet the minimum UG requirements is in its fourth year of operation. The first batch of students admitted through this policy would

be graduating this year. The policy has so far admitted 200 students of which 68 are female and 132 are male. Five students who were enrolled through this policy have obtained scholarships and are currently pursuing further studies in the United States.

The University of Ghana Sports Fund (UG SPORT FUND) is an initiative to motivate and support talented and needy student athletes of the University of Ghana, and to attract potential talents for admission into the University. It is the first and the only sport fund in any public university in Ghana. The fund has enabled the Sports Directorate to sponsor 20 students comprising 4 female and 16 male.

Incoming Chancellor of the University

Ladies and gentlemen, the tenure of His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan as Chancellor of the University of Ghana, expires on July 31st, 2018. Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, who has been elected as the next Chancellor, will be sworn in by His Excellency, the President of the Republic, on August 1, 2018.

I wish to crave your indulgence to join University management to thank H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan for a very successful term, during which he achieved so much for the University, particularly in the area of fund raising, and paving the way for fruitful collaborations and partnerships. We wish H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan well, even as we welcome Mrs. Chinery-Hesse, as the tenth Chancellor of the University, and the first female to hold this high office.

Well Wishes to Graduands

And now, to the Graduating Class who are the reason we are here today, as well as their families who have provided for them throughout their study period. For you graduands, this is a moment that comes with a strong sense of achievement. Today, the University is officially dispatching you into the wide world as its able ambassadors.

I urge you and by extension, the youth of this nation to aspire for the values of discipline, integrity, honesty, modesty and contentment in all your endeavors. Seek excellence, believe in yourself, work hard, plan ahead, be

ethical in all your dealings and these virtues will guarantee you success. Eschew greed, quick fixes and crave for money, which are the roots of many evils in our society today.

I wish you well in your journey ahead, and once again, congratulate you on your achievements!

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MRS. MANSA NETTEY**

Chairman and Members of Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Provosts
Registrar
Members of Convocation
Graduating Students
Parents and Guardians
Nii Mei, Naa Mei, Nananom
Members of the Press
Distinguished Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I count it a very special honour to spend this memorable day with you for the congregation ceremony of the 2018 graduating class of students from the College of Health Sciences and College of Education of this remarkable Institution.

I wish to express my heartiest congratulations to the families, loved ones and friends of this graduating class, for cheering them on, helping them and providing all they needed to get to this point. They could not have come this far without your support.

I also wish to commend the Faculty and Staff of the two Colleges for their input and support in the training of these professionals. I congratulate the class of 2018 for your determination and resolve to excel despite all the challenges. Congratulations!

Ladies and Gentlemen, when I was contacted to serve as the Guest Speaker for this occasion, I gladly accepted it because of my affiliation with Ghana's Health sector. It may interest you to know that I trained as a Pharmacist at KNUST and worked as such for some years before branching into my current career as a Banker.

Congregation ceremonies are very important dates on University calendars when members and friends of the University gather to witness and celebrate the conferment of degrees on deserving grandaunds. Yours is a unique one! You have finished a degree, completed practical experience and about to be 'sent forth' into the world to make an impact, affect lives and contribute towards national development and the development of humankind in general. It is my firm belief that the training you have received has equipped you sufficiently to positively impact lives. However, I would like to share with you some thoughts that may help you navigate and make the necessary impact in your respective careers.

Keeping a Positive Attitude

My dear Graduands, you must count yourself blessed to graduate from a University that has prepared you exceptionally well. You need to combine all the training received with a positive attitude in order to succeed, work with passion. You are to eschew laziness, indiscipline, selfishness and perform at your best. Treat whatever job you find yourself in as yours, by forging healthy relations with your supervisors, colleagues and clients. A smile, a touch and a show of empathy while attending to your duty will help your patients to find the healing they most desire. These will also affect your job performance, increase your productivity and generally foster a positive client experience.

As Martin Luther King Junior famously said, “If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, “Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.”

Life Has No Entitlements

As you enter the real world of work, I would like you to know from the very onset that life has no entitlements. Do not go out with your Degree, holding unreasonable high expectations about what you are entitled to. In real life, everything is earned; nothing would be given to you for free or on a silver platter. You do not demand respect, but rather earn it. It is my expectation that you would put all the knowledge, skills and experience you have acquired to optimal use to earn the entitlements you deserve.

Life is Not a Sprint

One trait that has helped me in my career advancement is my view of life as a marathon rather than a sprint. Whereas sprinters run at top speed to reach their finish line, running a marathon requires discipline, perseverance, endurance and training to complete the given task over a long period. You have to study your operating terrain, understand the setbacks, fears, disappointments, work cultures and embrace all of them in creating and adopting your survival strategies. In order to succeed, you would need to set milestones and develop strategies to achieve your targets. Take one step at a time but be focused on your set goal, and with dedication and patience you would get to the top. Do not look for short cuts, go through the mill and come out wholly baked.

Invest in Yourself for Future Opportunities

Dear graduands, life abounds with so many opportunities and it behoves on us to attain the necessary requirements to help capitalize on the opportunities, as they occur. You have, over the past few years, been given the skill set and knowledge necessary to function in your respective professions, however to stay relevant and progress in your respective careers, you must continue learning in order to be abreast with changes and new developments in your professions. The more you learn, the greater your value to your clients, employers, colleagues and most importantly yourself. Knowledge is one thing no one can take away from you.

Look out for the skills that will be relevant in the future and seek to prepare yourselves for the future. Take full advantage of online programmes and gain the knowledge and skills needed for progression in your career and the delivery of high quality service to your clients and humanity.

The most successful people we have known in life are those who have been very good at re-inventing themselves, they learn, unlearn and relearn. The reality now is we live in a dynamic world; with an ever changing job landscape. 25 years ago no one thought you could have a career in blockchain engineering, cyber security, or telesurgery but technology has changed the world. With the advent of robotics and increased use of technology a lot of jobs as we know them today, may become extinct. Research by Oxford University indicates that 47% of jobs will disappear in

the next 25 years. Not only will computers be able to perform tasks more cheaply than people, they'll be more efficient as well.

In addition to investing in yourself, I urge you to extend your curiosity beyond the field of your professions. You must have a strong desire to know or learn something new not just about your profession but outside it as well. Expand your learning endeavours into new areas. To do this, you must strive to break the normal routines so as to be able to see things differently, do things differently and think about things differently.

As I said in my introduction, I trained as a Pharmacist but out of curiosity, I decided to get a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Manchester Business School, hoping to come back and work in a leadership position in the pharmaceutical industry. I ended up in Banking because at the time, Ghana had very limited opportunities for Pharmacists.

Today, there are so many opportunities for progression in your career. You can go on to pursue postgraduate studies in your profession, take a degree in Law, Business, International Relations or learn an International language like Spanish, Chinese, French, Arabic, Japanese or German. It may take time, effort and some money, but I want to assure you that it would put you ahead of your contemporaries.

Keep a Global Mindset

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as you may be fully aware, we live in a digital age where geographical borders are not clearly defined. You, therefore, need to maintain a global mindset. Do things not in the typical Ghanaian way but have the ability to adapt to a culture and influence individuals and groups whose ways of doing things are different from yours.

To succeed and to make an impact, you would have to be interested in and make it a habit of continuously staying abreast with global news trends. The refugee crisis, elections, wars, disasters, climate change, change in foreign policies, activities of ISIS and Boko Haram, the outbreak of diseases, etc., do not occur in a vacuum. They have consequences for all of us. It is incumbent on us to know the current trends and their implications for our

contribution and progression, because we live and work in the global space in a global era.

Over the next couple of months before you begin your House Jobs you would have a lot of free time on your hands. My advice is to use this period to step back and figure out who you really are and what impact you want to have. Dig deep into your life and your values. From time to time, you may fall and even fail at something you were so sure of. Life can happen and may happen but your ability to draw on your inner values will make a real difference so find time, put your phones away, step away from social media and spend some time thinking, reflecting and strategizing. Though the path ahead may not look so clear, looking at my life journey I know that you will turn out okay. That will however require that you pay attention to what we have discussed coupled with your faith and abilities.

Above all, do not forget your God, as the Good Book says, “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them”—Ecclesiastics 12:1. After all, it is by grace that we are what we are!

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our country is blessed. God has endowed us with natural resources and well-equipped human capital for our development and well-being. We do not need to travel abroad to be able to realize our dreams. I dare say that we have all it takes to make it here in Ghana! Let us use all the knowledge and skills we have acquired during our time in this noble institution, to make our nation great and strong. It is my fervent expectation that you will resolve to work hard, improve on your skills and provide the best service to your clients for the development of our homeland Ghana.

I wish you well as you step into the world of work.

Ayekoo!!!

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY
MR. MALVIN OFOSU-BOATENG**

Chairperson of the University Council
Vice Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellor
Registrar
Provosts and Deans
Specially Invited Guests
Parents and Guardians
Fellow Graduands
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all.

I thank the Lord Almighty for presenting me with such an opportunity. I am especially grateful to my parents who could not be prouder of me today, for their loving support.

It is with great delight that I stand here to present the valedictory speech at this august occasion. I must say that even though I have been chosen as valedictorian, today is not only my day to shine but for us all. Everyone here today deserves commendation for completing another milestone.

Class of 2018, Congratulations!! Today, we gather here to close the last chapter of our stay in this university. Indeed, the last 4 years have been filled with so many memories, some of which bring smiles to our faces and some which until this moment, fill our eyes with tears. Casting our minds back to the very first day we stepped on campus as freshmen, we can say with great conviction that indeed the journey has been long. The sleepless nights, struggles, hard work, and sacrifices have finally paid off and led to this euphoric day.

I recall vividly the morning of the School orientation, the way we tried to socialize and avoid the awkward phase of the unknown. Four years down the line, we have formed friendships that can stand the test of time.

Madam Chairperson, against the sweeping backdrop of events, are moments we will forever relish albeit with mixed feelings which remain golden to us. We will all remember the impression we had about Legon being a “chilling place”.

The struggle however, was so real that even during drink ups and parties, people came along with lecture slides. Social trips to the beaches were no exception. The long laboratory sessions, the overwhelming lecture and examination schedules, the struggle to meet deadlines of assignments and the late-night group discussions will not be forgotten any time soon. The countless nights also spent camping in the rooms of colleagues in preparation for papers the next day due to power outage at certain sections of campus will forever be imprinted on our minds. Amidst all the conviviality, Legon imbibed in us the awareness and utility of time.

Ladies and gentlemen, virtually every one of us at one point chased the bus leaving campus at dawn to Korle Bu for clinical rotation. There were days one had to start dressing up in the hall and finish up in the bus. Those who were numb by the incessant alarms gradually became athletes overnight, for they had to sprint from Pent, Commonwealth and the traditional halls to catch up with the bus. 'Dada Bees' also became 'okada' passengers just to keep up as the going got tough. We will surely miss these days.

Indeed, the strife for academic excellence has not been easy and the common thread that runs among us all is the spirit of perseverance to keep moving forward no matter what. For those of us who thought we would never make it to this day, take a good look around. We made it!!!

Madam Chairperson, our story would not be complete without acknowledging the people who in diverse ways, have contributed to our success story today. To our Lecturers, we will forever remain indebted to you for your tutelage, words of wisdom and good counsel. I can never end this speech without mentioning Dr. Mansah Fredua-Agyeman for her constant motivation and words of encouragement. Thank you because without your help I wouldn't have been where I am today. To the Administration, we say thank you, for creating the conditions to help us succeed and I know that creating the conditions to help and witness us

succeed is one of the most satisfying, motivating and joyous feelings that a leader can have.

To our parents, guardians and friends, we treasure your unconditional love and support and we hope we made you proud. We can in no way repay you for the invaluable effort you have expended on us but be assured and encouraged in the knowledge that whatever good we do and whatever contributions we make to society is the multiplication of your efforts in each and every one of us.

As we embark on the next chapter of our lives, I have no doubt that this institution has equipped us with the necessary tools to take on societal problems. Thus, wherever we find ourselves, I urge us to tackle challenges, achieve greater heights and impact a positive change in our dear motherland, Ghana. This ceremony is an indication that we have approached the Rubicon; especially when the healthcare and educational system of our nation Ghana, is at the tipping point. Its salvation and redemption lie in how we discharge our duties. May we not only proceed in integrity but also with impeccable character and efficiency for the sake of the Ghanaian people.

As we go into the world, I want it to be made known, that at some point, we are bound to stumble as we try to find our feet. We are bound to experience disappointments, difficulties and setbacks. However, through these challenges we must have in mind these words by Frank A. Clark, “If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.” Our best successes often come from our greatest disappointments. So, keep striving forward and like the phoenix, you shall emerge from the ashes.

Madam Chairperson, it is my singular honor to conclude with spirit filled words I heard years ago. When people sit, we must stand. When they stand, we must stand out. And when they stand out, we must become the standard for Ghana, Africa and the world at large.

Thank You.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY DR. AMA ESSEL,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL)**

Distinguished Guest Speaker,
New Graduates,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

You agree with me that this morning's ceremony has been very successful. As we end the ceremony, I would like to salute all who have worked hard to ensure a successful event, especially all those who played various roles in the planning and organisation of this event.

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

I congratulate you on your achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of the University of Ghana. I wish you success in your future endeavours. But whatever you do, always remember the University of Ghana and the University of Ghana's 70th Anniversary endowment fund.

On behalf of management, I would also like to thank all teachers and the management teams of the various units who have worked together to ensure that your stay in the university has been fruitful. The University appreciates all the efforts that have been put in this enterprise.

We are happy that so many family members and friends of the graduates were able to join in this celebration. I say a special congratulation to the parents of the graduates.

I also thank the guest speaker for today, for the very inspiring message to all of us. To our invited guests, alumni and friends of the University be assured that we appreciate your presence and participation in the ceremony. I wish everyone a safe journey back to your destinations.

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

Thank You.

