



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NO. 919

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

VOL. 56

NO. 24

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES &
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
(UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE PROGRAMMES)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 20, 2019**

CONTENTS

Order of Proceedings	2
Opening Address by Chancellor	3
Vice-Chancellor's Address	6
Address by Guest Speaker	13
Valedictory Speech	24
Closing Address by Chancellor	28

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, July 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.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: Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu,
Vice-Chancellor

Congregation Speaker: Mrs. Ellen Ohene-Afoakwa

Valedictory Address: Ms. Harriet Naa Quarnor Doodoo

Conferment of Degrees:

Presentation of graduands from the College of Health Sciences and
College of Education

- PhD · MPhil · MPH · MSc · MA
- MBChB · BDS · BPharm · BSc Nursing
- BSc Medical Sciences

Chairman 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 CHANCELLOR
(REPRESENTED BY PROF. YAW TWUMASI,
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL)**

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

I have the greatest pleasure in welcoming you all warmly to this morning's ceremony. On behalf of the Chancellor of the University, Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, I extend her greetings and best wishes to all of you gathered here on this occasion.

Congregation ceremonies are very important to the University of Ghana because of the opportunity they afford us 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 on time.

Management of the University remains committed to improving upon graduation rates and students' satisfaction and will continue to do all in its power to provide students with a memorable experience at all times.

You graduands have played your part by working extremely hard and doing so with great discipline. Your presence here this morning is proof that your efforts have not been in vain. I take the opportunity to wish you all who are being presented today the best wishes on this important occasion.

We share in your joy on the successful completion of your programmes of study. We are very proud of you. As you go out into the world, we count on you to give the University a reason to take delight in what you do outside the University and that you will not let the University down. We believe that you would uphold the good name of this University always.

The degree being awarded you today is a precious and powerful gift. Please, do remember that no one can take it away from you unless on legal grounds. We count on you today to make a difference in the world, always bear in mind that “to whom much is given, much is expected”. You have the trained mind leaving these walls, but you are going into a world of people without the benefit of your education but have a lot of talents and have contributed a lot to the development of this country. Be very modest and know that they are also an important part of this country, remember, it is very well known that nobody has the monopoly of wisdom in the world.

In our time when we left this University, these were very easy times. We could look forward to a job waiting for us in the civil service or anywhere else. Times are much tougher now and we recognize that no job is waiting for you and that even for the premier University, University of Ghana, this is a problem for the graduate. In spite of all this, we feel a sense of hope, that the government is putting in place measures that will hopefully yield results and drastically reduce the risk of unemployment after all your hard work. My hope is that you will meet a world of work which is a much kinder place. Hearty congratulation once again.

It is important to recall that you have not done this alone. You pursued this degree and you have been successful but you have enjoyed the support of your parents and guardians, entire family and friends and very loved ones. All of them are proud of your accomplishments which is why some have turned up in their numbers to celebrate with you. We welcome all of them.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am extremely happy to declare this morning's assembly duly constituted for the award of degrees and diplomas of the University of Ghana. It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give a report at Congregations on the developments in the last academic year, so I now invite the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu to present his report to the Congregation.

Thank you very much.

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

Chairman and Members of Council
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts, Deans, Directors, Heads of Department
Guest Speaker
Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Health
Sciences and College of Education
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 fourth session of the July Congregation Ceremonies for the 2018/2019 cohort. Congregation ceremonies will be held in November this year for another batch of the 2018/2019 cohort of students.

This morning's ceremony is dedicated to students of the College of Health Sciences and College of Education

A total of 485 students are graduating from both Colleges at this ceremony comprising, 183 graduate and 302 undergraduate students. Out of this number, 445 come from the College of Health Sciences with 40 from the College of Education

THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

Academic Affairs of the University

Admissions

The University of Ghana registered a total of 11,216 (Eleven Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixteen) students into various programmes mounted at its campuses in the 2018/2019 academic year. This number consisted of 5,828 (Five Thousand Eight, Hundred and Twenty-Eight) male students and 5,388 (Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight) female students, including 306 (Three Hundred and Six) International/Visiting students.

The total number reflects an overall admission ratio of 51:49 for males and females, implying that the University is steadily attaining its strategic objective of a 50:50 ratio for male and female student enrolment.

Affiliation of Six Colleges of Education to University of Ghana

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 Teams

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, 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 the effort to re-condition the biogas plant at Hilla Limann Hall to generate gas for the four new Halls.

Through the instrumentality of the team, the Ministry of Energy recently donated electrical items to the University of Ghana. The items received include 1,000 pieces of Watts LED street lights, among others. The University has started utilizing some of the donations towards the management of the demand-side programme of power consumption and illumination of critical areas of the University campus. We are grateful to the Minister of Energy and his team for this strategic support.

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 institutionalising source segregation of waste in the university community is progressing steadily. 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.

The Institutional Advancement Team facilitated an official media launch of the UG @ 70 Alumni Homecoming Weekend on Wednesday, 10th July, 2019. The Alumni Homecoming, slated for Friday, 9th to Sunday, 11th August, 2019 is a thanksgiving event to climax the activities of the Platinum Anniversary of UG, and is aimed at attracting the University's distinguished alumni to the main campus. Proceeds from the event are expected to augment the UG @ 70 Endowment Fund.

Meanwhile, the UG@70 Endowment Fund continues to receive donations from individuals and groups. I am happy to report that the President of the

Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has redeemed his pledge of GH¢5 million (Five Million Ghana Cedis) that he made during the launch of the Endowment Fund on May 7, 2018. I take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to His Excellency the President for this noble gesture, and encourage our guests and members of the graduating class to also commit to support the University in this direction. I will also like to encourage members of the graduating class and alumni present to participate in the Homecoming event.

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

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, a fundraising strategy to modernize laboratories and research facilities at 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 UG 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.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the chairpersons and members of the nine strategic teams for the good work done so far to move the University of Ghana towards becoming a “Go to University”.

Research Grants

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, University of Ghana remains committed to its vision of becoming a world class research-intensive University. It is heart-warming to note that landmark research grants have already been won, and these have helped to improve the University's research profile.

The Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) has processed 81 research grant agreements from the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year to date with a total grant value of approximately US\$ 35.8 m (Thirty-five Million and Eight Hundred Thousand United States Dollars). This represents over 1,000% (one thousand percent) increase in grant revenue over the last three academic years.

University Finances

Fiscal Discipline and Financial Reforms

Ladies and gentlemen, Management of the University, with the support of the University Council, has resolved to build institutional systems and structures which will stand the test of time and usher the University into a prosperous future.

University Management and Council have therefore rolled out an initiative to ensure fiscal discipline and prudent financial management. This initiative seeks to free fiscal space and make funds available to undertake critical developmental projects, in line with Strategic Objective Six of the University's Strategic Plan, which seeks to enhance the mobilization and management of resources in the University.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am glad to report that since the introduction of these reforms, the University has made a lot of savings. The statement of financial performance of the University for 2018-2019 academic year shows that out of a budgeted expenditure for other operating expenses in the sum of approximately GH¢213 million (Two Hundred and Thirteen Million), the actual expenditure was approximately GH¢131 million (One Hundred and Thirty-one Million) indicating a saving of about 38%.

In a related development, Management has set up an operational committee called Internal Revenue Committee to help maximize the generation of internally generated funds, thereby reducing the risk associated with rent receivables.

I wish to appeal to all staff, students and stakeholders of the University to embrace and support the implementation of these reforms to ensure that, together, we make judicious use of our financial and other resources to promote efficiency.

University of Ghana Heritage Museum

As part of efforts to preserve the legacy and heritage of the University of Ghana, Management has set up a University of Ghana Museum Fund-Raising Committee to raise funds to establish a state-of-the-art University of Ghana Museum (UG Museum). The UG Museum is expected to store, conserve and exhibit objects of historical, scientific, artistic or cultural interest and significance as well as collections of high-profile personalities of the University.

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.

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”. Work hard, be determined and success will be yours. There is nothing better than trying and trying until you achieve success.

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. Always endeavor to add value to yourself.

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.

Thank you.

**GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS BY
MRS. ELLEN OHENE-AFOAKWA**

Chairman of Council, representing the Chancellor
Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Provosts
Registrar
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
Graduating Students and Alumni present
All protocols observed

Let me first extend my heartfelt congratulations to all graduating students. You have done very well and must be very proud of yourselves. Ladies and gentlemen, kindly join me to give our graduating class of 2019 a rapturous round of applause.

Growing up in a little village called Mfensi in Ashanti Region of Ghana, like most of the Generation X, I wanted to become a Medical Doctor. Unfortunately I missed the grade for Medical School, and for days I did not want to eat. My father told me that, what is important is to live your passion and excel in whatever field that you find yourself, determine not to dwell on the challenges and disappointments, but rather, focus on the solutions. They may not always be obvious, but your sense of purpose and determination will help you find them – or create them.

Here I am a professional banker excited about what I do. To overcome and soar in life, you need courage. It was Maya Angelou who said, "Courage is the most important of all virtues because without it you cannot practice any other virtue with consistency."



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



Prof. Yaw Twumasi, Chairman of University Council (representing the Chancellor) delivering the Opening Address



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



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.



**Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah, College Secretary,
College of Education**



**Mr. Michael Opare Atuah, College Secretary,
College of Health Sciences**



**Mrs. Ellen Ohene-Afoakwa delivering the
Guest Speaker's Address**



**Ms. Harriet Naa Quarnor Dodoo, delivering the
Valedictory Speech**



A graduand being congratulated by University Officials



Graduands at the Congregation ceremony



Parents, guardians and invited guests at the ceremony

I am delighted to be here this morning, Thank you for inviting me to celebrate your accomplishments and find inspiration for the life ahead. Whilst celebrating our graduands, the tremendous support and sacrifices of faculty members, family, friends and benefactors who altogether have made it possible to complete this remarkable journey cannot be overlooked. You are appreciated.

Your journey to a successful life has only just begun. Your degree is the diamond encrusted 'bling' key that starts the car. The type of journey, whether you would reach your destination, how short, how far and how impactful, would mostly, be determined by the choices you make hereon.

The bumps, in whatever form that some, or maybe even most of you faced at various times on this particular journey, have not completely smoothed out. They may reappear in various forms in the next phase of your lives. But that is life, as I have come to know it; and I am certain that all adults here will agree with me. It's about how you tackle them. It's about the choices you will make, your attitude and the virtues and values you uphold.

Sometimes you make choices in life. Sometimes choices make you! I have two daughters and a son – fifteen, twelve and nine respectively. When they were younger and needed close nurturing, I passed over some career opportunities. I made these choices because my priorities required me to do so. You would have to make several choices in life and in the world of work. Just be prepared to make choices and live with the consequences.

The choice to educate yourself, to the level that you have all done, is one that is more than likely to lead to achievements. Your diamond encrusted 'bling' key: your university degree, is the most appropriate tool to start carving out your working life regardless of it being a career or as an entrepreneur.

However, this is where the hard work begins: You are now going to enter the real world where some of you may get married, have children and in some cases have to take care of your parents and other relatives as well. Alongside this, you will be seeking to achieve your own dreams too: perhaps, one that allows you to turn that bicycle into a Mercedes Benz or a Ferrari, or a bus big enough to carry the burdens of others. I hope that you will define success as one that enables you to impact not just your family but your community, your country, Africa and the world.

It may sound rather daunting. I have no doubt, coming out of an illustrious University such as this one; you have been very well prepared and have learnt how to succeed already. Bear in mind, that nothing worthwhile comes easy. The degrees you have earned did not come easy, and success as you venture into the world will not come easy either. Still remember that everything is possible.

What appears impossible may just take longer to achieve. Although with hard work, determination, discipline and faith in God, it can be done.

Some Advice

Do not achieve success at the expense of others. In so far as it is in your power, do it with them. Always be prepared to help push someone else up the ranks of their ladder. In doing so, you lift yourself up. I learnt this in a hard way, I recall at a point in my career I missed a promotion because I did not have a ready-now successor.

Persevere

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

You have written the first half of your story. Tomorrow, step out in confidence, your head up and begin writing the second half. Do remember

to stop and smell the roses. And if you can, make a living doing what comes naturally to you, what you enjoy most and where you can make the greatest contribution. Identify a human need and address it.

A graduate degree prepares you for anything that you want to be. Admittedly, it takes some longer to find what that might be.

Be Ambitious.

Take on challenges, but also allow for moments when you may have to mark time, like soldiers do, standing in one place, appearing not to have anywhere to go. It's amazing how much you can learn during those times. It can leapfrog you to uncharted terrains.

Finally, I urge all of you, our graduating class of 2019, to uphold your integrity at all cost. One slip of ethics or a compromise of morality, can unravel everything.

Listen, get ready for any eventuality. Opportunity will not take “I was fed up”, or “life's been unfair”, for an excuse when it comes knocking and finds you ill-prepared.

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

God bless you and thank you all.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
MS. HARRIET NAA QUARNOR DODOO**

Chairman of Council representing the Chancellor
Members of Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellors
Registrar
Members of Convocation
Parents and Guardians
Fellow Graduands
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am humbled and deeply honoured to present the valedictory speech at this graduation ceremony. I thank the Almighty God for His grace and favour.

To all graduands gathered here today, I congratulate you for coming this far. Indeed, we have travelled a path of sacrifice, sleepless nights, fear of failure, strict deadlines and high expectations. Our conferment today reflects the success, achievement, teamwork and resilience that we have exhibited throughout our stay at the University of Ghana. We are proud that we chose Ghana's Premier University, and we were offered the opportunity that many continue to dream of. We could not have been in a better one.

I had my nursing diploma at the 37 Military Nursing and Midwifery Training College (NMTC). It was during my first year at the college that I was inspired to attend the premier University.

Mr. Chairman, during my time at the 37 Military Nursing and Midwifery Training College (NMTC), I used to sweep a portion of the compound that faced the highway every morning before parade as part of my morning chores. It was on one of such occasions that I saw the School of Nursing and Midwifery bus drive by. In the bus were students in pristine white clothing, some of them were reading books, others looked asleep while the rest were happily chatting away. Generally, they all looked so cool and serene. Though I had an initial plan to continue my studies in one of the

universities in the country, my admiration for the student nurses in the School of Nursing and Midwifery bus further heightened my urge to follow through with my academic plan by opting for Ghana's premier University, the only University in Ghana, the best in the country and among the best the world over.

It was a dream come true when I had admission right after my diploma training to pursue a bachelor's degree at the University of Ghana School of Nursing and Midwifery in the 2015/2016 academic year.

As diploma nurses, the university environment provided us with experiences different from the training school. Though matured, we were 'greenhorns'. I thought getting a degree would be my greatest achievement, but stepping foot here, I realised that this was just the beginning and the possibilities were endless.

For those of us graduating, we joined the University of Ghana, with fervor to improve ourselves, determined to be the best we could. The moment classes began, we understood that the kind of effort we had to put in our studies were enormous. Extended study hours became the norm, adjusting social life was not an option and team work was an essential skill each one of us had to acquire.

For us from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, no one understands the excitement we felt when a 7:30 a.m. class was cancelled or the fear and trepidation we went through when pathology results were released at the end of examinations. To most of us, the subject was a monster that wanted to terminate our academic pursuit abruptly. By the way, thank you Nurse Ahambuah a. k. a MIS police for the heartaches you gave us for scouting the MIS Web and informing us of grades as soon as they were released. No lecturer was to expect the correct time from our class; we had a special watch/clock that was always fifteen minutes ahead of the normal time. I remember my class being so excited whenever a school bus that was scheduled to convey us to a health facility for clinical instructions broke down because it meant, either there would be no clinicals that day or we would arrive at the facility late: an excitement we felt just to let off a bit of 'steam'.

Mr. Chairman, Monday mornings in particular were always scary for our colleagues from the School of Pharmacy especially when Prof. Nathaniel Okine comes in to teach Chemistry at 8.00 am. He was one very strict lecturer, and when he asks a question and you do not get it right, he will just shout the word 'rubbish!' This is simply to tell you that if you cannot get it right, do not guess. All night group studies were fun; people dosing off in very funny ways, we studied together, prayed together and had fun together.

For our graduands from the School of Medicine and Dentistry, the transition from Legon to Korle Bu campus during their clinical years offered them wonderful experiences. They recall very few times when they had to chase the bus from their various halls of residence so they do not miss the School bus, only to return sleepy from the formalin effect of their dissecting rooms. Getting a ride on other schools' buses to Korle Bu was always fun when they took advantage of the situation and fraternised with other colleagues. All these varying experiences, some of which I must say were quite frightening and discouraging never dampened our spirits. Rather, they strengthened us the more to work harder to reach this level.

Mr. Chairman, we are not leaving this campus with just a degree, but with worthwhile experiences, life-long relationships and memories of skills learnt for which we are most grateful to the University of Ghana. Fellow graduands, as we step unto this new stage, one word I wish we would take along in this life journey is “grit”. Grit is the strength of mind, resilience and the unwavering desire to succeed.

Permit me to share with you, a core message from Angela Duckworth's book 'GRIT: The Power of Passion and Perseverance'.

Often times we believe that people are more talented than we are so we cannot achieve what they have achieved. According to Angela Duckworth, 'Talent counts once, and effort counts twice.' This is to say that, grit supersedes talent. Therefore, in anything we set out to do, one way of ensuring success is the continuous application of effort.

Grit is when we find work to do instead of waiting for government posting; grit is when we collaborate with our colleagues to set up home care institutions; grit is waking up early in the morning, hustle in traffic just to get to work and serve the communities; grit is when we push forward even when circumstances are hard; grit is a combination of passion and perseverance.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to acknowledge our parents and guardians for all the sacrifices they made toward our education, to the faculty, we say thank you for training gallant nurses, medical doctors, pharmacists, and allied health scientists who are well prepared to serve the nation. Today, you are all here with us celebrating our big achievement.

It is said that “to whom much is given, much is expected”, and in the same way also, this graduating class is expected to give back to society, and our professions compel us to do so. As we have taken something out of the university, we are obliged to bring something significant in return through alumni activities.

Mr. Chairman, though excited, I know many of us are plunged with fear and self-doubt of what lies ahead in the future. Saying goodbye to the flexible but purposeful structure of university life and stepping foot into the real world which is unknown can cause fear and self-doubt. Nonetheless, I will urge my fellow graduands to be steadfast and let us look into the future with hope and optimism.

Congratulations graduating class of 2019.
Ayekoo!

Thank you.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY CHANCELLOR
(REPRESENTED BY PROF. YAW TWUMASI,
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL)**

Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Guest Speaker
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Health Sciences and
College of Education
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Fresh Graduates
Invited Guests
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As we end this ceremony, I would like to salute all of you who have worked so hard under the guidance of Management to ensure that we have a very successful event especially those who played a variety of roles in the planning and organization of this morning's ceremony. Our new graduates have also worked hard as stated earlier over the long period as students of this University and they deserve all the laurels for what they have acquired over the years. You have been part of the changes that have taken place at this University and we look forward to receiving some of you back very soon as faculty, graduate students or administrators to spearhead the University's drive to become a first-class University.

The University is also grateful to all the teachers, faculty, the management team and managers of the various units who have worked hard together to ensure that your stay in the University has been very fruitful. The University appreciate the efforts that everyone has put in this enterprise. We are delighted that so many parents, guardians, family and friends were able to join us in this celebration.

Our new graduates, you have all worked hard during the time you have been student at this university and you deserve the laurels that you have acquired. Never forget however that you are a special group of Ghanaians

as you step out today into the world with your University of Ghana degree in your hands, a degree from the premier University of Ghana, I mean.

I wish to assure you that University of Ghana is the most prestigious highly ranked University in Ghana. You must therefore hold your heads up high as you have graduated with knowledge and skills which are essential to the development of mother Ghana. You are expected to make every effort to excel in this regard. Remember, "to whom much is given, much is expected".

Ghana is waiting to feel your impact in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. I exhort you to build on what you have acquired. Take hold of every opportunity and shine like the brightest star in the universe.

While congratulating you on your achievement, I urge you as well to be worthy ambassadors of your alma mater. The more you excel in the world of work, the more you bring glory to the University of Ghana. I am recruiting you to be part of the brigade dedicated in achievement in whatever station you find yourself to uplift the image of this university in order to improve our global ranking in the academic world.

I also expect you to maintain your link with the university and be ardent members of the Alumni Association in order to foster a mutually beneficial relationship.

I wish you every success in your future endeavours.

