



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NO. 845

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

VOL. 53

NO. 4

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 24, 2015**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, 25th July, 2015, 9.00 a.m.

Afternoon Session:**Procession**

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:

Justice Dr. S. K. Date-Bah, Chairman, University Council

Vice-Chancellor's Address: Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Kojo Addae-Mensah, Group Chief Executive Office of Databank Group and Member, Advisory Board, College of Health Sciences

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands from

- PhD/MPhil/MSc/MPH
- MB ChB
- BDS
- Bachelor of Science: Medical Science
- Bachelor of Science: Nursing
- Certificate in Paediatric Nursing

Valedictory address: Dr. Dennis Danso Kumi

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY JUSTICE SAMUEL DATE-BAH
CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Members of College of Health Sciences Advisory Board,
Staff and students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen

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

The congregation ceremonies planned for this weekend are significant in two ways. These will be the first congregation ceremonies organised since the University of Ghana adopted the Collegiate System of Governance. It will also be first time that the ceremonies are being held on a College basis. I understand it is the first of the two congregation ceremonies planned for 2014/2015 cohort of students. The next one has been scheduled to take place in November 2015. These ceremonies are memorable for graduands who are being presented this year. I wish the graduands the very best on this important occasion. We share in your joy from the successful completion of your degrees and we are very proud of you.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to declare this mornings assembly duly constituted for the award of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of the University to successful graduands and also to receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor. It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give us his report at this forum on developments taking place at the University over the past academic year. I therefore invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation. Pray silence for the Vice-Chancellor

Thank you.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION: COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Your Lordship Justice Samuel Kofi Date-Bah, Chairman of the University Council;
Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar;
Guest Speaker, Mr. Kojo Addae-Mensah, CEO of Databank Ltd. and member of the College of Health Sciences Advisory Board;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Members of University Council
Members of Convocation;
Members of the Advisory Board of College of Health Sciences;
Niimej, Naamej, Nananom;
Graduating Students;
Parents and Guardians;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Welcome

On behalf of University management I welcome you all to today's congregation ceremony, the first for the 2014/2015 academic year.

Four ceremonies are being held over two days, with a total of 3,514 students graduating. Another set of graduation ceremonies will be held in November.

This morning's ceremony will see 492 students of the College of Health Sciences graduating with the degrees due them.

Governance

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana officially inaugurated the collegiate system of governance at the start of the 2014/2015 academic year. The system has been running for almost one calendar year, and I think now would be a good time to examine what has been achieved over the last year and do a brief assessment of what we set out to accomplish, and how far we have come towards reaching our targets.

The introduction of the collegiate system was meant to decentralize decision-making and thereby reduce bureaucracy and free officers at the centre, particularly the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and Administrative Directors from some administrative duties, while creating more room for innovation at the school and college levels. Colleges have become semi-autonomous and able to take more decisions on their academic programmes and administration.

As part of the process, the University's statutes were amended to allow for the establishment of the new Colleges and for the amendment of the structure of the College of Health Sciences.

Officers of the colleges have been appointed, and administrative structures have been put in place. I am glad to say that the Colleges have all started well, and are working towards meeting the objectives for which they were established.

Advisory Boards for all the Colleges have been established and inaugurated, and are working with college administrations to guide the Colleges in developing strategies; fostering effective links between the College and external communities; and helping to maintain and enhance the image and reputation of the Colleges.

The University's strategic plan was completed and launched in December last year, for the period 2014 to 2024, and is expected to provide strategic direction to the University for the next decade.

The colleges are working on their individual strategic plans; with a new focus on research. Other areas of interest are; Teaching and Learning; Strengthening Linkages with Industry; Information, Communication and Technology; Student, faculty and staff recruitment, retention and development; Asset acquisition and management; Financial planning and process management; Gender and Diversity; Internal and external stakeholders and Monitoring and evaluation.

The individual plans all dovetail into the University's plan, and are expected to contribute towards transforming the University into a world class university which has research at the core of its functions.

The Colleges have done significant work on the rationalization of programmes and courses; the introduction of new programmes and the revision of existing ones.

Most colleges are doing well in the area of research productivity and visibility, and are taking advantage of the new opportunities and funding available, to carry out groundbreaking research with collaboration from local and international partners. The colleges are also all involved in fund-raising.

As the colleges enter their second year of operation, we shall all continue to work hard to ensure that they meet their targets of increasing efficiency and reducing bureaucracy. A thorough review of the collegiate system will take place after the system has been in operation for three years.

Academic Affairs

Your Excellencies, for the 2014/2015 academic year, the University received a total of 37,326, applications for admission, made up of 30,083 undergraduate and 7,243 graduate applications.

The University admitted a total of 11,944 undergraduate applicants and 2,939 graduate applicants into programmes on the Main, Korle Bu, and Accra City campuses, and into the Distance Education programme. The University has intensified efforts to achieve gender parity in the admission of students, and the percentage of females admitted to all programmes continues to rise.

The University of Ghana Policy on Admission for Athlete Students (UG-PAAS) was introduced at the start of the 2014/2015 academic year. The policy is expected to promote the growth and development of students' performance in sports, thereby creating a sustainable relationship between sports and academic performance. The policy allows for the admission of talented sports men and women whose grades qualify them to enter the university but are not competitive enough for them to be gain admission ordinarily. 32 students were admitted under the policy last year, and all indications are that they are doing extremely well. One of these students won the Ghana Universities Sports Associations (GUSA) cross country event, and four others came within the first ten competitors.

346 foreign students enrolled in programmes in the University in the 2014/2015 academic year, a sharp decrease from previous years. It is obvious that this decline was mainly occasioned by the spread of the Ebola pandemic in the sub-region. We hope that with the end of the pandemic, enrolment figures will go up significantly. The University is in the process of engaging Recruitment Officers to assist the Office of International Programmes achieve international enrolment targets set by the University; and proactively recruit students in the face of increasing global competition. A review of internationalization in the University, which was recently conducted, made very useful recommendations regarding improving student experience and mobility, teaching to international standards, attitudes and perceptions.

Enhancing Skills of Students

To make our students more competitive in the job market, efforts are being made to sharpen their critical skills. This effort is being spearheaded by the Counseling and Placement Centre through various programmes such as leadership training, peer counseling and career week events.

Academic Prizes

The University has approved 18 new academic prizes with a value of over 150 thousand Ghana cedis, making a total of 61 university-wide prizes. More than 80,000 Ghana cedis

has been received in the current academic year from individuals and corporate organizations towards the sponsorship of awards.

I encourage all staff members, corporate organizations and other stakeholders to consider sponsoring awards.

Financial Aid for Students

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the 2014/2015 academic year ended with a total donation inflow from both local and foreign donors of GH¢639,912.09 towards financial aid for students. I am proud to note that the University contributed GH¢103,932.00 of this amount from its internally generated funds. Additionally, the University and General Electric, have signed a memorandum of understanding covering a US\$100,000 scholarship package for needy brilliant students of University of Ghana. Under the agreement, one hundred students will have their tuition and residential fees fully paid until they complete their studies.

We salute all our donors and encourage other corporate sponsors and individuals to assist us to fund the education of students who would otherwise have to interrupt or terminate their studies.

Physical Developments

In March 2011, President John Evans Atta Mills, cut the sod at the University for the commencement of work for the relocation of the College of Health Sciences from the Korle Bu campus to Legon. That same year, a loan facility was secured by GoG from an Israeli bank for the construction of a 617-bed Teaching Hospital for the University of Ghana at a total cost of US\$217 million. This project is an integral part of the ‘Medical Village’ concept that is to enable the University produce world-class health educators, experts and researchers in all sub-specialties to make health delivery in Ghana independent, sustainable and progressive.

The Hospital will have state-of-the-art facilities for trauma and emergency services, heart surgery, medical imaging, and a heliport, and will eventually be expanded into a 1,300 bed facility to provide effective teaching, learning and patient care. Future construction will cover a Cancer Centre and a Rehabilitation Building.

When completed, the University of Ghana Medical Centre will place the University of Ghana as one of the most advanced medical training institutions in West Africa. As part of the project package about 80 Ghanaian personnel will undergo training at the Sheba Medical Centre in Israel.

20 Senior Specialists and Consultants have already started their training in Israel; nurses, administrators, biomedical engineers, and pharmacists will also receive training in the coming weeks.

It is expected that the Hospital will start working by March 2016.

The University of Ghana has entered into a landmark US\$64million project agreement with Africa Integras, a company that invests early-risk capital to develop education infrastructure. The partnership involves Africa Integras helping the University achieve a financially sustainable structure to address its infrastructure expansion needs. The project, which is structured as a 25-year Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT), is the first of its kind with a public university in Africa.

The project will involve the construction of an expanded facility for the College of Humanities, a new College of Education, a new dedicated facility for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, as well as a new facility for the College of Health Sciences, to be located near the new teaching hospital. 1,000 new student hostel beds will be provided under the project, to be divided between undergraduate and graduate students mostly to serve the College of Health Sciences.

Construction is expected to commence by September, 2015 with a targeted completion date of September 2017.

Research, Innovation and Development

Chancellor, you recently called on universities to invest in research if they are to have an impact on the African continent and stay relevant to the needs of the global market place.

I am proud to announce that the four centres of excellence established in the University have been allocated GH¢ 1 million each as seed money to develop research areas in Climate Change Adaptation; Malaria Research; Food Production and Processing; and Development Policy and Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation to address key developmental issues in Ghana and beyond. The University has earmarked US\$5 million for refurbishment of laboratories and the replacement of obsolete scientific equipment. Through the Chinese phase II ICT project, the University is now in a position to house large datasets for research and also do more computing research than before. I think we can safely conclude that our investment in research is paying off.

At the end of the review process for the 8th call for proposals for UG Research Grants, 31

grants with a total value of GHC 996,723 were awarded in the three grant categories.

39 applications for UG Conference Grants with a total value of GHC 187,990 have been approved for funding so far in the 2014/2015 academic year. A final review session for the academic year will take place later this month

A total of GHC 284,538 was awarded as faculty development grants this academic year. Since the inception of this scheme in the 2008/2009 academic year, a total of GHC 1,083,250 has been awarded to 85 faculty members. Of this number, as many as 31 have successfully obtained their PhDs or other terminal degrees, and returned to active teaching and research duties at the university. We are also exploring alternative faculty development schemes such as a UG postdoctoral research fellowship scheme.

Faculty and students of the University continue to benefit from a number of capacity building grants. Some of these are CAPREx; where faculty members spend up to 6 months at the University of Cambridge to work on a research topic with a Cambridge based collaborator; the Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) Programme, which offers one-year fellowships to support early career researchers on the impact of climate change in Africa; the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan; and the ACU STARS (*Structured Training for African Researchers*) Project.

Others are the Trans-Disciplinary Training for Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa – Phase 2); ARISE (Africa Regional International Staff/Student Exchange): Food Security and Sustainable Human Wellbeing Project); P4PHT (Partnering for Health Professional Training in African Universities); CSAA (Inter-University Cooperation to Train Crop Scientists for Enhancing Agriculture in Africa) ; One Health (Enhancing Community of Practice in One Health for Infectious Diseases through Postgraduate Training)

External Grant Applications and Overview of Research Funding

Since the beginning of the 2014/ 2015 academic year, 37 research grant agreements with a combined total value of USD 9,579,086 have been signed, while 76 research proposals have been submitted to various sponsors/funders. The total value of proposals submitted for the period under review is \$124,060,123, with 24 proposals so far approved with a total value of \$21,221,754.74

2015 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lectures

The 2015 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lectures were delivered by Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, an Indian Literary Theorist, Philosopher and University Professor at Columbia University, and recipient of the 2012 Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy. The topic for the lectures was “Humanities: Asia, the West, Africa”. On the

final day of the lectures a special congregation was held, at which Professor Spivak received an Honorary Degree from University of Ghana. The Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Lectures are sponsored by Unibank Ghana Limited.

Rankings

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, permit me to touch briefly on the issue of the University's rankings. Rankings are very important, as they help influence among others, the choice of students to attend particular institutions, funding from donor agencies, research affiliations, and indeed, also grant institutions the chance to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and put in place remedial measures. The latest university rankings compiled by Thomson Reuters places the University of Ghana in the 10th position among African universities. This is the best position we have ever attained in any rankings, and it is exciting to observe that our placement in the rankings has consistently improved across all the major ranking organizations. The Times Higher Education list of the top 15 Universities in Africa places the University of Ghana at number 12. In the Webometrics ranking for Africa, the University of Ghana moved from number 52 in 2009 to 19 at the beginning of 2015. In the QS ranking, we remain one of only four universities from Sub-Saharan Africa listed for the first time ever in 2015. The University of Ghana has therefore become the highest ranked university in West Africa across all the different tables, and I applaud all colleagues, students and stakeholders of the University who have enabled us attain this feat. We will definitely not rest on our laurels, but will work even harder to ensure that our rankings go even higher both on the continent and internationally.

Well Wishes to Graduands

Now to our graduating students:

Seeing you all here, at the threshold of starting the next phase of your lives, brings back memories of my own graduation ceremonies from various educational institutions, many years ago, and reminds me of the excitement, the trepidation about what the future might hold, and the zeal I had to go out and change the world. No doubt, most of you gathered here are going through similar feelings and thoughts. Today's world offers young graduates so many opportunities, yet so many challenges; so many potential positive outcomes yet so many pitfalls along the way. I challenge you all to go out into the world, and do the very best you can wherever you find yourself. Work hard, dream big, plan ahead, be ethical and honest in all your dealings, and you will be well on the way towards success. The future may not be given, but you have a clean slate. Go out there, write on your slate in bold characters and make your mark! I wish you all the very best.

Thank you and God bless.



Mrs. Mercy Haziell-Ashia, Registrar, making opening remarks at the ceremony



Mrs. Amma K. Kwaa, College Secretary, speaking at the ceremony



Prof. Yao Tettey, Provost, College of Health Sciences, acknowledging international students of the College



Justice Dr. S. K. Date-Bah, Chairman of Council, delivering his Welcome Address



Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, addressing the gathering



Mr. Kojo Addae-Mensah, delivering the Guest Speaker's Address



Dr. Dennis Danso Kumi, delivering the Valedictory Address



Graduands seated at the Congregation





A group photograph taken after the ceremony



Members of Convocation seated at the Great Hall



Some parents and guardians at the ceremony

GUEST SPEAKER SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. KOJO ADDAE MENSAH

The Chairman and Members of the University Council,
The Vice-Chancellor,
Pro Vice-Chancellors,
Members and Chairman of the College Advisory Board,
Members of Convocation,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Nii Mei Naa Mei,
Invited Guests,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I deem it a great honour to be invited to deliver the keynote address on the occasion of the graduation ceremony of the College of Health Sciences Class of 2015.

For these men and women, today marks the end of one chapter in their lives. I will entreat them to enjoy the moment, celebrate it and make merry for tomorrow marks the beginning of another stage in their lives. Today also offers an opportunity for me to reflect on my own experiences since my graduation, and the road I have traversed since then, to my present station in life and service. As with all young leaders of my class and station in life, it is a divine purpose, the call to duty to share ideas with, and inspire the up-and-coming generation, in whichever way we can and particularly at a time like this. It is against this background that I consider as important, this present opportunity to share a few words of inspiration with our graduands on this very special day.

Before I proceed, I would like to congratulate our dear graduands for their hard work, commitment, and perseverance. It is these attributes, and many more, that have brought them this far. You are a privileged group indeed - as the case has always been, year-in-and year-out- because you represent a much smaller proportion of persons who applied for, were ready and qualified to be trained, but could not obtain admission because of limited space. You have come a mighty long way! As the chosen few who have faithfully and successfully braced yourselves to the rigorous training to which your various programmes subjected you to, you have enabled us to place an additional tag on you as being among the best of whom we can boast. It sets you apart as prospective, responsible future leaders of this country, from whom much will be expected. Do not disappoint us.

Not only do I congratulate you for how far you have made it, but even more importantly I also congratulate and thank all parents and guardians, as well as the academic and administrative staff of the University, who by their support and various pieces of

contribution have made our dream of continually producing additional health professionals for the country, a reality. My prayer is that we will continue in the endeavor of supporting the development of higher education in this and any other way for now, and the future.

A little over two decades ago, I sat out there in the quadrangle to listen to the guest speaker on the day of my graduation, I can't remember what was said and so I will not fault you if you also don't remember what I say here today but it will be great if you took something away with you for the life that lies ahead.

Advisedly, therefore, you must equally well reflect on, and see this day as a time to do some very serious thinking, especially about what impact you can make on society and humanity, and how you expect to make that impact having been given so much via your training, that others did not receive. You must ask yourself: what degree and scope of impact can I possibly make for country, world, family and self? To what degree will the world itself permit or obstruct me from fulfilling my dreams? How might I, for that matter, rise above the challenges that might stand in my way as I aspire to serve? It is in wanting to have you position yourselves to ask and find answers to pertinent questions, as you should be asking today, that I seek to briefly give you these words of encouragement.

I would have you think, first of all, about your call to service. The true value of your certificates lie in what you do with the knowledge, skills, and expertise you have acquired. That value can only be quantified fully with time as you apply your knowledge and expertise in service. 'Service' then, should be our watch word to guide us to do our best for humanity. Now as you serve and strive to achieve, you need not allow yourselves to be intimidated by challenges, whether in your personal lives or at the work place.

Paulo Coelho the Brazilian novelist encouragingly points out succinctly in one of his novels, *The Devil and Miss Prym*: *"When we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change. At such a moment there is no point in pretending that nothing has happened or saying that we are not yet ready. The challenge will not wait. Life does not look back. A week is more than enough time for us to decide whether or not to accept our destiny"*. Courage and resilience, not fear, are what we need when things do not go well with us. Develop an active, problem-solving approach to life. Persons who are resilient do not give up on themselves. Instead they get busy to find another way to solve their problems, and would often make it a point to involve others in the solution process. They may in some cases make an effort to develop their own character and skills, especially if poor self-esteem is the matter at stake. You must build and maintain a network of caring people, which must include others older and wiser than yourself. Stay connected with the people you meet, and be on both the giving and receiving ends of relationships. We may indeed also see challenges in life as opportunities for

growth, in that in dealing with the problem in the correct manner, we may take ourselves out of our comfort zone and grow as individuals, while learning from our mistakes. Against this background we must be grateful- even for the challenges that come our way.

Now to something more related to my day job. I entreat you not to waste your resources such as time, energy or finances, in both your personal lives and your workplaces. The laws of economics enjoins us to understand that resources are far fewer at any point in time in our lives than we will ever need. Whether as a nation, family or as individuals, no one's needs are ever fully met in life. We must therefore always cherish what nature has endowed us with. Learn to put to maximum use the limited resources placed at our disposal. Develop a positive attitude towards money, and avoid being greedy for it. According to the late American author and poet, Maya Angelou, *"You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you"*. Create rather than waste wealth. Pay heed to Miguel De Cervantes, the 18 and 19th Century Spanish novelist and poet, in his advice *"Never to stand begging for that which you have power to earn"*

This admonition calls for extreme self-discipline when it comes to managing financial resources. Each of us has the capacity to earn money and to manage what we earn by making appropriate financial investments. There is a difference between saving and investing and I will encourage all of you to invest. Right from today, you need to start investing in your retirement. It is sad to note that most Ghanaians start thinking of retirement at the age of 55 when actually you should all start thinking about it right from the day you start earning an income. My advice is therefore, to start investing early and to control your spending. No amount is too small to start with. The key is to be consistent. While you have all the opportunity, find time to consult an investment advisor, before it's too late.

Early this year, I had the privilege of being appointed to the advisory board of the College of Health Sciences and in the few months that I have been there, I have been shocked at the kind of challenges facing health education in Ghana. We are reliably informed that the doctor-to-patient ratio in Ghana today is 1:15,250; that of nurses is 1:1,251, and pharmacists, 1:14,528, and worst of all dentists 1: 104,000. These ratios, compared to the WHO recommended ratios, are much too high. Something has to really be done about the situation and I will use this opportunity to call on my colleagues in corporate Ghana to take a much keener interest in supporting health education in Ghana. There is so much we can do for the College of Health Sciences that will ultimately benefit the economy. I doff my hat to faculty members who continuously surmount enormous challenges to train our health professionals.

Going by the WHO definition of health: *"health is a state of complete physical, mental and social*

well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". Since society is made up of the political, legal, cultural and the environmental framework, our health is affected by all the rules, ideas, norms, guidelines, information and the environments we encounter every day. What this should mean to us, not only as health professionals, but as individual members of the society, is that everything that makes up our community, society, and culture, has an impact on our health. Our habitats, experiences, and the feedback we receive about who we are as individuals, can all affect our physical and mental well-being.

Finally to the graduands, challenge yourself, perhaps after you have gained significant experience in your medical practice, to do a little service to the economy of our dear country, by assessing how entrepreneurial you can be in the non-formal sector, while improving the health status of our people. Think about contributions being made by the likes of Lister Hospital, FOCUS Hospital, the Lighthouse Mission Hospital, the Nyaho Medical Centre, the Peace and Love Hospital and Breast Care International, to name just a few. Also think about the possibility of collaboration in the area of medical training, through which several accredited private medical training institutions are being established. The more private health institutions that can be set up in the country with your involvement, the more competitive the healthcare industry will become, while benefitting the well-being of the citizenry of this country. Think about these things as you seek to explore your horizon for a brighter, healthier, future for Ghana.

Before I take my seat, let me leave you with something my good friend Ace said in this very hall in November 2013

When others sit, you must stand

When others stand, you must stand out

When others stand out, you must be outstanding

And, when they become outstanding, you must become the standard

I wish you all well, and may God bless us all. Thank you.

**VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
DR. DENNIS DANSO KUMI**

Chairman and Members of University Council
Vice -Chancellor,
Pro -Vice -Chancellors,
Provost, College of Health Sciences,
Registrar,
College Secretary,
Deans and Directors,
Honourable Ministers of State,
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Senior Members,
Nii Mei, Naa Mei, Nananom,
Staff and Students,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

My job here is not only to bid us farewell but also give us some boost and upliftment. We are gathered here as colleagues graduating from the School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing, School of Biomedical and Allied Health sciences, School of Medicine and Dentistry and the School of Graduate Studies . Before I speak further I will say ayekoo to us all for the great job done in reaching this far.

I am tempted to speak endlessly. I know long speeches may sometimes not be so helpful because we remember nothing at the end thus I will say only 7 things to you this morning, comprising 6 lessons and a great commission.

Let us pause to thank the people on whose labours we have reached this high. Firstly I thank the University for giving me such an honourable responsibility. The anxiety of standing up here has actually made me lose weight in one week. To all heads of departments we say good job done. We also say a big thank you to all our teachers and the support staff who made our life on campus worthwhile. Fondly I mention some of my teachers for their indelible remarks and wonderful personalities. Notably Mr. Gyepi -Atee Consultant Urologist at KBTH and Lecturer of the Medical School for his “sowaa” comments whenever you make a sky rocketing error. He taught us so patiently as though we were in kindergarten. It is notable to mention Professor Sackeyfio of School of Pharmacy, Professor Adanu of the School of Public Health and Dr. Ziator of School of Nursing for their great impact in shaping our lives. We salute our parents for bringing us this far.

Dear colleagues, indeed we have made it. It has been a long and arduous journey full of the best memories and ones we want to forget. Looking back, we were greatly privileged to be part of the UG family. Concerning our College, I doubt if any institution anywhere in the

world could be studded with such scholarly and dedicated faculty.

On this note I will share an experience I had on medical exchange which will be the prelude to the first lesson. This is a story about my meeting Prof. Adanu in New York . Discipline and integrity (lesson 1) are a pair of virtues we can't do without if we want to advance in this competitive world. Without them, our great skills and intellect may surmount to nothing. Regardless of our great ideas and abilities, people may write us off. We must have discipline and integrity and these will make us credible and then we will be taken seriously.

We greatly appreciate the learning experience in the College of Health Sciences. We appreciated the fact that sound theory cannot be separated from practical work (lesson 2). The famous Chinese proverb says “when I hear I forget, when I see I remember and when I do I understand”. The two are just different sides of the same coin and are complimentary to each other and we must demonstrate a good measure of both as we move out there. Sir William Osler says “practicing medicine without the books is like roaming an uncharted sea” and by extension any practice without application of sound knowledge is fraught with endless errors and twists.

Some great memories are boldly etched in my heart. After one week in Anatomy class I began to doubt if I could really pursue my course. I had learnt almost 300 new weird words already and was promised 10,000 more. The notes in a week looked as lofty as my entire level hundred notes. In the fourth year, I started to feel in control and felt so assertive that I did so many things, not all successful though but had great life lessons drawn from them. I even became a football administrator at a point in the Medliga Tournament. I remember teams like Corticosteroids, Adrenaline and Priapism and names of some MVPs like C.Ro Jeffrey Amissah and Messi Vincent Nachinab and so on. At a point I sacked myself when I admitted a goal under pressure from fans without seeing the ball entering the post. One lesson learnt here was that you can be whatever you work hard to be but don't pretend to be what you are not (lesson 3). You simply can't give to the world what you don't have.

We are graduating today having completed various programmes. I believe one thing that we learnt collectively was how to achieve self actualisation (lesson 4), we now have the tools to become who we want to be and how high we wish to rise. We therefore can no longer blame our parents for our lack of achievements because they probably forced us to pursue a course we didn't want. We would do society a great disservice if we are not able to harness our potential for the good of mankind. We have no reasons to make excuses.

Colleagues, the vision of taking a leap into the bleak vast arena of life is more looming now than ever. This is a place where players may be more brutal and the field wider but without our usual protection which hither to was the four walls of our schools. Our armor will be our Head which is knowledge, our Hands which are skills and our Heart which is virtues thus we should keep in mind the Three H Theory. (lesson 5). Let us not forget to apply the three H tools in all our endeavors by continuous demonstration of sound knowledge and skills and remember that great virtues are priceless.

Finally, the principle of right believing (lesson 6) to me has been a great ally. Believe in your own inner abilities both innate talents and learnt skills. I believed in God and had a cool head in the mist of uncertainties and believe in the reward of hard work.

In these last days, let us ponder over the positive experiences and take cues from our falls in our school days. If you thought you acquired nothing from school at least you made a friend, friends we will need in the years ahead.

A crowd of witnesses are watching us now and they must be proud. Ghana bears witness and yearns that her ideals will be upheld by us. Let us make it a point that the world we are going into should be the most exciting, fulfilling and stunning moment in human history.

As Sir William Osler again said, “We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from life”. I am sure by the end of my speech about 50 new websites will be added to the www and as Edward Makhene will put it, *the disease of today may prove to be the artifact of tomorrow*. In about 20years from now more than half of what we learnt in school will be false. The internet has made the world closer to our backyard now. We can always upgrade ourselves through information. There is no more a geographical limit. We are now our only barrier. Let us ride on comrades and Heal The World (the Great Commission).

Heal The World Brother,

Heal The World My Sister.

God Bless The College of Health Sciences,

God Bless Ghana.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MEMBER OF COUNCIL,
PROFESSOR JOHN HYDE**

Members of Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Members of the college of Education Advisory Board,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Fresh Graduates,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

As we end today's function, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have worked hard to ensure a successful congregation ceremony .

These new graduates are mostly from the second cohort of the new 4-year degree programme. They had to contend with the new system with its teething problems. They are the ones who did not give up but persevered to the end. They deserve all the laurels that they have acquired.

For the Teachers and Administrators who have had to learn this system alongside the students in order to get them to this point of their graduation. The University appreciates the efforts you have put into this enterprise.

To the Graduate Students who have been part of the changes taking place at the University of Ghana, I hope some of you will consider joining the University to support the drive to become a research intensive university. We expect that those who do not make it back here will consider joining other tertiary institutions in Ghana as well as the public and private sectors.

I salute all those who played various roles in the planning and organization of this event to ensure its success.

All parents, guardians, families and friends of the graduates who have travelled from far and near to join the graduates in this celebration also deserve our thanks and appreciation for being with us today.

To our Guest Speaker for today, all invited guests, alumni and friends of the University we say we always appreciate your presence and participation in this event. I wish you a safe

journey back.

To our new graduants and fresh Alumni, I congratulate you on your new achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of your alma mater. I call upon you constantly to remember the University's Motto: "Integri Procedamus" or lets make progress with integrity.

I wish you all good success in your future endeavours. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen it is now my privilege and duty as Acting Chairman of the University Council to declare today's congregation dissolved.

Thank you.

