REMEMBRANCE SERVICE IN MEMORY OF THE LATE PROFESSOR KWADWO ASENSO-OKYERE
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BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE PROF. KWADWO ASENSO-OKYERE

Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere was born on 7th January, 1947 at Kumawu-Woraso to Mr Peter Kwadwo Okyere of the royal Aduana clan of Kumawu Woraso and Mrs. Martha Tabuwaa Okyere of Bretuo family also of Kumawu-Woraso both of blessed memory.

He had both his primary and middle school education at Dunkwa-on-Offin Roman Catholic Boys School and continued his education at Tweneboa Kodua Secondary School in Kumawu, where he obtained his G.C.E. O’ Level certificate. He continued his sixth form education at Prempeh College in Kumasi and proceeded to University of Ghana, Legon, obtaining B.Sc. (Honours) Degree in Agricultural Economics.

Prof. Asenso-Okeyre gained admission into the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada to pursue a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics, specializing in Agribusiness Management. On completion of the programme, he joined the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) in 1976 as a Junior Research Fellow. After working for a couple of years, he proceeded to the University of Columbia-Missouri to pursue Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, specializing in Price Analysis and Econometrics and returned to the service of the University in 1984.

His academic interest centered on economic and business development policies and management with special emphasis on food and agriculture, health and nutrition, regional cooperation and international trade; quantitative decision modeling; knowledge management and innovations for development. And his professional interest was to help reduce deprivation, create wealth and promote general development of society. As an academic he published widely and at the last check of his 30-page curriculum vitae, he had a total of 175 publications, made up of 97 research publications, 56 papers and monographs and 22 consultancy reports.

In 1997 he assumed office as Director of ISSER, a position he held until his appointment as Vice-Chancellor in 2002.

When he retired from the University of Ghana as Vice-Chancellor in 2006, he joined the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as Senior Research Fellow and Leader, Nigeria Strategy Support Program, Development Strategy and Governance Division, November 2006–January 2007. He was promoted Director,
Knowledge, Capacity, and Innovation Division (formerly ISNAR Division), from January 2007–July 2010. From August 2010–December 2012, was the Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, IFPRI. Even when he had retired from IFPRI, the institution requested him to be an Advisor on Development Policy Management and Capacity Strengthening for its Ghana programs. At the time of his unfortunate passing, he was on a UN FAO mission to assist the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture of Mongolia in reviewing that country’s agricultural sector.

Prof. Asenso-Okyere served on many local and international organizations and bodies and was a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and Fellow, Association of Certified Entrepreneurs.

Some of the awards he received include:

1. Distinguished leadership award for outstanding contribution to contemporary society from the American Biographical Institute, July 1999.

2. Included in the Outstanding People of the 20th Century for outstanding contribution to development research by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, December, 1999


4. Recognised by staff and fellows of Commonwealth Hall, University of Ghana, for long, loyal and meritorious service to the Hall, December 2000


6. Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by University of Ghana, April 19, 2013

He is survived by his widow Nana Yaa Asenso-Okyere and six children.
The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them; in the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace. (Wisdom 3: 1-3).

It is with deep sorrow that we pay this tribute to our late former student, friend, colleague, Hall Master and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana. On Saturday 10th May, 2014, we received the unfortunate news of the passing of Professor Kwadwo Assenso-Okyere. His association with Commonwealth Hall began when he was offered admission by the University of Ghana in the 1968/69 academic year to read for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and was assigned to Commonwealth Hall.

An accomplished academician and administrator, Prof. Kwadwo Assenso-Okyere was much loved, respected and appreciated by the entire Commonwealth Hall fraternity. As a student, his hard work and keen interest in JCR activities culminated in his election as the D Block representative on the then Commonwealth Hall JCR Committee. Later on he became the Chairman of the JCR Catering and Dance Committees.

After completing his studies in 1973, he was appointed a Fellow of the Hall in 1976 having taken up appointment as a Lecturer/Research Fellow of the University of Ghana. As a Fellow, Prof Assenso-Okyere continued to show a lot of interest in the welfare of the Hall – a trait that he had exhibited while an undergraduate student of the Hall. He held several positions in the Hall including President of the Senior Common Room; Senior Tutor from 1986–1988; Vice-Master from 1992–1996; and Hall Master from 1996–2000, when he was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana.

As a Hall Master he initiated the beautification project of the Hall which saw the rejuvenation of the Terminal Gardens and rehabilitation of the fountains. His love for the Hall continued even after he had exited the Hall and had become the Vice-Chancellor of the University. He donated a trophy to the Hall to be competed for by the various Blocks in the Hall. He instituted an endowment fund “The Kwadwo Assenso-Okyere Award for the Best Agric Economics Student in Level 300” to be
awarded annually. Believing in giving back to society what he had benefited from society, he and a few colleague old vandals like Dr. Kuranchie and the late K. Essel-Koomson among others revitalized the Old Vandals Association. He instituted the homecoming programme for Old Vandals to come back to the Hall to deliberate on how to help to move the Hall forward while reminiscing about the good old days. This idea of his has today become a University-wide programme if not a nationwide programme which is observed by the other halls of the University as well as other universities and even senior secondary schools in the country.

That he loved the Hall so dearly was seen in his active participation in activities of the Hall. He was always there during crisis resolutions, Homecomings, Jamborees, Award Nights and the Fellows and Alumni Dinner Dances. Indeed his last participation in an activity of the Hall before his untimely passing was at the Fellows and Alumni Dinner Dance of last December, where despite heavy rains he came in order to fraternize with colleagues, friends, fellows, alumni, and year mates.

There is no doubt that death has robbed us – both old vandals and the working fraternity of the Hall and the University at large of a dedicated personality, a fine mind and an outstanding leader. Prof, we would have loved to have you here with us but as the scriptures say in Isaiah 55: 8 and 9, the Lord’s thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are our ways His way. For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are His ways higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts.

Though we know that death is inevitable and sometimes sudden, it does not cease to always leave in its trail, pain and grief such as we feel today. We pray that the Good Lord will comfort and strengthen his widow, children and the entire family while granting his soul eternal rest.

KWADWO, DAMIRIFA DUE
TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE OLD VANDALS ASSOCIATION (OVA) READ BY ALHAJI RAZAK EL-ALAWA, PRESIDENT

Words alone cannot describe our feelings for this loss of a great Legonite and a true, dedicated and committed Old Vandal.

The news of the death of Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere, former Commonwealth Hall Master and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana while on an international assignment in far-away Mongolia, Central Asia, on May 9, 2014 came to us as a shock.

When the news started making the rounds that fateful day, some of us in the Vandal fraternity prayed that it was only a rumour, a figment of somebody’s imagination.

But alas, before the end of the day, the news was confirmed and we were left in sorrow at this sudden and premature departure of a colleague, friend and brother.

Now that the cat is out of the bag and we are mourning and preparing to bid him farewell, we can only pay tribute to his memory and the legacy he has left behind.

As we are all aware, Prof. Asenso-Okyere entered Legon in October 1968 and was assigned to Commonwealth Hall. Right from the start, he showed leadership qualities and participated fully in all JCR activities, serving on several committees till he completed his studies in 1973.

On his return to the University after his post-graduate studies, he was appointed a Fellow of Commonwealth Hall in 1976.

It is on record that Prof. Asenso-Okyere is the only person to have held positions in any hall administration as Tutor, Senior Tutor, Vice Master and Master and to have become Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana while at the time serving as the Director of a very important establishment, ISSER.

However, very important to the Old Vandals, he will always be remembered as the father of the Vandal fraternity, having organized the first Home Coming of the alumni of Commonwealth Hall in August 1997 when he was Hall Master that gave birth to the Old Vandals Association.
Even after he had become Vice-Chancellor, he continued to show interest in and attended all activities of OVA, always with his dear wife, Nana Yaa. Indeed he was one of the first batch of Old Vandals to be honoured at our first Republic Day Jamboree in July 1991.

Since he left the service of the university, he never failed to show up at OVA activities any time he was in town. Indeed, only last December (2013) he was present at the Fellows/Alumni Dinner Dance with his dear wife even though an earlier downpour had prevented many invited guests from attending the occasion.

That is the man we are celebrating today, a rare breed of an Old Vandal.

Kwadwo, we all wish you farewell. *Damirifa Due! Nante Yie!!*
TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF FORMER STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES READ BY PROFESSOR DANIEL BRUCE SARPONG

I have been struggling to write a remembrance for Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere because I simply don’t have the words to express the depth of my sadness knowing that he’s gone or the depth of my appreciation for everything that he did for some of us and for all his students and colleagues who may not have the platform to share their experiences with you.

I must say I felt had a special relationship with Prof., but then of course we all felt we had a special relationship with him. That was one of Professor Asenso-Okyere’s extra-ordinary gifts, giving himself in different ways to each of us and making us more than we were before we met him, creating a unique place for each of us in his life. Like the elephant that people touch, and depending on where they are able to, ascribe different connotations to what they touch. I do say that Prof. Asenso-Okyere was big, bigger than that micro part we all felt. He was big, he was the elephant itself.

I have been thinking a lot about the man who is in God’s bosom now and I have cause to conclude that I am partly here today and sharing my memories because Prof. was such a great role model, teacher, supervisor, collaborator and mentor to me during my student days and also the time we had to work together as colleagues.

I still have memories of my first encounter with Prof., when he stepped in our Price Analysis class back in 1987, when I was in the final year part two, then a student in Agricultural Economics. He asked each of us to introduce ourselves. At my turn, I started with my surname first followed by the first name, so it went like Sarpong Daniel Bruce. His remarks were, “stop this Presbyterian way of self-introduction”. Indeed the whole class laughed. Then he said, “you can call me Kwadwo”, so I’m going to call him Kwadwo.

Kwadwo’s energy and enthusiasm were simply infectious. Sometimes you will wonder where Kwadwo got his energy from. He could teach through a three hour course moving between the blackboard and the students, engaged and engaging us in the joy of intellectual discovery. The sense of discipline and handwork demonstrated by Kwadwo on the different research projects we did together whilst here in the University of Ghana and in Ethiopia spoke volumes and impacted on my work ethics. He was approachable and never hesitated to seek opinions even from junior
colleagues. No wonder Kwadwo was the toast of many who came in contact with him.

Having now had undergraduate and graduate students of my own, I appreciate even more the dedication Kwadwo had in guiding his students through their programmes, letting them learn from their own mistakes, cheering them on when they found success and helping them find their own voice. Indeed Kwadwo was such a great blessing.

Kwadwo put a lot of time into his work and to the people and organizations he worked with. Work was important to him. The dedication he put in his work and into his staff and colleagues have created the foundation that frankly anyone could build on and be successful. Building on his work allowed us to aspire to be honest, committed and therefore work to make a difference in peoples life.

I was also privileged to have a personal relationship with Prof. beyond work. Kwadwo took a particular interest in my personal and family life and would continually encourage me. He became more than a friend and a brother to me. Anytime he came back from Ethiopia he would call to say he was in town and that he would come over and indeed he came over, each time to the Department and to my office to say, “Dan, I came to report myself”.

Kwadwo was driven by a purpose and passion for change, growth and care for people. Vision and care was a recurring theme around Kwadwo. In spite of his public charisma and impact, Kwadwo was at heart an intensely very kind person. In his own most effective way he was thoughtful and reflective to a level that in a way allowed him to have the strength and insight to have such an impact on many people.

I humbly invite all of you to join me to remember a man who lived an extraordinary life, a man whose life made us better and a man whose life will live on through the many people he influenced. Through the families of those whose lives he lifted and through the honest, open, passionate realistic and ultimately inspiring way he carried himself.

The world has indeed lost such a great personality. Ghana would miss the professionalism of Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere. We will truly miss you Kwadwo.

Fare thee well, Professor Kwadwo Asenso Okyere.
TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (UTAG) – LEGON BRANCH READ BY DR. LANGBONG BIMI, PRESIDENT

The 9th of May 2014 will remain with us as one of the darkest days in the history of the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG). We received the shocking news of the demise of an illustrious member of not only UTAG, but the University of Ghana Community and the global academic and intellectual community; Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere.

The sudden demise of a person of the stature of Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere obviously has created a huge void; void in UTAG, void in the university communities both locally and internationally, void in the global intellectual community, void in Ghana, the country he served all his life, and most importantly, void in his immediate family.

Our hearts are heavy with grief, with tears flowing from our eyes trickling down our cheeks as we wonder in anguish how this yawning vacuum created can be ever be filled. We recall with nostalgia, the sacrifices of Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere as an Academic, a Researcher and an Administrator to improving life in the University of Ghana in particular and the life of ordinary people all over the globe. It is no coincidence, therefore, that he died in the line of duty in far away Mongolia contributing his quota to ensuring the well-being of all humanity.

However, we can only console ourselves with the scriptures in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, that; “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”. We further appreciate the undeniable truth that:

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to Mourn, and a time to dance” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

We end by committing the family into the hands of God, the one who gives and takes. The same God will console, comfort and provide for them and also fill the gap the loss of Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere has created in the family.

Rest in Perfect Peace, Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere!
You have played your part well!
Due! Due! Due!!!
The Ghana Association of University Administrators (GAUA), Legon branch, has learnt with dismay the passing of Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Legon.

An administrator at heart, Professor Asenso-Okyere worked closely with members of GAUA, firstly as Director of ISSER, and later as Vice-Chancellor. In his dealings with Senior Members in the administrative and professional ranks, he earned the reputation of being firm yet fair, and gained the respect of many within the association.

In times of industrial unrest, he was an efficient referee, mediating effectively to ensure that all sides were fairly treated, and outcomes achieved were beneficial to all sides. For GAUA, he worked tirelessly for the maintenance of what our forebears framed as the body of Senior Members. He recognized the complementary roles groups within this body played to make the University a unique body corporate, which is preferred internationally. The spirit of discussion and consultation with staff associations, I should stress, was a distinctive feature of his administrative style as Vice-Chancellor from October 2002 to September 2006.

He initiated the reorganization of the Central Administration into Directorates with the aim of promoting greater efficiency and ensuring the proper functioning of the administrative system and facilitating management. The creation of Directorates was also to create the opportunity for professional development and the fulfillment of potential for the administration.

He also initiated extensive physical development projects on the University’s campuses. This was when the University faced dire need of space for academic work, accommodation for both students and staff, and space for professional training. With an admirable energy and resolve, he took far reaching steps to meet these needs.

It is worthwhile to mention the beauty garden created at the back of the Balme Library. Guided by his vision and tenacity of purpose, and against open and subtle protestations, he pursued its creation with complete confidence in private financial support and in the University’s administrative prowess to supervise. In all of these, Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere engaged very well with administrators in general,
His Excellency John Dramani Mahama being escorted by University officials and the Minister of Education to the Service

Members of the University Community and invited guests seated at the Service

Dignitaries, University officials and family of the late Prof. Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere family in a prayerful mood

Joint choirs from the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Legon

President John Mahama commiserating with Mrs. Nana Yaa Asenso-Okyere

The Ghana Dance Ensemble doing an attentenben performance
Alhaji Razak El-Alawa, National President, Old Vandals Association

Prof. Daniel Bruce Sarpong, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
Dr. Langbong Bimi, President of the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG) – Legon Branch

Mr. Alfred Quartey, President of Ghana Association of University Administrators (GAUA) – Legon Branch

Ms. Dorcas Aku Sekley, Member of the Teachers and Educational Workers Union
Paa Kwesi Yankey, Chairman – University of Ghana Alumni Association

Prof. Felix A. Asante, Director, Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research

Prof. Atsu Ayee, Assistant Honorary Secretary, Arts Section – Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor

Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyeman, Minister of Education
Rev. Fr. Wisdom Larweh, Parochial Administrator, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Legon, leading prayers at the service

Mr. Baffour Asenso-Okyere, son of the late Prof. Asenso-Okyere delivering the vote of thanks. With him are his siblings.
and GAUA in particular, to ensure that the various unions worked together towards meeting the University’s mission of training manpower to meet the nation’s and indeed the world’s development needs.

A very affable and a humble man, even after his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Asenso Okyere continued to follow the progress of administrators he had worked with, offering advice, words of encouragement and praise when due. He continued to give personal scholarship and through Finatrade, scholarships to students and contributions of other kinds. Here was a man driven not by ambition, but by a sincere will to raise the image of the University, as well as by a sincere interest in the development of both individual students and staff.

An “old young man” who was full of life and energy, resplendent in his bow tie and a pair of suspenders, braced up to the difficult times that he was faced with as the 9th Chief Executive of the University of Ghana. Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere has indeed made his mark, and will be sorely missed by the GAUA fraternity.

Fare thee well Professor and may the good Lord grant you eternal rest.
TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL WORKERS UNION (TEWU) AND FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION (FUSSAG) READ BY MS. DORCAS SEKLEY

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints- Psalm 116:15

Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere was a past Vice-Chancellor who was much known as very humane, industrious and visionary.

On this occasion, we recall Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere’s immense experience and devotion to research advocacy on economic development issues.

We pay tribute to him for the initiation of the University of Ghana restructuring of the Central Administration during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor.

In addition to the numerous projects that he brought to the University, Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere introduced an honorarium of end-of-year package of two (2) chickens for every TEWU and FUSSAG member during Christmas.

Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere was revered as a generous Vice-Chancellor who had his own way of motivating his workers to offer their best. He had the tendency to go round the University observing and discussing details of work with staff.

We praise Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere’s nobility and sense of care. He had perfect human relations which set him apart from many others. He interacted very well with everyone he came into contact with, no matter the person’s rank or status.

As Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere made members of TEWU and FUSSAG feel important and appreciated. He was a committed TEWU member and he maintained his membership till he left the University.

We are deeply grieved by the loss of our own dear past Vice-Chancellor. We express our condolence to his wife, children and the entire University community.

May the good Lord grant him eternal peace.
Fare thee well, Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere
The Lord keep you till we meet again!!
Rest in perfect peace, Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere!
TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UGAA) READ BY MR. PAA KWESI YANKEY, CHAIRMAN

The University of Ghana Alumni Association received with profound sadness and deep grief the passing of another honored and dedicated alumnus of the University of Ghana, Prof. Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere, an ardent supporter, advisor and promoter of the Alumni Association. Prof. Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere paid his dues to the University as a true alumnus, evident in the dedicating most of his youthful life in paying back to the University, the investments that the University and the nation had made in him as a young man by lecturing, his mastership of the commonwealth hall and also as a Vice-Chancellor of our great university.

I recall the great effort that he put in getting the University of Ghana Alumni Centre constructed. His vision of having a place where alumni, who were stationed in different parts of the country could come and stay and interact amongst themselves. The Alumni Centre therefore stands as a shining edifice to his vision and by this maybe, the Chairman of Council will in some future time discuss the issue of naming the Centre, “the Asenso-Okyere Alumni Centre”.

Prof. Asenso-Okyere's promotion of the University of Ghana Alumni Association was evidenced by the fact that, he and his wife Nana Yaa, opened their home, the Vice-Chancellors Lodge to the Association each time we had our dinners and lunches to interact with alumni and friends of the University. He supported us with his presence at Alumni Lectures, dinner dances and various events that the Alumni Association organized.

Prof. Asenso-Okyere had great ideas for the Alumni Association in the area of fundraising. He felt that the Association could partner with the University to yield great fruits. This idea is coming into fruition as the current Vice-Chancellor Prof. Aryeetey is currently, boldly promoting.

Kwadwo, as we mourn you, we also celebrate you as a shining example of what we, the University of Ghana alumni stand for. We therefore urge all University of Ghana
alumni to stand firmly, with the wife Nana Yaa, the Abusuapayin, family and children to honor and to celebrate him.

We salute you for your vision, Kwadwo, for the support for the association and your advice. We shall surely miss you.

May the soul of Prof. Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere rest in perfect peace.
TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (ISSER) READ BY PROFESSOR FELIX ASANTE, DIRECTOR

The Institute of Statistical Social And Economic Research was deeply shocked to learn about the sad news of the passing of the former Director, Professor Kwadwo Asenso Okyere. There are still many at ISSER who are yet to terms with the hard reality. For how can we accept the passing of a man so full of life who only days earlier had visited ISSER.

Prof. Asenso-Okyere’s association with ISSER, hits several decades back as far back as 1973 when he had a three months study with the Institute as a Teaching Research Assistant. Later in 1976, he was appointed as ISSER’s secretariat President. His commitment to hard work and excellence saw him rise steadily through the ranks, becoming a Senior Research Fellow in June 1987, then an Associate Professor in October 1990 and a full Professor in 1997.

As Associate Professor, Prof. Asenso-Okyere in addition to his core responsibilities of teaching and research also served the Institute in various administrative capacities. From January to December 1995, he functioned as the Acting Director of the Institute. He became Director in January 1996 a position he held till October 1997 when he was appointed as the substantive Director of ISSER. He served as Director of the Institute for five years until he was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana in 2002. Throughout his working life at ISSER, Prof. showed his commitment to the vision and mission of ISSER in a manner that was weird. He gave a lot of himself and he made a lot of contributions to the advancement of the Institute. He was full of practical ideas and solutions and these he really gave for the benefit of the Institute. He never held them back.

Prof. Asenso-Okyere’s accomplishments as a Researcher, a Professor, a mentor and an administrator are countless. Our present effort is only a humble attempt to give an insight into his most remarkable initiative. Initiatives that have left high positive imprints at ISSER.

Prof. has served as an advisor to several Fellows and also graduate students, inspiring many along the way. Prof. took a personal and a very big interest in training promising students and Researchers. His interest in mentorship has produced several dynamic
and resourceful Researchers and Professors some of whom are senior Fellows of ISSER, including myself.

Prof. is credited with leading a successful rebranding drive that would metamorphous ISSER into a highly regarded Research Institute. Today ISSER stands as one of the few Centres in the University with a distinct logo that identifies it. The national collaboration at ISSER now almost stands firm and contributes significantly to institutional progress and success. This is so because Prof. was driven by desire to put ISSER on the international map and open it up for opportunities. His earlier activities and accomplishments in this area served as a gateway to help open the Institute up with the flow of opportunities for collaboration with various international institutions and Universities.

Prof. was a diligent contributor to the flagship annual publication of the Institute, the State of the Ghanaian Economy Report for five years, between 1992 and 1997. He authored a chapter and he also coordinated the publication from 1995 to 2000. As Director, Prof. played an instrumental role in the development of the Institutes training programs. He led in the development of the Masters’ programme in Development Studies, as well as the short courses currently taught by ISSER. Most of these programs currently constitute a very important part of activities the Institute carries out in fulfilment of its mandate. Prof. is the brain behind the investment fund which served as the seed money for the construction of the ISSER conference complex, the world class facility that has catapulted the Institute into a whole new level.

Finally, with the aim of making ISSER financially self-sufficient for the conduct of objective, quality and credible research, Prof. set up an endowment fund to provide funds dedicated to research endeavors.

Prof. was a man who has given a lot his life to serving ISSER. Many others have played their part for the stage called ISSER, but amongst these Prof. definitely stands tall. Leadership is never easy but Prof. served ISSER with commitment, indeed all of himself and he did so with humility and the ability to acknowledge his own imperfections in a way that made him all the more remarkable. ISSER has lost an illustrious son, a true gem.

Prof. we thank you for all you did. Thank you for leaving to us a strong and unbreakable legacy. Prof we will surely miss you and all that we have acknowledged.
We will miss your instructions, your priceless contribution to knowledge, and your service. Even though you are no longer with us physically, your legacy lives on. We are inspired by your passion to work more than ever, to keep burning the lamp you lighted at ISSER to push forward the cause of knowledge and development. We pray that the Lord keep you safe and in his bosom till we meet again.

Prof., Damirifa Due, Rest In Perfect Peace.
We brought nothing to this world and it is such that we cannot take anything away. The Lord gives and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord, Amen.

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences mourns the passing away of Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere, an esteemed fellow of the academy with deep sorrow. Prof. Asenso-Okyere was elected fellow of the Ghana Academy of the Arts and Sciences in June 2004 on the basis of strong academy and professional credentials which are characteristics of a great scholar, researcher and agriculturist.

After election as a fellow, Professor Asenso-Okyere effectively continued to contribute his knowledge through several outstanding publications, lectures, seminars and conferences. His contribution to the programmes of the Academy was immense. He was a fellow who made his presence felt at general meetings and the committees of the academy and always had something thoughtful, interesting and useful to say. He served on several committees of the academy and contributed to the growth and development of the academy even in the morning of the Friday that he passed away. Professor Asenso Okyere had communicated to the secretariat of the academy on a sponsorship he had secured for the academy to organize public forums in July 2014.

He delivered his Inaugural Lecture in 2006 on the topic, “Improving Human Livelihood, a Developing Challenge of the 21st Century”, to large audience of Academics, Agriculturalists and students in Accra.

Prof. Asenso-Okyere was the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana. He retired from the University of Ghana and joined the “International Food and Policy Research Institute” (ISPR), as Director of the Eastern and Southern African Region.

Prof. Asenso-Okyere authored and co-authored over 100 peer reviewed publications in diverse international journals books and chapters and produced several consultancy reports and policy briefs. He received several national and international awards including Officer of Order of the Volta from the government of Ghana.

Prof. Asenso Okyere will always be remembered in the academy for his willingness to review papers submitted by candidates proposed to fellowship and the academy’s
gold, silver and bronze awards. His scholarly mind, devotion to duty and amiable personality will be greatly missed by fellows of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. Fellows of the Academy join Mrs. Nana Yaa Asenso-Okyere, the children and the entire family in mourning him and in thanking the Almighty God for the gift of Prof. Asenso-Okyere.

May his soul rest in perfect peace, Amen.
TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA READ BY
PROFESSOR ERNEST ARYEETEY, VICE-CHANCELLOR

We are here to mourn a great son of the country, a solid academic. There is one thing that is very clear in my mind, he reflected in his life everything this University stood for; a good teacher, a good researcher and a good communicator.

There are five things one can say about Prof. Asenso-Okyere, many of these have been already echoed by others.

The first is that he was full of life. I first met Prof. Asenso-Okyere in 1986 when I joined ISSER, and he had come back two years earlier from doing PHD work abroad. We worked together in ISSER for many years. One thing that he always reflected was his enthusiasm about everything ISSER stood for and everything ISSER was about. He participated in every discussion very actively, very well prepared and with his thoughts straight on. His enthusiasm and his strong desire for success encouraged us to always do the best. Many of the changes that took place at ISSER between 1990 and 2000 were a consequence of his strong participation and enthusiasm. As a strong Academic, which was reflected in his publications, he was extremely analytical and rigorous in his use of Quadrametres metrics. His publications reflect what many of us always believed in, rigor in research. That is how he was able to become a Senior Research Fellow in a relatively good time and then rose to become Professor also in a barely short time. Most of us in this University will remember him for his leadership, a leadership that saw him move from ISSER to become the Vice-Chancellor of this University and a leadership that saw he ran this hall, Commonwealth Hall for many years as a Vice-Master and a Master.

In leadership, Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere showed vision for the University much ahead of his times, a vision for a University that reflected its position in the country as a premiere University, a vision that showed where he wanted to take the university, ahead of all the others. His vision will always carry this university much further than we have. There was this part of his leadership, a strong appetite for change, which as we have heard led to his restructuring the administration of this University by creating the Directorates.

In addition to that he wanted a much more efficient and a more effective administration for the University. He believed that by having these Directorates, we will have empowered Directors to take decisions and run the units that they control in an effective manner.
He liked beautiful things. Anybody who knew Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere knew that he liked beautiful things, so if it meant painting the ISSER building every two years, then so be it. If it meant doing a new garden, then so be it. We saw it at ISSER, with the new garden and then we saw it at the University with the beautification programme that he launched resulting in the nice garden behind the Balme library. But it did not end there, he was not superficial, he went beyond superficial things to ensure that they were embedded in the policies of the University. Maintaining buildings was something he believed in, ensuring that there was a policy for the routine maintenance of structures was something he believed in. His desire for beautiful things led to him putting in place policies that will ensure that those beautiful things persisted.

Today we are here to mourn him, we are here to reflect on the life that he led and we are here to reflect on how he contributed to this University. In doing this, we have seen how he affected the lives of students. He was a great teacher, he impacted on these young minds some of who have become Professors.

We have seen how he transformed the administration of this University. Like everybody in this world, he suffered adversity in his private life and in his life as a leader. What is most important in all of this is that he stood firm and he recovered. He recovered in a manner that many of us mortals probably wouldn’t have. He recovered in a manner that allowed him to participate fully in the life of this University which led us to give him an honorary degree last year.

We are grateful for the life he shared with us, we are grateful for the life he brought to this University, we are grateful for all the changes he made in this University, with the view in making it a much better place than he found it. As we leave here, we will like to extend to his family our sympathy. We would like the family to know that this University will always stand behind them. We will do all we can in this difficult times to ensure that our friend, our colleague, our leader will find rest at the bosom of the Lord.
TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA
READ BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
PROFESSOR JANE NAANA OPOKU-AGYEMAN

We are here to remember our husband, our friend, our father, our mentor and our brother. As understandably broken as we may be by his departure, and the unfilled gaps he has left in our lives and hearts, I appeal to all assembled here to view this commemoration as a celebration of a life fully lived and marked by passion, results, focus and determination.

The late Professor Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere lived a life of service, serving his nation in any way possible and was called by the one who sent him to this earth whilst on a mission with the Food and Agriculture Organization, away from this country.

I am happy to note that the late Professor Asenso-Okyere was a patriot. He had drive and he had depth. Not only did he return to Ghana after his studies leading up to the acquisition of a PHD Degree in the USA, he returned to contribute to the country’s progress in various sectors. He also initiated as we have heard several developments and policies that have been to the benefits of Ghana in particular and to the country in general. As Vice-Chancellor he formed the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, and led the conversion of the External Degree Centre of the University which has now become the Accra City Campus. His efforts also saw the establishment of the Center for Gender Studies. The level of efficiency that he exhibited translated into the re-organization of the central administration into Directorates marking the completion of the elevation of the University status.

Indeed Ghana has lost an eminent son. Professor Asenso Okyere’s great passion for constant improvements saw him facilitating the execution of several development initiatives that uplifted the image of the University of Ghana and advanced the living conditions of students during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor. These include extensive expansion projects such as the Balme Library, Halls of Residence and lecture theatres, the construction of the Sports Complex, introduction of scholarships for students from less endowed schools and backgrounds amongst several relevant resourceful interventions.

The Late Professor Asenso-Okyere has paid his due to our great nation. Indeed he has done true national service. The greatest tribute we can all pay to the Late Professor Asenso-Okyere, who is scholar, creator and determination of knowledge,
teacher, researcher, patriot, administrator, family person, human being with kindness and a very pleasant disposition among many is to ensure that his legacy lives on.

May God Almighty himself comfort his wife, children, families and many friends. May he also replace this painful national loss.

May the soul of Professor Kwadwo Asenso Okyere rest in perfect peace.

Thank you very much.