



## **DR. (MRS.) MARGARET AMANKWAH-POKU**

Dr. (Mrs.) Margaret Amankwah-Poku is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Psychology. She is a qualified Clinical and Health Psychologist who has practical experience in clinical psychological practice, teaching and research.

### **Education**

Dr. (Mrs.) Margaret Amankwah-Poku graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with Religions in 1997 and an MPhil in Clinical Psychology in 2001, both at the University of Ghana. In 2008 after teaching at the Department of Psychology for five years, she went to pursue a PhD in Health Psychology at the University of Birmingham in the West Midlands, England.

Dr. Amankwah-Poku had her primary education at Achimota Primary School where she started boarding school at the age of 6 years- an experience which helped to shape her subsequent life in secondary school and life in general. She attended Achimota Secondary School from 1984 to 1989 where she sat for her Ordinary Level General Certificate and studied for her sixth form at Swedru Secondary School where she sat for the Advanced Level Certificate Examination.

### **Work Life**

After her MPhil degree, Dr. Amankwah-Poku was employed at the National Diabetes Research and Management Centre from 2001 to 2002 where she worked as a Research Officer. She then went on to work as a Counsellor with the Counselling and Support Unit of the National Reconciliation Commission between 2002 and 2003. She joined the Department of Psychology, University of Ghana, when she was contacted by the then Head of Department to start teaching immediately in order to fill in for a faculty member who was going on study leave. She began teaching in October 2003 before she was eventually interviewed and appointed as Lecturer in December 2003.

After her PhD in 2013, Dr. Amankwah-Poku returned to the Department of Psychology to continue teaching, putting to use all the knowledge and skills she had acquired during her PhD training. Most of her students have expressed the pleasure of being taught by her and over time, have appreciated how meticulous she is. It is worthy of note that in 2017, Dr. Amankwah-Poku was voted "Students' Favourite Lecturer" by the Students' Union of the Department of Psychology (UNIGAPS).

## **Committees and Services in the University**

At the Departmental level, Dr. Amankwah-Poku worked as an Examination Officer during her early years at the Department. She was a member of the Department's Welfare Committee. Presently, she is the PhD Coordinator for the Department. She also represents the Department on the University's Academic Board. At the School level, Dr. Amankwah-Poku has served on the School of Social Sciences International Conference Planning Committees for over eight years. At the University level, from 2018 to 2020, she represented Convocation on the University's Academic Board where she was further elected to represent Academic Board on the University's Business and Executive Committee in 2019. She has recently been re-elected for a second term on the Business and Executive Committee. Dr. Amankwah-Poku was a member of the 2020/2021 Registrar Search Committee, one which offered her great experience. She has also served and continue to serve on several ad hoc committees at the departmental, College, School and University level.

## **Committees and Services in Volta Hall**

Dr. Amankwah-Poku has been an active Fellow of Volta Hall, since she joined the University of Ghana in October 2003. She was a Hall Tutor from 2014 to 2018 and was a member of the Tutorial Board, which reviewed the Volta Hall Statutes in 2017. She has served on the following committees of the Hall; 17th Warden's Installation Planning Committee (2018), Volta Hall 60th Anniversary Planning Committee (2019), and Volta Hall Resource Centre Fundraising Committee (2020). Dr. Amankwah-Poku was the President of the Senior Common Room, and a member of the Hall Council until her election as Warden. As President of the Senior Common Room, she led the SCR Executives to develop a document on the 'Duties' of Fellows and another on the 'Mandate' of SCR Executives committee, as these were not in existence.

## **Religious Activities**

Dr. Amankwah-Poku is a committed Christian who loves to serve in the house of God. During her undergraduate years, she was a member of the Methodist Presbyterian Union (MPU) and served as an usher with the Union. While studying in Birmingham, she joined the Selly Oak Methodist Church and served as a Church Steward for the period she was there. Presently, she is a member of the Accra Ridge Church where she is a Lay Reader, a member of the Couple's Fellowship, and training to become a marriage counsellor for the Church. She is also a Lay Preacher at the Church's Contemporary Service.

## **Family and Social Life**

Dr. (Mrs.) Margaret Amankwah-Poku has been blissfully married for 21 years to Dr. Alex Amankwah-Poku. They have three children: Kweku Amankwah-Poku and Akua Amankwah-Poku (twins), and Abena Amankwah-Poku. She enjoys being of service to people because she loves to see people happy. She likes to "get her hands on deck" while working with people. She has good organizing skills for which she has earned the nickname 'Headmistress', among many of her girlfriends.

