

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF AMBASSADOR JAMES AGGREY-ORLEANS
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

We mourn today, Ambassador James Aggrey-Orleans an alumnus of the University of Ghana, whose life and work would be celebrated and recounted for a long time to come.

Ambassador Aggrey-Orleans received his University education at the University College of Ghana where he took an honours degree of the University of London in French Language and Literature. After his graduate studies in France and the United Kingdom, Ambassador Aggrey-Orleans had a successful and distinguished career in the Ghana Diplomatic and Foreign Service, serving his country both at home and abroad.



Flashback: April 19, 2013, Special Congregation, Great Hall, University of Ghana

He was a legendary figure in the University of Ghana Alumni Association, playing an active role and visibly present at most of the formal ceremonies and social events of the University. Ambassador Aggrey-Orleans was not only devoted to the interests and progress of his alma mater, but he was equally ingenious given the many contributions he made in the interest of the University of Ghana. As a member of the Alumni Council for many years, he and his colleagues brought about a rigorous and vibrant Alumni Association.

During the University's 60th Anniversary in 2008, Ambassador Aggrey-Orleans was asked to chair the Planning Committee. He rose to the occasion, ensuring that his diplomatic skills, honed by years of practice, were put to good use with the characteristic diligence he came to be associated with. He and members of the Committee spearheaded fundraising and other activities that culminated in the successful celebration of the University's 60th anniversary.

Despite his formidable intellectual and social stature, Ambassador Aggrey-Orleans was essentially an "ordinary" man. For all his great gifts, he was amiable, gracious and a modest person. He mixed freely with his peers, and was at home with the young, especially students of the University; ever ready and willing to advise them while correcting both grammar and phonetics! He was an *alumnus extraordinaire*, who served his alma mater so well and who was passionate and admirably committed in his service to the University of Ghana.

In April 2013, at a Special Congregation which was held in the Great Hall, the University of Ghana conferred upon him the Doctor of Laws [Honoris Causa] in the category of "Alumni who have made the University proud", a deserving attestation to the immense role played by him and in recognition of his distinguished career, service to Ghana, the international community, but more importantly, for his dedication and loyalty to his alma mater, University of Ghana.

Ambassador James Aggrey-Orleans passing is indeed a huge loss to the University of Ghana, and we are the much poorer by his death. We must mourn him, of course. But beyond that, we must surely thank God for his life and seek to ensure that the best qualities he lived for continue to prevail in the institution he served so well, the University of Ghana. We at the University can only hope that other younger alumni will emulate him to bring greater glories to the University.

Our hearts go out to his wider family, children and beloved wife, Ambassador Agnes Aggrey-Orleans. We pray for a peaceful repose of his soul.

Ambassador Aggrey-Orleans, Rest in Perfect Peace.