



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NO. 865

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016

VOL. 54

NO. 12

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
(UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME)
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION
JULY 22, 2016**

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday, July 22, 2016, 2.00 p.m.

Afternoon Session

Procession

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:

Prof. John Hyde, Member, University Council

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

Guest Speaker: Ms. Maidie Elizabeth Arkutu,
Managing Director, Unilever Ghana

Conferment of Degrees: Presentation of graduands

- Bachelor of Science
- Diplomas

Valedictory Address: Mr. Micheal Siaw Larbi

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

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

**OPENING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY PROFESSOR JOHN MEYER HYDE,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA)**

Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Guest Speaker,
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Humanities
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University, I welcome you all warmly to this afternoon's ceremony. I also extend Mr. Annan's greetings and best wishes to all of you gathered here on this important occasion.

This ceremony is part of the first set of congregation ceremonies for the 2015-16 cohort of graduating students; the second set of ceremonies will be held in November. The 2015-16 cohort of students is the second to be graduated since the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance; the sessions have therefore been organised, College by College.

I take the opportunity to wish the graduands who are being presented today, the very best on this very important occasion. We share in your joy on the successful completion of your programmes of study and we are very proud of you.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to declare this morning's assembly duly constituted for the award of degrees and diplomas of the University of Ghana to successful graduands.

It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give a report at Congregation on developments in the University over the last academic year. I invite the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ernest Aryeetey, to present his report to congregation.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION BY PROFESSOR ERNEST ARYEETEEY

Your Lordship Justice Samuel Date-Bah, Chairman of the University Council;
Members of the University Council;
Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar;
Provosts;
Our distinguished Guest Speaker;
Members of the College Advisory Boards;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Members of Convocation;
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom;
Invited Guests;
Parents and Guardians;
Graduating Students;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Welcome

It is my pleasant duty to warmly welcome you to today's congregation ceremony. This is the first of two sets of graduating ceremonies for students who completed their studies in the 2015/2016 academic year. The second set of ceremonies will be in November 2016. A total of four ceremonies will be held over two days to award degrees and diplomas to a total of 3590 students graduating from our four Colleges. The graduating students are made up of 2142 diplomates and undergraduates and 1448 post graduates. The post graduates include 57 new PhDs, many of whom are staff of the University. I take this opportunity to congratulate students, faculty and other employees whose hard work and commitment have made this possible.

State of the University

Chairman of Council, as I leave office as Vice-Chancellor at the end of July, I would like to use this occasion to give an overview of the state of the University of Ghana over the period of my stewardship. It has been six years since my induction into office as Vice-Chancellor, and in my induction speech, I spelt out a vision of what I felt needed to be done to make the University of Ghana a world-class university. Since then, I have worked with colleagues, students and stakeholders of

this University in order to make this vision a reality. I appreciate the very significant contribution that the University Council has made in this endeavour, providing advice and taking difficult decisions. The support received from other members of University Management is most appreciated. The Business and Executive Committee and the Academic Board have been extremely helpful as sounding boards for many initiatives.

Chairman of Council, ladies and gentlemen, I will touch on the seven areas identified in my vision statement, steps taken in pursuit of the vision, what has been achieved and what remains to be achieved. The areas are:

- Promoting Academic Excellence through Enhanced Teaching and Learning and Leadership Training
- Promoting Academic Excellence through Significantly Expanded and Relevant Research and Extension
- Overhaul of Governance Arrangements in Administration, Teaching, and Research
- Better Management of University Assets and Facilities
- Scale-up Efforts Towards Equal Opportunity in Gender Diversity
- Enhanced Fund-Raising Activities at Unit and Central Administration Levels
- Mainstream and Enforced Structures and Processes for Monitoring and Evaluation

PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH ENHANCED TEACHING, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The University has pushed steadily towards significant improvements in teaching and learning, with a major concentration on quality assurance and the provision of new equipment. These efforts have been rewarded with significant improvement in the performance of students and faculty.

UG Rankings Improve Significantly

In the most recent Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, The University of Ghana is ranked 7th in Africa, making us the highest ranked university in the West African sub-region. The rankings take into consideration teaching (the learning environment), research (volume, income and reputation), citations (research influence), industry income (knowledge transfer), and international outlook (staff, students and research). It is important to observe that

UG rankings have consistently improved across all the major ranking organisations, and I acknowledge the hard work of all who have contributed to our rise in the rankings.

Development of Guidelines for Promotion of Academic Senior Members

The Basic Laws of the University required the University Appointments Board to develop guidelines for the promotion of all categories of staff. In line with the requirement, Management appointed a Committee of Experts to propose appropriate guidelines for consideration by the University Appointments Board, Academic Board and University Council. Council has approved the implementation of the guidelines for promotion of academic senior members, and Management is putting in place measures to ensure the implementation of the guidelines.

New Structure of PhD Programmes

A new structure for PhD programmes in the university came into effect from the 2013/2014 academic year. The key additions to the programme are compulsory course work, a year of practical research training on a project, and a formal defense of research proposals. The idea is to give UG PhD programmes a clearer structure while making them internationally competitive. The number of PhD programmes has risen sharply and so has the number of PhD students.

Publication of Readers

As part of the efforts to enhance the quality of teaching at the University of Ghana, and to aid accessibility to published historical material, management supported the development of “Readers” or collections of related essays on a discipline or sub-discipline. The exercise which was to mark the University of Ghana's 65th Anniversary, has so far resulted in 44 Readers being published, with another 12 in the pipeline. The project has been the most significant initiative at book publication in any African university so far. The books should provide very useful reading material for our students and other African students.

Procurement of Science Equipment

In 2011, management developed a programme for the acquisition of modern equipment for the various units of the University undertaking scientific research. Under this programme, a GC Mass Spectrophotometer was acquired, and a nitrogen plant was installed at Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research for the use of scientists in the University. XRD equipment was installed at the Departments of Physics and Chemistry, and NMR equipment installed at the

Department of Chemistry. Additional equipment for general purpose use in the sciences was also procured. In 2015 a new programme for the acquisition of additional science equipment with a focus on Engineering and Health Sciences was initiated. The total outlay for the purchase of science equipment so far is estimated at \$7.5 million.

ICT Based Distance Education Project (Chinese Phase 2 Project)

Ladies and Gentlemen, in April 2010, a contract was signed between the University of Ghana and Unisplendour Software Company for the implementation of an ICT Based Distance Education Project. All the deliverables of the project have been completed and equipment and facilities acquired as part of the project are currently in use.

As part of the project, an Integrated Digital Mobile Learning Platform has been deployed for Distance Education students, providing a convenient and secure environment for learning and real-time interaction between faculty of the School of Continuing and Distance Education and their students. Further to this initiative, the Sakai eLearning Software for Collaboration and Learning has also been deployed on UG servers for module creation by faculty and staff. This is currently being used by faculty as a major tool for providing eLearning to students on the Distance Education programme.

Also under the project, Regional Learning Centers have been refurbished and fitted with computer laboratories, video conference rooms, and smart classrooms. Additionally, under the project, machinery for a new printing press has been delivered for installation.

Improvements in ICT Infrastructure

A fiber network has been deployed on the main Legon Campus as well as the City and Korle-bu campuses, to extend internet connectivity to academic buildings and student residential halls. A major Wi-Fi deployment has been completed on the main campus so that faculty and staff have access to network resources anywhere on campus.

The Livestock and Poultry Research Centre (LIPREC) in Nungua, Soil and Irrigation Research Centre (SIREC) in Kpong, and the Forest and Horticultural Crops Research Centre (FOHCREC) in Kade, have all been connected by fiber to the main campus.

Other work done in the field of ICT infrastructure includes:

- An upgrade of the University of Ghana Data Centre and the deployment of a Private Cloud Infrastructure with data storage of 120Terrabytes and 240 MW standby power from two generators
- The increase of bandwidth from 2 STMs (300Megs) to 5 STMs (750Mbps)
- The establishment of a secondary Disaster Recovery (DR) Data Centre with backup storage of 120Terrabytes and a capability for real time data replication between primary and backup data centres.
- The deployment of a foundation infrastructure for a High Performance Computing Cluster to provide the needed computer resources to support research simulations and processing of complex algorithms.

A Computerized Integrated Hospital Information System was implemented on the back of a revamped, robust network infrastructure. Also, we have begun the move towards the use of tablets for Board and Committee business, to reduce the University's paper consumption and improve its carbon footprints credentials. Discussions are underway with a service provider to reach agreement for special discount pricing to support University-wide rollout of the initiative.

Major Physical/Infrastructure Developments

A number of major physical development projects were either initiated or restarted during my tenure and are in different stages of completion. These include:

- Redesigning and naming of major intersections
- Completion of Crèche
- Construction of Small Animal Teaching Hospital
- Asphaltic overlay of selected roads and construction of pedestrian walkways
- Construction of offices and laboratories for School of Pharmacy
- Extension to Department of Earth Science
- Refurbishment of Cafeteria at the Korle- Bu campus
- Renovation of Staff Bungalows
- Construction of Ph.D Building
- Construction of Climate Change and Sustainable Development Building

- Construction of Graduate Block for Business School
- Construction of Banking Square
- Construction of major entrance gates with access control
- Extension to Nutrition and Food Science Department
- Restoration of University's main entrance
- Construction of Staff Canteen at Registry
- Renovation of Students' Hostels at Korle Bu campus
- Construction of Office Extension to PDMSD
- Construction of New Comfort Zone
- Construction of 8 New Units for Staff Village
- Extensions to UG Hospital
- Construction of new Auditorium for Economics Department by Bank of Ghana
- Completion of GCB Complex
- Completion of ISSER Conference Centre

Rehabilitation and Decongestion of Halls of Residence

The process of decongesting halls of residence started in the 2011/2012 academic year, with major rehabilitation work done in the halls of residence. This included the refurbishment of Dining Halls and the acquisition of generators for halls of residence. Additionally, security in the halls of residence was stepped up, and students were issued with new ID Cards with security features to reduce the number of unauthorized persons entering student facilities for unlawful purposes.

Students testify that they are now more comfortable and feel more secure, and that their rooms and the halls of residence in general are now more conducive and enable them to enjoy the right frame of mind for academic work.

PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED AND RELEVANT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Ladies and gentlemen, the Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) was established in 2010 to promote and manage research in the University and also help raise the profile of research, as part of the effort to transform UG into a world-class research-led institution. In 2011, the first substantive Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development was appointed to help in re-shaping and enhancing the research profile of the University.

Since the establishment of ORID, remarkable gains have been made in terms of research at the University, key among them being the enhancement of the UG Grants portfolio, which is funded entirely from Internally Generated Funds (IGF); policies that govern the conduct of research have been developed and approved; the establishment of a technology transfer office which is shaping the manner in which the University engages with industry, capacity building initiatives for faculty, staff and students, research uptake and dissemination of research to make research by UG faculty more visible to the public. Also, with the appointment of Research Development Officers, ORID is now able to capture more data on proposals being submitted from the various units of the University as well as provide grants management services to faculty members.

In making a case for transforming Legon into a Research University, the University has developed four centres of excellence with a focus on four distinct thematic areas:

- Malaria Research
- Enhancing Food Production and Food Processing
- Trans-Disciplinary Research into Climate Change Adaptation
- Development Policy and Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation

Working Groups for research in the four thematic areas have been set up and provide a multidisciplinary research platform to foster collaboration among researchers from various Colleges, Schools and Institutes of the University, as well as other institutions, so as to move forward the growth and development agenda of Ghana and the wider world. In the 2014/2015 academic year, each of the four Centres of Excellence was given one million Ghana cedis as seed money for its research/operations. Since then, a number of them have been able to mobilize additional funding for research work.

Other structures and policies put in place to enhance research include:

- i. Incentives for productive staff including paid visits to established research centres in the developed world, travel and accommodation funds to attend conferences and present papers etc.
- ii. Continuous capacity enhancement and mentoring programmes
- iii. Research environment and infrastructural enhancement
- iv. Creation of congenial environment for intellectual freedom

- v. Monitoring and evaluation of research practice
- vi. Work experience, community service and industrial involvement
- vii. Increase in proportion of graduate students

Applications for support for faculty research from internally generated funds are accepted in 3 grant categories with ceilings of GH¢7500 for seed grants, GH¢40,000 for Investigator-led grants, and GH¢120,000 for Large Multi-disciplinary grants.

From 2008 to date, a total of 182 grants have been awarded from Internally Generated Funds, with a total amount of GHS 5,098,254.00 all. Out of this number, 95 have been successfully completed.

External Research funding in the University in the 2014/2015 academic year came up to a total of GH¢52,524,883.11, and in the 2015/2016 academic year, we have so far recorded research funding of GH¢11,062,698.30.

ORID is involved in the administration of various capacity building initiatives, such as the Intra-ACP projects, TDR International Postgraduate Training Scheme (2015 – 2019), Cambridge-Africa Partnership for Research Excellence (CAPREx) and, Building Stronger Universities in Developing Countries (BSU) Initiative (Phase 1 & 2).

The University of Ghana was selected by the World Bank to receive a total of USD 16 million to enable it to establish the West Africa Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) and also to Develop the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) into an African Centre of Excellence for training plant breeders, seed scientists and seed technologists. WACCBIP will provide Masters, PhD and Post-doctoral level training, and conduct research focused on cell and molecular biology of common diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis while WACCI is to be developed as a sustainable Centre of Excellence to train more plant breeders who will develop superior climate-smart and resilient varieties of staple crops of the West African sub-region as a means of increasing productivity. The two projects are expected to be implemented over a three year period.

OVERHAUL OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

A significant recommendation of the Visitation Panel which reviewed the work of the University in 2006 and 2007 was for the University to reconsider its governance arrangements with a view to enhancing effectiveness and efficiency. Taking a cue from this, a number of initiatives have been undertaken.

The Collegiate System

Following the acceptance of the report of the Governance Review Committee, which suggested that the University of Ghana should take a definite decision on whether to adopt the collegiate system, the Executive Committee in April 2011 appointed consultants to study in detail the collegiate system and other systems of university governance and advise on the model best suited to the needs of the University of Ghana. After extensive consultations, the University Council approved the adoption of a decentralized system of administration under four colleges, Health Sciences; Humanities, Education and Basic and Applied Sciences; starting from the 2014/2015 academic year. The Colleges are each headed by a Provost, with Departments grouped into Schools, each headed by a Dean.

The collegiate system is intended to decentralize the academic and management functions of the university, and to make the process of decision making shorter and more structured. The leadership of the various colleges have been given adequate leeway to facilitate decision making at the college-level, and to boost financial autonomy. In terms of administrative structures, many of the functions previously carried out at the centre are now being done at the College or School level. All of these are with the aim of ensuring less complexity in decision-making processes, and providing prompt and efficient service to all our stakeholders.

The four Colleges are each doing very well, and a thorough review of the system will be conducted at the end of three years.

BETTER MANAGEMENT OF UNIVERSITY ASSETS AND FACILITIES

Ladies and gentlemen, the approach to enhancing the management of the University's assets and facilities has involved the reorganization of the Physical Development and Municipal Services Directorate to provide for additional qualified professionals to take responsibility for the management of the



Members of Convocation in a group photograph with Members of Council, together with Rt. Hon. Edward Doe Adjah, Speaker of Parliament of Ghana, the Guest Speakers and Valedictorian in a group picture.



**Prof. Samuel Agyei-Mensah,
Provost, College of Humanities**



**Mrs. Mavis Otoo-Ayeh,
College Secretary, College of Humanities**



Professor John Hyde, Member, University Council, delivering the Opening Address



**Professor Samuel Kwame Offei, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
reading the Vice Chancellors address**



Ms. Maidie Arkutu delivering the Guest Speaker's Address



Mr. Michael Siaw Larbi, delivering the Valedictory Address



Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries



Graduands seated at the Congregation ceremony



Some parents, guardians and invited guests at the ceremony

University's assets and facilities. This has seen significant improvement in their management, with more timely interventions in the maintenance of facilities. The re-organisation of PDMSD is still on-going.

Master Plan, Africa Integras and Legon City Project

Major initiatives undertaken in the last 6 years include the development of a master plan for the University, and the commencement of the Africa Integras and Legon City projects. The University of Ghana has struggled to hold on to lands that have been assigned to it for present and future use. The University's assets are threatened by rapid urbanization and the related rapidly growing demand for land in Accra. In the effort to ensure that the University derives as much benefit as possible from the land available to it, both for current and future purposes, the University is updating its master plan. This is intended to guide land use with a view to enhancing efficiency in the use of University of Ghana lands.

The Africa Integras project involves the construction of buildings for each of the 4 colleges, the Institute of Applied Science and Technology and residential facilities for students. When completed, the Africa Integras project would increase available floor space for academic work by 60% and effectively satisfy the University's space requirements for the next twenty years.

As part of the plans for Legon's future development, it is proposed to develop a modern mixed-use development on 100 acres of University land, in the Okponglo-Bawaleshie-Trinity Theological Seminary enclave to be known as "Legon City".

University of Ghana Medical Centre

In June 2011, Cabinet gave approval for a loan facility from Israel for the design, construction, and installation of medical equipment for a 617-bed Teaching Hospital facility for the University of Ghana, at a total cost of USD217,000,000. Construction commenced in April 2013 and is expected to reach practical completion by the end of July 2016. As a turnkey project, the contractor is required to hand over a state-of-the-art hospital equipped for training of health professionals, research and service delivery at a quaternary level.

The project is being undertaken in 3 phases. In Phase 1, facilities for Surgery, Radiology, Internal Medicine, Pharmacy, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Anaesthesia, Medical Education, Accidents and Emergency Services, Laboratory Services, Mortuary, and Pain Management have been provided.

ENHANCE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES AT UNIT AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION LEVELS

University Management worked closely with the Alumni Council to organize fund-raising events for projects initiated by the Council. Management also worked closely with the Students Financial Aid Office to raise funds for providing assistance to needy but brilliant students. The fund has grown steadily over the years, as has the number of individuals and corporate bodies contributing to the Academic Prizes Fund.

The University Council has approved the creation of an Office for Institutional Advancement for the University, and efforts have started for the recruitment of a Director and other staff for the unit.

MAINSTREAM AND ENFORCE STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

University of Ghana Strategic Plan

- The University has a new strategic plan for the period 2014 to 2024, which is to provide strategic direction to the University.

With a focus on nine strategic priorities:

- Research,
- Teaching & Learning
- Internal Stakeholders
- Gender & Diversity
- Institutional Processes
- Financial Performance
- Asset Management
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- External Stakeholders;

and guided by the core values of Integrity, Commitment, Respect and Loyalty; the stage is set for the University of Ghana to take its rightful place as one of the best institutions of higher learning on the African continent, and to work toward becoming a world class- research intensive University.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I must say that I have had a very fulfilling tenure as Vice-

Chancellor, and I leave it to you and to posterity to measure and assess my performance.

To the Chancellor, the Chairman and members of the University Council, management, officers of the University, staff, successive student leaders and other stakeholders of this University, I owe a debt of gratitude to you for your support and commitment. As a University, we would not have been able to make the strides we have over the past six years without your commitment and support.

As Professor Ebenezer Oduro-Owusu takes office as Vice-Chancellor in a few days, I expect that you will all rally round him and offer the needed support to take the University of Ghana to the next level. Professor Oduro-Owusu, I wish you well as you take up the mantle.

Well Wishes to Graduands

Now to our graduating students:

This is really your day, because you have worked hard, and you deserve every bit of the honour on this occasion. You are at the threshold of the next phase of your lives, which presents so many opportunities, yet so many challenges. Today's world offers young graduates so many potential positive outcomes, it also presents many pitfalls along the way. I urge you to take every situation as a learning opportunity; and exercise temperance in all your endeavours. Work hard, dream big, plan ahead and 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 there are limitless opportunities out there. Go out, be innovative, and conquer the world.

I wish you all the very best.

Thank you all and God bless you.

GUEST SPEAKER'S ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MAIDIE ARKUTU

Chairman of the University Council,
Vice Chancellor,
Pro-Vice Chancellors,
Members of the University Council,
Members of the Convocation,
Graduating Students,
Parents and Guardians,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the kind introduction. And, thank you also for the invitation to participate in this occasion. I am truly honored. There is so much excitement here today; it is almost palpable.

To the graduating students, congratulations to all of you. Ayekoo. This is a major milestone in your life's journey and a significant stepping stone upon which you will launch your various careers.

On the subject of careers, which I am sure many of you are eager to launch into as the next big step in the journey of life, I wish to share with you what I have simply entitled, The 10 things I wish I had known before starting my career.

1. Learning continues after school ends- it gives you a competitive edge
2. Building a career is no longer a straight line path-it has its ups and downs and turns
3. Only performance matters- not your grades in school
4. The right experience is more important than money-in the early years
5. The race is not for the swift-working is a marathon
6. Know your strengths and improve on them - you can perform only from strength
7. Small actions can have a big impact- be nice
8. Resilience is necessary for long term success- the ability to get up over and over again from failures and disappointments is critical to achieving your full potential
9. Work life balance is important from day one

10. Start saving from day one- it gives you power & more options in life
Ladies and gentlemen, these are the 10 things I wish I had known before starting my career. Knowing these would have made the journey a little easier and frankly, less frustrating and painful at times. Graduating students, I encourage you to keep these lessons close by for easy reference. You can even build on this list by talking to other professionals and noting their career lessons.

I wish you all great success with your future careers, and congratulations again on being part of the 2016 graduating class.

Thank you.

**VALEDICTORY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
MR. MICHAEL SIAW LARBI**

Chairman and Members of the University Council;
Vice-Chancellor; Pro-Vice Chancellors;
Registrar; Provosts of Colleges;
Deans;
Members of College of Humanities Advisory Board;
Distinguished Guest Speaker;
Your Excellencies,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Members of Convocation;
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom;
Parents and Guardians;
Fellow Graduands;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Life's challenges are not to paralyse us; but with the combination of patience, persistence and perspiration, success is inevitable.

Congratulations Class of 2016. We made it! This is the day the Lord has made. This is our time! Class of 2016, today is indeed our day and I must admit that I am greatly honoured and humbled to be Valedictorian on this very special occasion. Thank you very much for this opportunity; I'm extremely grateful. My mission here is not only to bid us farewell but also to share with us some few thoughts and to provide some moments of inspiration. Today, we're graduating; we're officially being ushered into the real world. We're finally at the finish line and it's all over.

Class of 2016, we have definitely been through so much, and today all of that has paid off. At this moment we're extremely grateful to our parents, teachers, lecturers, friends and indeed anyone who in their own way has made our journey from kindergarten some 21 years ago to today a possibility. We say a big thank you to you all. It really feels like just yesterday when we made our grand entrance to this prestigious university, when we had our matriculation ceremony and stepped into our very first university lecture. I remember getting into the A1 lecture hall for my very first university lecture and then it dawned on me that this was a completely

different ball game.

I had heard right from Senior High School that we could breeze our way through UGBS. All we had to do was pass our WASSCE and get here; but we'll all admit that when we saw our very first exam results, we immediately learnt that UGBS was no joke; the University was not Senior High School and we had to adjust quickly. It feels like just yesterday when we made the special friends who are today graduating with us.

My fellow classmates it has actually been 1,405 days or to be more specific 2,023,200 minutes since all of that, and all we can feel now is gratitude. And that brings us to a very important principle in life – Gratitude. Whatever your definition of success is, let's admit it...we all want more. Frank Clark once said, "If a fellow isn't thankful for what he's got, he isn't likely to be thankful for what he's going to get". That desire for more can blind us to what we already have, and should be grateful for. We need to be extremely grateful for having received a world-class education. Because think about this...right now there is this young, promising gentleman who has passed his WASSCE exam with excellent grades but cannot proceed to the university because there is no one to finance his university education. Right now there is this young lady who will not be able to have a university education like we have, because despite having excelled at senior high school against all odds, she has been made someone's wife against her will. But here we are with this opportunity. Let us appreciate it.

Oprah Winfrey was quoted as saying, "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." We have now been equipped with a very powerful tool, a priceless tool, and we're ready to change the world. Yes we can! Ahead of us is our bright future; the not so distant future where we're definitely going to shake this world and rewrite history. And that brings us to our second principle – Never, ever give up. Ahead of us lies the real world; the real world that we've been told is unfair, tough, difficult, impossible and just hard. But guess what my fellow history makers. We're not going to allow any of that to stop us. We're not just going to survive. We're going to thrive and excel. Ahead of us we have many years of wonderful careers; careers that will touch millions of lives across the entire planet, and make this world a much better place than we met it. Ahead of us we have families to raise and entire generations to inspire. Ladies and gentlemen, let us at this moment put our GPAs and classes aside for we are infinitely more powerful than just these numbers and letters. We have

been made in the image of God and the entire universe has been waiting for our arrival. Now is the time, my fellow classmates. We're ready! No matter what anyone thinks of this generation, no matter how tough the global economy is, no matter what challenges lie ahead of us, we're ready to take our place in the grand scheme of things. Ahead of us is immense possibility. Ahead of us is life in all its fullness.

Let's live it! My fellow world changers, a time will come when we'll forget what we learnt at the university. A time will come when we'll forget that to find the required rate of return using the Capital Asset Pricing Model, $R = R_f + \beta(R_m - R_f)$. We'll forget the famous *Carlill vs. Carbolic Smoke Ball* and *Salomon vs. Salomon* law cases and might as well forget about *modus ponens* and *modus tones*. Albert Einstein once said "Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learnt in school." One thing we will not forget for sure is our teamwork skills. We will not forget our people skills, our presentation skills. We will not forget our ability to lift others up during times when they're down. We will not forget that in the end we're all one people, with a common heritage, a common bond and an ultimate desire to make the world a much better place than we met it. These are things we learnt whilst at university but these things did not have course codes and exam requirements. And we will definitely not forget that this is an election year. Ghana is all we have and we have to place the peace of Ghana above all personal and partisan interests. When we're voting this year let's vote Ghana. As youth, we have the potential to either cause instability or ensure peace. By the power we have as youth, let's choose peace.

At this point, Class of 2016, the world is waiting for us and we have a message for them, but before that...Mr Chairman, I would like to make a humble appeal to my fellow graduands: graduands please let us be upstanding and give a resounding round of applause to all parents and guardians present here for everything they have done for us all these years. We're grateful. Thank you. And now World...we're coming. We're history makers. We're world changers and dream chasers. We're self-employed entrepreneurs with bigger dreams. We do not take "no" for an answer and no matter what challenges you throw at us, we will overcome. Class of 2016; let's go show them what we're made of. And world, just in case you don't know who we are, we're that generation who'll find what we're looking for on Google, follow our dreams on Twitter, accept destiny on Facebook and picture our future on Instagram. Class of 2016, hash tag we can; and we will.

God Bless the University of Ghana Business School; God Bless the University of Ghana; God Bless our motherland Ghana; and God Bless us all. Thank you very much

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
(REPRESENTED BY PROFESSOR JOHN MEYER HYDE,
MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA)**

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

As we end this ceremony, I would like to salute all who have worked hard to ensure a successful event, especially all those who played various roles in the planning and organisation of this event. Over the past seven years that I the Chairman of Council and I have been on Council, we have seen innovations that have gone a long way to improve the students' experience. This is commendable.

Our new graduates have also worked hard over the periods that they have been students at this University and they deserve all the laurels that they have acquired. You, our new graduates, have been part of the changes that have taken place at the University of Ghana over the past few years; we look forward to receiving some of you back soon, for further studies in our graduate programmes and participation in the university's drive to become a research-intensive University.

I congratulate you on your achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of your *alma mater*. I wish you success in your future endeavours.

Our thanks also go to all teachers, the management team and the managers of the various units, who have worked together to ensure that your stay in the University has been fruitful. The University appreciates the effort that everyone has put into this enterprise.

We are also happy that so many parents, guardians, family members and friends of

the graduates were able to join in this celebration.

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

As we all know, this is the final congregation ceremony to be attended by Professor Ernest Aryeetey, as Vice-Chancellor. On behalf of the University Council, I take this opportunity to thank Professor Aryeetey for successfully steering the University for the past six years. I know that it has not been an easy task, and I am sure all gathered here today join me to salute you for performing so well and leading the University to achieve so much. We wish you well in your future endeavours, and trust that you will continue to champion the cause of the University.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is now my privilege and duty to declare today's congregation officially dissolved.

Thank you.

