

VALEDICTORY SPEECH

2136 days of wondering, wondering if we would make it to this day as the graduating class of 2015. Fellow graduates, join me in welcoming our esteemed guests:

Chancellor of the University of Ghana,

Chairman of the University of Ghana Council,

Vice-Chancellor,

Honourable Minister of Education,

Honourable Ministers of State,

Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences,

Chairman of the Veterinary Council of Ghana,

Your Excellencies and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Members of Convocation,

Parents and Guardians,

Alumni,

Fellow graduates,

Invited Guests,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am greatly privileged to deliver the valedictory speech on behalf of my fellow graduates. This is a moment replete with mixed feelings because we are torn between the joy of our memories and the excitement of our future.

First, we give thanks to the Almighty God. He deserves the praise for all the bliss we see and the joy we have today. A song of gratitude we sing for our parents and guardians; Ladies and gentlemen, I believe you will all agree with me on the irreplaceable role our parents play in our lives; they serve as a conduit for the care, love, training and support that God has wielded in life for us.

I will like to say congratulations to my fellow graduates for their hard work. Our hard work has indeed paid off. We entered the confines of our cherished University as an unwritten book eager to fill the pages; a book that would be written on our own terms. University of Ghana did not only provide us with a place to learn, but a true home. Fellow colleagues, let us give thumbs up to the leadership of this great university for creating a suitable aura for the achievement of the success we see today.

It seems like just yesterday when we had orientation and moved from one place to another searching for our lecture halls. We came onto campus with different backgrounds and different life experiences. We are now leaving this campus as a collective unit to show the world what we are made of- we are the class of 2015. Let us put aside the mixed feelings; for as Mother Teresa said: "be happy in the moment, that's enough." At this moment, we are in absolute bliss.

University of Ghana has instilled in us tolerance, a passion for life and a desire to make our world better than we met it. Our experiences in this highly esteemed university have been a mixed bag, full of good and seemingly bad times. All these I believe, have contributed to the characters we now possess.

Today marks a point in the success story of our lives. A success story that seeks to better our world. If we take a look around us, what do we see? We see a society in immense need of solutions and progress. Our society needs us; and that is what this university has prepared us for. We are not better unless our country is made better; we will only be remembered for the change we bring into our society. So let our hearts burn with new ideas as we continually add value to our personalities and to our society; we want change and I believe we are the change for today and tomorrow.

Ladies and gentlemen, today marks the culmination of the many events that we have gone through as students. Graduating today as a Veterinary Doctor reminds me of the times my colleagues and I had to wake up around 4 a.m. so as to make trips to the abattoir, the sleepless nights spent inside the laboratory; not forgetting the day we were chased in a pen at Amrahia Farms by an enraged bull after it had been restrained and treated. I wish you were there to see how we took to our heels in different directions. These experiences amongst many spur me on to want to do something to advance veterinary knowledge in our country and beyond. I am certain that my colleagues in other disciplines have similar stories to tell and similar aspirations in their fields.

Fellow graduates, let us continue to uphold the excellence, good character and diligence that we all stand for; with this I believe we can stand tall and compete anywhere in this world. For knowledge alone is inadequate; knowledge only finds its best place in managing and building the society if it is nurtured with good character and goodwill.

Long Live University of Ghana! Long Live Ghana! God bless us all!

THANK YOU!