

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. DENNIS DANSO KUMI, VALEDICTORIAN AT THE
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES CONGREGATION HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 25,
2015 IN THE GREAT HALL AT 9:00AM**

Chairman and Members of University Council
Vice -Chancellor,
Pro -Vice -Chancellors
Provost, college of health sciences,
Registrar,
College Secretary
Deans and Directors,
Honourable Ministers of State,
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Senior Members
Nii Mei, Naa Mei, Nananom
Staff and Students,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

My job here is not only to bid us farewell but also give us some boost and upliftment. We are gathered here as colleagues graduating from the School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing, School of Biomedical and Allied Health sciences, School of Medicine and Dentistry and the School of Post graduate studies . Before I speak further I will say ayekoo to us all for the great job done in reaching this far.

I am tempted to speak endlessly. I know long speeches may sometimes not be so helpful because we remember nothing at the end thus I will say only 7 things to you this morning. **COMPRISING 6 LESSONS AND A GREAT COMMISION**

Let us pause to thank the people on whose labours we have reached this high. Firstly I thank the University for giving me such an honourable responsibility. The anxiety of standing up here has actually made me lose weight in one week. To all heads of departments we say good job done. We also say a big thank you to all our teachers and the support staff who made our life on campus worthwhile. Fondly I mention some of my teachers for their indelible remarks and wonderful personalities. Notably Mr. Gyepi - Atee consultant Urologist at KBTH and lecturer of the medical school for his "sowaa" comments whenever you make a sky rocketing error. He taught us so patiently as though we were in kindergarten. It is notable to mention professor Sackeyfio of school of pharmacy, professor Adanu of the school of public health and Dr.ziator of school of

nursing for their great impact in shaping our lives. We salute our parents for bringing us this far.

Dear colleagues, indeed we have made it. It has been a long and arduous journey full of the best memories and ones we want to forget. Looking back, we were greatly privileged to be part of the U.G family. Concerning our college, I doubt if any institution anywhere in the world could be studded with such scholarly and dedicated faculty. On this note I will share an experience I had on medical exchange which will be the prelude to the first lesson. **"THIS IS A STORY ABOUT MY MEETING PROF ADANU IN NEW YORK".DISCIPLINE AND INTEGRITY (LESSON 1)** are a pair of virtues we can't do without if we want to advance in this competitive world. Without them, our great skills and intellect may surmount to nothing. Regardless of our great ideas and abilities, people may write us off. We must have discipline and integrity and these will make us credible and then we will be taken seriously.

We greatly appreciate the learning experience in the college of health sciences. We appreciated the fact that **SOUND THEORY CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM PRACTICAL WORK (LESSON 2)**.The famous Chinese proverb says "when I hear I forget, when I see I remember and when I do I understand". The two are just different sides of the same coin and are complimentary to each other and we must demonstrate a good measure of both as we move out there. Sir William Osler says "practicing medicine without the books is like roaming an uncharted sea" and by extension any practice without application of sound knowledge is fraught with endless errors and twists.

Some great memories are boldly etched in my heart. After one week in Anatomy class I began to doubt if I could really pursue my course. I had learnt almost 300 new weird words already and was promised 10,000 more. The notes in a week looked as lofty as my entire level hundred notes. In the fourth year, I started to feel in control and felt so assertive that I did so many things, not all successful though but had great life lessons drawn from them. I even became a football administrator at a point in the MEDLIGA TOURNAMENT.I remember teams like Corticosteroids ,Adrenaline and Priapism and names of some MVPs like C.Ro Jeffrey Amisah and Messi Vincent Nachinab and so on. At a point I sacked myself when I admitted a goal under pressure from fans without seeing the ball entering the post. One lesson learnt here was that **YOU CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WORK HARD TO BE** but **DON'T PRETEND TO BE WHAT YOU ARE NOT (LESSON 3)**. You simply can't give to the world what you don't have.

We are graduating today having completed various programmes. I believe one thing that we learnt collectively was how to **ACHIEVE SELF ACTUALISATION (LESSON**

4).we now have the tools to become who we want to be and how high we wish to rise. We therefore can no longer blame our parents for our lack of achievements because they probably forced us to pursue a course we didn't want. We would do society a great disservice if we are not able to harness our potential for the good of mankind. We have no reasons to make excuses.

Colleagues, the vision of taking a leap into the bleak vast arena of life is more looming now than ever. This is a place where players may be more brutal and the field wider but without our usual protection which hitherto was the four walls of our schools. Our armor will be our Head which is knowledge, our Hands which are skills and our Heart which is virtues thus we should keep in mind the **THREE H THEORY. (LESSON 5)**. Let us not forget to apply the three H tools in all our endeavors by continuous demonstration of sound knowledge and skills and remember that great virtues are priceless.

Finally, **THE PRINCIPLE OF RIGHT BELIEVING (LESSON 6)** to me has been a great ally. Believe in your own inner abilities both innate talents and learnt skill, I believed in God and had a cool head in the mist of uncertainties and believe in the reward of hard work.

In these last days, let us ponder over the positive experiences and take cues from our falls in our school days. If you thought you acquired nothing from school at least you made a friend. Friends we will need in the years ahead.

A crowd of witnesses are watching us now and they must be proud. Ghana bears witness and yearns that her ideals will be upheld by us. Let us make it a point that the world we are going into should be the most exciting, fulfilling and stunning moment in human history. As Sir William Osler again said, "We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from life". I am sure by the end of my speech about 50 new websites will be added to the www and as Edward Makhene will put it, the disease of today may prove to be the artifact of tomorrow. In about 20 years from now more than half of what we learnt in school will be false. The internet has made the world closer to our backyard now. we can always upgrade ourselves through information. There is no more a geographical limit. We are now our only barrier. Let us ride on comrades and **HEAL THE WORLD (the great commission). HEAL THE WORLD BROTHER, HEAL THE WORLD MY SISTER.GOD BLESS THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, GOD BLESS GHANA.**