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Friday Afternoon  
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## **VALEDICTORY SPEECH by AMA KISSIWAA AMPADU-KISSI**

Chairman and Members of the University Council,

Vice Chancellor,

Pro-Vice Chancellors,

Registrar,

Distinguished Guest Speaker,

Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board of the College of  
Humanities,

Members of Convocation,

Staff and Students,

Alumni,

Special Invited Guests,

Fellow Graduates,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen...

Like the great mathematician that I aspire to be, I will like to begin with an interesting quotation I chanced upon by Amani, and I quote,

*“Life is like a math equation, it can be hard, but you’re always happy once you reach the end.”*

We are here today as the graduating class of 2015. The long awaited day has finally come. Most of us would have spent our 4 years at the university hoping and praying fervently for this day to come; and I'm sure like me, our prayers got rather intense whenever those ahead of us were graduating. Well, thank God we can say that we are finally here.

I cannot proceed without acknowledging the Almighty God for how far he has brought us. We're indeed most grateful to the university for the offer of admission and also for providing the right environment for us to study. To our lecturers and teaching assistants, our parents and guardians, our families and friends, and every other person who helped us climb this ladder, we are most grateful.

Looking back, it does feel like it was just yesterday when most of us had our first real sense of freedom from mum and dad, or our guardians, our first set of roommates, the first lecture that made us wonder if survival was possible, the first UGRC that got us wondering why on earth we had even take the course and the first I.A.s which made us ask ourselves if the questions were set from space or from what we had been taught.

There were so many first days, some delightful and others, quite heart breaking and yet, we all pulled through and can now recall our last days in Legon, especially our last exam papers. Sadly, we lost some of our colleagues; MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE.

Most of us also have our individual stories about our trips to the registry to get issues resolved and how long it sometimes took to get our UGRC results appearing on the MIS Web.

In the midst of all of that, one thing that is common to us all as graduates today is that WE ALL MADE IT! The culmination of our years here today is a joyful moment which we are happy to share with our loved ones, who perhaps have looked forward to this day more than we ever did.

In spite of our excitement at graduating, I'm certain that every one of us has something they are going to miss here on campus. Something I will personally miss is participating in the annual "MINIMPINIM" organized by our male colleagues from the Vandal City; it was indeed such a good way to take a break off the books. It was also such a delight seeing how the Sarbah field seemed to get extra packed at nights whenever exams was approaching.

Fellow graduates, this day marks the end of a very significant phase in our lives, and yet, the beginning of a more important phase. I have come to learn here in the University of Ghana that time is the most expensive resource to come by. There were times when I virtually pleaded with God to either add an extra day to my week, or extend my day by a couple of hours. Unfortunately, time turns out to be the least valued and the most underutilized asset. I entreat each of us to make good use of every second of our time, so that we never have to ask ourselves "How

did it get so late so soon?" but rather, "How is it that I've been able to do so much in such a short time?"

After graduation, some of us may dread having to pick up a book to study again and may never wish to pursue further education. But whichever path we choose, whether we have to return to the classroom or not, the learning process is just about beginning. What is obvious is that, we are going to have more responsibilities and every one of them is going to be like a classroom experience where we pick newer lessons and take tests daily. The world awaits us with lots of opportunities amidst the threats; joys and sorrows, successes and failures, and much more.

In conclusion, I wish to end with portions of **Max Ehrmann's poem, Desiderata**, and I quote,

*"If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain  
and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser  
persons than yourself.*

*Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep  
interested in your own career, however humble; it is real  
possession in the changing fortunes of time.”*

End of quote.

Fellow graduates, let us go out there and show the world what  
University of Ghana has taught us and who we have become as a result  
of that!

LONG LIVE GHANA! LONG LIVE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA!

LONG LIVE THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015! THANK YOU!