

Valedictory Speech by Ms. Wendy Amoako Kwakye

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 Guest,

Fellow Graduates,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen...

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praises shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalms 34:1).

It is with great joy that I stand here today to deliver this speech. Today marks the culmination of a journey we started four years ago and we all can now proudly say that we made it; **TO GOD BE THE GLORY**. I remember the day I received a text message informing me that I had gained admission into the country's premier university to study for my undergraduate degree. I just could not hide my excitement. I screamed so loud that my grandmother ran out of her room to find out what was wrong with me. After two years of being denied admission, finally I had been offered admission! However, my joy was short lived when I read further and found out the

courses I had been offered: Linguistics, Sociology and Adult Education. I had always fantasized about going to the University of Ghana Business School. As if that was not enough, the programme was to be run at the Accra City Campus. I had heard unsettling rumors that the Accra City Campus was the option given to the not-so-good applicants who could not be admitted to the Legon Campus. I resented the implication that the admissions board categorized me as a not-so-good applicant. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth.

My fellow graduates will attest to the fact that studying at Accra City Campus was quite strenuous. The absence of accommodation facilities was a major challenge as most of us lived far away from the campus. Commuting to lectures was very hectic. We usually had to set off about an hour or two before lectures so we can get there on time. It got more frustrating during examination week as most of us had to stay on the city campus overnight especially when we had a 7:30am paper the next morning, in order to avoid the risk of setting off at dawn. During such times, we only had but tables and chairs on which to stretch our tired limbs. Despite these challenges, we put in our maximum effort and today we have graduated from our programmes of study.

Our experience at the Accra City Campus was not always negative. During our period of study, we saw a tremendous improvement in infrastructural development which enhanced teaching and learning. Due to our comparatively small class sizes, lectures were always interactive. The lecturers were so familiar with us that they could identify any student who was absent. Their constant ‘why were you not in class last week’ kept most of us on our toes. And there was always Bro Kojo’s fried yam and *khebab* available to satisfy our afternoon hunger, our point of call after a hard day’s work.

Looking back, all I can say to the admissions board is thank you for giving me the opportunity to read the courses you assigned to me. Today I can confidently say that I have been prepared for the future. For me, studying Linguistics and Sociology has afforded me the opportunity to identify what I can best do and that which will bring me much fulfillment. I believe we all have been enlightened and our future has been brought closer than we ever thought was possible. We will no longer ignorantly say, “what will I do with a degree in History, Music, Classics, Theatre Arts, Linguistics” and all the other Arts and Social Science subjects whose importance we often either misunderstood or underestimated. May I also add that the Accra City Campus is not the place for the not-so-good applicants after all. If it were so I would not have been here.

I would on behalf of my fellow graduates, thank our lecturers who served as mentors and role models in helping us appreciate the relevance of our individual subjects of study. Indeed they taught us that there are opportunities where ever we find ourselves. I will never forget the advice Dr. Saanchi of the Department of Linguistics gave us during our first meeting in level 200 Morphology class, and I quote, “undergraduate studies is just a foundation, lay it well so your building can stand strong”.

Our appreciation also goes out to our parents and guardians for their immense support and encouragement. We could not have come this far without their help. We know that today they stand proud, rejoicing with us as we celebrate this victory. We cannot forget to thank the university management for opening the doors of this institution to us. To you all we say may the good Lord bless you.

Now to my fellow graduates, let me say congratulations to all of us. We all have fought a good fight and must be proud of ourselves. But this is just the beginning of another journey. The

knowledge we have acquired would not be effectively harnessed if we do not use it to effect any change in society. The world is anxiously waiting to see what we have to offer. We have everything at our disposal and there is so much we can do if only we set our minds to it. May we not put to waste the vigorous academic exercises to which we have been subjected. Amidst all of our celebrations, let us not forget that there are equally successful graduates out there and the competition gets tougher every day. Whether we will make it or not depends on how well equipped we are and our ability to identify opportunities. As we move out of this auditorium, let us remember today with fondness and look forward to the future as we strive for excellence in our endeavors.

Long live the Class of 2015!

Long live the University of Ghana!

Long live our country Ghana!

Thank you.