

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II, ASANTEHENE AT THE 55TH CONGREGATION CEREMONY (VIRTUAL) OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 15:30 HOURS

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of the Governing Council of the University
Vice-Chancellor
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Registrar
Immediate and Past Vice-Chancellors
Immediate and Past Pro Vice-Chancellors
Provosts
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Members of Convocation
Senior and Junior Staff of the University
Graduating Class of 2021
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen joining us via online platforms across the globe.

WELCOME

A year has soon gone by, and as is our annual tradition, we have come together once again, to confer various degrees on deserving graduands. I have the singular honour to warmly welcome you to the 55th Congregation of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi.

GRATITUDE TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Let me begin by expressing my profound gratitude to the University community for your hard work as evident in the various research interventions and developmental projects I witnessed during my tour on campus at the launch of the 70th anniversary. I am of the firm conviction that the rebirth of KNUST after 70 years of quality education will make great impact in our motherland and the world at large.

WORD TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

Ladies and Gentlemen, my dear students, Graduation ceremonies are defining moments in the life of every student. It is a day for our graduands to look back and count their blessings for the tireless and sleepless nights of studies they have endured to come this far. I am glad that nothing stopped you from accomplishing this milestone in your life, in spite of all the numerous challenges you faced on the way. My graduands, Ayekoo!

The University has broadened your horizon by equipping you with the requisite knowledge. It has afforded you the opportunity to network and to gain the experience of being able to be independent; and for these, you must be grateful to the University.

At this congregation, 11,073 graduands are leaving KNUST for the field of work. If we consider the fact that the teeming numbers graduating from other Universities in Ghana are all entering

the same job market, then you do not have a choice than to add intrinsic value to yourself, which will make you stand out as individuals.

The truth must be told. Ghana's graduate unemployment challenges are very daunting. Per the statistics, approximately 81,000 graduates in Ghana have been deployed this year into various institutions across the country to undertake their mandatory National Service - which you are a part. A year by now, the majority of you graduating today will be faced with the reality of either being unemployed or having to employ yourselves. The Minister of Finance has already told the nation that the public sector payroll is full. You, therefore, have no choice but to be proactive, innovative, explore new challenges, and create businesses that will in turn create new employment opportunities and boost the country's economy.

It is on this score that I want to emphasise what Peggy Klaus, a renowned leadership and communication expert, said, "*Soft skills get little respect, but they will break or make your career*". Developing soft skills must be a vital component of your life as you prepare for the job market. The totality of your behavior, social attitudes, and personality traits that allow you to effectively communicate and collaborate with others would definitely enhance your job prospects. People with good soft skills have strong emotional intelligence, enabling them to navigate challenging work circumstances while still achieving positive results. I entreat you to develop these skills and qualities to be successful in your endeavours.

In these trying times of the COVID 19 Pandemic, I cannot but agree with Donald Trump the immediate Past President of the US that "*Entrepreneurship is not genetic; it can be learned*". It may require you to collaborate with colleagues from other disciplines to come up with viable opportunities that will be needed by the larger market. I trust and believe in your abilities as proud KNUST graduates who will easily untie the knot of wisdom to succeed in every endeavor.

PROVISION OF INTERNSHIPS AND CAREER GUIDANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Now to the cherished captains of industry, your concerted efforts of providing internship avenues for students to practice what they study and to appreciate what happens in industry before they exit the four walls of this prestigious institution has been invaluable. This has adequately prepared our students to be ready to provide the needed manpower that would ensure industry's continuous survival. Confucius once said, "*Tell me and I will forget, show me and I may remember, involve me and I will understand*" Given this, I humbly appeal to companies, which are yet to come on board to partner with the University to provide internships and career guidance opportunities for our students.

AFTER 70 YEARS, WHAT NEXT?

And now to the Management and Staff of this great University, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. On 27th October 2021, we all successfully launched the seventieth anniversary celebration of the University. The question for all of us is - ***After 70 years, what next?*** Although the successes chalked as a University for the past 70 years are immeasurable and are obvious to all, we are still far from the full realization of our mission of *advancing knowledge in science and technology*.

What has been our contribution individually and collectively towards the attainment of this mission? Is our impact as a research- intensive institution being felt by society? As much as research is a tool for knowledge creation and facilitating learning, it is also a critical means to increase public awareness on issues, to find, gauge, and to seize opportunities to improve our communities and societies.

Looking at the changing national and global trends, we cannot afford to continue doing things the same way. The changing world trend requires that we practicalize our research activities to solve pressing societal problems. Community impact must be the key, going forward.

On the agricultural front, what is our contribution towards ensuring food sufficiency for the nation and for Africa? Are we contributing in solving the galamsey menace?

As an Institution of higher learning, what are we doing toward revolutionalising industry to create jobs and affect lives.

At the teaching front, can we continue to instruct our students in the same way we have done in the past?

The seventy-year period, I believe, has adequately prepared the grounds for the full attainment of the purpose/mission of this institution. What is next is for all of us to put our hands on the plough and forcefully forge towards its realization. I, therefore, charge all of us to begin thinking differently and to assess the real impact of our actions and inactions towards the advancement of this nation and Africa.

BEST WISHES TO GRADUANDS

I cannot conclude without another word to my graduating class of 2021. I wish you all the very best as you go onto the global stage as worthy ambassadors of one of the best universities in Africa.

You are a special group of graduates. You are the 70th Anniversary graduates of the University and we are proud of you. I wish you all the best as you move out of our campus into the world of work. Ayeeekoo!

Thank you and God bless us all.

**OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II, ASANTEHENE
CHANCELLOR, KNUST, KUMASI
26TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA AKOSUA DICKSON,
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY AT THE 55TH CONGREGATION
CEREMONY (VIRTUAL) HELD ON FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2021 AT
15:30 HOURS**

SALUTATION

The Chancellor of the University His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II
Chairman and Members of Council
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
Colleague Vice-Chancellors from Sister Institutions
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors from Sister
Institutions
Registrar
Provosts of Colleges
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Members of Convocation
Senior and Junior Staff of the University
Graduating Class of 2021
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Audience and Viewers
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

How very nice it would have been to say that we were completely out of the woods as far as the pandemic is concerned. Interestingly, the World is not out of the woods yet; COVID-19 is still with us. According to the Ghana Health Service, as of 23rd October, 2021, the active COVID-19 cases in Ghana stood at 1,817.

We cannot therefore as a matter of fact be complacent in any way and return to our old normal where we would have had our graduands beautifully dressed in their academic gowns, gallantly seated in the Great Hall and singing the University Anthem and the *Gaudeamus*.

This is our third virtual graduation ceremony being held, since the outbreak of the pandemic. Having been able to graduate three batches of our students successfully, through the virtual space speaks volumes about how robust the University's ICT infrastructure has been. We can only continue to work harder to improve what we do.

On behalf of Management, Teaching and Non-teaching staff, I would like to add my voice to that of His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the Chancellor of the University, to warmly welcome all our graduands and cherished distinguished guests who have joined us all over the globe, to participate and to witness this year's graduation ceremony through the various online platforms.

Nana Chancellor, Congregation ceremonies give us the opportunity to give a report of the state of affairs of the University to our valued stakeholders. I would like to begin my report with the mandate of the University i.e. teaching, research and community service.

DIGITIZATION AND ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Your Royal Majesty, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the outbreak of the pandemic and its associated ramifications, had had the University to re-think and to re-strategize in a number of ways regarding our operations and how we can continue to stay on top of our game regardless of all the challenges COVID-19 threw at us since March 2019. As always, we saw all those roadblocks as opportunities to bring out the best in us as a University.

Consequently, we have invested and continue to invest in our digitisation and ICT infrastructure to enable the University to be spot on with its teaching and learning activities regardless of the restrictions. To this end, the University is spending about GHC17,000,000.00 to equip the Colleges with smart classrooms. This would facilitate synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning, provide support for online assessment, and provide services for online learning on campus. Accordingly, a University-wide E-Learning Centre has also been established with an Acting Director, to serve as a one-stop shop for the integration of all E-Learning tools and systems in the University. As we attempt to digitise our lecture spaces, we also endeavour to improve upon our software development services in order to enhance our service delivery to our major stakeholders, including students, staff, and alumni. Two key systems that have been successfully developed and deployed during the year under review, are an App for accessing transcripts online as well as an online system for postretirement contract appointments for ease of service provision.

Nana Chancellor, with these two systems, our alumni and students can comfortably sit in their homes at any place in the world and apply for transcripts which would be delivered to their preferred destinations without coming to campus. The application and renewal of part-time and post-retirement contract appointments is made less laborious and cumbersome with this online system in place.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as the leading Science and Technology University in Ghana and a Research-intensive Institution, we continue to leverage on technology to consistently improve our service delivery.

To this end, other Apps to enhance our work in the University and with our Alumni and other stakeholders are at various developmental stages. The Apps include:

The Telemedicine App

The KNUST Feedback App

The KNUST Alumni Connect App and The Staff Promotions App

Nana Chancellor, in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic, I cannot emphasise enough how very important and critical it is for us to look after ourselves very well and to take our health issues very seriously. That is why it important for us as a University to make maximum use of the KNUST Wellness Centre which has been rejuvenated to ensure we all stay healthy and pay more attention to preventive medicine. A number of programmes have been run by the Centre including Hepatitis screening, Breast Cancer screening, and they continue to offer services which we must apply ourselves to, in order to stay strong and healthy always. The KNUST Wellness Centre in collaboration with WiSTEMGh also organized a webinar on “Personalize Your Plate” a nutritional talk for students and staff and the general public to get us interested in what we are putting into

our bodies each day to avoid all the cardiovascular health issues that are becoming a challenge these days.

KNUST's RESEARCH IMPACT ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND AWARD OF GRANTS

Your Royal Majesty, ladies and gentlemen, as a research-intensive institution, KNUST continues to embark on impactful research. I am delighted to inform you that the University in the course of the year, was deeply involved in a number of research works, COVID-19 notwithstanding, which have had meaningful impact on the society. I would like to cite a few: The KNUST, in collaboration with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) has commenced a vaccine trial for Typhoid fever at Agogo in the Asante Akim North Municipal District of the Ashanti Region. As we may all be aware, typhoid fever is a highly contagious disease and if it is left untreated, the disease can become severe and even fatal. It is in the light of this that the University, with the support of Agogo Presbyterian Hospital, European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners from some African Countries, have built a State-of-the-Art Trial Centre at Agogo Presbyterian Hospital. Our researchers are deeply involved to help in generating additional data to aid decision making on its local adoption for the management of typhoid and other fevers on the continent of Africa.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, in the year under review; the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences in collaboration with their counterpart, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in the College of Engineering developed a Solar Biomass Hybrid Dryer. This is a new technology developed for drying of grains. It utilises agro residues, timber scraps and solar radiation for the drying process. This allows drying of grains even at night and rainy and wet days. Many grain farmers and poultry farmers have been introduced to this new technology. Again, the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, in its drive to impact society, has through research, confirmed the effectiveness of a novel technology that protects maize against insects and pests called *Zeroflv®Hermetic storage bags*. With this new technology, mycotoxin (aflatoxin and fumonisin) levels are kept below the threshold recommended by the Ghana Standards Authority, ensuring food safety and food security.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Grants

Nana Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen, in furtherance of our research agenda, in spite of the ramifications of the pandemic, a significant number of our staff won research grants totaling \$6,185,415.46 from other institutions and organizations to embark on impactful research works:

- i. Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, won \$1,404,066.32 for the project titled “Pediatric Phase II age-de-escalation dose finding study of against invasive non-typhoidal infections in Sub-Saharan Africa”.
- ii. Prof. Fred Stephen Sarfo won \$938,851.00 to work on Ghana- SPARCO: Ghana Sickle cell Pan -African Research Consortium

- iii. Dr. Richard Opoku, Department of Mechanical Engineering, won \$182,179.23 to work on 'Assessing and Commissioning of 150 Solar Powered Irrigation Systems (SPIS) in Ghana'.

Awards

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our faculty members continue to win awards and project the image of the University, internationally.

- i. Dr. Ebenezer Owusu-Addo of the Bureau of Integrated Rural Development, KNUST, has won the 2020 Pittu Laungani Best Paper Prize from the International Journal of Health Promotion and Education. The award was announced during the 2021 Institute of Health Promotion and Education Conference in Coventry, UK. The Pittu Laungani prize is awarded each year by the International Journal of Health Promotion and Education and the Taylor & Francis Group to the best paper published in the International Journal of Health Promotion and Education.
- ii. Dr. Michael Frimpong, a Molecular Immunologist and a lecturer at the Department of Molecular Medicine, School of Medicine and Dentistry at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) has been named among the Ten (10) grantees of the 2020 African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI).
- iii. Professor Peter Donkor, a former Pro Vice-Chancellor and a Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, from the School of Medicine and Dentistry, KNUST, has been inducted into office as the 31st President of the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) during its AGM and Scientific Conference held in Cotonou, Benin Republic
- iv. Professor Marian Asantewah Nkansah of the Department of Chemistry, KNUST, has been named among five winners of the 2021 Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)- Elsevier Foundation Award for Women Scientists in the Developing World.
- v. Professor Divine Kwaku Ahadzie of the Centre for Settlement Studies of the KNUST has won the 2020 'Driving the impact agenda 'category of the Real Impact Award.
- vi. Dr. Augustina Angelina Sylverken, has been adjudged one of the Humanitarian Awards Global 12 Frontline COVID-19 Heroine in Ghana.

Your Royal Majesty, the awards and honours are not only to our faculty. We are also gratified by the successes that are being chalked by our students and graduates. I am pleased to announce that:

- i. Mr. Mathias Charles Yabe, a third-year student of the Department of Communication Design, has been named the Top Innovator and selected among the 14 winners in the Generation Restoration Challenge by the World Economic Forum. He competed among 170 competitors from 50 countries across the globe.

- ii. The Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, KNUST, has won the undergraduate and postgraduate students' category of the 2021 Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE) Student paper Competition.

Masters Matthew Nana Kyei Siaw and Yaw Obeng Okofo Dartey who are MPhil Computer Engineering students and Miss Elizabeth Ayaw Oduro-Kwarteng, BSc. Electrical/Electronic Engineering won the award for the. KNUST at the College of Engineering Innovation Centre.

To our gallant faculty members and students, we say AYEKOO!!!

KNUST AT 70

Nana Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as you may recall, on 27th October, 2021, the University launched its 70th Anniversary Celebrations at the Great Hall on the theme "KNUST, 70 Years of Global Impact: A New Age for a Renewed Focus". This is a yearlong celebration with a programme line-up including lectures, exhibitions and Alumni homecoming. Nana Chancellor, during the launching of the 70th Anniversary, I shared with all and sundry where we began as a University and where we are currently which was aired on various online platforms. With your kind permission, Nana Chancellor, I would avoid repeating myself on this occasion, except to reiterate the fact that KNUST has evolved from strength to strength and churned out many distinguished graduates who are making tremendous impact and leaving great footprints across the globe. As a research-intensive institution, KNUST has caused a lot of useful changes in the world through the numerous research and publications its faculty and students have embarked on.

At 70 years, we remain focused and determined to continue to drive the transformational and developmental agenda of our dear Country.

I wish to use this opportunity to entreat all our graduands who would soon be joining the Global Alumni Association to participate actively in the number of events that would be lined up to make the celebration a success. One activity of particular interest is the establishment of the Alumni Endowment Fund dubbed "70 @ 70 Alumni Levy". I encourage all to be part of this exciting and history making event.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Ladies and gentlemen, to strengthen the international partnership with the University, the following personalities visited the University during the year under review to discuss among others, the partnership between their countries, institutions and organisations:

- i. US Ambassador to Ghana, Ms. Stephanie S. Sullivan.
- ii. The Indian High Commissioner to Ghana, H.E. Mr. Sugandh Rajaram.
- iii. The British High Commissioner to Ghana, H.E. Iain Walker.
- iv. The Ag. Nigeria High Commissioner to Ghana, Amb. Gambo Yusuf Hamza.
- v. The Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of the Republic of the Gambia.
- vi. The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ambassador Daniel Krull

- vii. The Secretary General of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) of the Africa Union, His Excellency Wamkele Mene
- viii. Ms. Laneice Brooker, the new Chief of Cultural Affairs at the US Embassy in Ghana

DONATIONS

During the year under review, the following donations were received:

- i. The Managing Director of Enepa Ventures, Mr. Ernest Appiah, an alumnus of the University donated GHC1,000,000.00 to support KNUST developmental projects.
- ii. The Support One Needy Student with One Laptop (SONSOL) project continued to receive immense support from additional corporate entities including KEK Insurance Brokers, KNUST SRC, My Turn Construction Firm and SIC Insurance Company and ECOBANK.
- iii. SIC additionally supported the University library with 20 desk top computers to assist students with online studies in the University.
- iv. The Ministry of Energy has also donated over 16,000 LED bulbs towards the University's lighting system.
- v. The Ministry of Roads and Highways are working very hard to put our roads in shape and we are very grateful for this.
- vi. Hon. Alan John Kwadwo Kyerematen, Minister for Trade and Industry also visited the University and donated 1,500 bags of cement in support of the building of the KNUST Christian Worship Centre.
- vii. In the year under review, Jospong Group of Companies donated One (1) compact truck, 10 tricycles and 200 dust bins valued at GHc:1.5 million in support of the University's sanitation drive.

We are very grateful to all our benefactors.

STATISTICS ON GRADUATING CLASS

Nana Chancellor, I will now turn my attention to my graduating class. The University is graduating a total of 11,073 graduates. The breakdown is as follows:

Undergraduates	9,647
Postgraduates	1,426

Out of the 1,426 postgraduate graduands, 59 are graduating with PhDs.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the overall best student is Mr. Ahorsu Etornam Komla from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, College of Engineering, with a CWA of 86.05.

ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

My dear graduands, you have been trained and provided with skills and knowledge to be functional in society. As you may be aware, the public sector is choked, and a few may get the opportunity to be employed into already existing jobs aside the government organisations. In view of this, and as KNUST's mission is to advance knowledge in science and technology through creating an environment for undertaking relevant research, quality teaching **ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING** and community engagement to improve quality of life", you have been offered the opportunity to get yourself employed through the diverse entrepreneurship training interventions you have received from the University. I have complete

faith in you and what you are capable of. With the needed support and push, you definitely would be able to live up to expectation. I know that as starters, it would not be easy, however, with determination, be assured that only the sky would be your limit.

The beginning does not necessarily have to be big. Start small and consistently keep improving and working your way up. If you need to team up with like-minded persons, do so and do not be afraid to make mistakes while you are at it. Remember help is always available. Look for it and push yourself beyond your comfort zone.

Please be mindful that almost every successful person begins with two beliefs: the future can be better than the present, and I have the power to make it so. Please go out there and boldly and fearlessly put your ideas to work in finding solutions to the myriad of societal problems as you get yourself employed and employ others as well. Remember that success is a vehicle which moves on a wheel called HARD WORK, but the journey is impossible without the fuel called self-confidence. Be bold, be courageous and do your very best at all times, keeping in mind that You and God form a Majority.

Please go into the world as our Shinning Ambassadors and make KNUST, your parents and yourselves proud wherever you may be.

Finally, my dear graduands, do not fear for the Good Lord is with you. Do not be dismayed for He will strengthen you.

For I know the plans I have for you declares the Most High God, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to bring about the Future you hope for. Jeremiah 29:11

I pray the Lord upholds you with His righteous hand all the days of your life. Please Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.

Our warmest CONGRATULATIONS to you once again and best wishes for the Great Future ahead of you. We are so proud of you and very excited to have been part of your beautiful story.

Go in the MIGHT of the LORD! CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you for your kind audience and God Bless Us All!!

**PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA AKOSUA DICKSON
VICE-CHANCELLOR, KNUST, KUMASI
26TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROF BEN BRANOH KWAKU BANFUL, PROVOST,
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE 55TH
CONGREGATION CEREMONY (VIRTUAL) OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON
THURSDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 09.00 HOURS**

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of Council
Vice-Chancellor
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Vice Chancellors
Pro-Vice Chancellor
Registrar
Colleague Provosts
Deans and Directors
Heads of Departments
Nananom
Members of Convocation
Representatives from our Affiliate Institutions
Alumni
Senior and Junior Staff
Graduating Class of 2021 Parents and Guardians
Members of the Press Distinguished Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Chairman and members of the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Management and the entire staff of this great institution, to warmly welcome all our graduands and esteemed guests, who are with us this morning through the virtual platform, to the first day of our 55th Congregation ceremony. Indeed, you will all agree with me that today's ceremony is deemed significant as it marks one of the major events of our 70th anniversary celebrations. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all our stakeholders and well-wishers to share in our joy as we celebrate 70 years of global impact as a University, while embracing the future with a renewed focus.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in view of the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the global economy and specifically on the educational front, it is appropriate to thank the Almighty God for his protection and sustenance thus far. Even though we are not out of the woods yet, we believe the Good Lord will see us through the year 2021 and beyond. Ladies and Gentlemen, as you may be aware, graduation ceremonies are occasions for the conferment of degrees on deserving students who have met the academic requirements of KNUST. In this direction, we have gathered via the virtual platform this morning, to confer degrees on our deserving graduands of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources who have successfully completed their various programmes of study. To our cherished graduands, I say a big AYEEKOO to you, for achieving this milestone in your lives.

Ladies and gentlemen, permit me to say few words about the College. Over the years, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has dutifully discharged its core mandate of promoting agricultural productivity, rural development and the sustainable management of natural resources

through teaching, entrepreneurship training, research and extension of knowledge, for sustainable development in Ghana, Africa and the wider global community. Strategically, the College is focused on enhancing the entrepreneurial skills, knowledge and attitudes of the students through the periodic review of curricula to make them more entrepreneurship-oriented in response to industry dynamics; the introduction of new industry-oriented competency-based programmes as well as an increased focus on industry-based internship programmes for students' experiential training.

STATISTICS ON GRADUATING CLASS

Ladies and Gentlemen, this morning, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is presenting a total of 795 graduands. This is made up of 517 males representing 65% and 278 females representing 35%. Of the 795 graduating this morning, 56 are graduating with First Class Honours (7.0%); 419 with 2nd Class (Upper Division) Honours (52.7%); 309 with 2nd Class (Lower Division) (38.9%) and 11 with Pass (1.4%).

This year, the OVERALL BEST GRADUATING student in the College comes from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, who happens to be the valedictorian for the congregation. He is Mr. Benjamin Newman TEYE-DOKU with a CWA of 78.51

STUDENT ENROLMENT AND STAFF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLLEGE

Ladies and gentlemen, with respect to student enrolment in the College the undergraduate students' numbers increased by 14.5% for the 2020/2021 academic year in comparison to that of the 2019/2020 academic year. Thus, the current total student population in the College is 6,695, which is made up of 6,356 undergraduates and 339 postgraduates.

Another significant development was the appointment of ten (10) new Lecturers to augment the Teaching Staff numbers in the College. We are very grateful to the government for these additional hands which will go a long way to ease the stress on our staff.

SOME INITIATIVES IN THE COLLEGE

During the 2020/2021 academic year, the College recorded a number of initiatives of significance. These included (i) the completion of the re-branding 10 of all the academic programmes run in the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources to make them more attractive and demand-driven, (ii) the completion of the re-branding of the BSc Agriculture programme run in the Faculty of Agriculture to make it more attractive, demand-driven and responsive to industry dynamics, (iii) the mounting of a new undergraduate programme the in Packaging Technology at Department of Wood Science and Technology, (iv) the hosting by BIRD of the USAID Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Services (METSS) Project, which was moved from the University of Cape Coast to KNUST by USDA.

This METSS Project coordinates all the bilateral projects and their related Implementing Partners (IPs) of the Economic Growth Office of the USAID Ghana Mission (v) the hosting by BIRD of the SCAPE Project on Strengthening the Capacity of African Parliamentarians in the use of evidence in policy and legislation.

On development activities, the College is partnering EXIMBANK and AGRI-IMPACT CONSULT LTD to roll out additional agri-based initiatives made up of

- (i) the Establishment of Orange Flesh Sweet Potato Factory at KNUST to reduce flour import, and scale up existing product development technologies in the University,
- (ii) Exploring KNUST's expertise in poultry and Rabbitry Production Processing for commercial producers in Ghana,
- (iii) Promoting Seed Development to reduce import of hybrid seeds for farmers, and
- (iv) Building the Capacity of Teaching Staff through exposure to commercial and industrial best practices.

The Youth Greenhouse Enterprise Project was the first partnership initiative between the College, EXIM BANK and AGRI-IMPACT CONSULT LTD. The College is very grateful to the partners for these initiatives which would greatly enhance the entrepreneurial drive of our students as well as provide significant revenue to increase the College's IGF.

APPRECIATION

Ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, I wish to express our most sincere appreciation to our stakeholders who have been of immense support to the College. They are the various Ministries and their Agencies, the MMDAs, NGOs, our donor partners which include the USAID, EU, Rambol International, QGUK, DANIDA, DAAD, IITA, ENI/OKUAFO PA FOUNDATION, DFID, to mention a few. To you all, we are very grateful.

Permit me to also appreciate and thank all parents, guardians and benefactors of our graduands. If our graduands stand tall today, we know they are standing on your sweat and toil. Your unflinching support has propelled them to this great height and may your sacrifices be rewarded.

Again, I wish to thank our gallant graduands and all other students for their cooperation during the year in the face of the pandemic which called for shifts and adjustments in the teaching and learning domains.

To my able staff of the College, I am truly grateful for your support, cooperation and encouragement. It was through your sacrifices and efforts that we were able to bring the academic year to a successful end. Bravo for your dedication and commitment!

CONCLUSION AND A WORD OF ADVICE

May I at this point share some words of advice with my proud graduands. You are being celebrated today because you soldiered on to achieve this feat despite the hustles and the stresses you may have gone through during your training. You will agree with me at this moment that they were all for the good. It is now up to you to make maximum use of the acquired knowledge and skills for the betterment of society. As the world continues to change, so are you required to continue to build on your skills and knowledge in order to remain relevant to society.

I wish to encourage you to register with the KNUST Alumni Association and entreat you to be active members of this global fraternity. It is a great platform for networking and the mobilization of resources to support your Alma Mater, the KNUST. Finally, as you enter the world of work and chart a new path of your lives, may the countenance of the good Lord be upon you, may He direct your path to unique opportunities, exploits and discoveries, and may He be gracious to you now

and forever. Once again, I thank you for making time to join us on the virtual space and for your audience.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!

**PROFESSOR BEN BRANOH KWAKU BANFUL
PROVOST, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
KNUST, KUMASI
25TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR JOHN TIAH BUGRI, PROVOST,
COLLEGE OF ART AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AT THE 55TH CONGREGATION
CEREMONY (VIRTUAL) OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON THURSDAY, 25TH
NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 11:00 HOURS**

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Registrar
Provosts of Colleges
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Members of Convocation
Representatives from our Mfiliate Institutions
Nananom
Alumni of the University
Senior and Junior Staff
Graduating Class of 2021
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

On behalf of the Chairman and members of the Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Management and the entire staff of this great institution, it is my pleasure to warmly welcome all our graduands and esteemed guests, who are with us this morning through the virtual platform to the first day of our 55th Congregation ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year's congregation is the third in series since the University moved from in person to virtual congregation because of the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus pandemic and its associated ramifications. It is therefore important to note that the pandemic is still with us and as a University with over 80,000 and 3,000 students and staff, respectively, we cannot let our guards down. It is very unfortunate that we cannot have our students gather nicely and neatly dressed to celebrate them in person for the toils and hard work they have demonstrated to reach this far. I wish to appreciate our graduands for the role they played in the adherence to all the covid-19 safety protocols since the outbreak of the pandemic resulting in a successful academic year.

STATISTICS ON GRADUATING CLASS

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a delight to inform you that, the College of Art and Built Environment is presenting a total of 1,240 graduands this morning. This is made up 783 males representing 63.15% and 457 females representing 36.85%. Of this number, 155 are graduating with First Class honours, representing 12.5%; 813 (65.56%) 2nd Class honours (Upper Division); 264 (21.29%) 2nd Class honours (Lower Division); and 8 (5.45%) Pass.

This year, the OVERALL BEST GRADUATING student in the College comes from the Department of Publishing Studies, who also happens to be our valedictorian for this congregation.

She is in the person of Miss Joycelyn Somuah Boateng who read a four-year programme leading to the B.A. Publishing Studies degree and obtained a cumulative weighted average (CWA) of 77.64.

ENROLMENT IN THE COLLEGE

Ladies and gentlemen, with respect to student enrolment in the College, for the academic year under review, that is, the 2020/2021 academic year, undergraduate student numbers increased from 2,091 to 2,712, which is 29.70% increment relative to 2019/2020 academic year.

NEW PROGRAMMES TO BE INTRODUCED OR INITIATIVES TO BOOST ENROLMENT

*The BSc (Architecture) programme is being reviewed to enhance the components of Green Architecture, Sustainability and Climate in the programme. The proposal when approved by the Academic Board, is to be implemented in the 2021/2022 academic year.

* A Master in Landscape Architecture (MLA) programme is being considered by the Planning and Resource Committee of KNUST. The introduction of the programme is in response to the need for qualified experts in landscape design in the country.

* The Department of Architecture has also submitted 4 new programmes for consideration, namely:

- BSc. & MSc. Interior Design
- MSc. in Building Performance, and
- BSc. Architectural Technology

These initiatives are designed to provide options at the intake level at year one, and to feed the professional programmes at the graduate level.

* The Department of Architecture has received approval to run its MSc. and MPhil programmes aside the regular stream, on week-end basis to make it easier for interested personnel to enrol and progress in their fields.

SOME INITIATIVES IN THE COLLEGE

Under the sponsorship of the Hon. John Kumah, MP and Deputy Minister of Finance, the College instituted the Builders' Ideas Challenge during the year under review. Three students were supported financially by the hon. minister to kick-start their ideas and realize their dreams. The winners were rewarded with GHC12,000, GHC8,000 and GHC5000 respectively. It is envisaged that this ideas challenge leads to a periodic State of the Nations Built Environment Report series as a means of contributing toward the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. To this end, wider collaborations with the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies is in the process.

KNUST AT 70

Ladies and gentlemen, KNUST is 70 years since its inception and has churned out many graduates who are dotted all over the world impacting lives and society. To celebrate this milestone, the University has launched the 70th anniversary which is a yearlong celebration. The Theme for the 70th anniversary celebration is “KNUST, 70 Years of Global Impact: A New Age for a Renewed Focus”. I am delighted to inform you that the University has lined up some activities for the celebrations which include public lectures, exhibitions, and alumni homecoming. The Global Alumni has also lined up some activities for the anniversary including the institution of an endowment fund dubbed ‘70 @ 70’ Alumni Levy, a “throwback nite” to share great fun moments on campus, “Katanga-Unity” Alumni Round Table Convo and Alumni-Faculty-Industry activities. Please join the Global Alumni after your graduation and participate in these activities.

APPRECIATION

Ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, I wish to express our sincerest appreciation to a few of our stakeholders who have been of immense support to the College due to lack of time. GHACEM GHANA LIMITED has been of immense assistance culminating in the Department of Architecture, Construction Technology and Management in collaboration with others designing a Mobile Van for Cement which was launched a few weeks ago. Hon. John Kumah, MP has been acknowledged earlier as financing the Builders’ Ideas Challenge. Mr George Wireko-Brobby also deserves special mention for volunteering 5000 seedlings for the College that were all planted as part of the Greening Ghana initiative. Professor Divine Kwaku Ahadzie of the Centre for Settlement Studies (CSS) was adjudged the WINNER of the Emerald 2020 Real Impact Award, while our renowned artist, Mr Ibrahim Mahama was honoured with the 2020 Principal Prince Claus Awards.

To my able and dedicated staff of the College, I am truly grateful for your support. It was through your sacrifices and efforts that we were able to bring the semester to a successful end.

WORD OF ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION

Now I will like to say a few words to my special graduands. First and foremost, on behalf of both academic and non-academic staff in the College, I say CONGRATULATIONS! I want you to know that you have been trained in one of the best institutions in the world, KNUST and from the best College in KNUST. You have been taught by excellent Faculty in the various Departments. Therefore, we are very happy and proud to send you out today as graduates, but more importantly as ambassadors of this great College. As ambassadors, know that you represent us and therefore you cannot fail. You have a responsibility and a duty to excel and to lift up the name of the College and the University.

I wish to entreat you to live by the core values of KNUST, for it is upon these that we trained you. Therefore, gird your loins with these values and the world would hold you in high reverence.

BLESSING

On a special day as this, as the Provost of the College, I choose to bless my special graduands.

I ask God to fill you with the knowledge of HIS will, with all the wisdom and understanding that HIS Spirit gives, so that you will be able to live as the Lord wants and will always do what pleases HIM.

GRADUANDS, GO OUT AND DO EXPLOITS!!

PROF. JOHN TIAH BUGRI
PROVOST, COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT
KNUST, KUMASI
25TH NOVEMBER, 2021

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR MARK ADOM- ASAMOAH, PROVOST,
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AT THE 55TH CONGREGATION CEREMONY
(VIRTUAL) OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON THURSDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 2021
AT 13:00 HOURS**

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of Council
Vice Chancellor
Pro Vice Chancellor
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Colleague Provosts of Colleges
Deans, Directors and Heads of Department
Members of Convocation
Senior and Junior Staff
Parents and Guardians
Proud Members of the Graduating Class of 2021
Industrial Partners and Distinguished Special Guests
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

I count it a special privilege for me to address you this morning on behalf of the Vice Chancellor at the 55th Congregation of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology via virtual platform. As a result of the covid-19 pandemic which has now become the new normal, we host our 3rd virtual congregation ceremony without physically present graduands and convocation. A congregation ceremony presents the platform for the university to celebrate its teaching function by conferring degrees on its students. It also affords management the opportunity to present a report on its activities to its stakeholders.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Ladies and gentlemen, the College of Engineering, established in 1951, comprises three faculties, eleven (n) academic departments and five (5) research centres. With respect to student enrolment in the College, for the 2020/2021 academic year under review, undergraduate students' numbers increased from 7,858 to 9,236 which is a 17.5% increment relative to 2019/2020 academic year.

We are grateful to the government for the additional hands that the College has received. This will go a long way to ease the stress on our staff. However, with our incessant drive to expand, we anticipate an increase in our enrolment for the 2021/2022 academic year which would require more lecturers so that we do not fall foul of the National Council for Tertiary Education's requirement for Student/Lecturer ratio.

The increasing student numbers must be complemented with teaching and learning facilities. In this regard, we will entreat GETFUND to assist us with additional teaching and learning facilities.

GRADUATING STATISTICS

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to announce that, this year, we are presenting a total of 1217 fresh student engineers from 15 different undergraduate programmes made up of 82% males and 18% females for graduation. There are 112 postgraduates (including 12 PhDs) graduating from the College of Engineering this year compared to 17 last year. The breakdown for the undergraduate students is as follows:

First Class 329 (27%) students
Second Class upper 650 (53.4%) students
Second Class lower 232 (19.1%) students
Pass 6 (0.5%) students

This year the overall best student of the College is from the Department of Electrical Engineering in the person of Etornam Komla Ahorsu with a CWA of 86.05. I wish to use this opportunity to congratulate you all for achieving this milestone in your lives.

SOME KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COLLEGE

Chairman of Council, in the area of research and development, the Department of Telecommunications Engineering collaborated with Prof. Axel Sikora of Offenburg University, Germany, on African-German Cooperation within the framework of the call 'Partnership for Sustainable Solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa and won BMBF - DAAD joint grant of **716,177.60 Euros** out of which **221,000 Euros** will come directly to KNUST.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) grants programme under the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has granted the KNUST Brew Hammond Energy Centre an award in the amount of \$198,378.00 in support of the project entitled "Agrivoltaic Technology in Drylands of West Africa: Strengthening National Innovation Systems for Diffusion and Market Development at the Water-Energy-Food Nexus". The Energy Centre further won a grant of \$400,000 out of a total budget of \$1.87 million from the DANIDA funded Energy Struggles: Renewable Energy in Africa Project.

The KNUST Department of Civil Engineering/RWESCK is a member of a consortium led by The Aquaya Institute has been awarded a 5-year \$18.9 million Cooperative Agreement from the USAID for the Rural Evidence and Learning for Water programme out of which \$1.1 million will come directly to KNUST.

Chairman of University Governing Council. following a joint initiative of the Government of Ghana (Ministry of Education) and UNESCO, the Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) is now designated a 'UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) of Excellence in Engineering Innovation, Manufacturing, and Technology Transfer' in a ceremony held last week in Paris. TCC will now have a geographical scope spanning the whole of the West African Sub- region and, possibly, beyond.

The World Bank Centres of Excellence (TRECK and RWESCK) continue to make an impact with outreach and training programmes in Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Gambia, La Cote D'Ivoire etc having trained over 500 participants in Engineering related fields.

The College, through the KNUST Engineering Education Project (KEEP), has received a grant of \$50,000 from the World Bank to build synergy amongst the Colleges of Engineering under the Africa Centres of Excellence for Development Impact. The West Africa Sustainable Engineering Network for Development (WASEND) has therefore been established in relation to the grant. KEEP is hosting the network Secretariat for two years. The other countries involved are the Gambia, Benin and Burkina Faso.

The World Bank ACE KEEP project is spearheading the establishment of the College of Engineering Endowment fund which has already received 3 donations of \$100,000, GHC 100,000 and GHC50,000.

On a rather sad note and with a heavy heart, Nana Chairman, I wish to inform you that the College of Engineering lost 2 postgraduate students in an industrial accident during an internship orientation. May their souls rest in peace and may the Almighty God console their families, friends and the entire university on their loss.

ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

I would want to say a word to my proud graduands:

You came in as the best and received training from the best and today we graduate you as one of the best. Therefore, be confident and courageous knowing that you have the potential to lead the industrial revolution for the transformation of our world. Be mindful of the fact that your certificate does not guarantee you success. Be humble and learn from the experienced technicians and foremen you will meet on the job. Shun laziness, mediocrity and truancy at work.

Finally, align yourselves internally with universal principles such as honesty, perseverance, integrity, hard work and fellow feeling.

CONCLUSION

Appreciation

1. The teaching function that we are celebrating today was made possible by many people and organizations. First, we want to thank the government and people of Ghana for providing you with the opportunity to be educated.
2. Secondly, we thank our Industrial Partners for providing financial support, vacation training placements and industrial presentations.
3. To the parents and guardians, we are aware of the sacrifices you have made to provide your wards with the top engineering education that many of you could not have yourselves. We say well done.

Blessings

Congratulations to my sons and daughters of the graduating class: *“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*

Chairman of University Council, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you all for your kind attention and God Bless you all.

PROFESSOR MARK ADOM-ASAMOAH
PROVOST, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
KNUST, KUMASI
25TH NOVEMBER, 2021

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN AGYARE, PROVOST,
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, AT THE 55TH CONGREGATION CEREMONY
(VIRTUAL) OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON THURSDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 2021
AT 15:00 HOURS**

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of Council
Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice Chancellor
Registrar
Colleague Provosts
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Senior Members of the College of Health Sciences and
Convocation of
the University
Our Motivational Speaker
Parents, Guardians, and Invited Guests
2021 Graduating Class
Ladies and Gentlemen.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

This year's congregation is the third in series since the University moved from in person to virtual congregation because of the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus pandemic and its associated ramifications. It is therefore important to note that the pandemic is still with us and as a University with over 80,000 and 3,000 students and staff, respectively, we cannot let our guards down. It is very unfortunate that we cannot have our students gather nicely and neatly dressed to celebrate them in person for the toils and hard work they have demonstrated to reach this far. I wish to appreciate our graduands for the role they played in the adherence of all the COVID-19 safety protocols since the outbreak of the pandemic which has resulted in a successful academic year.

Nana Chairman, The College of Health Sciences of KNUST is made up of three (3) Schools and two (2) Faculties i.e. KNUST School of Medicine and Dentistry, School of Veterinary Medicine, School of Public Health, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences. The Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine is our main Research Centre. We have the mandate from the University to train health professionals and researchers for Ghana and the rest of the world. We support other health care initiatives and conduct relevant research in the health sector and other related areas. At the undergraduate level, our College trains Medical Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants, Veterinary Doctors, Herbal Medicine Practitioners, Nurses, Midwives, Medical Laboratory Scientists, Imaging Practitioners, Disability and Rehabilitation Practitioners, Physiotherapists and Sports and Exercise Managers and Scientists. On behalf of the Chairman of Council, the Vice-Chancellor and the management and Staff of the College,

I welcome you to the 55th Virtual Congregation ceremony of the University and graduation of our undergraduate students for the 2020/2021 Academic year.

GRADUATING STATISTICS

We present to you today a total of 1,178 undergraduate students who have satisfied all requirements for the award of degrees in this virtual Congregation. This includes 298 Pharmacy students; 377 Medicine students, 55 Dentistry, and 15 Veterinary Medicine students. Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine students stay in the University for a minimum of 6 years before graduating.

We are also graduating students on our 3 and 4-year programmes. They include 62 General Nursing, 31 Emergency Nursing, 71. Midwifery, 52 Medical Laboratory Technology. 22 Sonography, 44 Disability and Rehabilitation Studies, 26 Sports and Exercise Science students and 26 students of Herbal Medicine. Two of the College's programmes. Human Biology Medicine and Human Biology Dentistry run for 3 years and we are today graduating 203 and 25 students, respectively on these 2 programmes. These students will be in tutelage for a minimum of 3 additional years before graduating as Dentists and Medical Doctors.

ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR

Chairman of Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate all the teaching and non-teaching staff in the College for their sacrifice and dedication towards the completion of the 2020/2021 academic year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate the University management for their support and assistance in these difficult times.

During the year under review, specifically in January, we graduated 9,989 Nursing and Midwifery Diplomates who received their training from various Nursing and Midwifery Training Colleges across the country and are affiliated to KNUST. We also successfully conducted the terminal examinations for 9,654 nursing, community health and midwifery students of these Health Training Institutions across the country with the required COVID-19 safety protocols last month. We are happy in supporting the Ministry of Health to train these health professionals.

Nana Chairman, there is a large number of would-be doctors the University is adding to the human resources for healthcare delivery, especially, with the emergence of COVID-19 in the country i.e. Doctors of Medicine, Dentistry. Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine. By international convention, these programmes are not graded with classes and students complete with general degrees. Also graduating with general degrees are students on the Human Biology (Medicine) and Human Biology (Dentistry) programmes. Eight (8) of our 14 programmes award classify degrees. Out of the 334 students on these 8 programmes, 52 (representing 15.7%) are graduating with First Class Honours, 203 (representing 60.8%) with Second Class Honours (Upper Division), 73 (representing 21.9%) with Second Class Honours (Lower Division), and 6 graduating with Pass (representing 1.8%).

Chairman of Council, the College attracts the best Science students from Senior High Schools in Ghana and Africa. It is not unusual that 76.5% of the above-mentioned students are graduating with 1st and 2nd class upper honours degrees. Nana Chairman, we are also graduating 168 students of Medicine and 30 Dental students who have met all requirements for the MBChB and BDS degrees.

Chairman of Council, the Academic Board of the University in the 2018/2019 academic year approved the introduction of Ghanaian Sign Language for Health Communication course to be taken by all students in the College. This is important to the College so that all our trainees would be enabled to provide confidential care to all manner of clients including those who have hearing difficulties. Hence, the presence of a third party i.e. an interpreter during clinical care may not be necessary.

This addresses a major issue in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (inclusive healthcare SDG Number 3) where nobody is left behind in society. I am happy to report that all undergraduate students in the College have been taking this course since its approval and it is our firm believe that in the coming few years, when anybody with hearing impairment attends a health facility for service and encounters a medical doctor, pharmacist, dentist, nurse, medical laboratory technologist, midwife and imaging practitioner trained in KNUST would not find it difficult communicating in sign language. This will improve the services KNUST trained healthcare professionals offer to their clients with hearing impairment.

The Vice-Chancellor's report to Congregation Nana Chairman, recounts further developments that took place in the College in the 2020/2021 Academic year. We have moved most of the teaching and learning facilities of Faculties and Schools in the College to the Medical Enclave at Boadi site of the campus with the completion of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (FAHS) classroom complex, second building complex for the offices, laboratories, simulation rooms, lecture halls for the proposed School of Nursing and others and two 4-storey lecture facilities for the KNUST School of Medicine and Dentistry. Most of the students in the College had their lectures at the Medical Enclave this academic year. We hope to have all lectures with the exception of lectures for Pharmacy and Herbal Medicine students at the Boadi site by next academic year.

Nana Chairman, the small Animal Clinic of the Veterinary School is currently operational. We are desperately waiting for the completion of the second phase of the Vet School complex, which will be the large Animal Teaching Hospital. The country needs more Veterinary doctors to improve its food safety and security and also promote the one health concept and agenda.

Nana Chairman, we are happy that President Nana Akufo-Addo has honoured his promise to provide funds for the completion of the first phase of the University's Teaching Hospital complex during the investiture of our Vice-Chancellor in August 2020 and work is progressing earnestly. The Teaching Hospital will complement Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in delivering specialist care to people in the middle and northern sector of the country. Our current training strategy is to use more of healthcare facilities outside campus as training sites in addition to our traditional teaching site i.e., Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital. We desire to use these facilities in the Ashanti Region outside of Kumasi as our teaching sites but are limited by accommodation for our students and accompanying staff. This will help us to increase enrolment of students into the various flagship and highly sought-after programmes run in the College and hence we appeal to District and Municipal Assemblies in the region to support us in providing accommodation for our students in their healthcare facilities.

Nana Chairman, I am happy to inform you that plans are far advanced for the KNUST School of Medicine and Dentistry to commence the training of clinical students at the Bekwai Municipal Hospital during the 2023/2024 academic year by the time the current first year medical students will be starting their clinical training.

Chairman of Council, in line with the vision of the Vice-Chancellor to position the University as a hub and institution noted for postgraduate training in Ghana, I am happy to inform you that the College with the approval and support from the University will be introducing 12 new postgraduate programmes (i.e. MSc/ MPhil and PhD programmes) in addition to the existing programmes, and also 2 undergraduate programmes come next academic year (i.e. from January 2022). Nana Chairman, The College successfully organized its 9th Biennial Scientific Conference with the theme “COVID-19: a Health Challenge for the Decade, The Role of Health Professionals” this September.

The College with the support of the Vice-Chancellor has set up an Advisory Board for the College with a focus on guiding the College’s vision of leading the training of future healthcare professionals to improve the quality of life and eliminate health disparities in Ghana and beyond and also conduct relevant and impactful research. This is the first of its kind in the University since the establishment of the Collegiate System of administration in the University in 2004.

Chairman of Council, our Research Centre, Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research (KCCR) is providing the necessary and needed support in the management of COVID-19 pandemic in the country by conducting COVID-19 testing for the middle and northern zones of the country and also facilitated the training and setting up of COVID-19 testing laboratories for several regions in Ghana. The Centre has so far conducted 167,639 COVID-19 tests with 26,021 positive COVID-19 test results as of 9th November 2021. Nana Chairman, the College has an enviable record in the University on Research outputs that support health care in the country and also brings in some funds and grants to the University.

The College through the hardworking senior members was able to attract a total research grant of almost 5.2 million US dollars during the year under review. We have reported these in the Vice-Chancellor's report to Congregation. The College through its hardworking Senior Members secured a grant of 2.8 million euros from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for the establishment of German-West African Centre for Global Health and Pandemic Prevention (G-WAC) in the University. The establishment of the Centre is based on a partnership between our College: the Berlin School of Public Health, Technical University of Berlin, Charite University of Medicine, Berlin; and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Bonn, Germany.

Nana Chairman, the College continues to lead in the area of research outputs from the University with a total 715 publications which form 30.6% of the total publications in the University as captured in the last edition (i.e. 18th Edition) of Quality Assurance Bulletin produced by the University.

Chairman of Council, we could not have achieved all these without the support of many benefactors who have provided the needed research grants and funds, equipped our ICT and

Practical Laboratories, donated Teaching and Learning Aids, supported the training of our students and research activities among other things. We are grateful to them.

The Vice-Chancellor has acknowledged them in her report to congregation. As my take-home message to all my 2021 graduating students, say Congratulations!! Your hard work has brought you this far. Let no one take this achievement from you. This should be the beginning of a good future for you if it is well-managed. God has been good to you all. Your parents and guardians have provided all you needed to the best of their abilities during your studies, It is my hope that you will continue to thank and appreciate God for His goodness and mercies.

On your behalf, the College appreciate and thank you parents and guardians for all the sacrifices and dedication through these difficult times. Graduands, you are entering the world of work at a time of extreme challenges but there exist many opportunities. We have been doing too many things in the same way in this country over the years and expect different results. Nature does not operate that way. Having been trained in the health sector, you have no reason or excuse to be unemployed. Have a positive outlook and attitude to life and let God guide you in all your decision-making. Be discipline and exhibit professionalism and integrity in all your dealings, A good name is better than riches. Build your name with integrity.

Chairman of Council, I take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the entire Faculty and staff of the College for their dedication and service to duty especially in this COVID-19 era. Apart from teaching, supervision and men to ring, their financial contributions and support to needy students in the College needs commendation. Senior members in the College contributed a total of GH¢275,000.00 to the students' support fund we have named "So me so" during the last academic year. A total amount of GH¢419,232.36 has been disbursed to needy students in the College for the past three years. This fund has so far supported over 770 students in payment of fees and feeding grants since the last three years.

Ladies and gentlemen, KNUST is 70 years since its inception. and has churned out many graduates who are dotted all over the world impacting lives and society. To celebrate this milestone, the University has launched the 70th anniversary which is a year long celebration. The Theme for the 70th anniversary celebration is "KNUST, 70 Years of Global Impact: A New Age for a Renewed Focus". I am delighted to inform you that the University has lined up some activities for the celebrations which includes public lectures, exhibitions and. alumni home-coming. The Global Alumni has also lined up some activities for the anniversary including institution of an endowment fund dubbed '70 @ 70' Alumni Levy, a "throwback nite" to share great fun moments on campus, "Katanga-Unity" Alumni Round Table Convo and Alumni-Faculty-Industry activities. Please join the Global Alumni after your graduation and participate in the activities.

Finally, Nana Chairman, I leave my graduating students with God's blessings as espoused in Numbers Chapter 6, Verse 24 of the Holy Bible and I quote: "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace now and forever".

I wish you well in your practice and endeavours.

Thank you.

**PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN AGYARE
PROVOST, COLLEGE OF HEALTH
SCIENCES KNUST, KUMASI
25TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROF. LEONARD K. AMEKUDZI PROVOST, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AT THE 55TH (VIRTUAL) CONGREGATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 09.00 HOURS

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
Colleague Vice-Chancellors
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Registrar
Provosts of Colleges
Deans and Directors
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Members of Convocation
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Alumni of the University
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Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

On behalf of the Chairman and members of the Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Management and the entire staff of this great institution, it is my pleasure to warmly welcome all our graduands and esteemed guests, who are with us this morning through the virtual platform to the second day of our 55th Congregation ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year's congregation is the third in the series since the University moved from in person to virtual congregation because of the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus pandemic and its associated ramifications. It is therefore important to note that the pandemic is still with us and as a University with over 80,000 and 3,000, students and staff, respectively, we cannot let our guards down. It is very unfortunate that we cannot have our students gather nicely and neatly dressed to celebrate them in person for the toils and hard work they have demonstrated to reach this far. I wish to appreciate our graduands for the role they played in the adherence of all the COVID-19 safety protocols since the outbreak of the pandemic which has resulted in a successful academic year.

STATISTICS ON GRADUATING CLASS

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a delight to inform you that the College of Science is presenting a total of 1,368 graduands. This is made up of 813 males representing 59.4% and 555 females representing 40.6%. Of this number, 237 are graduating with First Class representing 17.3%; 751 representing 54.89% for 2nd Class (Upper Division); 333 representing 24.34% for 2nd Class (Lower Division); and 47 representing 3.43% for Pass.

This year, the OVERALL BEST GRADUATING student in the College comes from the Department of Mathematics. He is Mister Reindolf Ocran Boadu, BSc. Mathematics with a CWA of 85.22

ENROLMENT IN THE COLLEGE

Ladies and gentlemen, with respect to student enrolment in the College, for the academic year under review, that is, the 2020/2021 academic year, undergraduate students' numbers increased from 8,241 to 9,192 which is 10.34% increment relative to 2019/2020 academic year.

SOME INITIATIVES IN THE COLLEGE

i. Setting up of Computer laboratories

One major aspect of training of students has to do with equipping students in all fields of study with the requisite computing skills. In that regard, the College is establishing two (2) computer laboratories. On completion, the College will be equipped with modern computer laboratories with a total of 216 desktop computer spaces as well as 216 personal laptop user spaces available to students. The Computer laboratory is 95% done and it will soon be commissioned.

ii. Junior Science and Maths Quiz

The College organised the second edition of the Junior Science and Maths Quiz competition from 7th to 29th October, 2021. This year's competition saw thirty-three (33) schools participating in the event. What was unique about this year's competition was a round called ICT Challenge where the contestants were presented with real-life technology problems and were required to offer practical solutions to them. The finals were competed by three (3) schools namely, Matta Devi Basic School, KNUST Basic School and SOS Hermann Gmeiner School. At the end of the competition, Matta Devi Basic School emerged as winners with KNUST Basic School being second and followed by SOS Hermann Gmeiner School. They were awarded with a cash prize of GHC 3,000 for the first position, GHC 2,000 for the second position and GHC 1,000 for the third position. All the contestants for the finals were given laptops and other items from sponsors of the competition.

iii. Mentorship Workshop

The College mentorship Committee organised its first programme online on March 30, 2021 under the theme: "The University Mentoring Scheme: Things to know". The mentorship workshop is to enhance professional development of young lecturers in the College and the University at large. The College aims to continue organising this workshop at least twice in a semester.

iv. Community Engagement

- The College in collaboration with Ghana Science Association organised a training workshop for Mathematics and Science Teachers in the Ashanti Region. It is hoped this would be extended to the whole country.
- The College has also donated about 100 and 100 old tables and chairs to KNUST Senior High School, with KNUST Basic School and Ayeduase Roman Catholic School earmarked for the next donation of tables and chairs. Some Junior High Schools in the Jakobu District were also given old computer tables and chairs.
- The Department of Computer Science also organised computer appreciation programmes for members of staff of the University and other people from outside the University. This programme

normally takes place during the long vacation. During this long vacation, the Department intends to offer practical training to law enforcement agencies and KNUST staff especially in the Asante Region and surrounding areas on Cyber Security Awareness. The Department also intends to train young men and women in Junior and Senior high school in programming. This is to enhance their ability to think, create and provide solutions to societal problems confronting the nation.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE OFFICE OF GRANTS AND RESEARCH

a. Funding opportunity announcements (foas) and grants This academic year, the office identified Forty (40) eligible funding opportunity calls and scholarships for staff and post-graduate students in the College of Science. A total of Twenty-Two (22) applications were submitted from the College in the year under review,

The College is hopeful of winning these grants in due course. Currently, the College houses about Fifty (50) grants, and it is hoped this number will increase.

KNUST AT 70

Ladies and gentlemen, KNUST is 70 years since its inception and has churned out many graduates who are dotted all over the world impacting lives and society. To celebrate this milestone, the University has launched the 70th anniversary which is a yearlong celebration. The Theme for the 70th anniversary celebration is "KNUST, 70 Years of Global Impact: A New Age for a Renewed Focus". I am delighted to inform you that the University has lined up some activities for the celebrations which includes public lectures, exhibitions and alumni homecoming. The Global Alumni has also lined up some activities for the anniversary including institution of an endowment fund dubbed '70 @ 70' Alumni Levy, a "throwback nite" to share great fun moments on campus, "Katanga-Unity" Alumni Round Table Convo and Alumni-Faculty- Industry activities. Please join the Global Alumni after your graduation and participate in the activities.

APPRECIATION

Ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, I wish to express our sincerest appreciation to our stakeholders who have been of immense support to the College:

i. DR. K. C. WHITAKER AWARD

The K.C. Whittaker Award Fund has been a yearly benefactor for female students of the Department of Physics since 1998. The awardees are generally picked from the female students with the best Cumulative Weighted Average (CWA) for the various undergraduate and postgraduate year groups in the Department. During this academic year, Twenty-One (21) female students were awarded with an amount Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 2,000) on 3rd September 2021.

ii. PRUDENTIAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARD

Prudential life insurance established the prudential life insurance award in 2014. The Award scheme supports top five (5) BSc. Actuarial Science graduating students with an amount of \$500 every year. They also sponsor them to write their professional examinations for a period of two years. An opportunity is also given to the overall best student in BSc. Actuarial Science to work with the Company.

iii. PROF. VICTORIA PEARL DZOGBEFIA AWARD

Prof. Dzogbefia introduced the Prof. (Mrs) Victoria Pearl Dzogbefia award for best student in enzymology in the year 2010. Since then, the best student in enzymology is awarded with an amount of \$250 every year.

We would like to thank all other friends and sponsors of the College. I appreciate and thank all parents, guardians and benefactors of our graduands. If our graduands stand tall today, we know they are standing on your toils and sweat. Your unflinching support has propelled them to this great achievement and may your sacrifices be rewarded.

Again, I wish to thank our gallant graduands and all other students for their cooperation during the year and for adjusting very well to the mixed mode and the new normal to make the academic year a success.

To my able staff of the College, I am truly grateful for your support. It was through your sacrifices and efforts that we successfully completed the academic year. Even though the mixed mode of teaching was new to some of us, we adjusted and soldiered on to deliver our mandate as an institution. I say Bravo.

WORD OF ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION

Now I will like to say a few words to my special graduating scientists. First and foremost, on behalf of staff in the College, I say CONGRATULATIONS! I want you to know that you have been trained in one of the best institutions in the world, KNUST and from one of the best Colleges of Science in Africa. You have been taught by very good Faculty in the various Departments. Therefore, we are very happy and proud to send you out today as graduates and ambassadors of this great College. As ambassadors, know that you represent us and therefore you cannot fail. You have a responsibility and a duty to excel and to lift up the name of the College and the University but above all yourself.

I wish to entreat you to live by the core values of the College, for it is upon these that we trained you. Therefore, gird your loins with these values and the world would hold you in high esteem.

We expect you to be the best amongst your equals, May the Lord God be your guide in all that you do.

**GRADUANDS, GO OUT AND DO EXPLOITS!!
THANK YOU.**

**PROF. LEONARD K. AMEKUDZI
PROVOST, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
KNUST, KUMASI
26TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR CHARLES OFOSU MARFO, PROVOST,
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE 55TH
CONGREGATION CEREMONY (VIRTUAL) OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON
FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 11:00 HOURS**

SALUTATION

Chairman and Members of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Registrar
Provosts of Colleges
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Members of Convocation
Representatives from our Affiliate Institutions
Nananom
Alumni of the University
Senior and Junior Staff
Graduating Class of 2021
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

On behalf of the Chairman and members of the Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Management and the entire staff of this great institution, it is my pleasure to warmly welcome all our graduands and esteemed guests, who are with us this morning through the virtual platform to the second day of our 55th Congregation ceremony.

You will all agree with me that today's ceremony marks the third time in the history of the University that graduation ceremony is being held without the usual pomp and pageantry and, notably, without the physical presence of our cherished graduands. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the whole world order significantly and we all have to adapt to the 'new normal', where we will need to devise safe and innovative ways of moving on with life.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have gathered via the virtual platform this morning, to confer degrees on our deserving graduands of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and to celebrate them for the successful completion of their various programmes of study.

Dear graduands, I wish to use this opportunity to congratulate you for achieving this milestone in your lives.

STATISTICS ON GRADUATING CLASS

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to inform you that the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is presenting 2,040 undergraduate graduands this morning. This total is made up of 1,138 males, representing 49.8%, and 1,148 females representing 50.20%. Also, of this

number, 322 are graduating with First Class honours, representing 15.8%; 1,165 (i.e. 57.12%) had 2nd Class honours (Upper Division); 541 (i.e. 26.5%) graduate with 2nd Class honours (Lower Division); and 12 (0.58%) with Pass.

This year, the OVERALL BEST GRADUATING student in the College comes from the Department of Language and Communication Sciences, who also happens to be our valedictorian for this congregation. He is in the person of Master Kudzawu Kossi Senyo and he is graduating with a CWA of 81.77. It is worthy of note that he gained admission into KNUST through the Less Endowed Admission Policy of the University.

ENROLMENT IN THE COLLEGE

Ladies and gentlemen, student enrolment into the College for the next Academic Year - i.e. the 2021/2022 Academic Year - is not complete due to disruption of the calendar by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we hope to have great numbers.

Regarding preparations to receive the expected increase in admitted students in the coming year, as stated in my last year's report, the College, with the assistance of the Management of the University, has been able to complete a great part of the ongoing Faculty of Social Sciences block and the Business School Extensions to provide additional space for teaching and learning.

We are also grateful to Government for the additional hands that the College has received. This will go a long way to ease the stress on our staff. However, with our incessant drive to expand and the coming of the next batch of fresh students, we anticipate an increase in our enrolment for the 2021/2022 academic year, which would require more lecturers, so that we do not fall foul of the Ghana Tertiary Education Council's (GTEC) requirement for Student/Lecturer Ratio.

The increasing student numbers must be complemented with teaching and learning facilities. In this regard, we will entreat GETFUND to assist us with additional teaching and learning facilities.

SOME HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLEGE

In line with the Human Resources Development objective of the College and the requirements of the National Accreditation Board of GTEC for all faculty members to have terminal degrees, the College continues to support members of staff to up-grade themselves at both local and international institutions.

Dr. George Bob-Milliar, the Director of KNUST's Centre for Cultural and African Studies (CeCAST), in collaboration with Prof. Ben Jones of the University of Anglia (UK) and Prof. Karen Lauterbach of the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), has been awarded a joint research grant of £49,980 by the prestigious British Academy on a project titled: 'Old parks, new futures: documenting the uses of open space in an African city. The award is to mentor three KNUST-based early career scholars, namely, Dr. John Boulard Forkuor, Ms. Eugenia Anderson and Mr. Manuel Jojo Manu-Osafo. Generally, the project seeks to study and investigate the political history and present-day use of an old park in Kumasi: Jackson Park (now Golden Jubilee Park) created in 1935.

Dr. George Bob-Milliar is also co-convening a conference titled 'Party Branding in Africa - Political Images, and Voting Decisions' under the programme Point Sud, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), with a grant of €46,000.

In my address last year, I informed the public that the KNUST Business School (KSB), headed by Prof. Nathaniel Boso, has won a USAID grant of \$15,000,000.00 with the Arizona State University. I am glad to again inform you that the project is going on well and the team of researchers is making great strides. The Principal Investigator, Prof. Nathaniel Boso has also been appointed as an extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) by the Governing Council of the University of Pretoria (UP). He will hold this position for a three-year term (1 September 2021 to 30 September 2024), with the possibility of re-appointment for a second term.

The Department of Marketing and Corporate Strategy at KSB, in collaboration with other higher education institutions in Africa and the University of Groningen (EU technical Partner) submitted an application for mobility funding in INTRA-AFRICA ACADEMIC MOBILITY SCHEME 2020, a joint initiative of the African Union and the European Union. The project is titled "Capacity Enhancement of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Higher Education Institutions: Bridging the Gap between Academia and Industry". It aims at utilizing the mobility scheme in building the capacity on innovation and entrepreneurship among participating universities to:

- Produce employable graduates;
- Improve the quality of higher education;
- Strengthen the modernization and internationalisation of African higher education institutions; and
- Promote the development of an African higher education and research space

ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY AND ORGANISATIONS

To further strengthen collaboration with our stakeholders, during the period under review, the Provost and a team from the College visited some organisations in Accra. The aim of the visit was to have discussions with the management of those organisations on how best the College could assist them in the execution of their mandate as well as how they could also contribute to the development of curriculum of the College's programmes of study for the training and development of appropriate human resources that are fit for purpose.

The Department of Accounting and Finance also signed MoUs for partnership with various professional bodies in accounting, including the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana (ICAG), the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). These partnerships are expected to enable students of the Department (at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels) to obtain several exemptions when they enroll on these individual professional programmes. An MoU with the Chartered Institute of Bankers (CIB), Ghana, is currently under review for signing for the benefit of our students of Banking and Finance.

The Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems engaged industry in the development of five (5) specialized supply chain courses. It also organized three (3) distinguished lectures as follows:

1. The topic Procurement and Logistics Optimization: The Way Forward in Achieving Operational Excellence was given on 8th April, 2021; by the Procurement Manager of GPHA, Tema Mrs. Philippa Amanda Armah.
2. On 29th June, 2021, Mr. Emmanuel Amoah-Adjei, a former Supplies Manager of Ashanti Goldfields, Obuasi also presented on the topic: Supply Chain Management Strategies: Ways to Reduce Cost in an Organization.
3. Prof. Francis Kofi Andoh-Baidoo (A Professor of Information Systems from the University of Ghana) also lectured on the topic: Three Essay Dissertation: Guidance and Frameworks on 30th September, 2021.

DONATIONS AND AWARDS

During the period under review, the Faculty of Law received 500 assorted law books donated by Georgetown University, USA. This donation was facilitated by an alumnus of the Faculty, Mrs. Nadine Pinamang, who happens to be the granddaughter of the legendary, Dr. Daniel Amponsah (a.k.a. Agya Koo Nimo) of KNUST and CeCAST in particular.

Also, the College benefited from the benevolence of Dr. Ofori Sarpong of the Despite Group of Companies and Special Ice fame. Dr. Ofori Sarpong financed the installation of multi-media conference facility for the College Boardroom to the tune of GHC65,000.00.

Furthermore, some Alumni of the Faculty of Law lifted the image of the Faculty in particular and the University in general by winning four awards at the call of new lawyers to the Ghana Bar on 1st October, 2021. The awards were:

- i. Mr. Samuel Adomako Pinaman Esq. won the John Mensah Sarbah Memorial Prize for the Best All-round Performance in Professional Law Examination as well as the Best Student in Legal Practice and Legal Accounting award;
- ii. Best Student in Interpretation of Deeds and Statutes was won by Ms. Akva Nyantakyiwaa-Sarpong Esq; and
- iii. Best Student in Law of Evidence was won by Mr. Jacob Soung Esq.

KNUST AT 70

Ladies and gentlemen, KNUST is 70 years since its inception and has churned out many graduates who are dotted all over the world impacting lives and society. To celebrate this milestone, the University has launched the 70th anniversary which is a yearlong celebration. The Theme for the 70th anniversary celebration is “KNUST, 70 Years of Global Impact: A New Age for a Renewed Focus”. I am delighted to inform you that the University has lined up some activities for the celebrations which includes public lectures, exhibitions and alumni homecoming. The Global Alumni has also lined up some activities for the anniversary including institution of an endowment fund dubbed '70 @ 70' Alumni Levy, a

"throwback nite" to share great fun moments on campus, "Katanga-Unity" Alumni Round Table Convo and Alumni-Faculty- Industry activities. Please join the Global Alumni after your graduation and participate in the activities.

APPRECIATION

Ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, I wish to express our sincerest appreciation to our stakeholders who have been of immense support to the College. These include the Georgetown University, USA, Mrs. Nadine Pinamang, the British Academy, the German Research Foundation (DFG). Dr. Ofori Sarpong, to mention, but a few.

I appreciate and thank all parents, guardians and benefactors of our graduands. If our graduands are standing tall today, we know they are doing so on your toils and sweat. Your unflinching support has propelled them to this great achievement. May your sacrifices be rewarded.

Again, I wish to thank our gallant graduands and all other students for their cooperation during the past year when a result of the COVID-19 pandemic we suddenly had to switch from our traditional method of teaching and learning to the virtual mode. It was unexpected. However, you proved your might by adjusting to the circumstance.

To my abled staff of the College, I am truly grateful for your support. It was through your sacrifices and efforts that we were able to bring the semester to a successful end. Even though the virtual teaching was new to some of us, we adjusted and soldiered on to deliver on our mandate as an institution. I say bravo to each and every one of you.

WORD OF ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION

Now I will like to say a few words to my special graduating class. First and foremost, on behalf of both Academic and Non-academic staff in the College, I say CONGRATULATIONS! I want you to know that you have been trained in one of the best institutions in the world, KNUST and from the best College in KNUST. You have been taught by very good faculty in the various departments. Therefore, we are very happy and proud to send you out today as graduates and ambassadors of this great College.

As ambassadors, know that you represent us and, therefore, you cannot fail. You have a responsibility and a duty to excel and to lift up the name of the College and the University but, above all, yourself.

I wish to entreat you to live by the core values of the College, for it is upon these that we trained you. Therefore, gird your loins with these values and the world would hold you in high reverence.

Be reminded that in life, nothing gets easier. However, as you strive, you get better. I would like to leave you with a quote from a biblical devotion which states (Q) "Success isn't automatically given to us; it's pursued with all the energy and sweat we can muster. Obstacles and struggles are part of life. They make us appreciate success. If everything came easy, we would never know how it feels to succeed. Obstacles were meant to be overcome, Fear was meant to be conquered and success was meant to be achieved". (unQ) I pray that the Good

Lord establishes you and grants you abundant success, in every endeavour of yours. May He open the heavens; the storehouse of his bountiful blessings and goodness for all the work of your hands.

Once again, I thank you all for making time to join us on the virtual space and for your audience. God richly bless you.

PROFESSOR CHARLES OFOSU MARFO
PROVOST, COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES
KNUST, KUMASI
26TH NOVEMBER, 2021

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KWAME OSEI BOATENG, DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE LEARNING, AT THE 55TH CONGREGATION
CEREMONY (VIRTUAL) OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 2021
AT 13:30 HOURS**

SALUTATION

Chairman of the University Council
Vice-Chancellor
Past Vice-Chancellors
Pro Vice-Chancellor and past Pro Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts of Colleges
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Members of Convocation
Representatives from our Affiliate Institutions
Nananom
Alumni of the University
Senior and Junior Staff
Graduating Class of 2021
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Guests

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

On behalf of the Chairman and members of the Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Management and the entire staff of this great institution, it is my pleasure to warmly welcome all our graduands and esteemed guests, who are with us this afternoon through the virtual platform to the second day of our 55th Congregation ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year's congregation is the third in series since the University moved from in-person to virtual congregation because of the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus pandemic and its associated ramifications. It is therefore important to note that the pandemic is still with us and as a University with over 80,000 and 3,000 students and staff populations, respectively, we cannot let our guards down. It is very unfortunate that we cannot have our students gather nicely and neatly dressed to celebrate them in person for the toils and hard work they have endured to reach this far. I wish to appreciate our graduands for the role they played in the adherence to all the covid-19 safety protocols, which has resulted in successful academic year in spite of the fact that the outbreak of the pandemic is not yet under complete control.

STATISTICS ON GRADUATING CLASS

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a delight to inform you that the Institute of Distance Learning (IDL) is presenting a total of 2,125 graduands this afternoon. This is made up of 1,228 males representing 57.8% and 897 females representing 42.2%. Out of the total number, 1,996 are graduating from the first-degree programmes on the Institute, Of this number 74 are graduating with First Class honours, representing 3.7%; 1,099 (55.1%) 2nd Class honours (Upper Division); 807 (40.4%) 2nd Class honours (Lower Division); and 16 (0.8%) Pass. The remaining 129 are

graduating from the diploma programmes of the Institute. 12 (9.37%) of 129 are graduating with distinction.

This year, the **OVERALL BEST GRADUATING** student in the Institute comes from the Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems. She is OPPONG, Nyamekye Victoria (Miss) of the Logistics and Supply Chain Management Option of the BSc Business Administration Programme of study with a CWA of 78.09. From next year IDL plans to follow the practice of making room for valedictorian speech at congregations.

ENROLMENT IN THE INSTITUTE

Ladies and gentlemen, with respect to student enrolment in the Institute for the academic year under review (that is, the 2020/2021 academic year), registered undergraduate students' numbers increased from 3,977 to 8,222, which is 106.7% increment relative to 2019/2020 academic year.

The following new programmes are to be introduced.

- Diploma Food Manufacturing
- BSc Food Manufacturing (to start one year after the Diploma)
- MSc Human Nutrition

Commonwealth Executive MBA/MPA (CEMBA/PA) programmes have experienced downward trends in enrolment numbers. The decline in enrolment numbers became accentuated when NCTE refused to recognize staff of educational institutions holding CEMBA/PA certificates and are not in executive positions. To stem the tide the Institute has introduced a structured variant of CEMBA-Commonwealth MBA (CMBA) that has specializations in various fields of business. Also, CEMPA was not advertized. Enquirers are advised to apply for admission to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. The Institute is planning to run the original CEMBA/PA programmes at the Moree Executive Campus when it (the campus) becomes operational.

SOME INITIATIVES IN THE INSTITUTE

Construction has begun for Phase II of the Institute's Accra Campus project. The contractor is on site at Adenta and work is progressing steadily to provide additional space for our ever-increasing population in the Greater Accra Region. Again, the Institute and the University are taking an initiative to convert the major IDL learning centres outside Kumasi into regular satellite campuses.

In the year under review the Institute gave birth to the KNUST E- Learning Centre. This new Centre is being resourced to cater for e-learning needs of the entire University. In this respect partnership is being forged with Higher Ed Partners of South Africa to expand the frontiers of the Institute to provide education to the Ghanaian -diaspora and compete on the global stage for students of all nationalities.

KNUST AT 70

Ladies and gentlemen, KNUST is 70 years since its inception and has churned out many graduates who are dotted all over the world impacting lives and societies. To celebrate this milestone, the University has launched the 70th anniversary which is a year-long celebration. The Theme for the 70th anniversary celebration is "KNUST, 70 Years of Global Impact: A

New Age for a Renewed Focus". I am delighted to inform you that the University has lined up some activities for the celebrations which includes public lectures, exhibitions and alumni homecoming. The Global Alumni has also lined up some activities for the anniversary including institution of an endowment fund dubbed '70 @ 70' Alumni Levy, a "throwback nite" to share great fun moments on campus, "Katanga-Unity" Alumni Round Table Convo and Alumni-Faculty- Industry activities. Please join the Global Alumni after 'your graduation and participate in the activities.

APPRECIATION

Ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture, I wish to express our sincerest appreciation to KNUST Management and our Facilitators. They have been of immense support to the Institute. Again, we are grateful to our staff who work 24/7 to keep the Institute going, even when the going gets tough. It was through your support, sacrifices and efforts that we were able to bring the semester to a successful end.

WORD OF ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION

Now I will like to say a few words to my special graduating cohort. First and foremost, on behalf of both academic and non-academic staff of the Institute, I say CONGRATULATIONS! I want you to know that you have been trained in one of the best institutions in the world, KNUST and from arguably the best institution of distance learning in Ghana. You have been taught by very good Faculty in the various Departments. Therefore, we are very happy and proud to send you out today as graduates and ambassadors of this great Institute. As ambassadors, know that you represent us and therefore you cannot fail. You have a responsibility and a duty to excel and to lift up the name of the Institute and the University but, above all, yourselves.

Note that your graduation today marks but a new beginning of another learning cycle. As the world continues to change, please continue to build on your skills and knowledge so you can continuously remain relevant in the changing times. I wish to entreat you to live by culture of excellence, a core value of the Institute, for it is upon this that we trained you. Therefore, gird your loins with this value and the world would hold you in high reverence.

GRADUANDS, GO OUT THERE AND DO EXPLOITS!!

I am grateful to you all for the audience. THANK YOU.

**PROFESSOR KWAME OSEI BOATENG
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE LEARNING
KNUST, KUMASI
26TH NOVEMBER, 2021**