

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA,
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KNUST AT THE 2009 MATRICULATION
CEREMONY AT THE GREAT HALL QUADRANGLE ON 19TH
SEPTEMBER, 2009 AT 9.00AM**

Pro Vice-Chancellor
Registrar
Provosts
University Librarian
Finance Officer
Internal Auditor
Deputy Registrars
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Faculty Members
Convocation Members
Senior and Junior Staff
Headmasters and Headmistresses of Invited Senior High Schools
SRC and GRASAG Presidents
My dear Freshmen and Women
Distinguished Invited Guests
Ladies and gentlemen

As the Vice-Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), I warmly welcome you all as fresh students of this great University, reputed to be Ghana's foremost tertiary institution of science and technology and one of the best in Africa. This morning's ceremony marks your official acceptance and entry into the fold of the University as junior members in *statu pupillari*. After today's ceremony, you will be officially recognised as students of KNUST and are thus, entitled to all the privileges accorded students of this great institution as well as be bound by all the responsibilities attached to your new status.

Over the years, there has been tremendous evidence that higher education and research contribute to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and progress towards reaching some internationally acceptable development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In fact, it has even been argued in some quarters that, at no time in history has it been more important to invest in higher education as a major force in the eradication of poverty and the attainment of sustainable development than this time. As a result of this conviction, several people in their attempt to contribute meaningfully to development have argued for increasingly higher investments in tertiary education. However, the major problem we have always been confronted with as a developing country has been the problem of resource constraints. Over the years, resource constraints have undermined our resolve to enhance tertiary education. In addition, the problem of accessibility is also now real than ever before primarily as a result of explosion in student numbers at the pre-tertiary level.

My dear freshmen and women, the current world economic order of an economic downturn has also had a lot of consequences; both positive and negative on the fortunes of several economies, corporate organisations and institutions. As a public-funded institution, KNUST has also had its fair share of the attendant problems of the economic downturn. Our funding has suffered a serious cut and with the net freeze on public employment, we are

seriously constrained on our expansion drive but we believe that the matter is only of a temporal nature.

The above stifling environment notwithstanding, this year, 19,452 candidates applied to study various programmes at KNUST. Out of the number, 13,385 were qualified according to our entry requirements. The University was, however, able to offer admission to 9,463 students including 238 distance learning students out of which 6,312 have registered. The figure comprises 6,595 (69.7%) males and 2,867 (30.3 %) females. We were also able to offer admission on concessionary basis to 337 students, which is 3.6% of our entire enrolment figures to students from Less Endowed Senior High Schools. As usual, these year's admissions reveal that, majority of students admitted have come from the elite schools. Indeed, as many as 17.82% of the students came from five schools namely: Prempeh, Opoku Ware, Wesley Girls, PRESEC - Legon and Mfanstipim.

In spite of this skewed distribution of students from senior high schools, I am happy to note that this year, six students from less endowed schools were offered admission to the School of Medical Sciences. They came from Yilo Krobo Senior High School, Akwamuman Senior High School, Drobo Senior High School and Nkwatia Secondary Commercial School. Other less endowed senior high schools such as Gowrie Secondary Technical School, Kanton Senior High School, Lassie Tuolo Senior High School, Odumaseman Senior High School, Nafana Presby Senior High School, Kofi Adjei Secondary Technical School, Juaso Day Senior High School, Mangoase Senior High School, Asesewa Secondary Community Day School, Breman Asikuma Senior High School, Mankesim Secondary Technical School, Ashaiman Senior High School, Bompeh Day Secondary Technical School, Bibiani Senior High Technical School, as well as Akatsi Secondary Technical School were also lucky to have provided us with some of our freshmen and women this academic year.

In a related development, the KNUST Alumni Association has offered to sponsor three students from less endowed schools who after their admission, could not mobilise funds to pay their fees. This was after an appeal to the Alumni Association by the Vice-Chancellor to come to the aid of these students. These three students have come from Akuse Methodist Senior High School, Yilo Krobo Senior High School and Kwanyarko Senior High School. We are most grateful to our Alumni for their support and call on other organised groups and corporate Ghana to emulate this gesture.

As part of the University's Strategic Objective to increase access to science and technology education, a couple of years ago, the University restructured and strengthened our then Faculty of Distance Learning into the Institute of Distance Learning with a potential to grow. We saw distance education as a powerful and growing force in our attempt to provide a bigger platform of accessibility for students. So far, I am happy to inform you that, there are six Regional Centres for our Institute of Distance Learning, offering several undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. A seventh centre has just been opened in Tamale to cater for the numerous students in the northern part of the country. In addition, we have increased the courses on offer here at KNUST with the introduction of undergraduate programmes in Agribusiness and Extension, Landscape Design and Management, Agricultural Biotechnology, Dairy, Meat Science and Technology, Real Estate Management, Sonography and Veterinary Medicine during this academic year. This effort is strictly in line with our efforts to widen access as well as in furtherance of our Strategic Objective to introduce new programmes to address the problems of industry and rural communities in response to national needs.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as part of the University's total quality management policy, students who are admitted are further scrutinised to assure us of the authenticity of the results they present from the West African Examination Council (WAEC). Over the years, we have had to conduct this exercise after students have been enrolled and we have found this practice not to be cost effective. As a result of the above, this year with the assistance of WAEC, the University was able to conduct this background check and this explains why this year's admission process was delayed a little bit. Even though this initiative came at a huge cost to the University, we think it is worthwhile in that, it affords the University the opportunity to ensure total quality management in all our admission processes as a University. What this means is that, all those who have been offered admission this year are duly qualified and we would not have to witness the situation where students in their second and third year have had to be withdrawn on the basis of not meeting the entry requirements.

My dear students, your admission to this University is a rare privilege for you all to add value to yourselves in your attempt to become more useful citizens to mother Ghana and Africa at large. I, therefore, congratulate you all for making one of the best and strategic decisions of your life. I am very hopeful that you will make maximum use of this opportunity offered you to attain tertiary education so that following the completion of your programme, you will go and positively impact lives of ordinary citizens in Ghana and Africa.

In order to make your stay here on campus as conducive as possible, the University has put in place, several structures such as the Office of the Dean of Students to deal with any matter of concern to students, a designated Students' Clinic to cater for all your health needs as students, Shuttle Services to facilitate your movement on campus, a Counselling Unit to provide academic and career counselling, and emotional/psychological counselling; among others. All these services have been provided for you in order to make your stay on this campus, as smooth as possible. Take advantage of these services to enhance your performance.

In the course of your studies, be inspired by the achievement of alumni of this University such as the immediate past Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, the immediate past Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, HE Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Mr. 1. Kirk Koffi, Deputy Chief Executive Officer in charge of Engineering and Operations of the Volta River Authority, Mr. Samuel Sarpong, Deputy Managing Director in charge of Operations of the Ghana Commercial Bank Ltd, Mr. George Andah, Chief Marketing Officer of M.T.N., Mr. Kofi Amponsah Effah, Managing Director of Amponsah Effah Pharmaceuticals Limited and many others who have, and continue to exert positive impact on the industrial and socio-economic landscape of Ghana and Africa. Let these societal giants be your role models.

You must remember that henceforth, you are responsible for the planning or scheduling of your time. The University is not like a Secondary School where you have the privilege of a Senior Housemaster to wake you up from your sleep, prompt you on your time for prep and so on. Everything is now up to you and your success or otherwise will depend on your ability to utilise this freedom to your advantage. Be cautiously adventurous and make sure you explore your talent to the full. In all your endeavours, be guided by the axiom that anything that is a breach of common sense also constitutes a breach of University

regulation for which you will face appropriate sanctions which could include dismissal from the University. Since it is always a sad thing to dismiss a student, I will urge you all to be of good behaviour, law abiding and serious with your studies. With this, you will not have any problems with anybody. There are several other important issues you need to know which have all been stipulated in the Student's Guide. Be familiar with those provisions and be guided by the tenets of those provisions. Get to know the

KNUST, its philosophy, ideology, vision, mission and be good ambassadors of the University everywhere you go from now on. Remember that you have come to the University and, therefore, use this opportunity to attain universal education. Make a conscious effort to get to know so many other things other than what you are supposed to study in your chosen area of specialisation.

I would like to caution all of you that, you all came to this University as individuals and, therefore, you take individual responsibility for any action or inaction on your part. The University is governed by rules which serve as margins of everybody's freedom. Hiding under the umbrella of groups and misconducting yourself can cause your withdrawal, rustication or prosecution. I have also over the years noticed that, a lot of students walk leisurely on our roads and do not even care a hoot about on-coming vehicles, forgetting that, they can easily be knocked down by such vehicles. We have recently witnessed the sad incident of one of our graduate students who was knocked down by a vehicle. I will caution all of you to be very conscious of the way you walk along roads on campus to forestall any unfortunate accident. Pavements have been provided for pedestrians; please use them and be safe.

Be open minded and nice in your dealings with everyone here on campus; especially, those within your cohort or year group. Remember that the friendship you make here can last you your entire life. Some of you may even find life partners here and very soon, you will be attending your friend's wedding, outdooring of your friend's children and even serve as godfathers and godmothers to each other's children.

With these remarks, I wish you all, the blessings of God. Enjoy your study period here at the KNUST.

Thank you.

Prof. Kwasi Kwafu Adarkwa
Vice-Chancellor, KNUST

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM OTOO ELLIS, PRO VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF KNUST AT THE 2009 SUNY ANI MATRICULATION ON
FRIDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2009 AT 9.00AM ON BEHALF OF THE VICE-
CHANCELLOR**

Registrar
Provosts
Deputy Registrars
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Faculty Members
Convocation Members
Senior and Junior Staff
Nananom
SRC and GRASAG Presidents
My dear Freshmen and Women
Distinguished Invited Guests
Ladies and gentlemen

I commence my short address by first conveying the sincere apologies of the Vice-Chancellor for his inability to join us today for this all important assignment. Other official matters have taken him to Accra.

Today marks a very important day in the lives of our freshmen and women who are so beautifully dressed this morning. On behalf of the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor, the teaching and non-teaching staff of the University and as the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), I warmly welcome our fresh students to this great University, reputed to be Ghana's foremost tertiary institution of science and technology and one of the best in Africa. This morning's ceremony marks our official acceptance and entry of 'these young ones to the University as junior members in *statu pupillari*. After today's ceremony, they will be officially recognised as students of KNUST and will, thus, be entitled to all the privileges accorded students of this great institution as well as be bound by all the responsibilities attached to their new status.

As you may be aware, a similar ceremony was held for students of the University's main campus in Kumasi last week Friday and as has been the tradition, we have had to organise this ceremony for our Sunyani campus in our attempt to bring education to the doorstep of the people of the Brong Ahafo Region.

My dear students, your admission to this University is a rare privilege for you all to add value to yourselves in your attempt to become more useful citizens to mother Ghana and Africa at large. I, therefore, congratulate you all for making one of the best and strategic decisions of your life. I am very hopeful that you will make maximum use of this opportunity offered you to attain tertiary education so that following the completion of your programme, you will go and positively impact lives of ordinary citizens in Ghana and Africa; especially, in your chosen area of study which is Forest Resource Technology.

In the course of your studies, be inspired by the achievements of some alumni of this University such as the immediate past Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, the immediate past Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, HE Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Mr. I. Kirk Koffi, Deputy Chief Executive Officer in charge of Engineering and

Operations of the Volta River Authority, Mr. Samuel Sarpong, Deputy Managing Director in charge of Operations of the Ghana Commercial Bank Ltd., Mr. George Andah, Chief Marketing Officer of M. T. N., Mr. Kofi Amponsah Effah, Managing Director of Amponsah Effah Pharmaceuticals Limited and many others who have, and continue to exert positive impact on the industrial and socio-economic landscape of Ghana and Africa. Let these societal giants be your role models.

You must remember that henceforth, you are responsible for the planning or scheduling of your time. The University is not like a High School where you have the privilege of a Senior Housemaster to wake you up from your sleep, prompt you on your time for prep and so on. Everything is now up to you and your success or otherwise will depend on your ability to utilise this freedom to your advantage. Be cautiously adventurous and make sure you explore your talent to the full.

In all your endeavours, my dear students, be guided by the axiom that anything that is a breach of common sense also constitutes a breach of University regulation for which you will face appropriate sanctions which could include dismissal from the University. Since it is always a sad thing to dismiss a student, I will urge you all to be of good behaviour, law abiding and serious with your studies. Never give us the opportunity to either rusticate or dismiss you. With this attitude, you will not have any problems with anybody. There are several other important issues you need to know which have all been stipulated in the Student's Guide. Be familiar with those provisions and be guided by the tenets of those provisions. Get to know the KNUST, its philosophy, ideology, vision, mission and be good ambassadors of the University everywhere you go from now on. Remember that you have come to the University and, therefore, use this opportunity to attain universal education. Make a conscious effort to get to know so many other things other than what you are supposed to study in your chosen programme or area of specialisation.

I would like to caution all of you that, you all came to this University as individuals and, therefore, you take individual responsibility for any action or inaction on your part. The University is governed by rules which serve as margins of everybody's freedom. Hiding under the umbrella of groups and misconducting yourself can cause your withdrawal, rustication or prosecution.

Finally, be open minded and nice in your dealings with everyone here on campus; especially, those within your cohort or year group. Remember that the friendship you make here can last you your entire life.

With these remarks, I wish you all, the blessings of God. Enjoy your study period here at the KNUST.

Thank you.

Prof. Williams Otoo Ellis
Pro Vice-Chancellor, KNUST

**SPEECH BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF KNUST ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL
MATRICULATION CEREMONY FOR THE INSTITUTE OF
DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS (SOUTHERN SECTOR) HELD
ON 10TH OCTOBER, 2009 IN ACCRA**

SALUTATION

Chairman of University Council
Regional Minister
Members of the University Council
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Registrar
Provost
Dean, IDL
Heads of Department
Members of Convocation
GRASAG & SRC Presidents
Members of the Press
Distinguished Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of our Chancellor, Chairman and members of the University Council, members of the Faculty and on my own behalf, I would like to welcome you all to this formal, solemn and short ceremony.

We have assembled here to formally welcome you and also accept you as undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Matriculation ceremonies are observed in all universities of the world; it is an occasion for you to be enrolled by the University in its register.

Over the years, there has been tremendous evidence that higher education and research contribute to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and progress towards reaching some internationally acceptable development goals, such as those stipulated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In fact, it has even been argued in some quarters that, at no time in history has it been more important to invest in higher education as a major force in the eradication of poverty and the attainment of sustainable development than this time. As a result of this conviction, several people in their attempt to contribute meaningfully to development have argued for increasingly higher investments in tertiary education. However, the major problem we have always been confronted with as a developing country has been the problem of resource constraints. Over the years, resource constraints have undermined our resolve to enhance tertiary education. In addition, the problem of accessibility is also now real than ever before primarily as a result of explosion in student numbers at the pre-tertiary level.

As part of the University's Strategic objective to increase access to science and technology education, a new Faculty of Distance learning (FDL) was established in 2005 to deliver programmes of study from all Colleges in the distance learning mode. Following approval by our Academic Board in October, 2007, the Faculty of Distance Learning was relocated from the College of Science and renamed Institute Distance Learning, with more leverage and autonomy.

We saw distance education as a powerful and growing force in our attempt to provide a bigger platform of accessibility for students. Distance learning is a way of opening up opportunities to a large number of adult workers who would otherwise not secure study leave from their employers in order to pursue University education, or those who, as a result of family commitments cannot leave home to study on campuses.

ACHIEVEMENT

So far, I am happy to inform you that the number of undergraduate programmes run by the Institute has increased from one (1) in 2005 to six (6) in 2009.

Currently the Institute runs undergraduate programmes in:

- BSc Computer Engineering;
- BSc Building Technology;
- BSc Quantity Surveying and Construction Economics;
- BSc Construction Technology and Management;
- BSc Actuarial Science; and
- BA Sociology and Social Work.

Four (4) more postgraduate programmes have been added to the one we started with in 2005. Postgraduate programmes currently run by the Institute include the Commonwealth of Learning's Executive Master's in Business Administration; and the Executive Master's in Public Administration, which are run at all our centres. The other Postgraduate programmes are:

- MSc Industrial Mathematics;
- MSc Environmental Science; and
- MSc Post Harvest Technology (Horticulture)

LEARNING CENTRES

The Institute's learning centres have increased from two in 2005 to seven in 2009. With the exception of the Central, Upper West and Upper East regional capitals, the Institute has learning centres in Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Sunyani, Koforidua, Ho and Tamale, offering both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Plans are far advance to reach the remaining regional capitals namely, Cape Coast, Bolgatanga and Wa in the shortest possible time.

STUDENT ENROLMENT

There has been a tremendous increase in student enrolment over the past five years. From a modest number of 44 undergraduate students enrolled in 2005, the number has shot up to five hundred and one (501) in 2009. Postgraduate students' enrolment has also increased from fifteen (15) in 2005 to one thousand one hundred and fifty (1150) in 2009.

Currently, the total student population of the Institute stands at 2,555. It is envisaged that, in the next five years, when our plans of covering all the regional capitals, and introducing additional programmes materialise, our number would reach our targeted ten thousand (10,000).

GRADUATION OF STUDENTS

I am happy to inform you that the first batch of nine (9) MSc Industrial Mathematics students under the Distance Learning programme graduated during the University's last congregation held in June 2009. Currently, sixty three (63) students on the Commonwealth of Learning's Executive Master's in Business Administration and Public Administration programme have successfully defended their theses and will be graduated during the Special Congregation to be held next month, that is, in November, 2009.

FUTURE PLANS

It is our desire to open opportunities for the large number of HND holders who are desirous to obtain degree certificates. It may be unfair to start this category of students from the first year (level 100) as has been the practice. To this end plans are far advanced to introduce top-up programmes for HND and other certificate holders with effect from the 2009/2010 academic year.

With this arrangement, HND holders with the requisite background and working experience are going to be admitted, and taken through a four-month bridging course. They will then start from the third year in July 2010. For a start, three programmes namely: BSc Computer Science, BSc Electrical and Electronic Engineering and BSc Telecommunications Engineering have been advertised. Other programmes are in the pipeline and would come on board when all the necessary arrangements have been met.

In view of the important role modern Information Technology plays in distance education, the Institute has procured multimedia laboratory equipment for online course material production and video-conferencing. Installation of the equipment is currently on-going. With this facility in place, students at the centres that would be hooked on to the system would have the opportunity to listen to lectures (face-to-face) sessions from the Kumasi centre.

WEEKEND EXAMINATION

As you are aware, the majority of distance learning students are workers with busy work schedules; hence, the University has put in place the necessary measures for students to write their end of semester examination on weekends. This arrangement takes effect from the current semester. Arrangements have been made for examiners in the various undergraduate and postgraduate courses run by the Institute to set two sets of questions of uniform standards for the regular and distance students.

CHALLENGES

It has not been all rosy for the Institute in carrying out its activities at all the centres. Obtaining suitable venues for face-to-face sessions at the centres has been a major challenge to the Institute. A large number of qualified applicants are often turned away because of limited classroom space. It is our hope that IDL would have its own facilities at the centres to enable us admit more students.

The science-based nature of most of the programmes run by KNUST has also ensured that many courses, as would have been expected, are run in the distance mode at our centres. In a few cases where science related courses are run, it has become difficult getting facilitators, especially outside Accra and Kumasi and facilitators had to travel from Kumasi to Accra at higher cost, to teach at the centres.

Apart from the Kumasi, Accra and Sunyani Centres, where the Institute uses permanent staff of the University to administer the programme, we have had to rely on non-permanent staff at the other centres. It is planned that in the next few years, the Institute would hire permanent University staff to manage our affairs at all the centres.

Combining work with studies is not easy. It takes determination and self-motivation. Sometimes, you have to leave home at the expense of your family, foregoing everything to be able to develop and upgrade yourself. I will urge you to comport yourselves wherever you are and take your studies seriously.

I wish you the best in your studies.

Stay blessed.

Prof. Kwasi Kwafu Adarkwa
Vice-Chancellor, KNUST