

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MATRICULATION ADDRESS SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2003

1. SALUTATION

- University Council Members
- Pro Vice-Chancellor
- Principal, Western University College
- Registrar
- Dean of Students
- Deans of faculties
- Hall Masters, Hall wardens, Senior Tutors
- Chaplains
- Members of Convocation
- Senior and Junior staff of the University
- Members of the press
- Headmasters and Headmistresses of selected Senior
Secondary Schools
- Parents and Guardians
- GRASAG President
- SRC President
- Junior members in Statu Popullari
- Ladies and Gentlemen

2. MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF MATRICULATION

Every year the University administers the solemn matriculation ceremony during which new students are required to take the MATRICULATION oath.

I must explain the significance of this matriculation ceremony. Before formal universities began, in the days of Plato and Aristotle, students simply went to sit at the feet of the professor and listened to whatever they had to tell them. When they had learnt enough, they simply left. In other words, there was no matriculation ceremony and there was no graduation ceremony either.

However, with the coming into existence of Modern Universities some eight hundred years ago, it has become necessary to mark the two most important days in the life of the University student: the day he/she begins the studies and the day he/she completes the studies. Matriculation day is therefore historic for both the students and the University. For the University, it is a day that the student is required to take an oath that you must not breach during your period of stay in the University.

For student it is the day you tell the whole world that you have left the senior secondary school and become mature in your thinking and attitude. We would encourage you to take a photograph this day of yourself to see how pretty or handsome you look at your matriculation.

3. YOUR VISION AND MISSION

As you begin your maturity journey through academic life you must, as a routine always define your vision and mission at every signpost in life as well as the strategy you must adopt to achieve your mission.

For each of you, your vision in the next four years will be to emerge as a successful graduate. Do not allow any other issue to deviate your attention from this goal.

4. UNIVERSITY RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Rules and Regulations are found in any community of the world. They are made to bring order into the community. Imagine for a minute what will happen at a traffic junction where six roads meet where six roads meet and traffic is heavy, if traffic lights are not installed or traffic orderly is not present. There would be chaos and accidents. Since there are 14,000 students sharing various facilities, if rules are not introduced in the University there would chaos and conflict. All regulations that you must obey are contained in the Freshers' Guide. You must take time to read them. More than that you **MUST** obey the rules. If you come into conflict with the rules, you may find yourself permanently sacked from the University.

5. UNIVERSITY RESIDENTIAL POLICY

At the matriculation last year, I explained that since there are only 5,684 beds for 14,000 students, it is not possible to house all our students on campus. The new University residential policy which matures this year ensures that every first year student gets accommodation from Halls of Residence. You are most fortunate to benefit from this policy. Before the year is over, you should make arrangements to obtain accommodation outside the Halls of Residence so that freshers, who arrive in August, 2004 can have accommodation in the Halls of Residence.

6. SPORTS ELECTIVES

This University believes that a healthy nation is a requirement for a prosperous nation. Therefore, the University has decided that every Wednesday afternoon between the hours of 3pm -6pm, every student must take part in some sport or another. In other words all lectures cease between 3pm-6pm every Wednesday. The University further encourages all students to register at least one sporting course during his/her stay in the University. The following courses are available

- Table Tennis
- Lawn Tennis
- Jogging
- Women football
- Badminton
- Swimming.

If you register for any of these courses, you will be coached to learn it properly. You will also earn credit to enhance your weighted average. There are plans to make swimming compulsory so that every student who passes through this University will know how to swim before he/she graduates.

The University is going to great length to help you cultivate a healthy style of living so that you stay healthy all your life and will not grow a pot belly or get fat as you advance in years. You may find more details about sports from a new department that is being created in the School of Medical Sciences to be called the Department of Sports and Exercise Medicine.

FIRST BATCH OF BA (LAW) STUDENTS MATRICULATING TODAY

This year we are matriculating our first batch of BA Law students numbering 81. We are truly proud of you and trust you will enrich our University life with excellent liberal arts.

7 OTHER ELECTIVES

This University promises to give you a TOTAL education. This means that whatever programme you have registered for, there are other electives which may not relate directly to your chosen programme. For instance, there are courses in the Centre for Cultural Studies like KEYBOARD SKILLS, DRUMMING, DANCING etc. Which we encourage you to take advantage of during your stay in the University.

8 ADMISSION STATUS

This year, there were 13,617 applicants to come to the University. Out of this number 11,836 qualified but we were only able to give admission to 4,861 students for reasons known to everybody in Ghana. This figure indicates that we were only able to admit 36% of all potential students. The University has begun to address an injustice that has plagued the nation for a long time. As you might have known, this year we have admitted 59 students from the less endowed senior secondary schools in ALL the TEN regions of Ghana on pilot basis. Next year we intend to EXPLODE this number into HUNDREDS of students from less endowed secondary schools. We wish to encourage these students to study very hard to justify the trust we have placed in you. We believe you are brilliant and will excel now that we have given you the chance.

9. BEST TWENTY SCHOOLS IN GHANA

Using our admission criteria, this University has identified the best twenty senior secondary schools in Ghana they are:

- 1st Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School
- 2nd Prempeh College, Kumasi
- 3rd Mfansipim Secondary School
- Opoku Ware Secondary School
- 4th Wesley Girls' High School
- 5th Achimota Secondary School
- 6th Pope John. Secondary School
- 7th St. Louis Secondary School
- 8th Yaa Asantewaa Secondary School
- St. Augustine's Secondary School
- 9th St. Peter's Secondary School
- 10th St. Rose's Secondary School
- 11th Aburi Girls' Secondary School
- 12th Adisadel College
- 13th Holy Child Secondary School
- 14th G.S.T.S Takoradi
- 15th Anglican Secondary School
- 16th Kumasi High School
- 17th Technology Secondary School
- T.I Ahmadiya Secondary School

We have invited the headmasters and headmistress of these twenty senior secondary schools to be the Vice-Chancellor's special guest at this matriculation ceremony. We would like to encourage them to continue with the good work they are doing for Ghana. We have also invited the headmasters of the less endowed secondary schools to this matriculation ceremony to encourage them to excel in the work, they are doing for Ghana.

10.K.N.U.S.T, AFRICA'S BEST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

I announced to the special congregation 2003 on August 9th 2003 that K.N.U.S.T has gained so much international fame for excellence that in March 2003, the Vice-Chancellor was invited as the best Technical University in Africa and the fifth best technical University of the world after,

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology M.IT, U.S.A
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich
- Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
- University of Tokyo, Japan

You are entering the University that His Excellency Kofi Annan the Secretary General of the United Nations once matriculated as you are doing this morning. So high a standard has been

set for you that you need to listen to what I am about to tell you if you must succeed.

11 RELIGIONS

This University is the birth of evangelical Christianity in Ghana. It has helped the University to achieve an extraordinary high moral standard on campus in the past. This tradition is still with us. We expect a high moral standard and integrity. Immoral life is out of place here so is cheating at examinations. Religion is private here and the constitution of Ghana allows freedom of worship for all other faiths.

13 FLEE FROM HIV/AIDS

In many countries in East and Southern Africa, the AIDS adult infection rate is over 30%. In Ghana it is over 3%. We warn all of you to live the decent life that I talked about and avoid immoral living. The worst thing to happen to you is to go through an excellent programme that we have put in place for you, only to discover that you have AIDS. Flee immoral living!

14 ALUMNI OFFICE

We want you to be proud of this University you have been matriculated into. Visit the Alumni office near the bookshop to leave your address there.

15 GOD BLESS YOU

Finally, I stand on behalf of all your professors, senior lecturers, lecturers, administrators, technicians and the entire KN. U.S.T to congratulate you.

We pray God will bless you to become successful graduates in two, three, four and six years from now.

Prof. Kwesi Andam

Vice-Chancellor - KNUST