

**ADDRESS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROF. KWESI ANDAM AT THE 2006/2007
MATRICULATION CEREMONY HELD ON SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2006 AT GREAT HALL**

1.0 SALUTATION

- University Council Members
- Pro Vice-Chancellor
- Registrar
- Provosts of our Colleges
- Deans of Faculties
- Hall Masters & Warden
- Heads of Department
- Members of Convocation
- Chaplains
- Senior Staff & Junior Staff
- Headmasters & Headmistresses
- Parents & Guardians
- SRC President and SRC Executives
- Junior members in Statu Popullari
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The year 2006 has brought good news to 5600 of you here this morning because you have gained admission to Africa's leading science and technology institution. The United Nations Secretary General, His Excellency Kofi Annan, also matriculated as you are doing some fifty years ago. - Four years from now you will be graduating from here with a good degree that will open doors for you to begin a great career in science and technology.

You will observe also that the beginning of your goad career will bring joy and pride to your family and friends. The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology will also be proud of you.

Because the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology wants you to succeed, I take time each year at this time to explain to you all the positive measures that you may take to reach your desired goals. That is why I take time to warn you of the dangers that can thwart your life ambitions.

2.0 SPECIAL WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Every good university in the world which has a reputation enrolls international students. Most Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, Professors and Administrators at KNUST have been international students at one time or another. KNUST is now a reputable University and for this reason the University must attract good foreign students.

For your instruction, the word *university* comes from *universal* and refers to people from other parts of the world. It is important to remind all Ghanaian students here that the culture

of the Ghanaian is to be hospitable and warm to all non-Ghanaians. This inseparable conduct of the Ghanaian must be reflected on you students also.

It has been reported to the University Administration that a number of University Hall students invaded the GUSS Hostel on the night of 21st September 2006. The apparent cause was that a pornographic film which was circulating around involved a Ghanaian female student and an international male student. From our investigation, the alleged Ghanaian female student is actually innocent and in fact this particular film is actually foreign, circulating around a University' in a foreign country.

Let me send the following warning to all University Hall students who are matriculating this morning.

- I We have tolerated two incidents of misconduct since reopening which we are investigating.
- II. If any more incidents like this invasion of CUSS Hostel occur again, the University Administration will have no option but to close down University Hall and expel all the 1200 students.

I encourage all of you to obtain a copy of the KNUST Student Handbook.

4.0 KNUST MATRICULATION

It is customary for me to take time, every year, to explain the significance of the meaning of Matriculation. Matriculation is an old tradition of the worldwide family of Universities dating back 800 years. In the days of Aristotle (322B.C - 384B.C) and Plato (428B.C - 348B.C) university education was informal. Students of Aristotle, Plato and other ancient philosophers were enrolled to sit at their feet and listen until they felt they had learnt enough. They the students simply left. So enrolment and graduation were not formally celebrated.

This informal university education continued until 800 years ago when the world's first university, the University of Bologna was started in Italy. It was followed by the University of Paris, the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. At these early universities, the tradition of MATRICULATION began. Since then, two important dates in the life of a university student have come to stay - Matriculation (that is the day the university student enrolls) and Graduation or Commencement (that is the day the university student completes the programme of studies to commence a career).

This morning, the KNUST Professors will present you to take the Matriculation Oath. Four years from now, the same KNUST Professors will proudly present you to be graduated at a Congregation Ceremony.

5.0 THE MATRICULATION OATH

When you take the Matriculation Oath today 23rd September 2006, you will be required to avail yourselves to a regime of excellent laboratory work, hands-on skills, fieldwork all delivered and supervised by world-class experienced professors. The pedagogy will

prepare you for a future lucrative career, the quality of which is compared with that of the world's top universities. This is the University that the world's top civil servant, His Excellency Kofi Annan the UN Secretary General once matriculated like you are doing this morning. Matriculation also means a watershed between a secondary school and higher education. You have clearly matured this morning and we have invited a cross section of headmasters, headmistresses and parents to witness the ceremony.

At KNUST, we apply two historic Latin phrases to emphasise your new standing in society namely:

- In statu popullari: (*of the status of a matriculated student*)
- In loco parentis: (*in place or on behalf of parents*)

6.0 A NEW RESTRUCTURED KNUST

This is the second Matriculation Ceremony since the University was restructured into six colleges. You must therefore feel proud that you are being matriculated into a university that has all the features of a world-class modern higher institution of learning.

The six Colleges are:

- i) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ii) College of Architecture and Planning
- iii) College of Art and Social Sciences
- iv) College of Engineering
- v) College of Health Sciences
- vi) College of Science

You will be assigned to your Academic Tutor whom you must make appointment to meet at least TWO times in a semester. All your problems in academic matters must be referred to him/her. Your department also has a Head of Department and all matters that cannot be solved by your Academic Tutor will be referred to him. There a Dean of a Faculty to which your Department belongs. In the unlikely circumstance that your academic problems cannot be solved by your Academic Tutor and Head of Department, the Dean or the Provost of the College will be contacted. You will see from this arrangement that the University is unique and provides you with adequate help to enable you succeed in your career. You must NEVER indulge in examination malpractices. You will always be caught if you did that because we have excellent invigilation resources. The only way we will sack you from the University is by indulging in such acts.

7.0 BEST TWENTY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In order of merit, the best twenty science and technology secondary schools are:

1. Prempeh College, Kumasi
2. Mfantipim Secondary School, Cape Coast
3. Presby Boys' Secondary School, Legon
4. Wesley Girls' High School, Cape Coast
5. Opoku Ware Secondary School, Kumasi
6. Yaa Asantewa Secondary School, Kumasi

7. Achimota Secondary School, Accra
8. St. Monica's Secondary School, Mampong
9. St. Peter's Secondary School, Nkwatia-Kwahu
10. St. Augustine's College, Cape Coast
11. Anglican Secondary School, Kumasi
12. St. Louis Secondary School, Kumasi
13. Aburi Girls' Secondary School, Aburi
14. Pope John Secondary School, Koforidua
15. T. I. Ahmadiyya Secondary School, Kumasi
16. St. Roses Secondary School, Akwatia
17. Holy Child Secondary School, Cape Coast
18. Akosombo International School, Accra
19. Ghana Secondary Technical School, Takoradi
20. Accra Academy, Accra

8.0 THE YEAR 2006/2007 ADMISSION DETAILS

Out of 18,166 qualified students who applied to enter KNUST, 7,972 were given admission. The total student population is now expected to be around 21,000. You should feel proud that you are among 21,000 students studying at KNUST. We have also admitted 2,567 females and 5,405 males which make the female intake this year 32.2 %. The University is on course to achieve a strategic female population of 40% in five years.

8.1 LESS ENDOWED SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Each year we allocate ten percent of admission to students from less endowed senior secondary schools. A total of 507 students were admitted from all the ten regions of the country as follows:

| Region | No. of students | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Ashanti | 90 | 18 |
| Brong Ahafo | 60 | 12 |
| Central | 71 | 14 |
| Eastern | 106 | 21 |
| Greater Accra | 21 | 4 |
| Northern | 25 | 5 |
| Upper East/West | 32 | 6 |
| Volta | 70 | 14 |
| Western | 32 | 6 |
| Total | 507 | 100% |

7.0 CUT-OFF FOR SOME PROGRAMMES

It is becoming increasingly competitive to access programmes at KNUST. This year the most competitive programmes in terms of cut-off points for six relevant SSSCE subjects were:

| | |
|---|---|
| • Human Biology BSc | 6 |
| • Electrical and Electronic Engineering BSc | 7 |
| • Pharmacy BPharm | 7 |
| • Aerospace Engineering BSc | 7 |
| • Doctor of Optometry | 7 |
| • Nursing BSc | 8 |
| • Petroleum Engineering BSc | 8 |
| • Telecommunications Engineering BSc | 8 |
| • Medical Laboratory BSc | 8 |
| • Biochemistry BSc | 8 |
| • Law LLB | 9 |
| • Computer Engineering BSc | 9 |
| • Civil Engineering BSc | 9 |
| • Mechanical Engineering BSc | 9 |
| • Statistics and Actuarial Science BSc | 9 |

10.0 SPORTS AND CULTURAL ELECTIVES

KNUST believes sports should form an integral part of your training. We encourage you to register at least TWO sports electives throughout your stay in the University. If you register for a sports elective, you can earn a good credit A or B and will improve your CUMMULATED WEIGHTED AVERAGE. It will also help you to learn new sporting disciplines. The following sports electives are available at the Department of Sports and Exercise Science (College of Health Sciences):

- Basic Swimming
- Intermediate Swimming
- Men Soccer
- Women Soccer
- Basic Tennis
- Intermediate Tennis
- Jogging and Fitness
- Basic Badminton
- Intermediate Badminton
- Women Handball
- Men Handball
- Karate
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Table Tennis
- Track and Field
- Taekwando

I especially encourage all of you to register for swimming so that you can be coached to learn to swim. Please note that every WEDNESDAY afternoon at 4:00pm, all lectures will cease to enable students to do sports and games.

There are also electives in cultural studies. They are:

- Fundamentals of Music Theory
- Keyboard Skills I

- Music Appreciation/Guitar
- Collegiums Musicum
- Introduction to Sound Engineering
- Traditional African Dance and Dance Forms
- History of African Traditional Systems
- Ethics and Etiquettes in Traditional African Culture
- Traditional Housing and Architectural Systems
- Introduction to Acting and Techniques I
- Introduction to Dance Techniques
- Introduction to Stagecraft
- Traditional Festivals in Ghana/ Africa

Note that, the sports and cultural electives are for ALL students.

11.0 GOD BLESS YOU

As I look at you from the podium this morning, I see nothing but handsome men and pretty beautiful ladies showing the beautiful creation of God. I want this external beauty to reflect your character also. Let your inner self be equally beautiful.

For this reason, I encourage you to take a photograph this morning for keeps. To remind you of how beautiful and handsome you were at your Matriculation. A beauty that MUST always remind you that your character must correspondingly be beautiful.

I commit you to God for safe keeping so that all the days you stay at KNUST will be successful and victorious.

PROF. KWESI ANDAM
VICE-CHANCELLOR

**ADDRESS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROF. KWESI ANDAM AT THE 2006/2007
MATRICULATION CEREMONY AT SUNYANI
CAMPUS ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2006**

1.0 SALUTATION

- Registrar
- Provosts of our Colleges
- Deans of Faculties
- Hall Masters & Warden
- Heads of Department
- Members of Convocation
- Chaplains
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You will observe also that the beginning of your good career will bring joy and pride to your family and friends. The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology will also be proud of you.

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4.0 THE MATRICULATION OATH

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Your Faculty, Faculty of Forest Resources Technology is under the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. You will be assigned to your Academic Tutor whom you must make appointment to meet at least TWO times in a semester. All your problems in academic matters must be referred to him/ her. Your department also has a Head of Department and all matters that cannot be solved by your Academic Tutor will be referred to him. There is also a Dean of the Faculty to which your Department belongs.

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6.0 THE YEAR 2006/2007 ADMISSION DETAILS

Out of 18,166 qualified students who applied to enter KNUST, 7,972 were given admission. You are among the 237 who have gained admission into Faculty of Forest Resources Technology, the newest faculty of KNUST. The details are:

BSc Forest Resource Technology

| | Females | Males | Total |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Diploma | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Mature | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| SSSCE | 31 | 99 | 130 |
| | <u>33</u> | <u>111</u> | <u>144</u> |

Diploma in Renewable Natural Resource Management

| | Females | Males | Total |
|---------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Diploma | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Mature | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| SSSCE | 23 | 62 | 85 |
| | <u>23</u> | <u>70</u> | <u>93</u> |

The total student population of KNUST is now expected to be around 21,000. You should feel proud that you are among 21,000 students studying at KNUST. We have also admitted 2,567 females and 5,405 males which make the female intake this year 32.2%. The University is on course to achieve a strategic female population of 40% in five years.

7.0 SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ON SUNYANI CAMPUS

I am glad to announce that the University wishes to extend the School of Medical Sciences (SMS) to the Sunyani Campus. Plans are far advanced to make this a success. As part of the preparations, a new hall of residence for medical students has been built on this campus. Also, the University has considered assisting the Sunyani General Hospital to gain the status of a teaching hospital to facilitate this noble course of training doctors on the Sunyani Campus of KNUST.

8.0 LAY A FIRM MORAL AND FOCUSED FOUNDATION FOR A FUTURE UNIVERSITY

Building a university is a very complex and difficult task. It requires discipline and hard work from students. It needs commitment and hard work from lecturers also.

The character that will be laid by the students in this formative year will be crucial to a successful future and development of a world- class university. Discipline and hard work will nurture this young Faculty into a healthy, handsome baby. Any deviation will create a still-born child which nobody wants. Therefore, both students in statu popullari and lecturers in loco parentis will heed this advice to make a great university out of the Faculty of Forest Resource Technology.

9.0 GOD BLESS YOU

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