

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY CHAIRMAN OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL,  
NANA (DR) OTUO SIRIBOE II, OMANHENE OF JUABEN TRADITIONAL AREA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2008 CONGREGATION OF KNUST ON FRIDAY,  
27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008 (MORNING SESSION - COLLEGES OF AGRIC/NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND ARCH/PLANNING)**

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene and Chancellor of KNUST  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament  
Members of the Council of State  
Members of the University Council  
Host Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors from sister Institutions  
Host Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors from sister  
Institutions  
Host Registrar and Registrars from sister Institutions  
Hardworking Senior Members  
Reliable Senior and Junior Staff  
Parents and Guardians  
Proud Graduands  
Members of the Press  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

As the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, I gladly welcome you all to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Congregation ceremony. As we all know, Congregations have been part of every University's calendar of events during which period degrees and certificates are awarded to deserving graduands. You will all bear with me that, the day of graduation in the life of a person who has spent years with mixed feelings of his or her life on a University campus is a solemn but momentous period which serves as a crowning moment to his or her years of hard work. and perseverance. I would, therefore crave your indulgence to say *ayekoo* to all graduands of the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as Architecture and Planning who have been presented here this morning to be awarded their certificates.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the present millennium has been characterised by the birth of modern science. As a result, the millennium has witnessed a tremendous growth of information, knowledge and understanding through scientific research and development. Powerful capacities arising through the availability of new materials, electronics and instrumentation are fascinating and increasing very rapidly. Computer technology is at the very heart of scientific activity and progress today. Advances in science and technology have, thus, contributed significantly to improvements in the quality of life in both developed and developing countries and the ability of a country to access, comprehend, select, adapt as well as use scientific and technological knowledge is correlated with the wellbeing and quality of life of its people.

We at the KNUST have as part of our social and corporate responsibility, the duty to train adequate number of technocrats to spearhead the country's developmental agenda. In this direction, the University has over the past sixty years produced highly skilled manpower in the

fields of science and technology to man the nation's' development agenda. In recent years, this responsibility has become increasingly enormous as a result of the fact that, our economy has witnessed some steady growth and expansion. It is, therefore, very gratifying to note that, some private Universities have also seen the need to train manpower in the fields of science and technology. This would, undoubtedly, increase the graduate output in the science and technology fields to better the fortunes of our country. The University, has therefore, been very strategic in this direction by identifying and facilitating the exchange of valuable and development-oriented technologies as well as forge and leverage efficient partnerships with such institutions. It is our hope that more and more institutions would venture into the training of scientists and technologists to provide sufficient manpower for our development vision.

On this note, I would like to say a word to the fresh graduates from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Ghana, and indeed, the whole of Africa has been waiting patiently for you to come out with pragmatic steps toward achieving lasting food security, mechanised agricultural practices and sustainable environmental conditions to alleviate poverty on the continent. In fact, with the impending food crisis in the world that has forced the government to painstakingly take some strategic economic decisions to waive import duties on some selected staple foods, we need your technical input into the processes which are aimed at ensuring sustainable agricultural production and food security for our nation. It is really mind bugging to know that, despite all the arable lands Ghana has been endowed with, we still import food and agricultural products to feed our nation. For how long should we allow this unfortunate incident to continue? This is your challenge as fresh graduates from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

To the new graduates from our College of Architecture and Planning, you also have a responsibility to the achievement of the development aspirations of our nation. As planners, your role in formulating and helping to implement sustainable policies cuts across all sectors of the nation's economy. With several problems in our built environment such as collapsing structures, choked drains, unplanned settlements, land tenure problems; amongst others, your professional integrity and ingenuity is required to bring sanity into our nation's quest to house its citizens. There are several engineering and architectural challenges, especially, in our cities and big settlement towns. There have been several calls for a sustainable solution to the perennial flooding problems in our cities which seems insurmountable. These challenges thrown to you may seem unattainable but I have no doubt that, you have been technically adequately prepared and with resilience, you will stand firm and fulfil the task ahead.

In conclusion, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, at this point in our history, more technological advances are being made and more resources are being allocated to education than ever before. However, there are two conflicts emerging out of this present situation; one resulting from the relationship between humans, i.e. their coexistence, and the other one is associated with the relationship between humans and the natural environment. Despite the fact that one part of humanity enjoys a better quality of life, major challenges such as sustainable human development and climate change, equity and human rights, intercultural coexistence, technology, science, ethics, values, peace, democracy; amongst others, have all emerged. These challenges urgently require a paradigm shift for reconstructing society and building a better world for future generations. These should be our concern as technocrats and I charge you to live up to this expectation.

On this note, I would like to highly commend all those who in one way or the other have brought real meaning and fulfilment to the lives of these graduands such as parents/guardians, teachers/lecturers, support staff and other collaborators. These graduands would forever remain indebted to you all.

I once again warmly welcome you to this morning's Congregation ceremony.

Thank you.

**Nana (Dr) Otuo Siriboe II**  
**Chairman, University Council**  
**KNUST**

**June 27, 2008**

**SPEECH READ BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, VICE-  
CHANCELLOR, KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 42<sup>ND</sup> CONGREGATION  
HELD ON 27TH JUNE, 2008 AT THE GREAT HALL - MORNING SESSION FOR  
THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING**

**1.0 SALUTATION**

Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Ghana  
Your Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Chancellor  
Chairman of the University Council  
Honourable Minister of Education, Science and Sports  
Honourable Regional Minister  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Nananom  
Members of the Clergy  
Colleague Vice-Chancellors  
Past KNUST Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors  
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities  
Registrar and Registrars of Sister Universities  
Guest Speaker  
Members of the University Council  
Provosts  
Deans and Directors  
Heads of Department  
Alumni of the University  
Members of Convocation  
Faculty Members  
Senior and Junior Staff  
Excited Parents and Guardians  
Proud Graduands and KNUST Class of 2008  
Members of the Media  
Distinguished Invited Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

**2.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

In addition to our Chairman of Council's introductory remarks, I would also like to welcome you all to this graduation ceremony. For those of you who have travelled from out of town, I wish you Godspeed in your outward journeys. For those of you from our immediate environs, it is our hope that you will continue to patronize our future programmes and we also wish you well. It is our hope that you will all partner with us as we strive to develop a tradition of excellence in this University.

Congregations are very important events in every University. They are assemblies of the Senior Members of the academic units of a university organized primarily for the purposes of receiving reports on the universities' activities and also awarding degrees to deserving students. As a University, we have had several congregations but this 42<sup>nd</sup> Congregation is special in various ways. After 41 graduation ceremonies, the University is mature. Indeed, KNUST is

matured but we still have a few challenges that we are gradually beginning to overcome.

In spite of our challenges, this last year was a particularly good one for the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Architecture and Planning whose students we have met this morning to graduate. During the year, they were able to fulfil their core responsibilities of teaching, research and community engagement in various ways. Details of these activities are contained in the Vice-Chancellor's Report to Congregation; copies of which you should have in your package of materials for this occasion.

### **3.0 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

This College is made up of three major faculties of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Forest Resources Technology at Sunyani. The College had 308 courses on offer during the year under review and had a total student population of 1,852 with 95 lecturers; implying a lecturer: student ratio of 1:19 which is one of the best ratios on campus. In spite of this, we have continued to employ more lecturers for the College; particularly for our Sunyani Campus. So far, we have attracted ten (10) new lecturers for the College with six of them specifically hired for our Sunyani Campus.

The College appears to be experiencing a gradual decrease, on a year- to-year basis, in the number of students enrolling in its programmes. Consequently, the cost per capita of training students in Agriculture, for example, is gradually increasing compared with similar costs in other Colleges. As a way of dealing with this challenge, a number of market and demand driven programmes have been designed and will soon be on offer. These programmes include:

- BSc Dairy Science and Technology;
- BSc Biotechnology; and
- BSc Landscape Design and Management.

In the case of the Sunyani Campus, one major challenge relates to attracting students to enrol in the Diploma Programme in Natural Resources Management because it is of a three-year duration. The College has, therefore, been encouraged to review its duration to make it more attractive considering that there is a specific role for these professionals within the forestry sub sector. Conscious efforts are also being made to increase the number of students on the degree programme by pursuing an aggressive marketing strategy.

The above pattern is partly the result of the limited patronage of related programmes at the Senior High School level. It is rather ironical that at a time when the world seems to be experiencing food deficits, we rather have fewer people enrolling on the very programme whose graduates will play a lead role in food production because of its labour intensive nature. We need to tackle this challenge from several angles. At the senior high school level, for example, the subject matter can be reviewed to give it some currency and at the tertiary level, students offering agriculture could be considered for special bursaries which will bind them to work within the sector for a specified period after graduation. Finally, at the national level, some innovative incentivisation scheme can be designed to attract and retain professionals within the sector.

This year, we will be graduating a total of 4,951 students out of which 363 will be from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The latter figure is only a marginal increase

over last year's figure of 269. Of this year's graduates, 25 obtained First Class Honours degrees out of which 9 were females. Apart from 103 students who secured Second Class Honours (Lower degrees), 196 students had Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degrees and 5 had Pass degrees. As I mentioned earlier on, it is a real challenge for all of us as a nation to ensure that these graduates are attracted to, and retained in the sector to be engaged in activities that would directly or indirectly impact food production. On the whole, our students have excelled in their chosen disciplines and it is our hope that they will carry this attitude into their professional lives.

This graduation ceremony coming exactly twenty-eight days after our final examinations has been made possible by our hard working lecturers and this shows their dedication. It is my hope that the class of 2008 will forever be grateful to their hardworking and dedicated lecturers. If you agree with me, can I suggest we give your lecturers a standing ovation. We are proud of them.

Research output from the College was also commendable and it is worthy of note that selected Departments within the College placed very high in the first recently completed ranking of academic Departments. The College has successfully collaborated with the University of Guelph and Malaspina University College to execute two research projects with CIDA funding aimed at poverty reduction within the immediate environs of Sunyani.

The College also held its first scientific research retreat from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2007 at Sunyani under the theme "Enhancing Staff Progression through Research Output Appraisals". This retreat offered senior members an opportunity to present findings of their research and to benefit from colleagues' constructive suggestions. A total of 45 papers were read at the retreat.

The Centre for Biodiversity Utilization and Development is also collaborating with Michigan State University to study and characterize forty local leafy vegetables in Southern Ghana.

The College's Strategic Plan was launched on February 22, 2008 and at the same ceremony, a 56-seater Tata Bus procured through the joint efforts of the students and the Faculty of Agriculture was outdoored. The bus will help enhance students' access to undertake field work which was hitherto severely hampered by the lack of reliable transportation.

The community engagement efforts by the College over the period under review were commendable. The College continued to collaborate with all the communities within the proximity of our Sunyani Campus and Brosankro. Partly as a result of the College's active community engagement, the Finatrade Group of Companies has agreed to provide funding up to the tune of GH¢ 54,000 to be used in establishing a model farm on campus. While this will greatly enhance teaching, it will also be used as a laboratory for the field testing of our research efforts in an integrated manner. In addition, Finatrade has also provided twenty academic scholarships worth GH¢ 10,000 to students of the College. Under a special NUFFIC funding, the Netherlands Government also provided €1.6 million for Phase II of the construction of a state-of-the-art office block and training centre which will enhance the Bureau of Integrated Rural Development's capacity to run short and tailor-made courses to a variety of clientele.

I am also happy to announce that the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment has made available GH¢ 120,000 for the construction of two residential flats to ease accommodation on the Sunyani Campus. In a similar vein, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has also donated one Nissan Hardbody Pick-Up truck under its Roots and Tubers Improvement Programme. Finally, the National Agribusiness Development Programme has made available to the College, two scholarships worth nearly GH¢ 10,000 for students within the College. We are, indeed, extremely grateful to all our benefactors and very much appreciate what they have done for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

#### **4.0 COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING**

This College will be presenting 437 students in Architecture, Building Technology, Planning and Land Economy for graduation this morning. This shows an increase of 19.7 per cent over last year's figure. This increase reflects an overall university-wide increase in student enrollment during the 2003/2004 academic year. However, we will not be able to sustain such increases even though they may not be substantial because of the current state of infrastructural facilities. In spite of the completion of the major teaching block in the College, students still experience congestion in lecture rooms and studios and some staff are even without offices.

Of the number graduating this morning 28 or 6.4 per cent earned First Class Honours degrees out of which 5 are females. As many as 248 or 56.8 percent earned Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degrees. The proportion of females in this category is 85 or 19.5%. This cohort of graduands shows a lot of promise because only 9 or 2.1 per cent secured Pass degrees. It is observable that all the programmes in the College are registering First Class degrees probably as a result of the good quality of student intake, their hard work and the good work done by faculty members. I would like to use this medium to congratulate all faculty members in the College and also kindly request our graduating class of 2008 to give their lecturers a standing ovation. You may resume your seats.

In view of on -going changes in the planning, construction and real estate industry; the College has made proposals for the introduction of undergraduate programmes in Building Economics and Quantity Surveying, Construction Technology and Management as well as Real Estate effective August, 2008. The first two programmes will replace the current Building Technology programme but the Real Estate programme will run concurrently with the Land Economy programme. These changes have been occasioned by the need for our programmes to remain relevant by responding to changing market trends.

Research appears to be gaining a lot more prominence than it did during the 2006/2007 academic year in all Departments of the College. What is also observable is that a lot of the research results are presented at national conferences and workshops and subsequently published in professional journals of the various disciplines. Faculty members may also find it useful to channel some of these presentations to international peer reviewed journals and I have no doubt in my mind that they are up to the task. In this regard, I am happy to inform Congregation that Professor Edward Badu and Dr. Bernard Baiden of the Department of Building Technology won an Emerald Literati Network 2008 Award of Excellence for their paper on "Assessment and Enforcement of Liquidated Damages in Construction Contracts in Ghana". Professor Edward Badu and Dr. Bernard Baiden, well done and congratulations!

The College organized an International Workshop on Transparency in Land Administration funded by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. Participants came from Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The Department of Land Economy and the Centre for Land Studies won a contract to undertake a study on Vested Lands in Ghana under the Land Administration Project. The Department of Planning obtained a Research Grant worth 8,000 Euros from Tropenbors.

All four Departments in the College secured favourable positions on the first ranking of academic Departments here at KNUST, but clearly, they have a lot more potential to excel and we all expect this to be adequately reflected in next year's ranking of academic Departments. Almost all the Departments in this College have rather unfavourable student: teacher ratios and this tended to affect their rankings unfavourably. This year, we were able to employ only five (5) more faculty members for the College in spite of all the strenuous efforts we made. Luckily, the College graduated the first doctoral student under the Vice Chancellor's Special Initiative for Staff Development.

The scope and extent of the College's community engagement appears to have diminished somewhat during the course of the year. The College maintained its collaborations with the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly and the Techiman Traditional Authority even though fewer activities were carried out during the year under review. The latter one is a joint effort with the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor whose President, Dr. Mary Sue Coleman and a delegation of twelve persons paid a day's working visit to KNUST. The College's collaboration with the Institute of Urban and Regional Studies continued with their joint research activities and during the next academic year, there will be an exchange of faculty members between these partners with each partner spending a whole year teaching and researching at the other university.

## **5.0 APPRECIATION TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

Apart from our faculty members, parents and guardians have also contributed immensely to our ability to present these young men and women for graduation this morning. Needless to say, without their assistance, our preparation of the students would not have been complete. We are therefore extremely grateful to parents and guardians of our graduands for their tremendous assistance to these young ones during the course of their studies. Once again, can I suggest that we show our appreciation to them in the usual way by clapping for them.

As parents and guardians, you may be relieved, but indeed, your work is not completed. You need to continue to guide them as they either step into the world of work or move on to Graduate School. Without your continued assistance, these young ones may be totally lost in the world out there. And now, a few words of advice to our graduands.

## **6.0 ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION**

In the past four years or so, we have taught you how you can make a living for the rest of your lives as agricultural scientists, specialists in natural resource management, architects, building technologists, planners and land economists. What you need to do now is to quickly apply your knowledge to real life situations. Your education was so broad and flexible enough to allow you to adapt to a wide range of real life situations. You need to quickly realize that the real life is very different from campus life where you have been sheltered from all the harsh realities of life. You will now be paying for your utilities and your employers will demand so much from you for which their compensation is unlikely to ever satisfy you.



On the other hand, life can be a lot more easier if you approach it with hard work, integrity, humility and diligence. These are the qualities and attributes expected from all of us if we are to meaningfully tackle our food problems, rapidly vanishing natural resources, as well as the poorly managed human settlements with limited access to land for various productive ventures.

You must learn to be accountable and a major source of encouragement for our less fortunate brethren. Do not let any opportunity slip by because you cannot ever recover it. Make the maximum use of your time and learn not to procrastinate on any issue. Remember that you need to help us continue to improve on our circumstances as a University. You are therefore encouraged to join the KNUST Alumni Association from which you can begin to mobilize resources for the eventual development of the University. Each of you should go out into the world as either a proud Alumnus or Alumna of KNUST.

Once again, congratulations and Godspeed to all of you.

Thank you.

**Prof. Kwasi Kwafu Adarkwa**  
**Vice-Chancellor, KNUST**  
**June 27,2008**

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY CHAIRMAN OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL,  
NANA (DR) OTUO SIRIBOE II, OMANHENE OF JUABEN TRADITIONAL AREA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2008 CONGREGATION OF KNUST ON FRIDAY,  
27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008 (AFTERNOON SESSION - COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND  
THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES)**

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene and Chancellor of KNUST  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament  
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Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as I said in my welcome speech earlier on during the morning session, the present millennium has been characterised by the birth of modern science. As a result, the millennium has witnessed a tremendous growth of information, knowledge and understanding through scientific research and development. Powerful capacities arising through the availability of new materials, electronics and instrumentation are fascinating and increasing very rapidly. Computer technology is at the very heart of scientific activity and progress today. Advances in science and technology have, thus, contributed significantly to improvements in the quality of life in both developed and developing countries and the ability of a country to access, comprehend, select, adapt as well as use scientific and technological knowledge is correlated with the wellbeing and quality of life of its people.

We at the KNUST have as part of our social and corporate responsibility, the duty to train adequate number of technocrats to spearhead the country's developmental agenda. In this direction, the University has over the past sixty years produced highly skilled manpower in the fields of science and technology to man the nation's development agenda. In recent years, this responsibility has become increasingly enormous as a result of the fact that, our economy has witnessed some steady growth and expansion. It is, therefore, very gratifying to note that, some

private Universities have also seen the need to train manpower in the fields of science and technology. This would, undoubtedly, increase the graduate output in the science and technology fields to better the fortunes of our country. It is our hope that more and more institutions would venture into the training of scientists and technologists to provide sufficient manpower for our development vision as well as help other African states as part of our vision as a nation as the black star of Africa.

On this note, I would like to say a word to the fresh graduates from the School of Graduate studies. The modern world order is driven by knowledge-based economies. Tertiary education which may be regarded as the knowledge factory exercises direct influence on national productivity, social norms, standard of living and levels of a nation's development. Through skills development and knowledge acquisition in basic and applied research, graduate education produces the intellectual, scientific and technological tools and high level human capital required for competitive economic growth and development. Postgraduate education fully fine tunes an individual's creativity, insight, and analytical skills. By acquainting students with complex ideas in an intellectually and practically stimulating environment, postgraduate education seeks to provide unique opportunities for personal enrichment while preparing students adequately for future careers as fully baked professionals.

The development of new technologies and the globalisation of the world's entire economy have created high demand for workers with computer, communications as well as other occupational skills that can be acquired only through postgraduate education. In fact, postgraduate education has assumed the centre stage in a nation's quest for development and Ghana, and for that matter, the whole of the African continent cannot help but adequately provide opportunities for postgraduate education as a means of fast-tracking our development. This is the challenge KNUST is adequately living up to and this is evidenced by the number of graduands being presented for this afternoon's session which proudly includes one locally trained PhD graduate from the Vice-Chancellor's Special Initiative.

The above puts a lot of responsibilities on your shoulders as graduands of our School of Graduate Studies. Society is very much aware that you have been adequately resourced to bring relief to its developmental bottlenecks and it, therefore, behoves you to live up to this societal expectation. Let your impact be felt in whatever field you find yourselves after your studies here by striving for excellence in your endeavours for global reach and impact to bring honour and fame to yourselves and your proud alma mater.

To the new graduates from our College of Engineering, you also have a responsibility to the achievement of the development aspirations of our nation. As Engineers, your role in formulating and helping to implement sustainable policies cuts across all sectors of the nation's economy. In fact, contemporary development paradigms offer a wide range of lessons on the role of engineering in development in general and technological innovation in particular. These lessons range from the role of engineering specialists in economic restructuring to the role of technological innovation in business incubation to the engineering role in the provision of health, education and social infrastructure amongst others. There are, therefore, several engineering challenges in almost every aspect of our social and economic life as a nation; be it in transportation, agricultural production, safety and security, environment, communication, health care delivery, education and even entertainment; amongst others.

These are the challenges the average Ghanaian expects you to provide practical and sustainable solutions to, in order to better their present living conditions. In fact, these challenges thrown to you may seem unattainable but I have no doubt that, you have been adequately prepared psychologically and practically/physically and with resilience, you can successfully achieve accomplish this task.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, the challenges that confront us as a nation urgently require a paradigm shift for the reconstruction of our society and build a better world for our future generations, yet unborn. These should be our concern as technocrats and I charge you to live up to this expectation. On this note, I would like to highly commend all those who in one way or the other have brought real meaning and fulfilment to the lives of these graduands such as parents/guardians, sponsors, teachers/lecturers, support staff and other collaborators. These graduands would forever remain indebted to you all.

I once again warmly welcome you to this morning's Congregation ceremony.

Thank you.

**Nana (Dr.) Otuo Siriboe II**  
**Chairman, University Council**  
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**June 27, 2008**

**DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, VICE  
CHANCELLOR OF KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND  
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STUDIES**

**1. SALUTATION**

Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Ghana  
Your Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Chancellor  
Chairman of University of Council  
Honourable Minister of Education, Science and Sports  
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Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
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Colleague Vice-Chancellors  
Past KNUST Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors  
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister  
Universities  
Registrar and Registrars of Sister Universities  
Guest Speaker  
Members of the University Council  
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Heads of Department  
Alumni of the University  
Members of Convocation  
Senior and Junior Staff  
Excited Parents  
Graduands and KNUST Class of 2008  
Members of the Media  
Distinguished Invited Guests  
Ladies and gentlemen

**2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

On behalf of our hardworking lecturers and the entire University community, I would like to welcome all of you to this important function in the lives of our young ones and the University as a whole. As most of you are no doubt aware, this afternoon's session is the second in this year's Congregation. This morning, we graduated students from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the College of Architecture and Planning. It was a very well attended function and this afternoon, we have assembled once again to present students from the College of Engineering and the School of Graduate Studies for graduation. On the whole, 4,957 students will be graduating this year.

As a University of Science and Technology, Engineering is clearly one of our flagship programmes. At the undergraduate level, there are currently 12 different programmes on offer

and they are among some of the very well patronised programmes on campus. As is to be expected, following the discovery of oil in commercial quantities in Ghana, Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Materials Engineering were over subscribed during this year's admission process but we had to cap the class sizes because of obvious constraints. As soon as our faculty situation and physical infrastructural facilities improve, we will be in a much stronger position to increase intake for these well sought-after and critical programmes necessary for national development.

In addition to the 12 undergraduate programmes, there are 13 different programmes at the master's and doctoral levels. Even though the class sizes at these levels are relatively very small, the well patronised programmes include Water and Sanitation, as well as Road and Transport Engineering with clientele from all over the African continent.

The rationale for mounting these engineering programmes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels has been to uplift the quality of engineering education and to promote the overall national technological, advancement. In addition to these efforts, the two Research Units within the College are seriously engaged in efforts that will positively impact our society. As you would all recall, the Energy Research and Development Centre successfully organised the "Flagbearers On Energy" Seminar Series during which period presidential aspirants of various political parties were invited to interact with the University community and the public on their plans for energy development should they become President of Ghana. The impact of this initiative has been phenomenal and has led to various recognisable groups following with similar invitations to the political parties.

Last month, Professor John Peter Abeeku Brew-Hammond, Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical and Agricultural Engineering, participated in a Global Forum on Renewable -Energy in Brazil as a prominent resource person. This important debate was moderated by Rodney Smith of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Other panellists included the Director of Energy, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria and Director General of UNIDO Regional Solar Energy Research Centre, China. Prof. Brew-Hammond, well done!!!

The College of Engineering is collaborating with UNESCO-IHE to implement various multi million Euro water sector projects. The first project, called POWER, is a joint project for research and development of course materials in drainage and flood management whereas SWITCH, the second project, is a research project using Accra as the demonstration city to develop strategies for the development of future eco-city. WASHCOST, the third project is a collaborative research with International Water and Sanitation Centre. Our intention is to develop a Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation.

The College of Engineering is also helping the University deal with its own local water problems. Currently, the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) is the main source of water supply to the campus. However, recent water supply problems show that we cannot continue to depend on the GWCL to meet our water supply needs. We have, therefore, embarked upon an aggressive plan to meet our water demand from other sources. As a first step, several boreholes have been sunk around the main campus. Indications are that the groundwater potential on our campus is high and the natural water quality is excellent for all purposes. Many (7) of these boreholes are of high yields.

With the boreholes, several places do not seem to notice the problems of the GWCL in meeting the demand of their customers. Several of the recent buildings and complexes such as the Faculty of Law and Business School are supplied from some of these boreholes. The Engineering Guest House has also cut itself off the main supply lines of GWCL and it is dependent on a borehole.

The College of Engineering is assisting us to take the whole of the KNUST campus off the GWCL lines and run our own independent water supply system. Being a large consumer ourselves, this should release more water for distribution by GWCL to water stressed communities after completion of the whole exercise. All that we need to do for completion of the vision is the assistance to link our boreholes with pipe lines to the overhead reservoirs, which are already in place.

The Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) established by an Act of Parliament in 1972, continues to serve as a catalyst for networking between the teaching Departments of the University in particular and the College of Engineering, entrepreneurs and the community in general. TCC plays a critical role as the research and business innovation centre of the College with its main activities being research, development and transfer of appropriate technologies aimed at sustainable livelihood and enterprise development.

Three new technological innovations were transferred this year. These are the water filter technology for improved water quality, glass blowing technology for science equipment production for Senior High Schools as well as the design and fabrication of soybean processing machinery for the establishment of small-scale soybean processing enterprise for value added soybean products.

The year under review has also seen the resurgence of collaboration between TCC, the Government, and international organisations in making technology work in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Notable was the visit of Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Thailand to the Centre's 'Ahibenso' energy efficient cook stoves project. Her visit has created the opportunity for Thailand and KNUST to partner in research and development of efficient cook stoves for rural communities. Faculty members from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Pennsylvania, Michigan State University and University of California; among others, also visited the Centre. Reciprocatory visits were also made by members of TCC who participated in International Development Design Summit (IDDS) at the MIT with the ultimate aim of running the 2009 Workshop at KNUST. The Director of TCC also continues to serve on International Boards and is currently an International Juror of the UNESCO-Daimler-Chrysler Mondialogo Engineering Award.

Joint programmes with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, President's Special Initiative and Private Sector Development and UNIDO are underway to establish one of the first Technology Parks in Kumasi, with the Suame ITTU/TCC as the spider in the web. This will serve as a focal point for science and technology innovation and incubation of potential engineering manufacturing companies.

In Ghana's pursuit of meeting the MDGs by 2015, the objectives of TCC are in line with UN Economic Development Agenda of mobilising global science and technology to tackle the interlocking crises of hunger, disease, environmental degradation and conflict. It is hoped that the KNUST through its TCC will be given the necessary support to harness science and technology for sustainable development and poverty reduction in Africa.

In all these research and community engagement efforts, we recognise the important role that postgraduate studies can play and without which we will continue to remain essentially a teaching university.

### **3. SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

The School of Graduate Studies is of strategic importance in our bid to produce knowledge and yet, enrolment levels have remained rather low over the years. This afternoon, we are presenting 489 students for graduation. This constitutes 11.7 percent of all graduands for 2008; a marginal increase of 3.5 percent over similar figures in 2007. As indicated in our Strategic Plan, it is our intention to gradually grow the proportion of graduate students to about 30 percent of the entire student population by 2014 from its current level of about 4 percent. In several world acclaimed universities, the proportion of graduate students hover between 30 and 40 percent of the entire student population.

Among those graduating this afternoon from the School of Graduate Studies are five doctoral students; one of whom is a pioneer of the special capacity building initiative implemented about four years ago to produce local doctoral degree holders to gradually replace the ageing faculty. We are all witnesses to the potential success of this initiative subject to tackling some of the few challenges confronting the various programmes. The graduation of this first batch of students should encourage the others to complete their programmes soonest.

In addition to this, we will also be graduating other doctorate students who pursued their programmes primarily under their Department's capacity building programmes. These include those graduating with PhDs in various specialisations in Agriculture, Biological Sciences, Physics and African Art. Now that we have commenced the process of rehabilitating our laboratories for nearly US\$8.5million, it should become a little easier to produce a few more PhDs in the science and technology programmes.

This afternoon, we will also be graduating nearly 200 students with MBA degrees. Last year, we graduated only 20 students with similar degrees. We are extremely happy about this development because it clearly demonstrates our resolve to build a credible Business School. Accordingly, the Business School has been restructured and we are also embarking on a massive drive to attract young and talented faculty members.

For all others graduating with various postgraduate qualifications this afternoon, we are very proud of you. Never desert your alma mater and when the need arises, I believe you will seriously consider joining our faculty. Graduate School, *ayekoo!!!*

### **4. COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING GRADUATES**

This afternoon, the College of Engineering will be presenting 770 students for graduation with specialisations in 10 out of the 12 branches of engineering on offer in this University. As is usually the case, most of those securing First Class Honour degrees were from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering; reflecting the high quality of intake into this Department. Overall, 44 students or 5.7 percent of the students had First Class Honour degrees out of which 3 were females.

A further 431 students obtained Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degrees, with a fair representation of females with another 268 obtaining Second Class Honours (Lower Division)



degrees. The remaining 27 students obtained pass degrees. By the nature of their training, they are very versatile and can fit into various positions.

This Congregation marks the last time that we will be graduating students from the University of Mines and Technology in Tarkwa as its parent University. Our University has had very close working relationship with the former Tarkwa School of Mines which transformed into the Western University College and subsequently, to a full University status in 2005. We still have very fond memories of our past relationship with the University of Mines and Technology and look forward to many more years of fruitful co-operation with this University. We wish the University of Mines and Technology, the best of luck as it begins to chart a new course for itself.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of our first cohort of 33 BSc Aerospace Engineering graduands. In spite of the odds, uncertainties and challenges confronting the programme, these gallant students braced the storm and we are happy to graduate them today. Also included in this cohort are 3 female students who did extremely well. At this juncture, I would like to invite the pioneering class of Aerospace Engineering to stand to be acknowledged Thank you. You may resume your seats. In a similar vein, I am happy to announce that we will be graduating our first batch of 14 B.Sc. Petroleum Engineering students. Out of this number, 3 had First Class degrees, 10 had Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degrees and one person had a Second Class Honours (Lower Division) degree. Again, I would like to ask our freshly baked Petroleum Engineers to stand to be acknowledged ..... Congratulations and please resume your seats. As you would expect, graduates from these two programmes should not have any difficulties securing employment here in Ghana.

You would by now have noticed that the KNUST has always mounted innovative programmes which are market driven and fill niches within our industrial structure. Strictly in line with this notion, the University will soon establish two new programmes to satisfy both upstream and downstream requirements of the petroleum industry. Proposals in connection with these programmes are currently under study by appropriate authorities. In addition, our resolve to mount the B.Sc. Biomedical Engineering programme is on course and we intend to introduce this programme soonest following the appropriate approvals. We are still convinced that as the premier University of Science and Technology, we are still the best in Ghana so far as the training of required personnel in engineering is concerned.

We have also recently noticed the increasing interest shown by multi- national companies in our students from the College of Engineering. These companies include Texas Instruments, Schlumberger, General Electric, Archer Daniels Midlands and Wilmar and the Sunon Asogli Power Plant. A few of the companies offer opportunities for our students to work with them for one or two semesters while others are interested in employing our graduates. Need we say anything more about the quality of our graduates?

College of Engineering graduates, congratulations and *ayekoo* to all of you.

## **5. ADVICE TO OUR GRADUANDS**

As you graduate and find your respective places in the world of work, please remember the sacrifices your country, parents and guardians have made for you. Never look back on any of these stakeholders. Serve your country with joy and to the extent possible, reciprocate

the kind gestures of your parents and guardians. Parents and guardians of our graduands, we very much appreciate your efforts.

You also need to be reminded that, after today, you become automatic members of the KNUST Alumni Association and, therefore, we expect that you will register and also begin to participate in its activities. As you leave this University as freshly baked professionals, it is your duty to give something back to your alma mater. Please do not hesitate to do so as and when the opportunity comes your way.

Now that you are leaving to take up responsible positions, remember to comport yourselves very well. You need to work hard before success comes your way. As you are aware, the only place where success comes before work is in the English Dictionary. Put passion, zeal and enthusiasm into everything you do and chase your passion. Honour your commitments with integrity.

For the past few years of your lives, we have taught you the way of wisdom and have led you in the paths of uprightness. We trust that the good Lord will bless you and when you walk, your step will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. We wish you well in all your future endeavours. Good luck and God bless you.

Thank you.

**Prof. Kwasi Kwafu Adarkwa**  
**Vice-Chancellor, KNUST**

**June, 27, 2008**

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, OTUMFUO OSEI  
TUTU II, ASANTEHENE, TO THE 2006 CONGREGATION OF THE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Salutation**

The President of the Republic of Ghana or His Representative  
Ministers of State  
Chairman and Members of the University Council  
Members of the Diplomatic Corp  
Nananom  
Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities and  
Colleges  
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities  
and Colleges  
Registrar and Registrars of Sister University and Colleges  
Provosts  
Members of Convocation  
Invited Guests  
Parents and Guardians  
Members of the Press  
Distinguished Graduands

**Greetings**

We are grateful to the Good Lord and to the University for yet another opportunity to assemble here today to receive and confer various degrees and diplomas on our deserving Graduands. As Chancellor of the University, I am most honoured to preside over the proceedings and, therefore, heartily welcome you all to our University of Destiny and to our Congregation.

**Growth of the University**

At 57 years, we are already of age and have grown in leaps and bounds. In 2011, we would be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a University. We take pride in our achievements not only as trail-blazers of Ghana's science and technological development and advancement, but more importantly, as key agents for the country's critical science and technology manpower training and education.

We are, therefore, exceptionally proud and elated today as we witness a mass turnout of Postgraduates in the various fields of study. This is about the highest cohort of postgraduates in the annals of the University. The message for you all is that we are ready and able to promote and further postgraduate education and training to meet the politico-socio-economic challenges of Ghana as we prepare for our oil boom. The University has positioned itself for these developments. We have set in motion the process for a review of our programmes of study in order to meet the challenges ahead. More importantly, we are in discussions with our key partners and stakeholders in the oil and hydro industries to enable us to partner together for the good of the country. Our clarion call today is that we are ready. We are on course. We invite you all to come and let us champion the cause of research and development towards Ghana's journey to middle-income status.

## **Support for Higher Education**

As a country, as a University, we cannot achieve much nor realize our national aspirations without political will and dedication to the cause of higher education. A nation's progress, development and advancement are measured and achieved through a conscious, consistent, laborious and sustained higher educational system. Without political will and collective stakeholder participation, resources needed for this national enterprise, for research and development, for higher educational system. Without political will and collective stakeholder participation, resources needed for this national enterprise, for research and development, for higher education would be a far cry, an empty lip service. Nations that have developed dedicate about 30 to 40% of their Gross National Product (GNP) to higher education and to research and development activities. Ghana is primed for economic and technological break-through. But we cannot get there nor sustain it if we leave our higher educational and research and development institutions in tatters, without adequate resources and facilities as well as committed and consistent financial outlay and support. As we prepare for the oil boom, we need to seriously address the state of our higher education and research and development sector. We need to ponder awhile on the status and the placement of our national institutions for the advancement of higher education, including the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE); the National Accreditation Board (NAB); and, the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GASS). We need to begin to revolutionize our higher educational and research institutions, review the Acts and Status for their establishment in order to reposition them for our new Ghana.

Finally, we have to learn from others, particularly, the developed world, and create institutions that would speed up the process and propel our institutions to meet their mandates. The creation of independent and autonomous institutions like National Council for Higher Education; National Research Council; Higher Education Endowment Fund; Ghana Scholarships Commission; and National Trust Fund for Research and Development to promote the cause of higher education and research and development should be considered seriously if Ghana is to meet its aspirations as a middle-income country by 2015.

## **Graduands**

Let me now turn my attention to our cherished Graduands. You are leaving the walls of the University equipped with knowledge and training for your call to national service.

This is what your country has done for you. What do you give in return for Mother Ghana. Do you have your Visa and Ticket ready to jump on the next flight from the Accra Airport, bid Ghana goodbye and say Europe, America, Canada-here I come all for you - thanks to Ghana? Or are you ready and prepared to dedicate your education to the cause of Mother Ghana, to give of your best to create the greener pastures here at home for the present and future generations. Are you ready to be counted as a patriotic citizen or discounted as also-runs who cheated the system, flee zed Ghana, stole our pride and honour and bolted away to enjoy life created by patriots of that newly adopted country of yours. Ghana needs you. Your community needs you. Your family needs you. Your Alma Mater needs you. Your friends need you. You need yourself. Together we can make Ghana. Stay and be counted as one of those who stood up to raise the flag of Ghana. And you endeavour, your service, your call to duty would be recognized and honoured by the nation and by all of us.

Gratitude

I congratulate you on your achievements. I congratulate your parents and guardians for their support. I congratulate the University for giving you the best of education.

And, I congratulate all of you here for witnessing the success story of our new GRADUATES. Do please step out rise and receive your honours. I am grateful to you all for your support of the University and for your attendance. You are most welcome. Thank you all.

God Bless.

**Otumfuo Osei Tutu II**  
**Chancellor, KNUST**  
**June 28, 2008**

**SPEECH READ BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, VICE-  
CHANCELLOR, KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 42ND CONGREGATION  
HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008 AT THE GREAT HALL - MORNING SESSION FOR  
THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**

**1.0 SALUTATION**

Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Ghana  
Your Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Chancellor  
Chairman of the University Council  
Honourable Minister of Education, Science and Sports  
Honourable Regional Minister  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Nananom  
Members of the Clergy  
Colleague Vice-Chancellors  
Past KNUST Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors  
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities  
Registrar and Registrars of Sister Universities  
Guest Speaker  
Members of the University Council  
Provosts  
Deans and Directors  
Heads of Department  
Alumni of the University  
Members of Convocation  
Faculty Members  
Senior and Junior Staff  
Excited Parents and Guardians  
Proud Graduands and KNUST Class of 2008  
Members of the Media  
Distinguished Invited Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

**2.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

In addition to the earlier welcome address by Chairman of Council, I would also like to welcome you in a special way to the third session of our 42<sup>nd</sup> Congregation Ceremony. As most of you may be aware, this year's programme started yesterday with two ceremonies during which time we graduated students from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the College of Architecture and Planning in the morning as well as the School of Graduate Studies and the College of Engineering in the afternoon. This morning, we have gathered here to graduate students from the College of Health Sciences and the College of Science.

The College of Health Sciences is made up of School of Medical Sciences, Nursing, Medical Laboratory Technology, Sports and Exercise Science Pharmacy, and Herbal Medicine. On the other hand, the College of Science comprises Physics, Chemistry, Theoretical and Applied Biology, Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Food Science and Technology,

Environmental Science, Optometry and Visual Science, Computer Science, Mathematics as well as Actuarial 'Science. I believe you can appreciate why these bundles of knowledge constitute the bedrock of our development efforts. Just imagine what progress can be made in Ghana without the application of science and technology.

In several respects, the just ended academic year was a very good one for these two Colleges. At the College of Health Sciences, for example, the Students' Hostel at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital was completed and Internet access was extended to the facility.

The College organized a curriculum development workshop for Deans and Heads of Department. The fundamentals of curriculum design, harmonization of courses and the teaching of large classes were covered in the workshop and there are plans to organize a follow-up workshop during the first semester of the 2008/2009 academic year.

A postgraduate research "and teaching programme in Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology was established during the year under review to enhance postgraduate teaching and research. One output of this research is that the molecular mechanisms underlying drug actions will be better understood.

In addition, other research proposals that received funding from external agencies included the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and NUFFIC. Collaboration with other institutions of higher learning such as University of Washington, the University of Michigan and University of Utah, the Ministry of Health and the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine continued.

Research output from the College of Health Sciences was admirable and, therefore, it was not surprising that most of its Departments placed very high in the ranking of Departments. At the same time, some of the distressed Departments including Nursing as well as Sports and Exercise Science are in the College and have occupied the centre stage in the discussions with all our potential collaborators and hopefully we will be able to overcome their challenges very soon. For instance, the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa has agreed to train postgraduates in Sports and Exercise Science for us and this will help improve our staffing situation in that Department.

The Nursing Department's link with the University of Massachusetts at Amhest continued and during the year under review, four students spent eleven weeks at Amhest to enhance their practical skills. They have since returned to KNUST to complete their graduation requirements.

This year, College of Science has been in the limelight on a number of issues. The College recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Meteorological Services agency under which contract the College, through the Department of Physics, will mount programmes in Meteorology and Climate Sciences at both the undergraduate and graduate levels effective August 2008. This programme is being facilitated by the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom.

A few weeks-ago, the College of Science signed another Memorandum of Understanding with the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT). This contract will enable the College offer consultancy services to SSNIT which will also offer continuous programmes for

Computer Science students during semester breaks. SSNIT will also explore the possibility of utilizing services available at KNUST in Biometrics and investigate the feasibility of on-the-job technical training services for SSNIT staff in KNUST.

The Department of Mathematics has also signed a contract with their counterpart at the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, under which scholarships have been provided for the training of two graduate students to the doctoral level.

As part of the collaboration between KNUST and Universite Paris- Sud II, under a Memorandum of Understanding signed in April 2008, three faculty members are to be sponsored to do their doctoral degrees on a split site basis. In addition, two national service persons in the Department of Mathematics will receive sponsorship to pursue their Master's degrees.

The College also procured 250 new computers at the cost of GH¢ 180,000 under its expansion and modernization programme to enhance students access to computers together with a 93 kVA generator to ensure uninterrupted power supply. Another 500 kVA generator has been acquired for use in the new College Complex following its completion in the next few months.

Needless to say, all these projects are likely to impart appropriate skills to our students; including those that we are about to present for graduation this morning.

### **3.0 GRADUANDS FROM THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**

Out of a total of 4,957 students graduating from the University this year, the College of Science is presenting 828 graduands from its nine departments. The latter figure shows an increase of 219 over last year's figure of 609. In particular, I would like to inform Congregation that the KNUST has consistently produced more Mathematics graduates than any tertiary institution in Ghana. To encourage greater participation in the College's programmes, serious consideration should be given to students who enroll in basic sciences by offering them scholarships.

Out of those graduating this morning, 58 secured First Class Honours degrees in various disciplines with most of them in the Biological Science and Biochemistry programmes. The numbers obtaining Second Class (Upper Division) degrees vary from Department to Department but the largest proportion was from Biological Sciences where 103 secured this degree. The proportion obtaining Second Class (Lower Division) degree also varied along Departmental basis with the highest proportion, 21.4 percent, being registered in the Mathematics Department. These trends are all indicative of the quality of intake into the various programmes but in spite of these patterns, we need to gradually and consciously increase the number of students studying science.

It is in anticipation of this that the University has invested US\$ 8.0 million in the refurbishment of 22 laboratories in the College of Science, work on which, was started two weeks ago having signed the contract a week earlier. The refurbishment is scheduled to be completed soonest.

This Congregation is also special because this morning, we will be graduating the first batch of B.Sc. (Environmental Science) and B.Sc. (Food Science and Technology) students. Being the first batch to have graduated from these programmes speaks volumes about your



dedication and sense of purpose. May 1, at this point, politely request that these students stand to be acknowledged

Congratulations!

You may now resume your seats. College of Science, Ayekoo!

#### **4.0 GRADUANDS FROM THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Our programmes at the College of Health Sciences are now more diversified than ever before with the addition of more programmes in the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences. This morning, we will be graduating students from all Departments of the College because our first batch of students in the Sports and Exercise Science programme will be graduating. Can I invite these students to stand to be acknowledged and congratulated. Congratulations!... .. Please, resume your seats. It is interesting to note that their results were very good with 13 Second Upper and 7 Second Lower degrees. Our vision remains to build up capacity in the Department as a result of which two of these graduating students will be recommended for graduate studies at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa.

Nursing has stabilized somewhat and it is clearly one of the well sought after programmes in the University. This year, for example, out of the 429 students who applied, only 31 could be offered admission because of obvious constraints. This morning, we will be graduating 43 all of whom have promised to stay and work in Ghana to bring relief to all those who need their assistance. This promise is also shared with graduates from our MB ChB, the Pharmacy and Medical Laboratory Technology students.

Our Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery students have also excelled where ever they have been employed and are also very well sought after. The programme is now of a six-year duration following its restructuring a few years ago, but just like the other programmes, we were not able to increase intake even though there are several parents who would have wanted to enroll their kids in our programme.

The undergraduate programme in Pharmacy will present to Congregation 82 students for graduation this morning out of which seventeen - nine males and eight females - secured First Class Honours degrees. Of the rest, the majority, 31 earned Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degrees with 32 obtaining Second Class (Lower Division) degrees. Only 2 obtained Pass degrees. In the undergraduate programme in Herbal Medicine, 15 secured Second Class (Upper Division) degrees and 7 secured Second Class (Lower Division) degrees.

Faculty members in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences have been very active in their research projects and it is not surprising that most Departments in this Faculty especially Pharmacognosy and Pharmacology, placed very high in the recent ranking of Departments at the University. The Faculty's current collaboration with the Animal Research Institute of the CSIR to investigate the efficacy of herbal preparations for possible use as remedies for sheep and goat diseases is worth mentioning.

Our Medical Laboratory programme has also been a very favourable destination for most students. This morning, the next batch of 37 students will be graduating with degrees in various classes and they will be taking up responsible positions in the health care delivery system within our country.

You can all see from my presentation so far that the KNUST is indeed contributing in no small measure to virtually all sectors of the Ghanaian economy. We believe that there are tremendous potentials for the University to contribute if stakeholders can assist us to deal with some of our basic challenges including cost sharing with us and a more rational attitude to funding of tertiary education in Ghana.

### **5.0 APPRECIATION OF PARENTS' ROLE**

You will all agree with me that our parents and guardians have played very useful roles in our education. We, no doubt, did our very best by not disappointing them. If we are, therefore, successful and are about to graduate with our various degrees, then it is only right and fitting that we show our appreciation to these gallant men and women. At this point, I would kindly request all parents and guardians to stand and be applauded.... .... Please, resume your seats. Our graduands very much appreciate your sacrifice and recognize that, today, they are able to see very far simply because you allowed them to stand on your shoulders. And now, let me offer some words of advice to our graduands but before then let me acknowledge our benefactors.

### **6.0 BENEFACTORS**

As usual, several benefactors facilitated the work of the two Colleges in diverse ways. Our principal benefactor remains the Government of Ghana without whose benefaction the University would have been crippled. I may not be able to acknowledge all the others but I would like to mention the major ones including: Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene and the Chancellor, Social Security and National Insurance Trust, Ghana Meteorological Agency, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Professor and Mrs. Evans Adunyah, Welcome Trust, Ministry of Health, NUFFIC, Minnesota State University, University of Washington and University of Utah. We are most grateful to all our benefactors and look forward to many more years of fruitful cooperation between us.

### **7.0 ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION**

In a few minutes time, you will become a proud graduate of KNUST and a member of its Alumni Association. Following this, you will now become ambassadors of your Departments, Faculties, and Colleges. It is in this light that I wish to counsel that you become good ambassadors. You need to approach life with all the seriousness it deserves because, out in the real world, it is a lot 'colder' than you can imagine. Treat all those who came your way with respect and humility. Do not look down on your less privileged members of society. It is through their toil and sacrifice that some of us have come this far.

Above all, you need to be patriotic by showing an active interest in all national issues. Remain in the country, at least for a while, to serve our less privileged in society. The Ghanaian society will never progress without your input and as the words of our University song states:

*God of our weary years  
God of our silent tears  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way.  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Let us into the light,  
Keep us for ever in the path, we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met  
Thee;*

*Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget  
thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand.  
May we for ever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.*

Reflect on these patriotic words. God bless you!!!  
Thank you.

**Prof. Kwasi Kwafu Adarkwa**  
**Vice-Chancellor, KNUST**

June, 28, 2008

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY CHAIRMAN OF UNIVERSITY  
COUNCIL, NANA (DR) OTUO SIRIBOE II, OMANHENE OF JUABEN  
TRADITIONAL AREA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2008 CONGREGATION  
OF KNUST ON SATURDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008 (AFTERNOON SESSION -  
COLLEGE OF ART AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)**

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene and Chancellor of KNUST  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament  
Members of the Council of State  
Members of the University Council  
Host Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors from sister Institutions  
Host Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors from sister  
Institutions  
Host Registrar and Registrars from sister Institutions  
Hardworking Senior Members  
Reliable Senior and Junior Staff  
Parents and Guardians  
Proud Graduands  
Members of the Press  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

My duty here this afternoon is to deliver a very short welcome address to all participants of this afternoon's session which happens to be the last of the four sessions of our 42<sup>nd</sup> Congregation ceremony. The entire ceremony started yesterday morning and all the graduands from the other five Colleges as well as from the School of Graduate Studies have been presented with their certificates. I, therefore, have the singular honour and duty to warmly welcome all and sundry to this afternoon's ceremony; aimed at awarding deserving degrees to our graduands from the College of Art and Social Sciences which for one reason or the other, happens to be the largest singular College on our campus.

Congregations have been part of every University's calendar of events during which period degrees and certificates are awarded to deserving graduands. These graduands present here today to be congregated became students of this University at a matriculation ceremony about four years ago. Throughout these years, they have seen 'thick and thin and as a result of the myriad of challenges they had to contend with, they sometimes might have thought that the world was caving in on them. Through hard work, determination and God's grace, they have finally seen the end of the tunnel. I would, therefore, crave your indulgence to say *ayekoo* (well done) to all the graduands of the College of Art and Social Sciences who have been presented here this afternoon to be awarded their respective and very well deserved degrees.

Over the years, higher educational institutions have served as engines for economic development through the production of highly skilled manpower. Higher education which may be regarded as the knowledge factory have continually exercised direct influence on national productivity, social norms, standard of living and levels of a nation's development. Through skills development and knowledge acquisition, higher education produces the intellectual, scientific and technological tools and high level human capital required for

competitive economic growth and development. In fact, the role of higher education in today's world is immense, complex and vital. Today, higher education is essential for the sustainable cultural, socio- economic and ecological development of people, communities and nations. However, in recent times, education itself has been transformed through changes in its purpose and priority, according to new global trends in development and social change. A wide range of challenges and opportunities are emerging with many political, economic as well as social implications.

Even though the physical and natural sciences are important to our understanding of the world and the use and development of technology, it is a broader spectrum of the social sciences that will enable human groups, whether at a local or global level to function in health and well-being by providing opportunities and a more equitable distribution of wealth and income to the betterment of all members of society. The social sciences help us to establish the levels and patterns of human behaviour, attitudes or perceptions, explores factors underlying these behaviours, attitudes and perceptions, amongst others. Social science graduates are required in more fields today, and need to be equipped better therefore, to work. The social scientists enable us to reflect upon our lives and ask fundamental questions of value, purpose, and meaning in a rigorous and systematic way and thereby help us gain critical and imaginative thinking about issues that confront us as a people and as human beings.

In recent times, the interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary nature of scientific inquiry into human behaviour and social and environmental factors have made many of the sciences interested in some aspects of social science. Examples include emerging disciplines such as social studies of medicine, social pharmacy, socio-biology, neuropsychology, bio-economics and the history and sociology of science. Their catalytic importance for the achievement of our development aspirations such as the Vision 2015 or the Millennium Development Goals can, therefore, not be overlooked. *As Pierre Charron (1541-1603), a French philosopher said, "the true science and study of man, is man himself".*

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the social problems that confront our society today such as unemployment, child labour, armed robbery, prostitution, fraudulent deals, the drug trafficking and abuse, excessive alcoholism, gross indiscipline, widespread divorce cases, child delinquency, disrespect and improper dressing; amongst others have remained a developmental challenge for a very long time. Our society needs solutions to these social vices and it is the responsibility of you as social scientists and business men and women to find pragmatic and lasting solutions to these problems. This should be your challenge.

I would like to say a word of thank you to all those who in one way or the other contributed in the processes of bringing real meaning and fulfilment to the lives of these graduands such as parents/guardians, sponsors, teachers/lecturers, support staff and other collaborators. These graduands would forever remain indebted to you all. I once again welcome you all to this morning's Congregation ceremony and as we say in our local dialect, *akwaaba* to you all.

**N ana (Dr.) Otu Siriboe II**  
**Chairman, University Council**  
**KNUST**

**June 28, 2008**

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, VICE-  
CHANCELLOR OF THE KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI ON THE OCCASION OF THE 42ND CONGREGATION  
HELD IN THE GREAT HALL ON SATURDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008 - AFTERNOON  
SESSION FOR THE COLLEGE OF ART AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**1. SALUTATION**

Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Ghana  
Your Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Chancellor  
Chairman of University of Council  
Honourable Minister of Education, Science and Sports  
Honourable Regional Minister  
Honourable KMA Chief Executive  
Honourable Ministers of State  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Nananom  
Members of the Clergy  
Colleague Vice-Chancellors  
Past KNUST Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors  
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister  
Universities  
Registrar and Registrars of Sister Universities  
Guest Speaker  
Members of the University Council  
Provosts  
Deans and Directors  
Heads of Department  
Alumni of the University  
Members of Convocation  
Senior and Junior Staff  
Excited Parents  
Graduands and KNUST Class of 2008  
Members of the Media  
Distinguished Invited Guests  
Ladies and gentlemen

**2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

As you are no doubt aware, this is the last session of the 2007/2008 Congregation and the 42<sup>nd</sup> in the University's history. Yesterday, we had two sessions for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as the College of Architecture and Planning together with the College of Engineering and the School of Graduate Studies. This morning, we have also had a similar function for the College of Science and the College of Health Sciences. It is now the turn of the College of Art and Social Sciences and it is often said that he who laughs last laughs best and this is certainly going to be the case for your College.

With these introductory remarks I would like to welcome all those who have travelled from far and near to attend this ceremony. It is our hope that you will find time to admire the scenic

beauty of our campus' landscape and that the Good Lord will be with you as you travel back to your homes and towns.

Indeed, the College of Art and Social Sciences is the largest of all the Colleges. This is primarily a reflection of the composition of the College which comprises five (05) faculties - Social Sciences, Fine Art, Industrial Art, Law and Business School and twenty (20) Departments. As most of you would recall, the College started initially to provide service courses to other Departments. This role has not changed very much but with time, the attainment of full University status and growth in the various Departments, they have become fully blown Departments offering their own undergraduate degrees in Sociology and Social Work, Geography and Rural Development, English, French, Economics, History as well as Culture and Tourism.

The College's growth may also be attributed to its ability to mount market driven programmes such as Communication Design, Publishing Studies and Integrated Rural Art and Industry. Other pipeline programmes including Packaging have been planned and hopefully, they should be on offer during the 2009/2010 academic year. In addition, Business and Law have also become a very favourable destination for most students. In spite of all these developments, efforts will be made to ensure that future numbers are within tolerable limits to reflect our status as a University of Science and Technology.

The University is generally happy about the complementary role that the College is playing in the advancement of science and technology in Ghana. Last week, the Department of Religious Studies organised a very successful Conference on the "Interface between Science and Religion". As two parallel conceptual systems, conflicts should not arise but in real life situations, they do. Consequently, the Conference delved into the extent of conflict and complementarity between Science and Religion. The Conference has initiated a process that will gradually enrich our understanding of the delicate balance between Religion and Science. As a University, we are now aware that, "science without religion is lame and religion without science is blind". In addition, we are now also fully aware that "the religion that is afraid of science dishonours God and commits suicide". Science and Religion are, in a sense, two different languages that express reality and, therefore, as a University, we shall be guided by this axiom. Religion and science will continue to be bedfellows and therefore, there is tremendous scope for dialogue and collaboration between these two bundles of knowledge.

### **3. GRADUANDS FROM COLLEGE OF ART AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

This year, the University will be graduating a total of 4,957 students out of which 1,474 are from the College of Art and Social Sciences. Out of the number for this College, 190 are from the Faculty of Fine Art, 454 from the Faculty of Industrial Art, 118 from the Faculty of Law and 712 from the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Business School is yet to graduate its first cohort of students. This year's total number of graduands is not significantly different from last year's figure of 1,215. While this could be a direct result of our University's academic policy, it is also a clear reflection of the fact that we have reached our optimum carrying capacity and we simply cannot increase enrolments beyond our present levels. We can only increase intake in future when our physical infrastructural facilities and faculty members have been enhanced.

Even with our limited facilities, we are excited to note that 6 percent of our graduands; i.e. 24 out of the 89 graduating with First Class degrees are females. Indeed, given the type of training they have received, these graduates can work in any environment in the world, but especially in Ghana. A further 92.4 percent of our graduands will be receiving Second Class Upper and Lower division degrees; implying that overall quality of intake into the College is relatively high. The paltry 1.6 percent of students who obtained Pass degrees could simply be either those who may have had one difficulty or the other during the course of their programme or those who simply did not enjoy their programmes. It has also been argued that the latter batch of students may not have received adequate counselling during the selection of their programmes.

In view of the above, serious consideration is being given to the possibility of the Admissions Office providing Guidance Session for all prospective KNUST students effective next academic year. This one-time session to be held possibly in this Hall, will provide answers to certain fundamental difficulties that our prospective students may have. Most importantly, the Admissions Office will take them through the choice of programmes here at KNUST and how the application forms are to be filled.

Apart from what our graduands have achieved over the four years for which they are being recognised this afternoon, our faculty members in addition to their teaching and social engagement have also been engaged in active and relevant research, the outcome of which have been recognised worldwide. It is also partly for this reason that the number of institutions collaborating with our College of Art and Social Sciences have increased over the last few years.

Some of these active collaborations include the Department of Sociology and Social Work's collaboration with the University of Utah's College of Social Work to explore similarities and cultural variations between Ghana and the United States and to brainstorm on emerging paradigms in Social Work. The Department of Geography and Rural Development has also just commenced a new collaboration with Michigan State University from where six students did their Year Abroad programme here at KNUST. The College's recent collaboration with Akershus University College in Norway has begun paving way for capacity building of potential faculty members.

#### **4. AWARDS WON**

In spite of the professional orientation of most of the College's programmes, research and publications culture is gradually gaining roots in the College considering that it is now seen as the international currency for the conduct of academic transactions. Four senior members and four junior members of the College won various awards during the year. Mr. Gordon Newlove Asamoah of the Business School won the Best Paper Award with his paper on "The Impact of the Financial Sector Reforms on Savings, Investment and Growth of Gross Domestic Product in Ghana" during the Applied Business Research Conference held at Orlando, Florida from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.

The epoch breaking work by Messrs J. M. Frimpong of the Business School and Eric Fosu-Oteng Abayie of the Department of Economics on "Market Returns and Weak-Form Efficiency - The Case of the Ghana. Stock Exchange" which was presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Academy of African Business and Development at Gainesville in Florida over the May 20 - 24, 2008 period won the Best Paper Award in Track 1 which dealt with Accounting, Banking and Finance and Investment. Professor Daniel Buor was also



awarded the Population Association of America 2008 William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Travel Award Grant. Congratulations to Professor Daniel Buor and Messrs Gordon Newlove Asamoah, J. M. Frimpong and Eric Fosu Oteng-Abayie.

Our students also made us proud by winning awards during the year. Mr. Augustine Kudisil and Miss Efua Baboa, both undergraduate Law students, were adjudged the best Oralist and Best Female Oralist during the Philip Jessup International Law Moot Competition held in the Supreme Court of Ghana in Accra from February 21 - 22, 2008 period. In addition, Mr. Christian Mawuli Asempah and Miss Eunice Mensah Delaquis, both undergraduate students in the Department of Communication Design, won the Design Achievers Award instituted by the South African Bureau Standards for 2007 and 2008 respectively. Congratulations Mr. Asempah and Miss Delaquis; we are proud of you.

## **5. BENEFACTORS**

The College received donations from several benefactors during the year and we are extremely grateful to them. These donations enhanced the College's capacity to pursue its core business of teaching, research and community engagement. They included Alliance Francaise - Kumasi, Institute of Packaging - Ghana, Alumni of the Department of General Art Studies, Bondplex Ltd, TexStyles Ghana Ltd and Rich High Electricals Ltd - Kumasi.

During the entrepreneurial graduation ceremony organised by the Publishing Studies Department, several organisations donated cash and various items to support the function. They included Heidelberg Ghana Ltd, Nestle Ghana Ltd, Sedco Publications Ltd and Coca Cola Bottling Company Ghana Ltd. The rest include Compuprint Ltd, HFC Bank Ghana Ltd, New Era Press, Millicom Ghana Ltd and Readwide Publications Ltd.

The Akershus University College is sponsoring one candidate from the Department of Integrated Rural Art and Industry to pursue a Master's degree programme in Product Design under a collaborative agreement with our College. We are also extremely grateful to the Government of Ghana for the tremendous resources that have come to the College but trust that there will be a special allocation from the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) under a certificate of urgency to enable us complete our Lecture Room/Office Block Complex work on which work has come to a standstill.

## **6. ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION**

As you can tell from the reaction of all of us who have come to support you this afternoon, we are extremely happy that you are now ready to join the world of work which is very different from your life as a student on campus. You will need to keep your integrity and humility. As an ambassador of KNUST, you need to remember that the three things that can make you a man or woman and which will differentiate between success and failure in life are your hard work, sincerity and commitment.

Remember that three things that may never be lost on you are Peace, Hope and Honesty. In all your endeavours, three things that should be most valued to you are: Love, Self Confidence and Friends. As you go through life, be aware that three things that are never certain are: Dreams, Success and Fortune.

Three things that can destroy you are: Alcohol, Pride and Anger.

Three things in life that once lost are hard to build up are: Respect, Trust and Friendship.

Three things in life that never fail are: True Love, Determination and Belief.

Finally, three things in life that once lost or gone, never come back are: Time, Words and Opportunity.

Make the best use of your time and opportunities that come your way. Always remember that in the real world, you should always expect the best, prepare for the worst and capitalise on what comes. Your attitude will determine your altitude in life. Always shoot for the moon, if even you miss, you will land among the stars. Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will.

Reflect on these maxims of life. God bless you throughout the next phases of your life.

Thank you.

**Prof. Kwasi Kwafu Adarkwa**  
**Vice-Chancellor, KNUST**

**June 28, 2008**