

**KWAME NKRUMAH
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI**

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RECORDER

**ADDRESSES DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE
UNIVERSITY'S 47TH CONGREGATION**

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY ON
THE OCCASION OF THE 47TH CONGREGATION OF THE UNIVERSITY
HELD ON JUNE 29TH, 2013 AT THE GREAT HALL, KNUST, KUMASI**

The Representative of the President of the Republic of Ghana
Members of the Council of State
Honourable Ministers of State
Honourable Members of Parliament
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Nananom
Members of the Council of the University
Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities and Affiliate
Institutions
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities
Registrar and Registrars of Sister Universities
Provosts
Members of Convocation
Staff and Students
Teknocrats
Parents, Guardians and Invited Guests
Members of the Media
Our Privileged and Esteemed Graduands

INTRODUCTION

We are gathered here today to witness yet another landmark in the University's contribution to the training and education of the critical mass of human resource for Ghana's Science and Technology development and advancement. This morning, we are proud to showcase to the world the strengths of our Graduate Training and Research activity. It is also a day that manifests our resolve to provide greater access to Science and Technology Education and Training to the working community through our Distance Learning and Continuing Education Programmes.

The success or otherwise of these developments and initiatives depend, by and large, on the resources, facilities and other support systems put in place for their realization.

FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman, Graduate Education which drives the University's Research and Development Programme subsists on adequate facilities and resources including scholarships and funds for Research. To achieve this objective, the University has instituted a host of initiatives including Graduate Fellowships, Graduate Assistantship and the Vice-Chancellor's Initiative that offer Scholarships to brilliant Graduate Student using its Internally Generated Funds (IGF). Vigorous Research and Development programmes serve as the engine of growth for national development. Countries in the West and the Asian Tigers are successful because of the premium they put on Research and Development and the support to Research Institutions. Ghana can make a positive break-through if Research is promoted and given a pride of place. It is for this and other reasons that the University, together with its sister Institutions, is craving and crying for the establishment of a national **Foundation for Research and Development**. This Foundation would serve as an instrument, a vehicle for harnessing funds and scholarships for Research and Graduate Training in the Universities and other Research Institutions. I, therefore, add my voice to

theirs and appeal to Government to seriously consider the establishment of such a Foundation.

DISTANCE EDUCATION AND E-LEARNING

Admission to the University is always a nightmare. It is a heart-wrenching ritual that comes with heart-aches; frustrations; witch-hunting; aggravated insults; unfounded and baseless accusations; and, insinuations from the general public, the social media, parents and prospective Applicants. The University becomes one big market place trading Admissions to limited places for Higher Education. The impending 2013/2014 Academic Year is nothing to write home about.

The Universities are confronted with three streams of Applicants vying for limited vacancies - 4-Year SHS, 3-Year SHS, and Nov/Dec Applicants. Already, the University has received over 40,000 Applications for admission to its various programmes of study. The University, sadly though, cannot admit even a quarter. The way forward for us as a nation is to begin serious discussions on this whole issue of access to Higher Education and Training. A major break-through for us is Distance Education and E- Learning (Electronic Learning), the creation of VIRTUAL UNIVERSITIES in Ghana. Our University can admit thousands of Students for national development if it has the support systems for E-Learning. It is working in South Africa, in Kenya, North America and Europe. What we need is the backbone, the E-Learning infrastructure. As we desperately explore avenues to accommodate 2013/2014 Academic Year, we crave the indulgence of Government to urgently and purposefully provide the support and partner the University to acquire the necessary infrastructure backbone for Distance Education and E-Learning. This way, the University would be in a better position to further pioneer and pilot the Virtual University concept this very Academic Year. It is urgent. It is financially involving. But it is cost- effective and achievable. It is a gateway to greater access to Higher Education, to Science and Technology Education and Training for 2013/ 2014 and beyond.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman, Medical Education and the provision of adequate facilities for the training of Health Professionals for our Health Delivery Sector have assumed critical dimensions. As we approach the year 2020, a year dedicated to Health-for-all under the Ghana and the United Nation's Millennium Goals, we need to review access to efficient and effective Healthcare so as to provide a healthy workforce for our national development. It is in keeping with this objective that the University is collaborating with the Ministry of Health to develop a state-of-the-art and an integrated University Medical Center to offer training and education for health professionals and to assure quality and efficient healthcare delivery.

The Project, a priority Project of the Chancellor, the Ministry of Health and the University involves the construction of a 500-Bed Medical Center at the University dedicated to Teaching, Research, Referral and Tertiary Level Healthcare delivery; and, the upgrading of Six (6) peri-urban Hospitals in three Regions of Ghana, namely:

- . Sunyani
- . Techiman
- . Kintampo

in the Brong-Ahafo Region;

- . Dunkwa-on-Offin

in the Central Region; and,

- . Mampong
- . Agogo

in the Ashanti Region.

These Hospitals would serve as Satellite Teaching Sites and also provide Secondary Level Healthcare Delivery to the respective Communities with support from the University. Funding arrangements and relevant protocols have been completed. We fervently appeal to Government and the Parliament of Ghana to give the necessary approvals and blessings to the Project to enable us to contribute our quota; and, collectively provide efficient, cost-effective, quality and state-of-the-art medical education and tertiary healthcare delivery to the people of Ghana and the sub-region.

PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP

The provision of adequate infrastructure for efficient Teaching, learning and Research at the University has become a herculean task for Government and the University. Access to Higher Education, particularly Science and Technology Education, is curtailed by the lack of facilities and human resources.

To overcome these shortfalls, the University is promoting Public-Private Partnership initiatives that would bring private resources to the University for infrastructural development. The University's INSTITUTE FOR SANITATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT (K-ISWM) located in Accra and' which begins Academic work in September 2013 is the product of constructive and mutually beneficial partnership between the University and Zoomlion Ghana Limited. The Institute would offer the University's programmes of study at the Graduate, Undergraduate and Diploma levels in Engineering, Environmental Science, Management, Sanitation and Waste Management, among others. The University is also partnering Phillips Healthcare; IMC-MSF; HFC; and, Ecobank as well as other corporate institutions to develop facilities including Student Hostels, Housing, Transportation and City Campuses in Accra and Kumasi. These initiatives, when completed, would not only open greater access to Science and Technology education and training but, more importantly, would promote Private-Public collaboration for the growth and development of Higher Education in Ghana.

GRADUANDS

My privileged Graduands, today is your day - young and deserving future leaders of Ghana. You are all beautifully dressed in your deserving regalia. We are happy for you. We are proud of you as parents, guardians and relations. You deserve every praise and honour for what you have achieved and for your place in society now. Enjoy the fruits of your labour. ***NEVERTHELESS, always remember - those fruits come with a responsibility; with a task; and, with a charge to keep. A Responsibility to your family, society and country. A Task to uphold the fruits and spread same across the community in order to impact on their development. And, a charge to keep as a citizen; to give back to your country and people what you have received today through their support and assistance. All in all, it is a Responsibility, a Task, and a Charge that behoves on you to think about what you can use all your education and training to do for your country and people.***

You have our support. You have our blessing. We await your Responsibility and your Charge to Ghana, your motherland. Accept our heartfelt and warmest **CONGRATULATIONS**

WELCOME

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, as a University, we shall continue to live and dedicate our resolve to our mandate - Teaching, Research and Community Development. We can achieve more if we work together, collectively and in partnership. Our doors are open as always. We invite you to our home, our University as we gracefully and respectfully welcome you all this morning to our *4Th* Congregation.

AND NOW, BY THE POWERS CONFERRED ON ME AS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, I FORMALLY DECLARE THIS ASSEMBLY DULY CONSTITUTED.

Thank you and God Bless.

**OTUMFUO OSEI-TUTU II, ASANTEHENE
CHANCELLOR, MANHYIA PALACE, KUMASI
JUNE 29, 2013**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROF. WILLIAM OTOO ELLIS, VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF KNUST ON THE OCCASION OF THE 47TH
CONGREGATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY ON SATURDAY,
29TH JUNE, 2013 AT THE GREAT HALL**

The Chancellor of KNUST, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene
Chairman and Members of the University Council
The Deputy Minister for Education
The Ashanti Regional Minister
The Mayor of Kumasi
Past Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
Colleague Vice-Chancellors
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors from Sister Institutions
Registrar and Registrars from Sister Institutions
Provosts of Colleges
Deans and Directors
Heads of Departments
Representatives from our Affiliate Institutions
Nananom
Members of Convocation
Alumni of the University
Senior and Junior Staff
Graduating Class of 2013
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Invited Guests
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

I have the pleasure of our most distinguished Chancellor, the Chairman and Members of the Governing Council, staff and students of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), to also welcome you all to the climax of this year's graduation ceremony which is the 4th in the history of this University.

Following the decentralisation of our graduation ceremonies to the Colleges which was piloted last year, this year's also followed a similar pattern. It is, therefore, most gratifying to note that we are crowning it all with a special session for our School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the Institute of Distance Learning (IDL) and we are happy that you have found time to join us here today.

GRADUATING STATISTICS

Nana Chancellor, this year, the KNUST is graduating a total of **7,744** students from all the programmes run by the University. Out of this number, a total of 2,012 (26.0%) were females and the remaining 5,732 (74.0%) were males. Out of the total of 6,921 undergraduate students who are graduating, a total of 498 students obtained First Class honours, representing 7.2%. Of this number, 131 were females.

This morning specifically, we have gathered here to graduate a total of **1,902** graduands from the IDL and the SGS made up of 1,079 and 823 respectively. The breakdown of the graduands from the SGS is as follows: 242 MSc./MPH; 124 MPhil; 38

M.A./MFA/M.COMM; 144 MBA; 217 CEMBA/ CEMPA; 23 Postgraduate Diploma and 23 PhDs.

KNUST AND PEACE COUNCIL'S PROGRAMME

During last year's general elections, the KNUST played an important role towards the nation's peaceful electoral process. As an institution, we are not only charged with the responsibility to train the future manpower needs of our country and continent but we also have a social responsibility to promote peace and harmony in our society. Therefore, under the auspices of the National Peace Council and the Chancellor of this University, the University hosted a high level meeting with the 2012 Presidential Candidates on the theme **“Taking a Stand Against Electoral Violence, Impunity and Injustice”** on Tuesday, 27th November, 2012 here in this Hall. The programme which was carried live by the national media attracted a lot of attention and succeeded in bringing the presidential candidates of the NDC, GCPP, NPP, PPP, UFP, PNC, CPP and an independent presidential candidate to sign what has been known as the **“Kumasi Declaration”** in order to reduce recurring violence, impunity and injustice in democratic elections in the country. We are proud to have played this important role towards a peaceful Ghana and we thank our Chancellor and the National Peace Council for this novelty.

AFFILIATIONS

The University continues to mentor several institutions in the country and for the past year, several university colleges *have* chosen the KNUST as their preferred university for affiliation and mentorship purposes. The University during this year received *twelve* applications, some of which are currently being processed. To date, we are mentoring 21 institutions that are running programmes which are in consonance with our mandate as a science and technology university. During the past academic year, we were able to sign affiliation agreements with the Anglican University College of Technology, the Accra Institute of Technology, the Technical University College of Tamale (the first and currently the only private University College in the North) and the Cape Coast Polytechnic. Meanwhile, approval for affiliation has been given to the following institutions: Narh-Bita College of Nursing, Accra Polytechnic, the Heritage Christian University College and the Pentecost University College.

Also, the Ministry of Health through a letter of expression of interest has asked the University to mentor all Diploma Awarding Midwifery Training institutions in the country. Thus far, all the necessary reviews, assessments and arrangements *have* been completed and in the months to come. these institutions would be fully affiliated to the KNUST. KNUST through these efforts is helping to reduce the gap between the demand and accessibility of science and technology education and we are proud about this feat.

MODERNISATION OF LABORATORIES

As a Science and Technology University, our laboratories, studios and workshops play a significant role in the discharge of our core mandate. In view of this, conscious efforts are under way to modernise our laboratories, workshops and studios. To this end, our Centralised Laboratory which is being built with the support of Champion Divine Clinic is nearing completion and efforts to equip same are also under way. Equipment costing about 5.2 million Euros *have* been imported from Germany and Israel and the first consignment is expected to arrive for installation next month.

In a similar dimension, Seeding Labs Corporation, a non-profit organisation in the USA has facilitated the purchase of a quantity of laboratory equipment and materials costing about

US\$ 30,000 to be used for teaching and research in our Biochemistry and Biotechnology as well as our Food Science and Technology programmes.

Under the Government of Ghana/World Bank Capacity Building Project, the Chemical Engineering Department of the College of Engineering is benefiting from five specific components:

- i. the refurbishment of existing Process Development and Unit Operations Laboratories with a support of over GH¢900,000.00;
- ii. the purchase of modern Petroleum Engineering Laboratory equipment costing about US\$7.3million. These set of equipment are expected to arrive in August, 2013;
- iii. the purchase of 440 pieces of 150 title text books in Chemical, Petrochemical, Petroleum and other related disciplines to the tune of over US\$150,000.00;
- iv. the purchase of Chemical and Petrochemical Engineering laboratory equipment valued at US\$1.3million;
- v. staff development of which eleven graduates of the Department are being trained at the MSc and PhD levels over a five-year period. Three of such staff have since returned to join the Petroleum Engineering Department, two are also expected to return by September this year. Several existing staff in the Department have also benefited from refresher courses since 2011. This year six faculty members have benefited from this facility.

The University will continue in its efforts to modernise all our laboratories and build capacity of staff at all levels so we can continue to give our students, the best of training.

IDL REGIONAL/CITY CAMPUSES

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our Institute of Distance Learning continues to grow and is currently running 15 postgraduate and eleven undergraduate programmes with a student population of **9,860** made up of 6,430 undergraduate and 3,430 postgraduate students. Looking at the trend of the increase in student population across some of our centres, it will be expedient for the Institute to have its own teaching and learning facilities in some of our regional capitals and the University is working towards this. In this direction, our 22.16-acre land at Kwabenya is being developed into a seven-storey complex. Thus far, work on this project is about 70% complete and it is expected to be finished and handed over for use by January, 2014.

You may recall that during last year's Special Congregation ceremony, the Chancellor of the University, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II graciously donated 20 plots of land in Kumasi to be used for the construction of the Kumasi City Campus. Processes are under way to ensure that work commences soon on this land. The University is very grateful to the Chancellor for this gesture. Four plots of land have also been acquired in Tamale for the construction of a Northern City campus. Work is expected to commence in Tamale before the close of this year. Negotiations have also reached an advanced stage to acquire 50 plots of land at Kansaworodo in Takoradi to be developed into a Western City Campus.

KNUST also during the last academic year made a very significant and historic move by formally inaugurating its "International Distance Learning Platform" in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. This was achieved through the concerted effort of management of the University and the Ghana Consulate in Dubai. The IDL currently runs a BSc Mechanical Engineering and a BSc Chemical Engineering programme in Dubai for Ghanaian nationals working in Oman, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Thus far, there are 63 students on the programme with a great potential for growth. Lectures are delivered here on our campus synchronously/asynchronously to the students in Dubai and it has been a great opportunity to expand our frontiers.

NEW PROGRAMMES

In our attempt to respond appropriately to market and industrial demands, we continue to introduce new programmes at the graduate and undergraduate levels. To this end, we have over the past one academic year introduced 18 programmes at the SGS and IDL. These include the following:

1. MSc in Meteorology and Climate Science by the Department of Physics;
2. MSc Speech Language Pathology and MSc Audiology by the Department of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat;
3. MSc in Mortuary Science and Management by the Department of Anatomy;
4. MSc in Pharmaceutical Technology by the Department of Pharmaceutics;
5. PhD Soil Science;
6. MPhil in Urban Management studies;
7. MSc Construction Management;
8. MSc/MPhil/Postgraduate Diploma Business Consulting and Enterprise Risk Management;
9. MSc/MPhil Educational Innovation and Leadership Science;
10. MSc. Development Management;
11. MSc Actuarial Science;
12. MSc Food Quality Management;
13. MSc/MPhil Logistics and Supply Chain Management;
14. MPhil /MSc/PG Dip Industrial Finance and Investments; and
15. PhD in Climate Change and Land Use

KNUST/INTRA-ACPACADEMIC MOBILITY PROGRAMME

Nana Chancellor, the University in partnership with eight other Higher Education Institutions in Africa are collaborating under the “***STRENGTHENING AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH ACADEMIC MOBILITY (STREAM)***” Project. The STREAM Project, an Academic Mobility Project, has the Polytechnic of Namibia, Namibia as the Coordinating Institution, the University of Twente, Netherlands as Technical Partner whilst the Justus Leibig University Giessen, Germany; the Santander Group of Spain and the National Qualifications Authority (NQA) of Namibia as Associate Partners.

The STREAM project is under the Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme that builds on the African Union's Mwalimu Nyerere Programme for Africa, with funding from the European Development Fund. The general objective of the Intra-ACP Programme is to promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation by increasing the availability of trained and qualified high-level professional manpower, through strengthening co-operation between Higher Education Institutions in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions.

KNUST has since October 2012, being hosting SIX PhD Students and has sent out three PhD students for exchange and degree seeking programmes. In August 2013, the University would be sending 18 masters students to partner institutions and would receive 14 under the Project.

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

In our attempt to deal with the increasing menace of waste and its management here on our campus, the University is partnering Zoomlion Company limited to pilot a waste separation model. In this direction, waste would be separated into degradable and non-degradable components and this would facilitate the 'recycling and re-use of waste here on our campus. The system would be operationalized in the coming months.

In another dimension, the management of the University in our attempt to satisfy our requirements for real time data transmission to students and employees and reduce considerably, the use of the conventional' paper notices which are hardly noticed, read or responded to, is also partnering Vodafone to implement what we call an "*MNotify*" service. Through this special service, there would be enhanced communication on campus and help reduce considerably, the use of paper notices. In addition, the system will offer an interactive and real time communication platform that can be used to address any emergency and security issues as well as enhance learning experience on our campus. The system will also offer enhanced voice and data bundle to students to improve student-to-student communication.

The system has been successfully piloted and the results have been tremendous to say the least. Effective next academic year, the service will be in full use with the view to hook all KNUST students and staff onto the system. Notices such as emergency notifications, meeting reminders, teaching timetables and venues, election campaigns, etc. will all be communicated through this unique platform.

FIRE STATION AND HOSPITAL SPECIAL WARD

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the KNUST in its attempt to exert more positive influence over its environment continues to increase and improve the services it provides which include health care services for members of the University community and other persons who live within the immediate environs of the University. In this respect, I am happy to report that the University Hospital which was first started only as a Dressing Station in 1952 when the University was then a College, has in response to the tremendous growth of the University, expanded so much. Now, the Hospital is rated by the Ghana Health Service (GHS) within the category of a District Hospital and has since the year 2008 been accredited to train Housemen and Residents by the Medical and Dental Council as well as the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The University continues to make strides and on the 10th of June, 2013 it commissioned a modern Special Ward named after the Chancellor of the University - "**Osei Tutu II Medical Complex**". The facility has a lot of amenities and special services such as internet connectivity, DSTV connection, a nurse call/alarm system, bed lift, physiotherapy, etc. I encourage all those who can afford to patronise the facility.

Nana Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, the University has since its establishment grown in size - expanding in infrastructure such as lecture theatres, laboratories, residential facilities, hostels (both public and private) as well as increasing student and staff population within the campus and in the immediate catchment

area. These are very huge capital and human investments and require protection against disasters such as fires.

In respect of this, the University with the assistance of the Ghana National Fire Service has invested in the establishment of a full Fire Service Station, with full complement of staff and equipment to handle any incidence of fire outbreaks and other disasters in the University and its environs. This Station was commissioned on 20th May, 2013 with staff strength of 42. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership of the Regional and National Fire Service for their support in this venture.

The University again continues to improve upon its services to its staff and students, especially its international students and staff by creating the requisite environment for teaching, learning and research. In line with this, with the support of the Ghana Immigration Service, an office has been opened here at KNUST in the Dean of Students' Office buildings to serve this community. This is the first of its kind in any Higher Education Institution in the country and it goes to show the international stature of KNUST.

TEACHING HOSPITAL AND SVM COMPLEX

Nana Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, after a number of efforts towards the building of our Medical Centre Complex, I am happy to report that we have been able to make some modest progress internally. The first phase of our Medical Centre Complex project has started in earnest with the construction of the Administration and Out Patients Department with initial funds from the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) and other sources. The sub-structural works is about 85% complete and work is progressing steadily. It is hoped that within the next one and a half years, this would be completed and put to use. However, this is just a small percentage of the *overall* project and we continue to appeal to Government to assist our efforts in securing the necessary funding and approvals in establishing this Medical Centre Complex which would greatly help us train more health professionals for the nation and the sub-region.

Following the void that existed in the training of Veterinary Surgeons here in Ghana, the KNUST in response to a request from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture through the Veterinary Council of Ghana, established a School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) in the College of Health Sciences to run a six-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) programme. I am happy to inform you that, enrolment of students into the programme started in 2009 and the response has been *very* positive so far.

Following the *above* initiative and the ever increasing student numbers, there was the urgent need for the construction of a complex to house the new SVM here at the KNUST. Consequently, the Government of Ghana through the GETFund is graciously providing funding for the construction of a complex to house the School. Following the securing of all the needed approvals, the project has taken off with the contractor taking possession of the site.

MASTER CARD FOUNDATION'S DONATION

With the introduction of the Less Endowed Admission Policy which has been hailed and copied nationwide, there was also the need to find some means to support needy students in one way or the other. Consequently, the Students' Financial *Services* Office was set up in 2006 to handle financial issues concerning needy but brilliant students in the areas of scholarships, bursaries and, work and study opportunities.

A proposal co-ordinated by our International Programmes Office, Dean of Students Office and the Student Financial Services Office with approval by management and submitted to MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme has yielded the biggest support ever to the scheme. Thus far, approval has been given for an amount of **US\$20.78 million** to support

1,000 needy but brilliant students over the next ten years. Beginning the 2013/2014 academic year, the Foundation will be disbursing the first tranche of this amount to the University to support this group of students and we thank the Foundation for this most generous gesture.

AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

The University continues to make its impact felt nationally and internationally. To this end, I am happy to let you know that;

- Prof. (Mrs) Frances Thelma Owusu-Daaku of our Department of Social Pharmacy in the College of Health Sciences has been appointed as the new President of the Christian Service University College, Kumasi;
- Rev (Dr.) Kwabena Opuni-Frimpong, a Lecturer at our Department of Religious Studies and the Immediate Past Chairman of the Asante Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana has also been appointed as the General Secretary of the Christian Council of Ghana;
- Dr. Esther Afreh of our Department of English's thesis on "The Expression of Motion in Akan" was awarded the "*Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation (Humanities) for the 2011/2012 academic year*" by the University of Ghana, Legon;
- Dr (Mrs) Mavis Osei of the Department of General Art Studies also received the Silver Award (Humanities) for her PhD dissertation on "*The Influence of Temperament in the Artwork of Children*" by the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. The award ceremony took place on 24th November, 2012 in Accra; and
- at a recent First Scientists Networked for Outcomes from Water and Sanitation (SNOWS) Science Conference for Early Career Scientists Working in Africa held in South Africa from 27th to 30th May, 2013, staff of the University picked three out of the five awards that were presented. *Mr Kofi Akodwaa-Boadi of our Civil Engineering Department was adjudged the Overall Best Presenter. Mrs Bennetta Koomson, an Assistant Lecturer of our Department of Materials Engineering was the 2nd Best Presenter, and Mr Prince Antwi-Agyei also of our Department of Civil Engineering was adjudged the 3rd Best Presenter.*

I would want to congratulate these individuals for bringing fame to the name of the University.

BENEFACTORS

Distinguish ladies and gentlemen, the continuous progress and success of the University has been assisted by the benevolence of some individuals and institutions. We are grateful to the following benefactors whose efforts have brought the University this far:

- The Government of Ghana and its relevant Ministries and Agencies for supporting the University in a myriad of ways;
- The Electricity Company of Ghana, for the special service to the University;
- The Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCO) for support to our College of Engineering;
- Tullow Oil Ghana also provided support for the Department of Chemical Engineering to participate in the Global Event 2013 of the GETENERGY Exhibition in London

and also participate in the first ever Africa Oil and Gas Summit held on 3rd June, 2013 in London;

- Mechanical Lloyd for donating two saloon vehicles and an Electronic Diagnosis Machine to the Department of Mechanical Engineering for teaching and research;
- The Government of France through the French Embassy for supporting the purchase of a software for the Language Laboratory and also the donation of French textbooks; and
- German Ministry of Education and Science for supporting the WASCAL PhD programme in Climate Change and Land Use and partly supporting the construction of the WASCAL Climate Change Centre.

The following corporate bodies also donated various sums of money towards this year's Congregation:

1. Aschcell (MTN);
2. Ashfoam;
3. Ghana Commercial Bank;
4. Barclays Bank;
5. Standard Chartered Bank; and
6. Latex Foam

We are most grateful to them all for their kind support to the University.

Nana Chancellor, distinguish ladies and gentlemen as we move into the next academic year, our focus is to continue our resolve to ***"building a stronger Science and Technology University"***. This would require us;

- Improving upon the training of our graduates (teaching, research, entrepreneurship and community service);
- Enhancing Quality Assurance Systems and Continuous Professional Development;
- Continuous expansion of our ICT infrastructure and application in our core activities;
- Expanding and intensifying our "Internationalization" programme especially within the Sub-Region;
- Expanding "KNUST" through distance education, mentoring and affiliations;
- Continue with our decentralisation process of administration and; Increase our efforts on resource mobilization and infrastructure development.

In this direction, the efforts and commitments of all staff and students as well as other stakeholders would be required to achieve full success.

ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION

Now a word to our esteemed Graduands; Congratulations, today is your day. You have made yourselves proud; you have made your families proud; and you have made the University also proud. As you reflect on your achievements, remember the following: as a developing country, our systems may not always be perfect and so if you would want to wait till the most appropriate time to do what you are supposed to do, you may never get to do it. You, therefore, need to stop waiting for conditions to become perfect. As Ecclesiastics 11:4 says ***"If you worry about the weather and don't plant seeds, you won't harvest a crop"*** (CEV). David had no machine gun or a rocket-propelled grenade in his hands when he faced the giant Goliath but God used the little stone in his hands to bring him victory and fame.

In a similar dimension, if the mustard seed being one of the smallest seeds can grow to become a big tree, then your small beginning can turn out into a glorious and marvellous future that you will forever be proud of. Today, what the KNUST has given to you is the small element of knowledge and skill. We believe that it is enough for you to effect the necessary change that would affect your own future, that of your community and nation.

Remember one thing, you are a product of the prestigious KNUST and, thus, you are created for excellence and are bound to excel. Now, as you leave the four walls of this institution, never forget your Creator, your parents and all those who have contributed to making you who you are today. Endeavour to join the KNUST Alumni Association and become a part of this big family.

I leave you with the promise of God to His children in Exodus 33:14 which says ***“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you”*** rest', Whatever your situation may be, stay on course with Him because His presence is going with you and success shall surely crown all endeavours. God bless you.

Finally, I also want to take this opportunity to say a very thank you to all the staff of the University especially members of Convocation for all the hard work in bringing these students to this level and also raising the name of this University very high.

I thank you all present for coming and God bless us.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM OTOO ELLIS
VICE- CHANCELLOR, KNUST
29TH JUNE, 2013