

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

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RECORDER

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY
ADDRESS TO CONVOCATION FOR THE PERIOD
MAY 2012 - JUNE 2013**

**CONVOCATION ADDRESS BY
PROFESSOR WILLIAM OTOO ELLIS,
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI,
22nd NOVEMBER, 2013**

1. SALUTATION

Council of Convocation
Members of Convocation
Colleagues

2. INTRODUCTION

In fulfilment of the provisions of Statute 26(a) of the University Statutes, I present to you my annual report on the State of the University. This is the third address since my assumption of office as Vice-Chancellor of this great Institution and I intend to shed light on the activities the University has undertaken through its constituent parts over the past year spanning the period May, 2012 to the early part of June, 2013. I will also relate this to some activities highlighted during my last address to show how far we have come and to let members in on other activities we intend to pursue over the next year in tandem with my vision for the University within the broad framework of our Strategic Plan - PLAN2K14.

3. 2012/2013 ADMISSIONS

The 2012/2013 Academic Year started with the admission of new students into the University. As we all know, admissions form a core function of University and that is why a lot of attention and resources are put into it. Characteristic of the results received from our Senior High School graduates over the past few years, the results for the period under review was very good and this raised the cut-off points for most of our programmes. In all, we received 44,049 applicants applying for admissions into the University but out of this number, a total of 32,227 were qualified and 20,936 were offered admission. However, a total of 14,891 registered and enrolled. The enrolment figure is 6.33% above that of the 2011/2012 academic year.

4. PURSUING THE VISION - 2ND EXECUTIVE RETREAT

As a follow up to the August, 2011 Executive Retreat that was held in Sunyani for Senior Management, the Vice-Chancellor's Office organised the 2nd Executive Retreat for Management from Thursday, 10th January to Sunday, 13th January, 2013 at the Eusbett Hotel in Sunyani on the theme; ***“POSITIONING KNUST AS A WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY - THE ROLE OF THE COLLEGES AND UNITS”***. The Retreat afforded participants the platform to deliberate on a broad spectrum of issues relating to the theme of the Retreat. This was aimed at ensuring a critical appreciation and understanding of the University's current status within the comity of the academic global village; and the institution of appropriate steps and measures to position the University on the pedestal of a world class academic institution.

Mindful of the, University's Vision and Mission; and, in keeping with its Strategic Plan (PLAN2K14), the Retreat adopted a Nine-point Operational Areas to be accomplished in the short to medium and long term beginning from January, 2013. The Retreat, accordingly, issued a Communique to spell out the Operational Areas and to guide the implementation of same.

5. GOVERNANCE

Over the past three years several initiatives have been undertaken all with the aim of enhancing the governance of this University and making it more efficient. In respect of this, the following activities were carried out during the course of the year.

- **Institute of Distance Learning (IDL):** A retreat of all stakeholders was organized at Anomabu Beach Resort. This was to provide a platform and opportunity to critically review for the first time the Institute and its activities since its establishment about nine years ago. A sub-committee has further looked at the Anomabu report and developed an action and implementation plan from the outcomes of the retreat. These processes are all intended to improve on the efficiency of the Institute. Implementation would start in January.
- **Mechanized Marking System:** With the increase in student numbers and the increasing challenges being encountered with the mechanized marking system, there was the need for improvement. In respect of this, there was the need for decentralization and acquisition of additional marking equipment. One equipment has been acquired bringing the total to three and the system decentralized with an equipment each to two colleges. Thus the Colleges of Health Sciences and Science have one; the Colleges of Engineering and Architecture and Planning have another and the remaining two Colleges also have the third one. Training has been offered to the key staff responsible for the management of these equipment. By this approach the load is manageable and access for marking greatly enhanced resulting in some improvement of the system.
- **Improvement to the Examination process:** As we are all aware the value of our certificates is dependent to a large extent on the integrity of our examinations and what goes into it. During the year under review, there was the introduction of security envelopes for the packaging of our examination materials. This is to improve security and ensure the integrity of our examination materials adding to the quality of our whole examination process.
- **Matriculation by Colleges:** As we may be aware, increasing student numbers always comes along with challenges. Some of these include space, difficulty in the maintenance of traditions, loss of orderliness and solemnity, etc. However, KNUST has had the benefit of being administratively managed through the Collegiate System and also running its Congregation by Colleges. Thus approval was obtained from the Executive committee to start conducting matriculation programs based on the College system starting the 2013/2014 academic year. By this approach, we would be able to manage the numbers and also maintain the tradition and solemnity. associated with matriculation ceremonies.
- **Biometric Fingerprinting:** The year under review saw the introduction by the University of the Biometric fingerprinting system into our student registration process. This has helped enhanced data capture and management especially for our distance learning students and also brought about some discipline in the handling of student information.

- Review of old and development of new strategic plan: A committee has been formed to start work on the review of our strategic plan, PLAN2K14 and to work on developing a new strategic plan for the University.

6. COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

Below is a brief on what has been happening in our Colleges over the period under review. The presentation is on a college by college basis.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) is still one of the smallest Colleges in the University in terms of student numbers. In the period under review, the College could boast of a total student population of 2,754 with 106 faculty members in addition to 151 support staff.

The College continued and established new linkages and consortiums that *have* helped boost teaching, learning and research activities. These include the Nuffic Funded Project on Institutionalisation of Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM), a memorandum of understanding with Akate Farms and Trading Company Ltd, the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP), Agricultural Sub-Sector Improvement Programme (AgSSIP), Root and Tuber Improvement and Marketing Programme (RTIMP), Export Development and Investment Fund (EDIF), the Department for International Development (DFID) and Agri-Business in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products (ASNAPP), the collaboration with Fintrade Foundation for the establishment of a commercial Model Farm, the West African Network of Organic Agriculture Research and Training (WANOART) project, and a Contribution Agreement between the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the University of Guelph for the Agro-Forestry Practices for Resource-Poor Livelihoods (APERL) project.

Outcomes from the above projects/collaborations have included the development of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes as well as on-line distance learning programmes, faculty development at the MSc and PhD levels, receipt of library materials/resources, community training in wild fire management, animal husbandry, agro-forestry practices, the establishment of a Model Farm, scholarships, joint publications, refurbishment of Laboratories, expansion and rehabilitation of the Biotechnology Laboratory to accommodate a Biological Nitrogen Fixation Research Unit, and provision of an architectural studio for the Landscape programme.

In terms of infrastructure development, funds have been allocated for the construction of Parking Lot for the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources to accommodate the numerous vehicles that enter the compound. A three- storey building currently under construction at the Faculty of Agriculture under the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) project is nearing completion. The building will *serve* as offices for postgraduate students who are under the sponsorship of the AGRA project. An internet facility was also installed at the Department of Animal Science and the one at the Department of Horticulture, which was down has also been re-activated.

In order to expand the programmes, run in the College, it introduced a BSc programme in Aquaculture and Water Resources Management, and M.Sc. in Natural Resource and Environmental Governance programme in the period under review. Plans are also afoot to

introduce other programmes in Conservation and Wildlife Management, Wood Production Engineering, and Furniture Design Technology all at the undergraduate level.

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

The College of Architecture and Planning (CAP) during the period under review had a student population of 2,925 students which is made up of 414 postgraduate students and 2,511 undergraduate students. In view of the upsurge in student numbers, there has been the need to increase the staff strength of the College. In this direction, the College is implementing a succession planning scheme whereby outstanding MSc degree holders are recruited and supported to undertake their terminal degrees so that they can take over from ageing faculty members.

During the period under review, two faculty members were supported to complete their terminal degrees and five new ones recruited to beef up the College's staff strength. As part of efforts to review programmes at the College, plans are far afoot for the Department of Architecture to renew its accreditation with the Commonwealth Association of Architects. In a similar dimension, the Department of Building Technology is also renewing its accreditation with the Africa Association of Quantity Surveyors and Chartered Institute of Builders.

With respect to infrastructure development, the College is setting up an Electronic Library (E-Library) to complement that of the University. The first phase of the process which involves the procurement of the equipment for the library is in the advance stage. The College is putting resources together to ensure that the project is completed on schedule. To enhance the use of information communication technology in teaching and learning in the College, the College has procured a new proxy server with a bigger capacity hard disk and multi-task processors that could handle large data transmission to replace the old one. In addition, the College is setting up a computer studio with 40 new computers for students. This is to enhance design and analysis of buildings.

The College is also pioneering an initiative of producing customised furniture from its own Workshops. This initiative has enabled the College to provide over 260 multipurpose desks for the studios of the Department of Building Technology. These desks can be changed to drawing boards when students are drawing in the studio and to normal desks when students are having lectures. The Department of Architecture is also being provided with 500 multipurpose desks as part of the preparations towards the re-accreditation process by the Commonwealth Association of Architects. The rehabilitation work in the College is also progressing steadily.

For the period under review, the College in conjunction with the Institute of Distance Learning mounted MSc and MPhil programmes in Building Technology. The programme is in its maiden year. Plans are also under way to introduce an MPhil programme in Settlement Studies which would be a joint programme between the Centre for Settlement Studies and the Department of Planning.

COLLEGE OF ART AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The College of Art and Social Sciences (CASS) is still the biggest College in terms of student numbers. During the period under review the College also engaged 28 new academic staff to augment its staff strength. The College vigorously pursued its mandate of training manpower in the humanities and social sciences through teaching, research and service to

the community. Consequently, significant progress was made in the areas of research, industrial and professional linkages, capacity building and infrastructure development.

We are happy to report that within the year; nine research projects were funded and payments made in respect of publication fees for over fifty journal articles. There were also four inter-faculty lectures delivered by four colleagues including Prof. Sam Afrane, the Provost of the College. The College also worked towards the organization of three international conferences on *Oil and Gas Conference in Ghana: Social Dimensions, Development and Research* and *Culture and Conflict Resolution*.

In terms of infrastructure development, the much-awaited Faculty of Art Building near the School of Business Complex is nearing completion. Plans are also in place for the commencement of construction work on the proposed Faculty of Social Sciences building. The Business School's new auditorium is also completed, commissioned and ready for use during the next academic year.

A modern, digitised Media Centre is also under construction at the Department of Communication Design. It will serve as the embryo for the development of a mini-TV studio and pilot broadcast station. For its first phase, a well-equipped, world-class animation studio, with high-spec PCs, large video monitors, 22-inch screen iMacs and Cintiq Wacom tablets, will be installed. Next, a sound recording studio with state-of-the-art digital recording equipment will be built to complement work in the animation studio. It has been planned, that the 2013/2014 academic year should see the Department concentrate on its video production capacity-building programme, as well as on negotiations for the construction of a mini-TV studio.

In an attempt to expand the academic programmes on offer at the College, the Faculty of Law introduced with the help of the University of Michigan a programme for Sexual Rights and Reproductive Justice. The programme was born out of concern that only few citizens were aware of the many laws and policies on sexual health and reproductive rights in Ghana. Plans are also in place to introduce the following programmes in the near future - One Year MSc. in Business Administration, One Year MA and PhD in Religious Studies, MA and MPhil in History and Political Studies and an MPhil in Akan. The College, through the IPR organised a six-week entrepreneurship clinic for all final year students of KNUST. The programme was to equip students to initiate their own private ventures and to reduce pressure on employment in the public sector. In a bid to introduce an undergraduate programme in the Chinese Language, a Chinese Club was started last year to afford interested students of the College, the opportunity to study Chinese. It is hoped that, following this, in the future a BA Chinese Language programme would be introduced at the Department of Modern Languages.

I am also happy to report that Rev. Dr. K. Opuni Frimpong, a part-time lecturer at the Department of Religious Studies has been elected as the General Secretary of the Christian Council of Ghana and he took office in May, 2013. Similarly, Dr. Esther Afreh of the Department of English's PhD thesis was awarded the "***Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation (Humanities) for the 2011/2012 academic year***" by the University of Ghana. Dr. (Mrs) Mavis Osei of the Department of General Art Studies 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. Her award ceremony took place on 24th November, 2012 in Accra. I congratulate the

individuals and the entire College for the honour they have brought unto themselves and the University as a whole.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

The College of Engineering (COE) which is one of the three two-tier colleges during the period under review had a total student population of 4,970. The College has nine Teaching Departments and two Research Centres. For the year under review it organised several workshops/retreats which included the "**CERR 9**" that took place at the Busua Beach Resort from 3rd to 6th July, 2012 under the theme "*Reliable Energy, the Engine for Accelerated Economic Development*". The Research Retreat featured several scientific and technical sessions and industrial presentations with the participation of industry collaborators such as the Volta River Authority (VRA), Schlumberger, GridCo and Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG).

As part of efforts to bring industry closer to the College, the College organised a week-long Career Fair from 27th February to 2nd March 2013 for students and this afforded several industry players the opportunity to interact with members of the College for obvious advantages and benefits. Following the development of a commercial cassava harvester by Dr. E. H. Y. Boboobee and his team from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, several farm demonstrations on the workings of the equipment have been held at the KNUST Agriculture Research Station at Anwomaso for Regional Scientists from the Agriculture Ministries of Sierra Leone and Togo and Communication Directors of the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) in the early part of this year. With respect to academic programmes, the College introduced two professional Masters programmes in Oil and Gas and Industrial Operations and it intends to introduce a BSc Industrial Engineering programme in the coming years.

The College in view of its strategic importance to industry continued with its industrial and institutional collaborations. Such collaborations have yielded positive results such as the offer of scholarships, avenues for staff and students exchange, donations, joint research projects and publications to mention a few. The College also collaborated with the following institutions/ bodies at various levels: UNESCO-IHE to start a project titled **SMART Sanitation** over a five year period. This project is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to the tune of US\$385,000. Others are VRA, GRIDCO, ECG, Vodafone Ghana, TIGO, Texas Instruments Inc, Ghana Robotics Academy Foundation (GRAF), the Ministry of Roads and Highways and its sub-sectors, Mechanical Lloyd Company, WASCAL, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), among others.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

The College of Health Sciences (COHS) comprising the Faculties of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Allied Health Sciences, the School of Medical Sciences, the Dental School, the School of Veterinary Medicine and the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine undertook several activities during the course of the academic year. The College expanded its scope with respect to academic programmes through the introduction of the following; BSc Disability and Rehabilitation Studies, BSc Physician Assistant (Anaesthesia) and Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D) programme. There are plans also underway to introduce a Diploma in Emergency Nursing within the next few years. The College has also completed arrangements with the Ashanti Regional Directorate of the Ghana Health Service on the use of the Kumasi Metropolitan Health facilities for the teaching of our clinical students with the support and facilitation of adjunct faculty from

the Ghana Health Service. This approach will also lead to the development of specialist services outside the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital and hopefully, its decongestion.

With respect to infrastructure, work is on-going for the construction of a classroom complex at the Clinical Students Hostel, KATH. The Directorate of Works and Physical Development is completing drawings on the building to be sent to the National Tender Board. In order to beef up the infrastructure base of the College, there were several initiatives and projects that were undertaken during the period. Among them are the following:

- Work on the Clinical Simulation /Skills Centre was completed. The project was funded with both Ghana Government and internally generated funds;
- Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) has approved the funding for the construction of the proposed School of Veterinary Medicine Complex to be completed within three calendar years.
- The procurement of a Toyota Land Cruiser Vehicle for the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences;
- A 30-seater Toyota Coaster bus for the School of Veterinary Medicine donated by the GETFund;
- The teaching laboratories project jointly being financed by the School of Medical Sciences (SMS) and the College of Science is nearing completion. The School hopes to use these laboratories at the start of the 2013/14 academic year;
- The refurbishment of the animal house of the Pharmacology Department was completed and handed over to the Department and it is currently being used; and
- The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will soon start the construction of a 4-storey lecture theatre to take care of its growing student numbers. Each lecture theatre will have a capacity for about 300 seats;

In March this year the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) through its parent Ministry of Communications donated to SMS, a Video- conferencing facility following an appeal to the Ministry. With the full assembly and commissioning of the facility, the School can deploy the use of video-conferencing technology in the teaching of some of its classes in the coming academic year. The College also received a few donations including anatomic models, a birth simulator and equipment from the United Nations Population Fund (UN FPA) for the development of the BSc. Midwifery curriculum and 350 copies of assorted veterinary books from the Tuskegee University, Alabama to the School of Veterinary Medicine.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

The College of Science (CoS) has a student population of 8,600 with 280 staff members. The year started with the organisation of its Pre-Science Teaching Programme for International Students which took place from 3rd to 21st September, 2012 for first year international students admitted into the College. The Training Programme for Technicians which was started by the College last year, moved into the second phase. The programme is intended to upgrade the knowledge and technical skills of Technicians in the College and other Colleges/

Units of the University. The Kirk house Foundation and Cocoa' Research Institute Ghana (CRIG) in collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology organised a practical training programme in Molecular Biology for the final year undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The College, through its departments, continues to introduce new and attractive academic programmes in the basic and applied sciences, in tune with societal changes and national development needs. To this end, an MPhil in Human Nutrition and Dietetics was introduced in the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology. An MSc Environmental Science programme on the distance learning mode was also introduced during the period under review. Other programmes in the pipe-line include: MSc/ MPhil Forensic Science, MSc/MPhil Health Informatics, Composite Programme in Computer Science and Mathematics, and a Part-Time/Parallel programme in Computer Science. It is anticipated that these programmes will begin to run in the 2013/2014 academic year.

The College in collaboration with the Laboratory of Toxicology of Hokkaido University will co-host the 5th International Toxicology Symposium in Africa later in the year. A stakeholder's workshop was organised by the College from the 4th to 5th March, 2013 to evaluate the MPhil Polymer Science and Technology programme as it enters the third year of its establishment. In terms of income generation, the Clinical Analysis Laboratory continues to receive wide patronage from the University community and beyond. Its income level has increased significantly and plans are underway to further upgrade its equipment base and broaden the range of tests that can be performed at the laboratory. The KNUST Botanic Garden which is under the jurisdiction of the College has an area of 12.9 ha. It is the third largest in Ghana and is also listed among the 2,500 botanic gardens and arboreta in 148 countries around the world. It is a member of the West African

Botanic Gardens Network (WABGNET) which is the West African regional grouping of African Botanic Gardens Network (ABGN), a continental grouping of the global network, the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). In view of the tremendous potential for the Garden, the Garden has unfortunately served the University Community and the general public mostly as an area for retreat and socialising. The College is therefore, exploring other productive avenues to put the Garden to use. I am appealing to the Department to work with other units of the University to achieve this objective.

In terms of awards, I am happy to report to you that, Dr. Faustina Dufie Wireko-Manu, a Lecturer in the Department of Food Science and Technology and a Fellow of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) won a competitive research attachment sponsored by AWARD. She would be a Visiting Scientist to INRA, Avignon, France. In addition, the Department of Mathematics of the College was adjudged “*National Best Mathelete for 2012*” and received a plaque in a national competition to promote the use of mathematics by students for solving socio economic problems.

Dr. Bright Kwakye-Awuah of the Physics Department of the College was also awarded a **113,000.00** Canadian Dollars research grant by the Grand Challenges Canada-Rising Stars in Global Health on a project on *Water Treatment In Ghana*: The Department of Physics and the Department of Clinical Microbiology of SMS are also collaborating with the Universities Of Liverpool, U.K., Cologne, Germany and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) on an EU-funded research project on "Quantifying Weather and Climate Impacts (QWeCI) on Malaria Incidence and Prevalence in Ghana". The funding is **Euro 155,433.00**

and is for three years. The main collaborators at KNUST are Prof. S. K. Danuor, Dr. Leonard K. Amekudzi and Dr. S. C. K. Tay.

7. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Main University Library continues to improve its services to its clients. The Main Library has since the past year increased its acquisition of books and journals. The College libraries are also receiving more attention with the increase in book stocks. For the year under review, the University Library has added to its stocks 3,784 volumes of books. Of these, 2,027 were purchased from foreign publishers, 1,154 are donations from foreign and local organizations and the remaining are from graduate theses. The World Bank E-Library from April 2008 - September 2010 has also been added to the library's stock at the Development Information Centre courtesy the Accra World Bank Office. The World Bank now has an Open Repository and Open Data which can be accessed through the following addresses: <http://openknowledge.worldbank.org/>; <http://www.worldbank.org/reference/http://data.worldbank.org/> These donations came mostly from our regular donors including the Rotary Club International, The World Bank, United Nations and its specialized agencies.

These additions bring the total book stocks of the University Library system to 198,150 comprising 130,975 at the main library and 67,157 at the college libraries. With respect to Online databases, there are about 60 actively used databases. These databases contain over 40,000 online journals and more than 100 million full text documents, bibliographic information, abstracts, book reviews etc. They cover almost all the subject areas relating to the programmes offered in the University. Subscription is made possible through the Library's membership of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana (CARLIGH) and facilitated by the NGOs, International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publication (INASP) and EIFL. The University Library System also provides access to over 66,340 newspaper items in electronic databases to the University academic community.

The University's Institutional Repository (KNUSTSpace) has increased its collections to a total of 4,977 comprising 4,156 thesis, 129 conference proceedings, 195 journal articles from the University journal (JUST), 235 other research articles and 262 speeches. The KNUSTSpace was ranked 11th in Africa and 400th in the World in January 2013. Statistics from Google Analytics indicate that an average of 200 people visit the Repository a day. These are researchers from Ghana, USA, UK, India, Jamaica and Nigeria with a total of 3,654 visits per month.

Some Initiatives

SMS service has been introduced at the Electronic Information Department of the Main Library to answer quick reference questions and the patronage has been very encouraging. Facebook and LinkedIn accounts have also been opened by the Electronic Information Department on the Library web page to receive 'comments and suggestions from users of the Library especially students, to assist the Library to improve its services CAP, CANR, and the Faculty of Law Library have set up local repositories for the management of their undergraduate theses/dissertations. Training was provided for the staff that will capture the data and data capturing is currently on-going. The Library Management Software has been installed at the -KNUST Basic Schools Library and data capturing is on-going in earnest.

The electronic database of the student clients has been updated with data capturing of all 2nd and 3rd year registered users. Through the initiative of the University Librarian, Computer

Aid International donated 100 computers, consisting of 70 desktops and 30 laptops, to the Library for use in the Electronic Information Department.

Publications and Conference Papers

Nineteen (19) publications emanated from the research and conferences attended by senior members of the Library System.

Future Projects

In the coming years, the Library intends to embark on the following projects to improve its services to clients:

- Installation of security system including closed circuit units;
- Renovation of old library building;
- Construction of the top of the Photographic Unit to create more space and also save the rooms below from further destruction;
- Installation of an elevator.

Challenges

The following are some of the challenges confronting the Library system:

- Inadequate transport facility (Bus too small and Pick-up too old);
- Inadequate space for staff and students (in the Main Library and College Libraries);
- Frequent power fluctuations.

8. UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

The year 2012 saw the University Hospital prime itself for further action in terms of providing health care service to both the University community and those from the neighbouring communities. They organized their annual management performance review at the Anomabo Beach Resort between the period January 31st and February 1st 2013. The meeting also developed the action plan for the year 2013. The year saw a decline in overall outpatient attendance of 42.72%, decreasing from 115,177 to 65,964. This comprised 42,062 of private patients, 13,637 of staff and 10,265 of students. The decrease may be due to several factors including the prolonged industrial action by senior members. There was also a 31.74% decline in hospital admissions from 5,388 to 3,678. This comprised 2,788 private patients, 467 staff and 423 students. However, the year recorded marginal increase in NHIS usage from 92.06% to 92.66%. There were 113 deaths in all with 11 of them being staff.

Irrespective of its efforts to provide quality service to its clientele especially students and staff, the hospital continues to face some challenges. Some of these include;

- The lack of ready laboratory services and constant water supply at the students' clinic.
- Inadequate staff strength and power fluctuation.

With respect to infrastructure, the Special ward was completed and commissioned for use. Renovation works on the Public Health unit was also completed and tiling works of the Dental and Eye clinic have also been completed.

To enhance the capacity of the staff, eight (8) workshops and seminars were assessed by some of the staff. These included Emergency care and trauma, Ethics and Professionalism, Diarrhoea management, Medical imaging and regulatory framework to mention a few. Eight (8) of the hospital staff had also been given permission to pursue further studies in areas

critical to the role-of the hospital. There were also on the job training for 20 nurses and 2 Pharmacists interns. Twenty five (25) house officer residents also completed their study rotations in obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, general surgery and internal medicine.

Some services and donations were received by the hospital. These included;

- Clean-up service by National Union of Presbyterian Students-Ghana.
- Clean-up and donation of provisions by Church of Pentecost (Oforikrom).
- Donation of Provisions by Go Ye Fellowship, Geomatic Engineering Students fellowship.
- Donation of gifts to maternity ward by Theresian International, KNUST Community Chaplaincy.
- Drugs donation by Grace Brentuo Charity Trust and Beddings, thermometers and provisions by the Catholic Chaplaincy.
- Vodafone Ghana Ltd. (Ashanti Region) provided support to patients.
- The MTN foundation donated an Incubator to the Hospital.

In the coming year, the University Health Service intents to work at expanding the maternity ward, provision of water for the students' clinic, stable power supply to the main hospital and refurbishment of the laboratory unit.

9. SECURITY ON CAMPUS

Security continues to be one of the important features which engages our operations here on campus because we need a sound and well protected environment to be able to prosecute our core business. However, this has always been a challenge considering our student and staff numbers as well as our total land area. The general security situation for the year under review was very stable especially on campus. Our major challenge has been with our students off-campus. During the period, the University was able to employ a new Head of Security in the person of retired Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCOP), Mr. Bedie He is already at post. With respect to reported cases, there were the continuous situations of unlocked office doors, stealing in the halls and hostels of residence and home attacks.

Three cases of robbery were prosecuted at the courts with the help of the Police. Two were sentenced to 60 years imprisonment each and the last person to 22 years. There were three. (3) recorded cases of attacks in un- embossed taxis and thirteen (13) cases of confidence tricksters. To clamp down on these situations, foot patrols continue and awareness creation has been heightened to sensitize students on the need to avoid the use of un-embossed taxis and private cars and also not to engage in conversation with strangers. There were also twenty-two (22) recorded cases of armed robbery all from off-campus.

To address some of these challenges, plans are far advanced to improve communication among students and staff with the deployment of a campus wide SMS system being facilitated by the University Information Technology Services (UITS) using a Vodafone backbone. Plans are under way to construct two Police posts, one at Ayeduase and another at Kotei to help improve on security within the areas where our students live. This initiative is being undertaken with the assistance of the Ghana Police Service and the Communities. To further strengthen security, the Manhyia Division Police command has stationed personnel at the Ayeduase Campus gate and this has had an immediate impact on the residents within the area. The security post at the College of Engineering has also been refurbished and is currently in use by the Security Services. Plans are again under way to decentralize the operations of our security unit with the assistance of the Head of Security with the

construction of two security outposts within campus. One would be cited at the boundary between Anloga and Campus and another at the Gaza area. This initiative we believe would help stem the tide of attacks or infringements on our students and staff. The UITS is also working on a pilot campus wide CCTV system for the University. When this is completed we believe it would go a long way to further improve the security situation on campus. As we all know and have been told consistently, the best security system is one's self. Therefore, please, let us be vigilant and take seriously all the security tips coming from our Security Unit.

For all issues or any unusual happenings or scenes, kindly report to the Security Office on this hotline, **03220-62999**.

10. ESSENTIAL/UTILITY SERVICES

With respect to essential services, focus is on the Maintenance unit, the Fire and Immigration services. Maintenance and essential services were provided by the Maintenance Unit of the University under the direction of the Development Office. There were the repair works on bungalows, external paintings of Senior Members bungalows and that of other staff, the on-going renovation works at D-line and F-line, underground electrical cable works, lighting systems, plumbing and other services, repair of drains and several other ancillary works. The Unit also continued with its fence wall construction between Ahinsan gate and the Bomso gate of the KNUST boundary. Work is about 50% complete. During the course of the year, our Roads Repair Unit with the assistance of the Ghana Highway Authority (Ashanti) had several of the potholes on the Campus roads repaired prior to the on-set of the rains. The hand rails on four long bridges on campus were also repaired by replacing the wooden rails with metals. Reflectors were also fixed on the hand rails to enhance visibility of the bridges at night.

Our Fire Unit continues to provide essential service to the University in the mist of all its limitations. For the year under review, twenty (20) bush fires, two (2) office fire outbreaks and two (2) incidents of fire were recorded in the halls of residence. These were all brought under control by the unit without any fatality. The causes were as a result of power surges, old electrical installations and human activity. The current equipment records indicate about 90 fire hydrants around campus, however some require maintenance. There are also 400 units of fire extinguishers installed in the Halls of residence and some departments and units of the University.

I will now want to take this opportunity to ask all Departments and Units without extinguishers and those that need to replace their old ones to do so with dispatch. The year also saw a new face of the Fire department with the construction of new structures and the refurbishment of existing facilities resulting in the establishment of a fire station on Campus. This was done with the assistance of the Regional Fire Service and the station was commissioned in May of this year. The fire division will still continue with its awareness programs to make us all fire conscious.

In the same period, an office of the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) was also opened on Campus with the assistance of the Ashanti Regional Immigration Service to provide immigration and other services for staff and students, especially those from outside Ghana. The office is stationed at the Dean of Students Offices and it is the first of its kind in any tertiary institution in Ghana.

11. STUDENTS' FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFICE

The Students' Financial Services Office was set up in 2007/2008 to handle financial issues relating to students financial support in the areas of grants, scholarships, bursaries and work study. Its activities are managed under the Student Financial Services (SFS) Management Board with the Pro Vice- Chancellor as the chairman. For the year under review, the University from its Internally Generated Funds (IGF) supported 500 needy students with a total amount of GHC150, 000.00. The Students Representative Council (SRC) also through their “Ketewa Biara Nsua” fund assisted 1437 needy students with a total amount of GHC354, 170.39. Other donations and disbursements totalling GHC582, 757.00 came from 20 organizations and individuals. This provided support for 1,109 needy students.

The eSyllabus for Africa group introduced a scholarship scheme supported by donors from the US with an amount of US\$25,000. This scholarship scheme provides support for 31 students. The MasterCard Foundation of Canada has also expressed its desire to support some students of the University for a defined period. The target group are the needy but brilliant. The program is expected to take off in 2014. The Standard Chartered Bank Endowment Fund for Ghanaian Public Universities has been re-introduced. The Bank this time round is awarding scholarships to support brilliant but needy students from our less endowed communities starting from the 2013/2014 academic year.

Work-Study

This program continues to expand gradually. Starting with the pottering system in 2007/2008 with about 20 students, new areas have come on board. This academic year, between 47 to 49 students have been placed, with the Engineering Guesthouse engaging two Tourism and Culture students. The activities of this office continue to expand thus requiring new approaches in the delivery of services to our clients. In the coming years, it is important to translate the work study program to that of a job placement unit.

12. UNIVERSITY INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The application or use of ICT in research, teaching and learning in KNUST cannot be over emphasized as ICT has become a major tool in the performance of these functions. In this regard, the University has put in place various ICT infrastructure in an attempt to provide the requisite atmosphere to enhance academic activities. The University Information Technology Services (UITS) is the main unit mandated with the task of providing and maintaining ICT infrastructure and services on campus. The Unit has seen significant improvement in infrastructure, software and human capacity-building but not without some challenges.

Infrastructure and Hardware

During the year under review, the University received an amount of \$250,000.00 from the National Communications Authority (NCA) for the procurement of ICT equipment. This enabled the unit to purchase a new routing switch, thus increasing the number of access points from the current 24 to 192.

In my last report to Convocation, I reported on the establishment of the new Network Operations Centre. Due to procurement challenges and delays by the supplier, it has affected the completion date. However, most of the equipment have been supplied and installed including a 150KVA generator. Hopefully by the end of the year the work which is about 97% complete would come to an end. Through the activities of the Friday group, the University through the UITS got the support of Vodafone Ghana to establish a laboratory in the College Science complex known as the KNUST/ VODAFONE Tech-Hub. This facility

will enable staff and students interested in mobile application development to develop and test mobile applications for the Telecom Industry.

Apart from the above, a new 100 seater capacity ICT laboratory is under construction at the basement of the Central Classroom Block. This is a collaboration between the UITS and the SRC. Work is about 60% complete. Plans are also far advanced to 'extend Wi-Fi to the faculty areas.

New Initiatives

The UITS in conjunction with the Dean of Students' office, successfully implemented a Biometric Students Registration and Verification System. The biometric data of all the undergraduate and postgraduate students for the 2012/2013 academic year have been captured. The process of capturing the biometric data for our distance learning students across the country is on-going. The UITS also designed an e-voting system using the students' biometric data. This was successfully piloted during the 2012/ 2013 GRASAG elections. It is our hope that the system will be adopted by the SRC, Staff welfare and Convocation among others for elections and other activities to make the processes economically efficient.

Another project that has been successfully developed is the SMS broadcast system for information dissemination to students and staff. Under this project, mobile phones numbers of students have been captured and a pilot project of sending relevant information to students has also been successful piloted. We hope to use this system to improve communication among our large number of students, improve security and also create a poster-free campus where dissemination will be fully electronic. A system which makes it possible to sell the KNUST admission materials online referred to as the *e-voucher system* was developed and introduced this year for the sale of admission materials. After paying for an admission material at any designated sales point, an electronically generated login details are printed for the applicants for the processing of their admissions. This was first piloted successfully with the Institute of Distance Learning.

The redesigning of the KNUST website to make it more User friendly and to meet standards and best practices in web development technologies is about 95% complete. It is hoped that various Colleges, Faculties, Departments as well as staff members will contribute to enrich the website content.

Staff Training/Workshops

For the year under review, the UITS organized a number of training programs for both staff and students of the University with emphasis on new technologies and their application. Ten staff of the UITS underwent training on the configuration and maintenance of the VOIP system. This is intended to equip the Unit to provide *effective* support for the usage of the VOIP system on campus.

Challenges

- As different packages and systems are being developed as well as the expansion of our network there is the need to improve the security of our networks. Thus we need to train personnel in this direction and also purchase systems to carry out these important assignments.
- The need for a modern ICT building with the state-of-the-art facilities is still a challenge which needs to be addressed.

- Due to the dynamic nature of IT technologies, there is the need for continuous training of staff so as to be in tune with current trends.

13.INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES OFFICE

The International Programmes Office (IPO) continues to execute the business of the University with the external community with all zeal. For the year under review, thirty (30) Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed between the University and other organizations and institutions. This brings the total since 2010 to 179. The lists of institutions are from Africa, the Europe, the USA and Asia. Most of these MOUs are active and have resulted in benefits to the University in the form of scholarships, exchange opportunities, study abroad and internships. The University received twenty-four (24) scholarships comprising one (1) PhD, twenty two (22) Master of Science (MSc) and one (1) six months support during the course of the year. This brings the total scholarships since 2010 to 74. The details of the scholarships for the year are as follows:

• Hanbat National University, South Korea	-	9 MSc.
• Hohai University, China	-	10 MSc.
• University of Electronic Science and Technology of China	-	3 (1 MSc and 2 PhD)
• Wuhan University of Technology	-	1 MSc.
• University of Michigan Presidential (6 mths)	-	1

Over the years, the international appeal and profile of the University continues to improve and this has resulted in various programmes and students coming to the University. Between May, 2012 and August, 2013 four Summer Schools were held on this campus. This includes a 6 weeks training programme in indigenous appropriate technology with 21 students from the University of Michigan; Solar panel, Adinkra symbols and HIV programmes with 9 students from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA; History of the slave trade with 10 students from Brooklyn College, USA and University of Rochester, USA. There were also thirty-one (31) international students from fifteen (15) institutions from seven (7) countries which undertook their study abroad at KNUST.

The International Programmes Office also facilitated the opportunity for seven (7) KNUST students to have study abroad programmes in three (3) institutions, two in Denmark, Aalborg and Agder Universities and one in Finland, Eastern Finland University.

13. AFFILIATIONS

KNUST as an institution continues to build the capacities of other institutions through its affiliation programme. For the 2012/2013 academic year, the University signed affiliation agreements with the following institutions;

- The Anglican University College of Science and Technology;
- The Technical University College of Tamale (TUCT) currently the only private University College in the northern sector.
- The Advanced Institute of Technology in Accra.
- The Cape Coast Polytechnic, Cape Coast and the
- Radford University College in Accra.

The University has also taken on board all the Midwifery training institutions of the Ministry of Health in Ghana as Affiliates and thus from the 2013/2014 academic year, the KNUST would be awarding the Diploma certificates of these institutions. As part of efforts to bring

KNUST closer to the door steps of clients, the University has gone into partnership with Zoomlion Ghana Limited to establish the KNUST African Institute of Sanitation and Waste Management (K-AISWAM) at Mmai Djorn near East Legon.

14. INFRASTRUCTURE

In the 2011 convocation address, I reported on some on-going infrastructural developments in the University. In this report, I present an update on the status of these projects. This presentation is in three categories, completed; on-going and potential new projects.

A. Completed Projects

- *The Special Ward at the KNUST Hospital*- completed, commissioned and currently in use.
- *The Business School Auditorium* - completed and commissioned on the 31 July, 2013. It is currently in use.
- *The Graduate Students block (Faculty of Agriculture)* - completed and handed over by contractor.
- *The Guesthouses* (behind the Hale and Hearty facility) - completed and handed over by contractor.
- *The N-Block (College of Engineering)* - It is almost at completion point. There has been a partial handing over to allow for usage.
- *The Conference Centre (adjacent Swimming pool)* - Building is completed. Currently, there is the installation of modern IT equipment by Huawei Company Limited to facilitate video conferencing and other initiatives.

B. On-going Projects

Apart from the completed projects, there are also on-going projects at different stages of construction. These include the following:

- *The Sculpture Gardens* between the museum and sculpture section- Even though delayed unduly, it is currently about 90% completed.
- *The Faculty of Art building* - Project is on course and is estimated to be about 75% completed.
- *The School of Graduate Studies building* - this project has slowed down but we are hopeful that we can come to an understanding with the Sponsor so as to facilitate the completion of the estimated remaining 5-10% of the work.
- *The Centralized Laboratory facility*- It is at the completion stages with the construction of the laboratory benches and stools. Hopeful that it would be handed over by the first week of November, 2013.
- *The Examination Block (Phase II)* - Work is still on-going but at a slower pace due to funding challenges. However, we hope to secure some funding from Government to speed up work on this project.
- *The Painting of University Bungalows*- Currently, the project is at Okodee road and on completion it would move to Ridge road then to the Senior and Junior staff facilities.
- *The Accra City Campus project*- The work is on schedule and an additional floor has been added based on the geotechnical report received. Thus the anticipated completion date has been pushed to January or early February.
- *Secondary Data Centre*- In one of my reports to Convocation, I informed members of the construction of a secondary data centre on campus by NIT A. The first phase of the Data Centre has been completed. Current works is focused on the landscape

activities. The centre is situated between the Agricultural Engineering Department and the Examination block.

- ***The shopping mall complex-*** This project started in 2011 is nearing completion. The main structure is about 85% complete and work has started on the landscape and parking space. The main structure may be completed by the first quarter of 2014.
- ***The Medical Complex (Teaching Hospital) project-*** The first phase of this project is progressing steadily. The foundations and first floor structures have been completed.
- ***The Veterinary Medicine Complex-*** The first phase of the veterinary medicine teaching hospital has started. Work is on-going on the foundations and it is about 30% complete.
- ***The WASCAL Project building*** - This project is also progressing steadily and work is about 75% complete. It is estimated to be finished before the middle of 2014.

C. Potential New Projects

As we get into this academic year, there are some potential projects which would take off. These include the following;

- The Pharmacy Extension block. This has become essential due to the introduction of the Pharm D programme which is six years in duration. Within the next two to three years space would become a challenge, therefore the need to construct this extension block.
- A College of Health Science building complex - The College of Health Science currently runs several programmes thus accommodation has been a challenge. The need to have a College building complex to coordinate its activities is therefore in the right direction. This project would take care of the administration block, lecture theatres and offices for staff.
- The School of Medical Sciences (SMS) lecture theatre - With the high student numbers at the pre-clinical classes of the school, it is important that adequate lecture space is created at the teaching hospital before the entry of these large classes in 2014/15 and beyond. In respect of this, it is critical to put up at least one lecture theatre at the teaching hospital to accommodate this large number of students.
- With the intent of transforming our Community Health program to that of a School of Public Health in conformity to international norms, the Department of Community Health has received funding for the construction of a School of Public Health building. The project is expected to take off in 2014.
- In the College of Art and Social Sciences, there is the potential, based on the availability of funds, for the start of two projects; the faculty of Social Sciences building and the Business School lecture theatre and graduate students complex in 2014.

15. CONCLUSION

The year has been a very challenging one with all the on-going industrial actions which has still not completely abated. These challenges have resulted in affecting normal University business. The management of the University have done its best in all the situations, working

with the leadership of the Associations and Unions to ensure that University business still continues and we are grateful for how far we have come. However, it is important for all of us to appreciate that the University is not all about buildings but more about us and the students. Therefore, our commitment and sacrifice to the course of this institution is very paramount to the overall success we all desire or want to achieve. Considering-the progress made so far we can only say the Lord has been good to us. I want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you and well done to all members of convocation and the rest of the University staff and our students for their continuous contribution in making this institution a great one. However, we must understand and again appreciate that there are still challenges to overcome, thus each one of us is required to continue to put up his best because we are a team and everyone is important. The Lord bless us and keep us in all our endeavours.

Thankyou.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM OTOO ELLIS
VICE- CHANCELLOR, KNUST
22nd NOVEMBER, 2013