

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF. J.S.K. AYIM AT THE 1999/2000  
MATRICULATION CEREMONY HELD IN THE GREAT HALL ON  
DECEMBER 4, 1999**

REGISTRAR,  
DEANS OF FACULTIES,  
HALL MASTERS & WARDENS,  
MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION,  
MEMBERS OF THE S.R.C.,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
STUDENTS.

I am very happy to see smartly dressed freshmen and fresh women gathered here radiating hope and enthusiasm, and looking forward to exciting experiences during their short and expected eventful stay in this unique University in Ghana. The relief which shows in your faces, students, cannot be suppressed; it is understandable knowing that but for divine intervention a few self-seeking individuals would have prevented the reopening of the Universities for serious academic work. My business with you today, freshmen and freshwomen, is to welcome you officially to this University, in my capacity as the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of this Institution.

The Matriculation ceremony which you have just experienced marks a very important milestone in your individual lives. The matriculation oath, the oath of obedience, is the official oath which symbolises your formal admission to the University; according you the status of junior members of this noble University “*In statu pupillari*”.

Your admission to this University and the status you have been accorded confer on you certain rights and privileges. First of all you have the right to call yourself a “TEKNOCRAT” or a member of one of Black Africa's foremost Technological Universities.

You can certainly hold your heads very high and beat your chests with confidence for going through the keen competition for admission into your various disciplines successfully. As you are very much aware, this is the only place in Ghana where you can acquire academic qualifications at degree level in Engineering, Pharmacy, Architecture, Development Planning, Land Economy, Building Technology, Mining, Renewable Natural Resources as well as Fine and Industrial Art.

The specialised nature of our programmes and their job orientations make our admission exceptionally competitive.

This year, out of 9,200 applicants, 6,900 candidates qualified for admission, but only 2,541 made up of 482 female and 2,059 male were granted admission into the faculties.

The statistics show that only 37% of the qualified candidates were granted admission out of which 19% were females.

This University could have admitted many more fresh students, if we had adequate resources. Ten years ago at the beginning of the Tertiary Education Reforms, U.S.T. had a total student population of 2,600. We kept faith with the nation by stretching the resources to accommodate more and more students. Today we have under our training and care over 9,000 odd students. It appears that the efforts of the Universities are being taken for granted by the beneficiaries of our sacrifices; people pretend to be unaware of the enormous problems of the Universities.

Ours is a Science and Technology University. Practical classes and hands-on activities are sine qua non if we are to maintain high national and international standards in our products. Modern equipment, machines and materials are needed to facilitate and enrich the teaching and learning.

The cost of running a University keeps rising. The demands of tertiary institutions on the central government finance is in sharp competition with other sectors of the economy.

It is better for all to be realistic and accept that expansion in the Universities can only be sustained through supplementary sources of finance. The primary user of the facilities must accept responsibility to make substantial financial contribution, failing which intake will have to be cut to size and dear ones would find it hard to access University education. The Akans have this saying: "*Dua koro gye mframa a ebu*".

U.S.T. is the only institution in Ghana where students can read degree programmes in technological subjects and applied social sciences. Students come from every corner of Ghana to attend the University. We are aware that 60% of students are non-resident, most of whom have nowhere to lay their heads after strenuous academic work. The few private accommodation which are available attract exorbitant rents which do not match the facilities on offer. Several offers to build student residential accommodation have not materialised. We suspect that student activism and the "*yentua*" war songs of some students may be causing investors to be cautious!

The University Council has approved guidelines, and made available five- acre plots of land with very long leases for the construction of hostels by corporations and private developers. There are many incentives for those who will invest in student accommodation. We extend our invitation to the business community and philanthropists to come to our aid and build us student accommodation.

Let us pause for a moment to reflect on the constraints which could cause admission to be reduced to a small number. Do you realise how lucky and privileged you are to be counted among the students of this University? What would you have done if you had not been selected for admission?

The matriculation ceremony should make you think of how you can harness the privileges and the advantages which the people of Ghana and your parents and sponsors have placed at your disposal, through your admission, to enable you to complete the programmes in good time, so that you may be in a good position to help yourselves, your family, your community and the nation.

The few weeks you have stayed at U.S.T. should have sensitised you to appreciate that you have entered a new era in your personal development and in your academic life. Perhaps we can all learn from the words of the ancient Romans, which says, "*sua est quisque suae fortunae*", meaning "each one is the architect of his own fortune".

"*Redimentes opportunitatem*" meaning "make hay while the sun shines".

The truism in these sayings is that just as you wrote your examinations individually, applied for your admission individually and got selected as an individual, you are here to pursue your life's goals or career goals as individuals under the protection of the Fourth Republican Constitution. You, therefore enjoy Freedom of Association and can therefore decide to join any association on the campus or not.

The mark of an undergraduate is critical thinking and analyses of facts, figures and issues. You must question everything that you hear or see. Do not allow yourselves to be misinformed, misled or deceived by a few vociferous colleagues, be they academic leaders or union leaders.

Peer group pressure and threat of violence has led good thinking students to behave out of their character. But remember Proverbs 17: 25

*"A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her that bore him".*

You may end your stay here as an individual with achievement or with ignominy; hailed or disgraced.

You are not obliged to join any association (SRC, NUGS etc) or pay dues to any; you can withdraw from any association whose interest and actions tend to conflict with your own emotional balance, ethics, values and aspirations. Each one for himself and God for us all.

You should particularly remember the oath you have just taken. Oath swearing ceremonies all the world over are solemn occasions for sober reflections and commitment towards certain responsibilities as well as to abide by certain stated rules and regulations. In your case, you have just vowed to obey the rules and regulations enshrined in the statutes and published in the *Freshman's Guide*, copies of which have been distributed to you. Indeed you have just sworn to be obedient and to respect those in whom your obedience lies. The University is a very disciplined and orderly community and you should therefore avoid any situations which will bring you face to face with any disciplinary sanctions for breaking any of the laws in this University. Hooliganism should be a thing of the past, for, pretty soon you will realise that your friends or associations might not be able to save you when you break- the laws of this University.

My final admonition to you is quoted from the Bible; Proverbs 6: 16 - 19: It says: There are six things which the Lord hates, seven which are an abomination to him.

1. Haughty eyes (a proud look),
2. A lying tongue,
3. Hands that shed innocent blood (violence),

4. A heart (mind) that devises wicked plans,
5. Feet that make haste to run to evil,
6. A false witness that breathes out lies, and
7. A man who sows discord among brothers.

On that note, let me give some information on the efforts of the University to give relief to all “mmobrowas”:

The University has put in place effective arrangements to enable all genuinely needy students to negotiate the rescheduling of the payment of their academic facility user charges. In addition, the Otumfuo Educational Fund is also available for some of you. Besides, Foundations by Poku Transport, Shell, Mobil etc., have instituted scholarships for high academic performance. It is for you to work hard and take advantage of these opportunities for your future development.

You should all strive to make the next millennium a vision of hope, a vision of peace and a vision for the achievement of your academic and career goals.

I congratulate you and wish you all the best of luck, peace and stability on the campus.

REDIMENTES OPPORTUNITATEM. Thank you, and God bless you all.

Prof. J.S. K. Ayim  
VICE-CHANCELLOR

### **VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Mrs. Agnes Corletey	Typist Grade I	Development Office	1/10/99

### **RETIREMENT**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Prof. Martha A. Tamakloe	Assoc. Prof.	Housing & Planning	1/10/99

### **WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION**

Mr. Mahmud B. Yinbane, Senior Labourer, Biological Sciences Department, who was expected to resign from the Service of the University on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1999, has withdrawn his resignation.

### **RESIGNATIONS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Mr. Alex Badu Amoah	Junior Lib. Asst. Gd. III	Library (College of Art)	1/12/99
Miss Patience Obeng	Typist Grade I	Welfare Office (Registrar's)	1/12/99
Mr. James Owusu Ansah,	Jnr. Accounts Clerk Gd. II	Senior Staff Club	22/12/99
Mr. Daniel K. Addo	Snr. Lab Asst.	Hospital	31/1/2000

### **VACATION OF POSTS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Mr. Charles Kumi Gyamfi	Lecturer	Wood Science & Technology (IRNR)	30/9/99
Mr. Augustus M. Dankwah	Watchman	JSS	28/10/99
Mr. William Bakomora	Watchman	College of Art	1/12/99

### **CHANGE OF NAME**

Mr. Kwasi Bio, of Security Services has changed his name to **Issah Ahmed**.