

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI ON THE OCCASION OF THE 43RD CONGREGATION
HELD IN THE GREAT HALL ON 19TH JUNE, 2009 (AFTERNOON SESSION) FOR
THE FACULTIES OF FINE AND INDUSTRIAL ART AT 14.00 HOURS**

SALUTATION

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Nananom

Members of the University Council

Members of the Clergy

Colleague Vice-Chancellors

Past KNUST Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors from Sister Universities

Registrar and Registrars from Sister Universities

Guest Speaker

Provosts

Deans and Directors

Heads of Department

Alumni of the University

Members of Convocation

Senior and Junior Staff

Excited Parents

Graduands and KNUST Class of 2009

Members of the Media

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

As you are no doubt aware, we are here again this afternoon to award degrees to deserving students who have followed prescribed courses of studies for the past four years and have also satisfied all requirements for the award of various degrees. On behalf of the University Council, teaching and non-teaching staff as well as the entire University community, I would

like to welcome all of you to this session of our 43rd Congregation Ceremony. This year's program has been broken down into ten sessions, starting from Monday through to Saturday, with the exception of Thursday, when there was no congregation ceremony. We are gathered here this afternoon to witness the 8th session which marks the graduation of students from the Faculties of Fine and Industrial Art of the College of Art and Social Sciences.

To add pomp to this afternoon's ceremony and to tell the whole world how successful the products of the Faculties have been in industry and academia, we have invited a distinguished alumnus to share his experiences with us. Our motivational speaker for this afternoon holds an MBA from the Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, China as well as a BA degree in Publishing Studies from the KNUST. He also attended the Technology Secondary School for his "A" Level Certificate. During his student days here at the KNUST, he held several positions which include Co-ordinating Secretary – National Union of Ghana Students from 2001 to 2002, President – Unity Hall from 2000 to 2001 and Member of the University's Residence Committee; amongst others.

Our motivational speaker was the proud winner of the Apprentice Africa Business Reality Show in June, 2008 and has since September, 2008, been working as a Member, Corporate Execution Group of Bank PHB, Nigeria. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our motivational speaker for this afternoon's session is Mr. Isaac Dankyi-Koranteng. Mr Koranteng, you are warmly welcome to your alma mater. We are very proud of your achievement. We promise to ensure that our attitude carries us to high altitudes. We will continuously endeavour to improve ourselves. We will put in the extra effort to achieve the extraordinary.

The College of Art and Social Sciences is the largest College in the University, comprising five Faculties and a Research Centre. The constituent units of the College are Faculty of Fine Art, Faculty of Industrial Art, Faculty of Law, School of Business, Faculty of Social Sciences and the Centre for Cultural and African Studies. This year witnessed tremendous improvements in institutional linkages, income generation, receipt of donations, renovation of studios and laboratories and the procurement of facilities to enhance teaching and learning. Research output, as compared with the previous year's, improved somewhat. In addition, invaluable services of diverse nature were rendered to the University, local and international communities while capacity building received a boost.

The Faculties of Fine and Industrial Art have maintained the leadership in the training of professional artists in painting, sculpture, communication design, advertising/packages, photography, printing, ceramics, metals products design, textiles, publishing, editing, entrepreneurship, bamboo and rattan, leather work, and woodwork.

As part of the vision of the Department of Publishing Studies to train their students to be innovative, entrepreneurial and dynamic leaders in a rapidly changing world, the final year students went through a two-semester course in entrepreneurship and small-scale business management. A graduation ceremony was organized for them with attractive cash prizes for various categories of awards sponsored by accomplished industrialists and lecturers. Heidelberg Ghana Limited was the major sponsor of the ceremony.

In a bid to finding a lasting solution to the packaging problem of the nation, the Department of Communication Design, in collaboration with the Institute of Packaging Ghana, organized a two-day seminar from 4th to 5th November, 2008 to discuss bar coding, printing processes and materials used for most package production. The Department also participated in the recently held TRACTEC and was ranked the best exhibition stand.

The Faculty of Fine Art participated in a hands-on practical training workshop on Open Educational Resources (OER) at the Golden Tulip Hotel on 23rd and 24th February, 2009. This was a collaborative effort with the College of Health Sciences of this University; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA; University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Western Cape, South Africa; University of Ghana, Legon; OER Africa and the Hewlett Foundation in providing interactive multimedia resources or an ICT-based learning environment for Open Course Ware (OCW), Open Educational Resources (OER) and E-learning. This collaboration is expected to provide new insights into the delivery of educational content.

Among others, the workshop discussed the current landscape of Open Course Ware (OCW), Open Educational Resources (OER) and E-learning, outlining the life cycle of creating such resources including the challenges institutions face in this process. Discussions covered what support resources were available locally for policy development, technical production, process guidance and content design. Following the workshop, a team comprising faculty from KATH,

University of Michigan and other stakeholders on 2nd March, 2009, paid a familiarization visit to the Multimedia section of the Department of Communication Design and previewed a selection of creative, interactive multimedia works of students. The group was highly impressed and optimistic that with the provision of certain facilities, set objectives would be achieved next year.

Another workshop on product design was organised to help the creative industries in Ghana to grow their international trade through collaborative contemporary design education and practice. Thirty (30) students and four (4) lecturers from the Royal College of Art, UK and thirty-four (34) students and six (6) lecturers from the Faculties of Fine and Industrial Art participated in the GoGlobal Ghana 2009 workshop which took place from 8th to 19th May, 2009 here at KNUST. The workshop was endorsed by the Aid to Artisans Ghana (ATAG). The students and their lecturers brainstormed, designed and modelled prototypes of laptop bags produced from old vehicle tyres and inner tubes, sound speakers produced from gourds, fruit juice extractor, and many other products.

The products were exhibited at the foyer of the Great Hall and subsequently at the British Council Hall in Accra for patrons in Accra. The Faculties of Fine and Industrial Art have jointly put together a proposal to be sent to the British Council to solicit for funds to set up a Design Research Centre at KNUST. The University fully supports the development of this Centre and anticipates that such workshops would be held regularly following the establishment of the Centre.

The Department of Painting and Sculpture had a Thesis-Book Transcription Workshop from the 18th to 22nd August, 2008. The resource person was Dr. Carol Ventura of Tennessee Technical University, USA. It was the first of its kind and drew participants from other departments in the University.

The Department of Publishing Studies launched a 'Book Reading Club' at Kotei Junior High School near the University. In course of the year, the College, through its Industrial and Professional Relations Office, organized a three-day orientation program for Senior High Schools in the Kumasi Metropolis to educate final year students and their tutors on the

programmes on offer at the College; specifically, entry requirements, nature of the programmes, job opportunities, etc. Over 5,000 students participated in this programme.

To be abreast with modern trends in science and technology, the Faculties continue to forge collaborations with local and international institutions of high repute. Memoranda of Understanding, with high hopes of multiple benefits to both parties to advance the vision of the various institutions were signed with the following institutions: State University of New York at Geneseo, Kenyatta University (Department of Art), Sheffield Hallam University and Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam.

An industrial MoU was signed with Development Dimensions Ltd. (DDL) Accra, for the establishment of a Jewellery Design and Technology Centre (JDTC) in the Metals Section of the Department of Industrial Art. The DDL has renovated the carpentry workshop, converting it into the JDTC at a cost of over GH¢256,000.00. In fulfilling the purpose of collaboration with Akershus University College, Akershus is for the second year running awarding a scholarship to a nominated undergraduate national service person of the Department of Integrated Rural Art and Industry in the Faculty of Industrial Art to undertake a Master's degree programme in Product Design to assist in the College's capacity building.

A linkage has been formalised by the Department of Industrial Art and the Ghana Textiles Printing Company Limited for the establishment of a Chair in Textiles. This will foster collaboration in areas of academic development of staff and industrial research. There is also an international linkage between the Ceramics Section and South-Western University at Georgia, USA, for the establishment of a Glass Studio in this University.

During the year under review some staff and students received various awards to bring honour to the Faculties and the University. Some of these awards are outlined as follows:

- The Department of Integrated Rural Art and Industry won the JICA Ghana Volunteer Award for excellent performance at the Wood Industries' Training Centre's (WITC) 1st furniture Design Competition, 2008. In addition a set of Wood working tools was given to the Department.

- The best Final Year Design Student, Miss Akor Adwoa Dagadu, won an all-expenses-paid award from Design Achievers to participate in the 2009 Design Achievers programme in Pretoria, South Africa from 11th to 15th June, 2009.
- Ms Anita Acheampong, a third year student, won the prestigious Mousharaka/Icograda Design Scholarship in spite of the fact that she was the only student from Africa.

GRADUATING CLASS

Our students are proudly going home this afternoon with Bachelor of Art degrees in Communication Design, Publishing Studies, Integrated Rural Art, Industrial Art (Ceramics, Metals and Textiles), and Bachelor of Fine Art in Painting and Sculpture. I would like to inform you that our students have excelled in their chosen disciplines and it is our hope that they will carry this attitude into their professional lives.

This year, we will be graduating a total of 5,471 students out of which 816 will be from the Faculties of Fine and Industrial Art. Of this year's graduates, 43 obtained First Class degrees out of which 14 were females. Apart from 125 students who secured Second Class (Lower Division) degrees, 646 students had Second Class (Upper Division) degrees and only two had Pass degrees.

APPRECIATION TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Apart from our faculty members, parents and guardians have also contributed immensely to our ability to present these young men and women for graduation this afternoon. It is gratifying to note that without their assistance, our preparation of the students would not have been complete. We are, therefore, extremely grateful to parents and guardians of our graduands for their unflinching support to them during the course of their studies. I take this opportunity to invite everybody to join me in showing our appreciation to the parents and guardians in the usual way by clapping for them. As parents and guardians, you may be relieved, but indeed, your work is not yet completed. You need to continue to guide them as they either step into the world of business or pursue further studies. Without your continued support, these students may be totally lost in the world out there.

BENEFACTORS

During the year under consideration, the Faculties of Fine Art and Industrial Art benefited from the generosity of several benefactors. A cash donation of GH¢20,535.00 was received from HFC Bank to support the publication of the College Journal, Journal of Art and Humanities, and the Intra-College Seminar Series. FRANOBECK Enterprise also donated six computers and their accessories to Fine Art Students' Association.

The Ghana Publishing Students and Associates led by Mr. Kingsley Sarfo Mensah need to be highly acknowledged for their remarkable contribution of Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis towards the setting up of a printing press in the Department of Publishing Studies. Other benefactors include Heidelberg Ghana Limited, Type Company Limited, Nestle Ghana Limited, Sedco Publications Limited, Coca Cola Bottling Company Ghana Limited, Compuprint Limited, and New Era Press. Others are Millicom Ghana Ltd, Alliance Franciase and Readwide Publications Ltd. We are grateful to all the philanthropists for their practical demonstration of support to assist the Faculties realise their vision.

ADVICE TO GRADUANDS AND CONCLUSION

In the past four years or so, we have taught you how you can make a living for the rest of your lives as artists. It is always said that art is life. No artist should be out of job because you are innovative and capable of turning any available material into an art piece. My challenge to you this afternoon as artists is to positively market the nation to the whole world through art. One biggest challenge facing the nation today is packaging of our exports. We loose a lot of revenue through poor packaging. To help address the situation, it is the intention of the University to introduce an undergraduate program in Packaging to be hosted by the Department of Communication Design in the near future.

Your education was so broad and flexible enough to allow you to adapt to a wide range of real life situations. You need to quickly realize that the real life is very different from campus life where you were sheltered from all the harsh realities of life. You will now be paying for your

utilities and your employers will demand so much from you for which their compensation is unlikely to ever satisfy you.

As you leave the walls of this University today, remember that we have now accepted you into the fold of alumni members of your College and the University. I therefore encourage each one of you to register with the KNUST Alumni Association wherever you find yourself. Being awarded a KNUST degree means that you have gone through thorough and rigorous training. You have acquired both academic and moral discipline. You are expected to perform in every capacity you find yourselves. To whom much is given, much is expected from. You should, therefore, raise the flag of KNUST high. Be good ambassadors of the University.

Distinguished invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, once again, thank you for attending our graduation ceremony for the Faculties of Fine and Industrial Art. For those of you who have traveled from outside Kumasi, I wish you a safe journey back home and Godspeed. For those of you from our immediate environs, it is our hope that you will continue to patronize our future programs and we also wish you well.

Thank you and stay blessed.