

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF THE KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI ON THE OCCASION OF THE 44TH CONGREGATION
HELD IN THE GREAT HALL ON TUESDAY, 23RD JUNE, 2010 MORNING SESSION
FOR THE FACULTIES OF FINE ART AND INDUSTRIAL ART OF THE
COLLEGE OF ART AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

SALUTATION

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana
Your Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Chancellor
Chairman of the University Council
Honourable Minister of Education
Honourable Regional Minister
Honourable Ministers of State
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Nananom
Members of the Clergy
Colleague Vice-Chancellors
Past KNUST Vice-Chancellors and Pro Vice-Chancellors
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities
Registrar and Registrars of Sister Universities
Guest Speaker
Members of the University Council
Provosts
Deans and Directors
Heads of Department
Guest Speaker
Alumni of the University
Members of Convocation
Senior and Junior Staff
Excited Parents

Graduands and KNUST Class of 2010

Members of the Media

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

I warmly welcome you to the 5th session of the 44th Congregation Ceremony as the Vice-Chancellor of this University. As most of you may be aware, this year's programme has been scheduled into 12 sessions, starting from Monday through to Saturday. We have resorted to this arrangement so that as many parents, guardians and well wishers as possible will be able to witness the graduation of their beloved ones. We are, therefore, gathered here this morning to witness the graduation of students from the Faculties of Fine Art and Industrial Art of the College of Art and Social Sciences.

THE COLLEGE OF ART AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The College which is constituted by five academic faculties, namely: Fine Art, Industrial Art, Law, School of Business, Social Sciences, and a Research Centre, the Centre for Cultural and African Studies, runs twenty-one departments and services the entire University. The understanding is that a Science and Technology University needs a significant dose of the arts, humanities and social sciences to prepare graduands for the world of work. This rationale drives the growth of the art and liberal arts programmes. Over the years, the College has turned out thousands of graduates some of whom now occupy very sensitive positions in the banking, commercial, industrial, business, legal, economic and other sensitive sectors of the economy.

In course of the year, significant achievements have been made in areas of research and publications, industrial and professional linkages, capacity building, infrastructure development, teaching methods, income generation, expansion of library facilities,

student organization, sports and games, exhibitions as well as participation in local and international conferences.

The College continued with its Intra-College Seminars, which forum created presentation of research findings. I am happy to inform you that this has brought about a healthy competition among the faculties for slots for the presentation of seminars. The College is in the process of publishing the revised seminar papers. Besides, some authors have managed to refine some presentations for publication in peer-reviewed journals. In course of the year over 35 papers were published in peer-reviewed journals of significant impact factor. A significant development in preparing an enabling environment and motivation for publication was the launch of the maiden College Journal, CASS Journal of Art and Humanities (JAH), which, reviewers commend as one of the best in the country. Structures are being put in place to ensure its sustainability.

Ladies and gentlemen, the College continued with its remarkable performance of establishing linkages with industrial and professional organizations locally and internationally. Memoranda of Understanding were established by the University through the instrumentality of the College with Gerrit Rietveld Academie, The Netherlands; Georgia Southwestern State University, USA; and Bergische Universitaet Wuppertal, Germany. Locally, MoUs were signed with EPP Books and Services and Ghana Trades Union Congress and Development Dimensions Limited. Arrangements are far advanced for the signing of MoUs with Bowie and Howard Universities, both in the United States of America. There has been an improvement in capacity building to ensure efficient and effective rendering of academic services.

Akershus University College in Norway with which we collaborate, has, for the third year running, offered scholarship to an undergraduate in Integrated Rural Art and Industry to pursue a Masters' programme in Product Design. It is hoped that by 2014 when the College Strategic Plan would be ending, over 50% of academic staff would have had their PhDs.

At the international level Mr. Joseph Nsiah of the Department of Industrial Art designed, fabricated and installed a suitable furnace system with pre-heater for avoidance of toxic and hydrocarbon emissions including trioxins, benzene, furans and dioxins for Delta Timber Industries (D.T.I.) Burutu, Delta State, Nigeria. Mr. Adam Rahman was part of a three-member team which represented the KNUST at a well-attended Health Open Educational Resources (OER) Inter-Institutional Workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, between the 27th -29th July, 2009. The other members of the team were Prof. Peter Donkor, Provost of the College of Health Sciences and Prof. Ohene Opare-Sem, Head of Department of Internal Medicine. Thapong Visual Arts Centre invited Mr. George Kushiator as a resource person from Ghana to be a facilitator at a Painting Workshop in Gabrone in Botswana from 3rd April – 17th April, 2010. The Workshop brought together artists in and around Gabrone. The Exhibition lasted for 3 weeks and it was sponsored by the French Embassy. Also Mr. Edward Appiah attended a seminar/workshop on Product Design at Arkershus University College in Oslo, Norway from May 15 – 30, 2010. Mr. Ralph Nyadu-Ado of the Department of Publishing Studies attended the first GERMAN-AFRICAN ECONOMIC FORUM in Dortmund from March 2 to March 3, 2010 as a panel member. He also facilitated the German government sponsorship for German language proficiency course at the Department of Publishing Studies for staff and students.

The Faculties of Art mounted several exhibitions to showcase their talents. The packaging exhibition mounted by the Department of Communication Design received extensive exposure in the media and the occasion was graced with the presence of the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industries, who was impressed by the products of the Department.

COLLABORATIONS WITH INDUSTRY AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Department of General Art Studies maintains close links with the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service. In addition, the Department continues to hold consultation with various Senior High Schools and Colleges of Education on

matters relevant to Teaching Practice and student research in the teaching and learning of the Visual Arts. It also has research linkages with the wood carvers at Ahwiaa, Kente weavers at Bonwire and Adanwomase, Adinkra cloth printers at Ntonso, bead makers at Dabaa, all in the Ashanti Region and the crafts section of the Centre for National Culture in Kumasi.

A special collaboration for research and professional attachment purposes was forged with the Agogo Presbyterian Women's College of Education. Besides sharing ideas on professionalism in teaching, two (2) American Educators of the International Federation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH) who are currently manning the College's Teaching and Learning Resources Centre liaise with the lecturers to build the capacity of our MA Art Education students to design and create multi-purpose instructional materials suitable for teaching various subjects across the Basic, Secondary and Teacher Training curricula. This will culminate in a "Pull-Out" in-service training project for teachers in the KNUST Basic Schools.

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:

Ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to announce that both staff and students in the Faculties made us proud during the year.

- Dr. Kari'kacha seid'ou, a lecturer in the Department of Painting and Sculpture won the 2008 Academy Silver Award in Humanities of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, with his Doctor of Philosophy thesis titled "**Theoretical Foundations of the KNUST Painting Programme: A Philosophical Inquiry and its Contextual Relevance in Ghanaian Culture**".
- Elkana Kwadwo Mpesum, a final year student won a GH¢2,000.00 Scholarship from EPP Book Services, Ghana based on some excellent illustrations executed for the company.

- Three students, namely, Daniel Komla, Linda Anderson and Shirley Ababio won cash prizes for the Ghana Sumatra CSIR-OPRI Research Logo Design.
- Miss Zophia Kukua Palmer won Mrs. Stuber's Award for the best Packaging student during a Packaging Exhibition/Seminar organized by the Department in March 2010. She received a cash prize of GH¢200.00.
- Each year since 2007, the Best Final Year Packaging Student is given an all-expenses paid Design Achiever's Award in South Africa. Miss Zophia Kukua Palmer won this year's award and has already travelled to Pretoria, South Africa to receive her prize.
- The University of Wuppertal, Germany granted two scholarships to two of our students, Mr. Victor Acquah Djan and Miss Esther Prempeh to undertake a four-month pre-Master's programme in Germany. When successful, they will be given 2-year scholarships to pursue Master's in Printmedia in the same University.

PIPELINE PROGRAMMES

To be abreast with modern demands in the industry, the Department of Industrial Art intends to broaden its programmes to include undergraduate and post graduate degree programmes leading to BSc. Ceramic Technology, BSc. Textiles Technology and B. A. in Clothing and Fashion. To this end, a linkage has been formalized by the Department for the Textiles Section and the Ghana Textiles Printing Company Limited (GTP). This will establish a Chair of Textiles, which will foster interrelationships in areas of academic development, industrial research, staff and students academic benefits.

We were honoured by a visit from the German Ambassador, Dr. Marius Haas, and his spouse. The visit was to strengthen the existing healthy relationship between the Department of Publishing Studies and German institutions. As part of the visit His

Excellency, the Ambassador, sat in the pilot German language proficiency course organized at the Department with German sponsorship.

GRADUATING CLASS 2010

This morning the Faculties of Fine Art and Industrial Art are presenting students for the award of Bachelor degrees in the following areas: Bachelor of Art (Communication Studies, Publishing Studies, Integrated Rural Art and Industry, Industrial Art (Ceramics, Metals and Textiles)) and Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting and Sculpture). In all the Faculties are presenting 736 students for graduation. The number comprises 39 with First Class degrees, 584 with Second Class degrees (Upper Division), 112 with Second Class Degrees (Lower Division) and only 1 with a Pass degree.

ADVICE TO GRADUANDS

As you leave this noble University, please remember that you have been trained in a very holistic way. You need to understand that the training does not limit you to solving only particular problems in your areas of specialization. You are capable of tackling various societal problems and so take any opportunities that come your way. I can see among you various men and women of substance. Our future Vice-Chancellors, Professors, Politicians, Reverend Ministers and Business Persons among you.

This is why your attitude to work wherever you find yourself has to be right. Eschew mediocrity and always strive for the best. Be honest and demonstrate absolute integrity in anything that is entrusted you. In your daily works, be humble and admit your limitations and work towards overcoming them. Be very sensitive to the ethics of your work and profession and remember that punctuality and respect for timeliness in everything you do will inure to your own benefit.

For your various professional backgrounds, you are literally sitting on gold. Remember these pieces of advice and work hard so you can convert these potentials into reality

and channel them into money to be reflected on your bank account. Be patient and do not overly rush for money.

I would also like to remind you that your training here at the KNUST should not be the end of learning. The more you learn, the more you will see that you know very little. In this regard, I will like to advise you to learn something new every day. If you can adhere to some of these rudiments of life, success should come your way in due course.

BENEFACTORS

Ladies and gentlemen, may I at this juncture mention a few benefactors whose benevolence has contributed immensely to the development of our faculties:

- The Export Development and Investment Fund (IDIF) offered the College a grant of GH¢225,000.00 to support the KNUST Jewellery Design and Technology Centre which is a joint venture between the University and Development Dimensions Limited to train students at the Metals Section in Jewellery Design.
- The Rand Refinery Limited of South Africa donated a quantity of silver worth US¢9,500.00 for use at the Metals Section to support teaching and learning.
- The University is also grateful to Dr. Samuel Adu-Poku, an alumnus and currently an Associate Professor of Art Education at the Youngstown State University (YSU) in Ohio, USA for helping the Department of General Art Studies to establish a special collaboration for research with Youngstown State University (YSU) in Ohio, USA.
- Again, Dr. Samuel Adu-Poku and Professor Patricia Sarro, donated assorted textbooks, pamphlets, study guide, slide guide and slides.

- Dr. Kwaku Ofori-Ansa, a US Fulbright Scholar and a Professor from Howard University donated a notice board, Multi-Media television, DVD Player, Projector, Scanner, books and magazines.
- Mr. Kwabena Asubonteng, a PhD. Art Education candidate has also donated a projector screen to help students in the department to develop confidence and competence in public presentations. Also, Mr. Adu-Bempah (MD of Print Art Ltd. and PhD Art Education Student) printed brochures for the Department.
- Also, a Doctoral Candidate of Art Education, Deputy Superintendent of Police. Anthony Dadzie, has helped to establish a link between the Department of General Art Studies under the College of Art and Social Sciences with the Kumasi Central Prisons in an attempt to help the inmates acquire vocational and technical training within the prison premises.
- Michigan-Ghana Charter/Hewlett Foundation donated various quantities of electronic equipment to the Department of Communication Design to enhance the OER programme. The items include; Dell Studio XPS 1640 Laptops, Dell Inspiron 1545 Laptops, Wacom Bamboo Fun Graphic Tablet Set, Wacom Intous4 Pro Pen Tablet Set, Defcon CL Combo Cable Locks, 1 Terabyte, External HDDs - Audio-Technica Microphone, Dynex Lightweight Tripod and Adobe CS4 Master Collection.
- EDIF gave a grant of GH¢ 225,000.00 to procure facilities for training of students at the Metals Section of the Department of Industrial Art. This facilitated the establishment of the Jewellery Design and Technology Centre in the College.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to thank your parents, guardians, sponsors, friends and relatives for the moral and financial support they extended to you during your studies at

KNUST. May the good Lord replenish whatever they expended on you. I know because of you, some slept on empty stomachs a few times and others forfeited their pleasures to cater for you. I say **ayekoo** to each and every one of them. Your stay on campus would not have been that successful had it not been the great efforts your lecturers put in right from your first year to the final year. Bravo to them and all the support staff for their relentless effort in training you to be who you are today.

Finally, remember that life is how you live it. Each of you has a tremendous role to play in society. It is my fervent prayer that the Lord bless you wherever you find yourselves. May you be heads and not tails. May you stand out among your peers. May the good Lord subdue your enemies and may the same good Lord ensure that all your enemies perish and scatter in different directions. Know your creator and honour him in all your endeavours and it shall always be well with you. Go into the world as people who have been blessed by the Lord.

Thank you