

MATRICULATION 2017 SPEECH BY
JEAN NELSON AKA HALL LEVEL 100 RESIDENT STUDENT

The Chancellor, the Chairman and Members of the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellors, The Registrar, Provosts, Deans and Directors, Heads of Departments and Heads of Halls, Senior Tutors, Members of Convocation, Distinguished Invited Guests, Parents and Guardians, Freshmen and Women, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I deem it a great honour to be asked to speak on "Expectations of University Life" on behalf of the freshmen of 2017.

Gaining admission to a University is a major transition period involving new experiences, new people and of course, new surroundings. It is a time of great anticipation, often with equal measures of excitement and fear of the unknown.

Without a shred of doubt, we have all come to the University with expectations. I have come hoping for freedom to do whatever I want, however I want and whenever I want. I have come with the notion that it would be great fun. I was very hopeful that the University environment would help me nurture a new personality, make new friends and view the future with great hope.

I am barely four weeks on campus, but I have realized that my expectations will have to be properly focused. I have realized that some thoughts I had of University life are far from reality. Perhaps, we are all faced with a dilemma of "expectation versus reality of University life."

Undeniably, a great number of us attended boarding schools so, staying away from home is not much of an issue. Although we are in a new environment, we are steadily beginning to find our niche.

I vividly recall my first night here. But for the darkness of the evening, I would not have noticed that the day had ended. There was so much ecstasy in the air. I must say, it was a good but confused feeling. As days passed, I observed that students had fun, but not as much as I had thought.

Day in day out, it is becoming very clear that University life is not about fun only. Being here is indeed a very serious business. Academic work is what really determines the pace here. Our adult life has really begun.

The Lecturers, administrators and all other staff in the University are here basically to help us transit into adulthood.

Truly, our first few days here were not only fun but there were also very frustrating moments. We had terrible challenges with the Management and Information System (MIS). It was a struggle to find accommodation on campus and we had to deal with jammed online registration. Registration in the Halls was not less cumbersome. ^{However} I am hopeful that things would take a better turn next academic year. On a lighter note, perhaps this is the price one has to pay for gaining admission to the premiere University.

I am particularly excited today because this function formally marks the beginning of an incredible journey. To the Class of 2021, I say “ Ayekoo “ in advance. Rejoice, for you have joined the Legon Family.

As I bring this speech to a close, I would like to remind us all that our primary aim for being here should be geared towards graduating with honours. For this reason, let us always plan our activities with the end in mind. We have a charge to keep. Like our motto says, Let us proceed with integrity!

Once again, congratulations and welcome to the premiere University in Ghana. Enjoy your freedom but use it responsibly. Thank you and have a fruitful stay!