

UG Climaxes 75th Anniversary Celebration

The University of Ghana climaxed its 75th Anniversary celebrations with a remarkable Thanksgiving Service held on Friday, August 11, 2023. The commemoration featured both a Christian Service at the Cedi Conference Centre and Muslim Prayers at the Legon Central Mosque.

The Thanksgiving Service was a momentous occasion that afforded the University community and other stakeholders an opportunity for reflection, gratitude, and envisioning the next 75 years and beyond.

Under the theme “Nurturing Resilience: Adopting Technology, Embracing Humanism,” the year-long anniversary celebrations filled with numerous activities were used to mark the illustrious history and numerous achievements of the University.

In a heartfelt message to his alma mater, during the Christian Service, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the President of the Republic of Ghana, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the service. He recounted the University's rich history, highlighting the pivotal role of illustrious Ghanaians in the establishment and the success of the University over the years.

Acknowledging its prestigious standing, the President noted that the University had set a remarkable precedent, mentoring numerous higher education institutions and think tanks within the nation. He emphasised that the University of Ghana has consistently lived up to its mission of nurturing world-class human resources and capabilities to meet the nation's developmental needs and global challenges.

"Ayekoo to the gallant faculty and staff of the University of Ghana, for your dedication to the call of nurturing such great minds, whose impact has been felt both far and near," President Akufo-Addo added.

While stressing the significant contributions of University of Ghana graduates to national and global development, the President expressed gratitude and acknowledged the university's invaluable role. He assured his commitment to enhancing existing systems and structures, ensuring that Ghanaian universities continue to produce graduates ready to lead and drive the country's progress.

President Akufo-Addo also pledged his unwavering support for the University's vision to become a research-intensive institution and encouraged partnerships between

academia and industry to address real-world challenges. He urged the university community to uphold values such as integrity, commitment, respect, and loyalty, as they strive for excellence.

Concluding his message, he congratulated the University on its 75th anniversary and pledged support for the 75th-anniversary Legacy Project, underscoring his commitment to the institution's continued growth and success.

In her address Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo acknowledged the goodness of God in the affairs of the University and expressed her sincerest appreciation to the entire University Community for their resilience and hard work that keeps the University on its path of achieving its vision and mission.

She mentioned that the year-long celebration had been a period of reflection for the University. "As a university, this anniversary has been a period of introspection and reflection. Having operated for the past seven and a half decades, there was the need to take stock of our achievements, make time to celebrate this significant milestone."

Prof. Amfo highlighted key activities, including four high-profile public lectures on various topics of national interest, sporting events, health walks, blood donation exercises, tree planting, and a special congregation, that were held as part of activities for the celebration.

She acknowledged the pivotal role played by all stakeholders contributing to the enviable status as the leading university in Ghana, second best in West Africa, and among highly ranked universities in the world.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that the University had experienced a vibrant and impactful anniversary year under the direction of the two able co-chairs, Prof. Akosua Adomako Ampofo and Prof. Clement Appah, and with support from the Secretariat headed by Mrs. Joana Omaboe.

Prof. Amfo also took the opportunity to announce the UG@75 legacy project, which was approved by management. The project she disclosed will be the construction of a Student Experience Centre, a multipurpose facility with state-of-the-art equipment that will serve as a one-stop Centre for various students' needs.

"To complement donations received so far towards this project, a fundraising dinner will be organised in December 2023. We entreat our stakeholders to look out for notices on this programme," she further stated.

Prof. Amfo appreciated the Graduate Students Association (GRASAG, Legon); SRC Development Fund Board; Corporate Bodies – Grace-Filled Ventures, Energy Commission, GRIDCO; Bank of Ghana, FNB Bank, Ecobank, Stanbic Bank and other financial institutions; Media Partners: Multimedia, Citi FM/TV, GBC, Radio Univers; UG Alumni Association, UG Alumni Association UK-Ireland and Liberia (UGAAL), and the Church of Pentecost; Internal Units – Department

of Economics, West Africa Genetic Medicine Centre and Various individuals support.

On the future of the celebration, Prof. Amfo hinted that one more event dubbed 'Wear UG Day' will be held on the 11th of October to commemorate the Day of Outdooing of the University. She encouraged students, staff, faculty, alumni, friends, or affiliate of the university to wear something made from the beautiful 75th-anniversary cloth to mark the day.

Earlier, the Registrar, Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah, expressed profound gratitude to all attendees for joining in the celebration. She emphasised the institution's resilience and perseverance over the years, acknowledging the unwavering support from the University community and the divine guidance that has seen them through various challenges and successes.

The Registrar called upon all stakeholders, including faculty, students, alumni, and partners, to unite in their commitment to support the University of Ghana's journey forward. She expressed optimism that the next 75 years will witness the University's continued ascent as a premier institution in Ghana, with a growing influence across the African continent and beyond.

Very Rev. Prof. J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, President of Trinity Theological Seminary, delivered a powerful sermon emphasising the importance of integrity, productivity, and fruitfulness. He urged the University community to appreciate their talents and abilities, to redeem time, and to avoid wastefulness. He stressed that actions today shape opportunities tomorrow. The sermon concluded with a call to action to live a fruitful life, impact our environment positively, and avoid unproductive behavior.

Chair of the 75th anniversary planning committee, Prof. Akosua Adomako Ampofo, in closing remarks, expressed gratitude to all contributors to the anniversary celebrations. She acknowledged the planning committee, speakers, artists, sponsors, and students for their support. She also showed appreciation to the dignitaries present and thanked the Vice-Chancellor and university management for the trust reposed in the anniversary planning committee to organise the year long celebration. She appealed to the President to put steps in place to assure that Ghana becomes the hub of impactful research on the continent and urged everyone to use education as a tool for change.

Ministers of State, Members of Parliament, other government officials, senior UG management members, University community members, and students and well-wishers were part of the Thanksgiving Service, where a celebratory anniversary cake was cut to commemorate the 75 years.

Later in the day, Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu, the spokesperson of the National Chief Imam, and other eminent members of the Muslim community were joined by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Amfo and senior management of the University, for Muslim prayers at the Legon Central Mosque.

At the onset of the Muslim thanksgiving prayers, Imam Abass Abdul Karim Umar, the Imam of the Police Mosque in Cantonments, initiated the gathering with a prayer.

Following this, Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu delivered a sermon in which he shared a profound expression of gratitude to Allah and prayed for an increase in the University's blessings and prosperity.

Dr. Osman Alhassan, Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies, Hajj Salim Kalmouni, the Managing Director of Japan Motors Company and Mohammed Nurudeen, President of the Ghana Muslim Students' Association took turns to deliver remarks sending heartfelt messages and congratulating the University on its 75th anniversary. They applauded the dedication and tireless efforts of the University Management in creating an environment that promotes learning.

A distinguished group of Imams officiated the thanksgiving prayers, including Imam Salman Mohammed Alhassan, Imam for Madina Mosque; Imam Lt. Mohammed Abubakar, Ghana Armed Forces; Imam Hussein Abdur Rahim Hussein, Ghana Police Service, and Imam Baba Abubakar, Imam of the University of Ghana, Legon.

A beautiful anniversary cake was also cut at the end of the Muslim prayers to make the celebration.

The climax of the 75th-anniversary celebration marks a turning point in the University's journey as it continues to step-up efforts at achieving academic excellence, improving research, and fostering an environment that promotes integrity, commitment, and progress.