

**A VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY MS. AFIA BREFO-SEKYERE AT THE  
NOVEMBER 2018 CONGREGATION OF THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
AND COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
GHANA, LEGON.**

Chancellor

Chairperson and Members of the University Council

Vice-Chancellor

Pro-Vice Chancellors

Registrar

Provosts

Deans and Directors

Guest Speaker

Specially Invited Guests

The Media Fellow Graduands

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a very great honour to be given this opportunity to be the valedictorian for this session of the November 2018 graduating batch of the College of Health Sciences and College of Basic and Applied Sciences. Many thanks to the Almighty God for making it possible for all of us to be here today. I would also like to thank the School for this wonderful opportunity to speak on behalf of my colleagues.

My fellow graduands, you will all agree with me that it has not been an easy learning process. The journey leading to this day has been quite bumpy with moments of joy, sadness and confusion as well as many fun-filled memories. From waiting for buses to chasing after them as early as 5: 00a.m. and moving from bus to bus sometimes as late as 6p.m. just to get back to campus, to seeing friends pack for vacations and returning to meet us still in school. The daily struggle of waking up early and walking all the way to other halls just to avoid standing in the bus, the hustle of being moved about during the stay-in vacations (and trust me this was really stressful especially for those in diaspora). I think the most frustrating thing was having to explain to people why we were still in school while other students were on vacation.

Our Christmas vacations were usually cut short as we had to write our end of semester examinations soon after the holidays; and even after the examination, we barely had a good vacation. We were even robbed of our long vacations, since we spent most of it doing clinical rotations.

Let's not forget the struggles of trying to stay awake during lectures, having lectures cancelled at the very last minute, the pressure of submitting our projects before the deadline and so many more. We always found ourselves asking, "When at all will we leave this school?" In our minds, the thought of finishing school seemed so far away, and yet here we are dressed and anxious to celebrate with our loved ones.

We also had some fun-filled moments including our various departmental and hall weeks celebrations, as well as health weeks which were fully packed with fun programmes such as movie nights, fun trips and dinners.

Today, we gather here to close the last chapter of our stay in this University. During our time here at UG, bonds were formed between classmates, strangers became our closest friends,

lecturers became our counsellors, and Korle-Bu and for our CBAS friends, Legon became our campuses as well as our home. Sitting next to you today is not only your class or course mate but a friend you can rely on, a professional you can always seek advice from. As the saying goes, no man is an island so we will all need one another at all times. s We may not see one another again, but I will urge us all to keep in touch with our friends since these are the same people we will meet on our way either to the top or down.

Madam Chancellor, Our sincerest gratitude goes to our parents, friends and loved ones without whose daily inspiration, emotional support and financial assistance, today would not have been a reality. Secondly, we would like to thank our lecturers, and senior administrative/professional staff especially the lecturers from the Department of Radiography as well as all those who day in, day out sacrificed their time and energy to make sure that we were not only making the grades but also enjoying our stay here.

To our Clinical Supervisors and Field Technicians who helped equip us with all the skills we needed; to the health facilities that gave us the opportunity to practice as interns and to the drivers especially Mr. Yahya Abdulai and Mr. Ransford Owusu, who conveyed us from one point to another, we would like to say a big thank you. Indeed, you have made the dreams of all of us here today become a reality and we would always be grateful.

In the words of Tom Brokaw, an American television journalist, “Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.”

What the future holds, we do not know, but as health professionals and scientists our primary duty is to practise with the highest form of respect and empathy towards every patient or client regardless of their ethnic, educational or financial background.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as today closes one chapter of our lives, another has been opened. Some have questions: What next? What do I do now? But as radiographers tell patients, “Breathe in; hold your breath; now relax.” if you have been able to survive your time at the University of Ghana, then there is no mountain too high that you cannot reach. My simple advice to all gathered here today is that the sky is not the limit; the sky is just the starting point to a whole universe that has no limitation and is yet to be explored. If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door, build so many doors.

Congratulations everyone and may God bless us all.

Thank you.