

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY MRS. NANA SERWAA
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POISED TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS

Chairman of the University Council;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today is a day to be thankful for and to be inspired. It's an honor to be given the opportunity to deliver this valedictory speech today. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7 that "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith". I am not the spotlight today; every graduating student here today deserves great recognition and praise for coming this far. Let us stop and reflect on some memorable experiences during our stay on campus.

Four years ago, most of us walked into this Premier University with our minds set on different directions and with different interpretations of things happening around us. Now, we are leaving all the drama, difficult assignments, the boring readings and early morning lectures. Each of us had our own unique experiences here, a combination of good times and bad times, of laughter and of joy and times of school spirit.

I remember Miss Emma Annan saying "Frank Agyemang Prempeh, my name is not Miss Annai" then smile warmly at the whole class. Belinda Abankwah and I always cried like babies after every examination because it was difficult only to realise we cried for nothing when we saw our results.

Many of us who are married have not only receive academic certificates today but can also show off the babies we had during the course of our study. Equating

babies to credit hours, Shirley and Gloria have one credit hour each with another on the way but Winifred has two credits in three years and so did many others. At the Noble Dinner and Awards Night on the 10th of June, 2017, I realized that many of my single colleagues also took the pieces of advice given them during the course of their study to find prospective life partners before leaving the university. Many of them have entered into meaningful relationships while others are still searching. It had not been easy combining studies with extracurricular activities but we have made it. I'm glad the university molded us completely.

We have grown not only academically but also spiritually, in wisdom and in character. We have learnt that the choices we make daily determine our future outcome. Inside and outside the classes, the Premier University; University of Ghana has indeed molded us to go out into the world and make a difference. We have been given the highest degree of academic excellence to change the world; we are poised to achieve greatness. We will always take pride in being alumni of University of Ghana.

The past few years have made us more than mates, we are a family. We spent countless hours studying for examinations together, encouraging one another when times got tough. When we leave here today, let us celebrate what we have accomplished and look forward to how we can be an inspiration to others.

We are thankful to God for seeing us through all these years successfully. May His name be praised. Amen.

To my father in the Lord, Apostle George Twumasi Ankrah, General Overseer of Deliverance Bethel Ministry International, New Tafo, and to all ministers of God who have imparted positively in our lives, words are not enough to express our gratitude. You have always been with us especially during the most difficult

moments. Whenever we get a little discouraged about something that didn't turn out well, we remember some of the talks we have had with you and it gives us the perspective we need. Thank you.

I want to thank my husband, Rev. Seth Twum Duodu who has been a support for me and he has been everything to me. I know I could not have gone on without him. I also want to thank my daughter, the adorable Nhyira who always inspired me to make good grades. She always asked “mummy, did you get all correct in your examination? Let me see for myself”. God bless members of our families immensely; our spouses, parents/ guardians and siblings for their sacrifices, encouragement and pieces of advice that has pushed us to attain our goals in the University.

Here at the College of Health Sciences and College of Education, University of Ghana, Legon, we have received great education thanks to our fine administrators and lecturers. To the advisors who helped us decide what path to take, without you, there would be no purpose of being here this moment. You taught us to accept the fact that our education was not only about books but also about extracurricular activities to reduce stress and even get life partners, particularly, those who are single. God bless you immensely.

We can be thankful for one another, my course mates, year mates and fellow colleagues. The friendships that we have made here will last a lifetime. In the same way we have supported and helped one another to succeed in these years at University of Ghana. I hope we will continue to provide support and encouragement for each other in future endeavors.

Finally, I would like us to take a moment to remember our classmate Miss Patience Annan and other colleagues who are not with us today. May their souls rest in peace.

Mr. Chairman, I conclude by saying that just like David, we have our own Goliaths (our fears and doubts). At times, we may feel that our battle is impossible or too difficult to overcome but here is my word for you: Please do not try to fight alone, because with a Champion partner like God, we will surely achieve greatness.

Congratulations to the Class of 2017. Long live University of Ghana and long live Ghana.

THANK YOU