

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SALUTATION

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Management and staff of Christian Service University College (CSUC), I welcome you all to the 37th Graduation Ceremony.

This being my first graduation as President of CSUC, I am particularly honoured as I share in the joy and pride of parents, guardians, relatives and friends who have gathered here to witness their dear ones graduate.

A total of 564 students have completed their programmes in Theology, various options in Business Administration, Computer Science, and Communication Studies, and have fulfilled all prerequisites for the award of degrees and diplomas. The detail is as follows:

	Total	Percentage
FIRST CLASS HONOURS	42	7.45%
SECOND CLASS UPPER DIVISION	121	21.45%
SECOND CLASS LOWER DIVISION	303	53.72%
THIRD CLASS	95	16%
PASS	3	0.53%
Total Male	334	59.22%
Total Female	230	40.78%
TOTAL	564	100%

Please join me in congratulating the Christian Service University College class of 2013 for their performance. Undoubtedly, a dedicated and hard working faculty, supported by the non-teaching staff, diligently taught and mentored them; therefore, please let us give them all a deserving round of applause.

Madam Chair, during congregations such as this, we are obliged to examine our activities and progress, over the last one year. The details are documented in the **CSUC 2013 Annual Report** and so I shall only attempt a summary:

CSUC is relentlessly pursuing its vision **“TO BE A FIRST CLASS EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY THAT PROMOTES KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CHRIST THROUGH THE TRAINING OF MEN AND WOMEN WITH MORAL UPRIGHTNESS, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PASSION TO SERVE AND TRANSFORM SOCIETY”**.

To this end, we continue to train and equip graduates to integrate faith with rigorous learning. We do this to enable them develop a deep relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and uphold strong morals- the biblical analogy of salt and light; so that they can become change agents and

responsible future leaders. The University College has diligently pursued this vision over the years by continually improving teaching and learning, upgrading infrastructure and improving the calibre of staff.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

As a faith-based evangelical institution of higher learning, we take our spiritual obligations seriously. The office of the Chaplain, under the auspices of the Chaplaincy Board continues to offer soul-uplifting programmes in a bid to enhance the spiritual growth and vitality of staff and students and the entire CSUC community. These include devotional and worship periods, staff fellowships, commencement and thanksgiving services, revivals and missions.

ACCREDITATION & INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

In the 2012/2013 academic year, the University College fulfilled the accreditation requirements by the National Accreditation Board (NAB) for the MA Christian Ministry with Management programme. It was subsequently affiliated to the University of Ghana. The BA Community Development programme was also accredited by NAB and is affiliated to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Both programmes have begun this 2013/2014 academic year.

Following the professional accreditation of the BSc. Nursing programme by the Nurses and Midwives' Council of Ghana in March 2013, the degree Nursing programme which is affiliated to KNUST commenced in May 2013 with 55 diploma-holding nurses.

Two other programmes:

- i. Bachelor of Business Administration – Purchasing and Supply Chain Management
- ii. Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

also went through the accreditation process and the BBA one is being offered in next month's (January) admission. It is our anticipation that the BSc in IT will commence in the 2014/2015 academic year.

STAFF AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Madam Chair, as mentioned earlier, our University College continues to attract and recruit a high calibre of academic and non-academic staff with the requisite professional qualifications and experience. A solid Christian background is a key pre-requisite for joining our team, and in mentoring our students. In view of this, I am happy to mention that we engaged the services of a number of full-time, competent Christian staff to strengthen our academic faculty in teaching existing and new programmes.

On infrastructural development, CSUC's Executive Hostel, built with IGF and a bank loan top-up, is now fully occupied. The construction of an ultra-modern Library and ICT complex is still in progress, and existing ICT facilities have been expanded. However, demand is growing faster than we can keep up and we have begun exploring avenues for partnerships.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & FUND-RAISING

CSUC continues to strengthen its local and global partnerships and linkages with world-class universities for collaborations in joint research and training. During the year under review, CSUC partnered with Eastern University in Pennsylvania, USA, to promote its PhD programme in Organizational Leadership, in Ghana. Further partnership in student exchange with the same University is being pursued.

CSUC is still prosecuting its fundraising campaign that was launched in the 2012 – 2013 academic year. The campaign dubbed ***The CSUC Challenge: Three-in-Five Project*** seeks to raise funds to support CSUC's infrastructural development projects such as the completion of the library and ICT complex, equipping the nursing school, and assisting needy but brilliant students to secure higher education. We trust that with the support of our alumni, friends and partners, and our international friends, we will be able to raise three million dollars over the five-year period. In its first year, we succeeded in raising only a small fraction of the amount and we call on all to join us in this endeavour. We welcome donations in kind and cash, big and small. Indeed, little drops of water make a mighty ocean, but big drops make it faster!

Permit me, Madam Chair to mention four students who have sponsored various SRC programmes in the past year:

- Michael Kofi Gyimah
- Michael Frimpong
- Mumuni Yusif
- A-Cleff Patrich Watts

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

In addition to awarding scholarships covering full tuition fees to three needy and brilliant students for the entire four-year duration of their programmes, CSUC also awarded part bursaries to a number of students. Efforts are being made to expand the provision of such awards through our fundraising initiatives.

CSUC CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

The University College will celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2014. We have chosen the theme: **“CSUC at 40 & Growing – Renewing our Identity,”** for the year-long celebrations. Our fundraising objectives will form part of the key components of the celebrations as we re-examine our individual and corporate identity in the Lord; re-dedicate our energies, and re-focus on the task of rebuilding and expanding our collective vision and five core values: The Lordship of Jesus Christ, Integrity, Hard work, Good stewardship and Mutual support and care. Please join us, as Life, indeed, begins at 40!

ENCOURAGEMENT TO GRADUANDS

Now let me turn my attention to our graduating class of 2013. You have obtained a lot of knowledge and some skills in your chosen specialties. You are going out in the world to acquire more needed skills to survive. 2 Peter 1:5-8 admonishes:

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Graduands, the sky is your limit. Always uphold Christian values in utilising worldly knowledge. As I advised the 2013 batch of Matriculants to ‘Stay Forever Young’, so do I want to persuade you to ‘Dream Big’ in addition because, to quote Pearl S Buck, ***“The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible -- and achieve it, generation after generation.”***

MOVING FORWARD

Madam Chairperson, when I assumed office as the fourth President of the University College last July, I proposed a four-point road-map for the next few years –to propel us forward in our quest to become a world-class university. These are:

1. Deepening our core values
2. Exploring avenues for sustainable funding
3. Quickening the pace for the granting of full university status or charter and;
4. Strengthening our global engagement

We will be engaging with all our stakeholders - alumni, parents, friends and partners, churches, corporate bodies, mentor institutions, staff and students - to collectively achieve this goal.

CONCLUSION

Madam Chair, distinguished ladies and gentlemen; as I bring my address to a close, let me express my appreciation to the board of trustees, council members, management, especially, Dr Samuel Brefo Adubofuor, the outgoing Vice-President, who is also the Acting Registrar, staff, students AND my family and friends; for their support since my assumption of office. ‘I have a dream’, and I invite you all to ‘dream big’ with me in positioning CSUC as a Christian, world-class university. ‘Our God is Big and so we “Dream Big”’.

Thank you.

Prof. (Mrs.) Frances Owusu-Daaku
CSUC President