**CSU ADMITS FIRST BATCH OF STUDENTS UNDER ITS NEW UNIVERSITY STATUS FOR 2023/24 ACADEMIC YEAR**

The Christian Service University (CSU), has officially admitted first batch of students under its new status as a fully-fledged University. In all, a total of 1,020 students were matriculated into the 2023/2024 academic year to pursue undergraduate degrees in Bachelor of Business Administration, BA Planning, BA Communication Studies, BSc Computer Science, BSc Information Technology, BSc Nursing and Midwifery and BA Theology and postgraduate degrees in MA Christian Ministry with Management, MSc Monitoring and Evaluation, MSc Corporate Planning and Governance, MSc Accounting and Finance and MA/MPhil Communication Studies.

**The Presidents’ Address**

At the ceremony, the President of CSU, Prof. Sam Afrane reported the significant increase in student enrolment for the 2023/24 academic year, marking the highest within the last 9 years. He announced a 43% surge and described it as a bumper harvest compared to the previous academic years. A total of 1020 students were admitted with 759 representing 74.4% undergraduates and 261 representing 25.6%, postgraduates. He emphasized the 62.6% female to 37.4% male enrolment ratio and noted the significant increase in female interests in tertiary education which marked a departure from previous trends in Ghana. Meanwhile, Prof. Afrane highlighted that out of the total number of undergraduate matriculants, 53.6% enrolled to pursue BSc Nursing and BSc Midwifery respectively. “These statistics reflect shifting interests in academic pursuits and career choices among students at CSU,” he noted.

The President further charged the matriculants to prioritize their academic studies to develop the relevant skills to remain competitive on the job market. He also encouraged the responsible use of technology, urging students to leverage it for academic and research purposes. He reiterated the University's commitment to enhancing conducive conditions for teaching and learning. Stressing on integrity and values, he highlighted continuous efforts to combat indiscipline and corruption regarding examinations and affirmed a zero-tolerance policy against malpractice.

He emphasized the institution’s commitment to fostering a supportive environment for students’ spiritual and character development. He noted, “As a Christian University, we offer services like worship sessions, bible studies, and a mentoring programme to assist with challenges and decision-making. He further indicated that the faculty and staff serve as role models to encourage academic excellence and personal growth.”

The President also addressed societal concerns, urged the youth to remain vigilant amidst current insecurities, and condemned indiscipline and unguided habits, particularly, indecent dressing among the youth. He specifically appealed to women to prioritize modesty, appropriateness, and decency in their dressing. Additionally, the Deputy Chaplain, Pastor Paul Diboro exhorted freshmen and women to embody Christ-like values throughout their academic journey.

**Appeal to Government**

The President seized the opportunity to urge the government to acknowledge the vital role and challenges that Private Universities in Ghana face. He re-echoed the development of a conducive policy environment and financial framework to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of these institutions in contributing to the country’s manpower development.

**Recognition**

The matriculation ceremony was also used to honour a level 300 communication student, Honourable Joseph Asante for sponsoring the ‘facelift’ of the open floor of the CSU Chapman Library. Expressing humility for the appreciation from the Management, Hon. Asante appealed to students, friends, and alumni to give back to their alma mater. Additionally, three senior members including Miss. Vivian Amponsah, (University Librarian), Nana Kofi Appiah Badu (lecturer), and Mr. Etse Nkukpornu (lecturers) were commended for their initiative in orchestrating the renovation.

**Attendance**

The Matriculation was well attended by the management, deans of faculties and schools, heads of academic departments and student leadership.

**By Anastasia C. Afenu**

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