

Central University  
Vice Chancellor's Report for 2018/19 academic year

Chancellor, Members of Council  
Members of the ICGC Presbytery  
Pro VC, Registrar, Deans & Directors,  
Heads of sister Institutions and Regulatory Agencies; Heads of Department  
& Units,  
Members of Convocation,  
Staff; Neneme Naaname  
President of the Alumni Association and Special Guest Alum Architect Kafui  
Anyomedie...Graduating Class 2018/19,  
Parents & Guardians, Distinguished Invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

### Introduction

Once again it is time to celebrate another class of hard working students who have come through Central University and express our deepest gratitude to God for His unfailing love, care and protection extended to our students.

Once again it is time to recognise the efforts and sacrifices of our faculty and staff, committed parents and guardians who have put their wards through school and the many others who may remain nameless and unknown. To all such, I say may the Lord bless you and may you receive His answers to your most urgent prayers.

Mr. Chancellor, today we present over 1,600 **graduands** for award of various degrees and commendations. This ceremony completes their

educational efforts and our expectant past students will after your pronouncements become true graduates.

The 2018/19 Academic year began with the usual promise. It was, however, to hold some major challenges and difficulties none of us anticipated. Perhaps the most painful memory of the past academic year was the loss of three of our bright and young students one of whom would have been graduating at the top of the Pharmacy class today. They are

- Benedicta Odoom
- Oswal Afum
- Bernard Amponsah

May I ask us all to rise and observe a moment of silence for these loved ones who left us so unexpectedly. May they find rest.

## ACADEMIC MANAGEMENT

During the last Academic year we have sought to improve our efficiency through a number of actions and initiatives in Academic Management.

- We have merged the Languages and Communications to create the Department of Communication & Language Studies
- The School of Theology & Missions has been absorbed as Department of Theology under the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
- We have a number of new Diploma, Degree and Masters programmes under review in Engineering, Design, Legal Studies and Communication Studies
- We have instituted the Open-day for Senior High Schools within our catchment area and beyond. This offers our high school students a chance to visit our campus.

- The Kumasi campus of Central University now has close to 260 students with the largest concentration being in Law, MBA and Theology.
- Our library services added more volumes to bring the total collection to over 55,000 and over 480 e-books and resources.

I take this opportunity to thank our Deans, HoDs and faculty who have worked on new programmes designed to ensure that we remain relevant and provide a sufficiently diverse range of offerings to prospective students.

I am particularly pleased that the Weekend MBA programme which I announced at the last Congregation, has taken off on this campus and we now have 26 students enrolled.

When we introduced this programme, we sought to address a gap in HE delivery which has meant that anyone living in the Tema-Afienya-Ada corridors would have to travel into Accra if they want to access credible graduate business programmes.

We shall carefully roll out other graduate programmes in similar mode as we believe professionals who live and work in these environs deserve equal opportunity for graduate work.

## STUDENTS & ALUMNI

We take our Christian heritage very seriously and thankfully report that our weekly Chapel Services, evangelism and missions drives under the leadership of the Chaplaincy continue to thrive. May of our students

graduating today have had spiritual formation experiences through these efforts.

For all you students who participated in moot court, gala nights, jazz café, sports events, Miotso Contemporary Choir, Levite Generation, floats around Miotso-Dawhenya-Prampram, we do hope that these extra-curricular activities offered you opportunity to see your education experience as a whole-person effort. Some of our students had opportunity to travel to Sweden, Italy, South Africa, Holland on various experiential learning trips.

We sincerely thank those faculty who through their research, collaborations and other efforts made such opportunities possible for our students.

It gives me great pleasure to report that we have had quite some significant successes chalked by a growing number of Alumni.

- 9 members of our foundation Faculty of Law cohort from 2014 were called to the Bar in October
- Ms. Elizabeth Ewudiwa, the overall best student from 2017/18 won most outstanding delegate at a Global SDG event in Thailand
- Ms. Asomaniwaa Owusu-Ansah, CU Pharmacy Alum from 2012 won an award at the 2019 International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners
- Mr. Victor Otsu, 2010 Alum adjudged HR rising star at the HR Focus ceremony

and

- Mr. Kafui Anyomedie Architecture alum of 2014 – our guest speaker – was adjudged best performing student in the 2019 Architecture Professional Practice Examination.

The evidence is clear, we may be only 21yrs old, but you our students and alum are already making waves.

## OUR PEOPLE

It gives me great joy to let you know Mr. Chancellor, that in the period under review, five faculty members from the SMHS who were sponsored by the University have completed their PhD programmes. They are:

- Rev. Dr. Isaac Ennin
- Dr. James Paul Kretchy
- Dr. Amma Larbi
- Dr. Alex Ghartey
- Dr. Susan Amuasi

As is very often the case, Central University is leading the Private HE space and very soon we will be streets ahead in terms of the proportion of our faculty holding terminal degrees. In the coming years we shall offer carefully selected opportunities to administrative staff to also undertake directly relevant graduate studies.

## INITIATIVES

During the period Central University completed the construction and testing of a 401Kwp solar farm which will cover all our daytime power needs.

We met with the operators of Hostels around our Campus and in discussion with them, we shall institute a set of standards and policies to govern student residential life.

## POLICY CONCERNS & CHALLENGES FACING PRIVATE HEIs

We believe there are a number of policy matters that are of importance and we wish to mention these.

1. **The place of Private Universities.** The HE space is very competitive. We do not mind competition, but we do have a concern with the rather huge increase in the HE players on our market, especially the growth of the public universities. This risks crowding out the private universities.

We would have liked very much to have government meet and discuss a supportive agenda for the private universities to enable us take on the definite increase in demand for HE access as a consequence of the forward looking Free SHS.

The prospect of having even more public universities increase their annual intake to well over 10,000 each time raises issues of relevance, quality and focus.

We believe the appropriate framework for facilitating both access and quality is to support private universities to fill in the gaps, become stronger, develop excellence and achieve the sorts of relevance agendas that we see in some advanced countries.

It should be possible for a sort of State-sponsored financial support arbitrage system that allows various levels of AFUF support which would otherwise have gone to State HEIs to be offered to Chartered private Universities.

This would achieve two things: first, incentivize commitment to the rigours of the chartering process, credentialize and build up the institutions that have attained charter. Second, deal with the possibility of many SHS students not getting University placement because the public institutions are full and/or they think they cannot afford private university fees. This would in turn save the State from spending scarce resources to needlessly expand the already monolithic public universities.

Nearly every year at about the time admissions start, some faceless detractors who appear to enjoy peddling falsehood and alternative truth through social media launch a campaign vilifying some private universities as expensive, poorly run or about to collapse. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

It is for consuming public to know and discern that there are good private Universities, CU is one of them. There are well run private Universities, CU is one of them and there are private Universities with alum making waves out there, CU is one such. It is time for this country to celebrate and affirm the place of private Universities within the HE delivery space.

2. **Educating & Developing our Human Capital.** We thank Government for a comprehensive budget statement read by the Minister of Finance this week.

We would like to touch on the education aspects of the Statement. From the budget we read about Government efforts in Human Capital Development/Education. 9 new bills, buildings for various agencies, an Open University, the CAPS, Free SHS; Nation Builders Corps and Teacher/Nursing Trainee Allowances are all mentioned. Some of these are very much in the right direction. However we have had opportunity to argue that Human Capital Development is a much more strategic matter focusing on the development of empirically determined and scenario envisioned present and future competencies which would drive socio-economic growth.

For our many initiatives and the 255 HEIs in Ghana, we ask what Human Capital Agenda ties in the educational efforts? Once again, Mr. Chairman, permit me to request of government to commit funds in the next Budget to a far sighted programme of empirically researching and creating a Human Capital Plan/Agenda for this country. Such a plan would

- Detail the competencies, values and mind-set required to truly transform our nation
- Set out how each level and component of our educational service provision would be synergised to ensure the set competencies are attained and

- Interlink the development of such human capacities with other social policies to ensure that we retain and deploy the capacities developed across our economic value chain

We believe the time is right to consider a policy regime that allows Access programmes as we have in the UK and Associate Degree programmes as we have in the US.

Access programmes, associate degrees, integration of vocational and technical training within the Human Capital Agenda will offer countless advantages and opportunities.

We plead for attention to this matter. I have called it **Agenda 2057 – the Competencies we Require** ie, a Human Capital Plan specifying the Competencies and Mind-sets required from now to 2057 when we would be 100yrs old.

3. **Legal education.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> policy matter I wish to mention is the issue of legal education which has recently come in for much concern. Mr. Chancellor others more qualified in this matter than I have offered many suggestions. I believe it is time for the professional training towards the BL to be ceded to 4 or 5 GLC scrutinized and approved Faculties of Law. Subsequent to which the Law School is retooled as a curriculum inspectorate, examination and licencing body like other professional organisations. This is a model that is not new.

### [A word to the 2018/19 Graduating Class](#)

To this graduating class, I have a few thoughts. First, you have done well.

Second, let me tell you that your number has been reduced by 3 persons. These 3 were involved in some form of exam malpractice or other. We also have at least 30 who have not made good on some grades and therefore do not qualify for the degree at this time.

My third point derives from the 2<sup>nd</sup>: that rule violating behavior has consequences, especially where those rules relate to access to formal rights and privileges. Recently our nation was rocked by the S-for-G scandal. Mr. Chancellor, this matter exists within an ecosystem; one that is more concerned for the dressing in the window than the substance in the room. Within this dysfunctional ecosystem you have pressure for grade enhancements, disregard to rules, willful neglect of classroom diligence and irresponsibility around the peda- and andragogical standards that will safeguard the quality of our certifications. We all have a responsibility to be uncompromising in our standards for in-class delivery, exam management, rejection of all suggestions of alternative means for credentialization without the attendant effort and output.

So as you step into the world of work, please note: progress is a painstaking process of iterative development, step by step, success by success, failure followed by lessons followed by development in cumulative and incremental jumps. Short cuts to wealth, prominence and presumed stature will in time injure your spirit.

I request of you, to be true ambassadors of what you have learned here: faith, integrity and excellence. I give you 10years to see yourself settling into big things. I sentence each of you to Godly hard work. There is a grace on us in respect of career progress. I extend that grace to you. You will

make it – as long as you continue to name the name of the Lord and see Him as your light. I speak the words of Isaiah 60:1 to you: Arise and shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. But the rising can only be done by you; and remember that the previous verse Is 59:21 has some statements which are precursor to Is 60:1. Go out there and be counted as people who live where dreams are born and who will reach beyond the stars.

## Conclusion

This graduation would not have been possible but for the hard work of our faculty and administrative staff and event managers. I thank them all.

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In closing, I am pleased to announce that we shall soon be cutting the sod for the construction of the Central University Clinic, which will be the first phase in the development of a comprehensive Teaching Hospital & Medical School.

The ultimate realisation of the entire project may take awhile; however every journey worth taking begins with a step of faith and dogged determination.

We extend our deep appreciation to you, Chancellor, the Council, the Presbytery and membership of ICGC for the support extended towards this project. It will put us on the map in an unequivocal way and offer future generations of students in the medical and allied sciences direct on-campus clinical skills exposure; and offer a much needed service to our local community.

Our vision for the future is to become the preferred destination for students who are looking for university education in the private sector; improving our research and advocacy footprint; grow and consolidate our science offerings and embed in our students, strong ethical values.

Thank you and may the Lord bless us all.

**Professor Bill Buenar Puplampu, FGA**  
**Vice Chancellor**