

# **VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH TO THE 2014/2015 MATRICULANTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES, HO**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2014**

Chairman of the University Council, Members of the Council, The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Deans and Directors, Faculty, Staff, 2014/2015 matriculants, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you officially to UHAS and to the third matriculation in the history of the University.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) is one of the youngest and newest public universities in Ghana. It was established by an Act of Parliament (Act 828 of December 2011). The main campus including the central administration is in Ho. A second campus is located in Hohoe.

It is the first University dedicated only to issues of Health in the country. It is also the first public university to be established in the Volta Region of Ghana. UHAS is a publicly-funded institution with the following vision and mission:

A pre-eminent research and practically oriented health educational institution dedicated to community service.

To provide quality educational opportunities to students and healthcare professionals, advance knowledge through scholarship and research and provide patient care and services that improve health and quality of life.

In setting up this institution, it is the intent of Government to provide an avenue to train several categories of health professionals needed to promote good healthy living of the citizens and provide health care to all the citizens of Ghana and beyond.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY**

Overall, the University will comprise of eight schools and three institutes which are dedicated to health-related issues. It currently has five Schools in session;

- i. School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences,
- ii. School of Medicine,
- iii. School of Nursing and Midwifery

- iv. School of Allied Health Sciences and
- v. School of Public Health.

## **FACILITIES:**

The infrastructural facilities you see around may not be the most inspiring when compared to structures in the well established public universities. As you know, this is our humble beginning and the University authorities are taking steps to enhance the existing facilities as well as develop new structures at both campuses to provide a healthy teaching and learning environment. We are currently constructing the Administration Block and the School of Public Health at Hohoe campus. You will also be pleased to know that there is the China Aided Project at Sokode Lokoe, the permanent site of the University and some of the facilities will be available to you next year. Provision of other facilities such as ICT, a functioning Library, staff and student accommodation to enhance effective teaching and learning are in progress.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND**

The University is in the process of establishing an endowment fund. This is unanimously supported by UHAS employees and they have collectively donated about **GH¢ 20,000.00** towards the realization of the seed capital for the fund.

## **STUDENTS OF THE 2014/2015 ACADEMIC YEAR**

To our newly admitted students, you are most welcome to the University of Health and Allied Sciences. It is most appropriate for you to come at this stage of the University's development being the third batch of students to be admitted.

For the 2014/2015 academic year, the University received about **2500** applications. Out of this figure, the University offered admissions to about **700** students. At the end of the admission process, a total number of **535** students were enrolled for the 2014/2015 Academic Year. This represents a 66% increase of students' intake for the 2013/2014 Academic. Out of the total 535, we recorded **375** males and **160** females.

Admission statistics for Schools and programmes for the 2014/2015 Academic year:

School	Programme	LEVEL 100			TOP-UP (LEVEL 300)			SUMMARY		
		Gender		Sub-Total	Gender		Sub-Total	Gender		Total
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female	
Medicine	Medicine	32	10	<b>42</b>				32	10	42
	PA	29	4	<b>33</b>				29	4	33
Nursing & Midwifery	Nursing	168	40	<b>208</b>	3	14	<b>17</b>	171	54	225
	Midwifery	0	55	<b>55</b>	0	5	<b>5</b>	0	60	60
Allied Health Sciences	Med. Lab. Science	20	3	<b>23</b>				20	3	23
	Dietetics	7	1	<b>8</b>				7	1	8
	Physiotherapy	8	1	<b>9</b>				8	1	9
Public Health	Disease Control	35	2	<b>37</b>	4	0	<b>4</b>	39	2	41
	Nutrition	10	4	<b>14</b>	1	4	<b>5</b>	11	8	19
	Environmental Health	7	1	<b>8</b>	3	0	<b>3</b>	10	1	11
	Information Science	7	1	<b>8</b>	5	1	<b>6</b>	12	2	14
	Health Promotion	4	1	<b>5</b>	1	3	<b>4</b>	5	4	9
	Mental Health	9	0	<b>9</b>	3	0	<b>3</b>	12	0	12
	Public Health Nursing	19	6	<b>25</b>	0	4	<b>4</b>	19	10	29
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>355</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>51</b>	325	160	<b>535</b>

Your chosen career is one that is guaranteed on the successful completion of your programmes. These health programmes are by no means the easiest in tertiary education. They require long hours of studies, commitment, dedication and critical scientific analysis. I therefore urge you to apply your time judiciously.

We have assembled some of the best, internationally renowned and experienced Professors, Lecturers and Administrators who have excelled in their respective fields of specialisation to provide you with the training you require and ensure that your stay in UHAS is an enjoyable and memorable one.

Although UHAS is very young university, we can proudly boast of some achievements over some older universities. Recently, the Medical Laboratory Science Students' Association of UHAS participated in a quiz competition organised by the Federation of Ghana Medical Laboratory Science Students' Associations. Our students emerged winners over competitors from five other tertiary institutions; University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Cape Coast, College of Health, Kintampo and the Premier School of Medical Laboratory Technology. These students have made us proud by lifting the UHAS banner higher. We therefore assure you that you have chosen the right University for your study.

The University can be defined as a place of experimenting in one's life. It is a place where you can afford to try and when you fail the first time you can be pardoned and given the opportunity to try again. At this stage, most students become aware of the fact that in life, there is not a single approach to tackling its challenges. Others may also cultivate the habit of not quitting when they do not succeed in the first instance but be motivated to try again. For instance, in your laboratory experiments you will be allowed to carry out the experiment several times until the desired outcome is obtained. Therefore, I encourage you not to ever quit. Do not give up. When you fall, master the courage to rise up and try again.

The University is also a place where you build relationships which can be very long lasting so I urge you to come out of your closets and build such relationships with colleagues especially as you are all in the Health Sector.

I also encourage you to cultivate the spirit of discipline. No human endeavor attains the designed success without discipline. Sacrifice your human desires for a better tomorrow. Do not allow the investments your parents and guardians have made in you go down the drain.

To the parents and guardians, we will work hard to mold these students into competent Professionals with a great sense of compassion for their fellow men and women, young women and men with a mission to provide community service and to find solutions to our health problems.

Finally, let me remind you of the Matriculation Oath that you have just sworn. I encourage you to go by the tenets of the Oath and be guided by the rules and regulations contained in your students' handbook.

Once again, welcome to UHAS, Ho and Hohoe, enjoy the beautiful serene surroundings the towns provide and have a fruitful academic life while here.

May God bless us all.

Thank you.