Publications and engagement in the past year

Publications

Conferences & Seminars Attended
- Dr Bonnah Koomson, on the 26th December, 2010 was a panellist on a TV programme – THE PROBE that discussed the impact of the oil find and its benefit to the people of Ghana.
- Franki J. Sackey; Doctoral training Programme, September 13-17, 2010, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.
- Prof. James Hawkins Ephraim on November 28, 2010, spoke on Aid Management and its role in home Nigeria recession as the President of Heads of the Conference of Private Universities in Ghana. The issue: economic deregulation of the activities of the Private universities in Ghana.
- Vincent Nartey Kyere attended a Conference on Impact of Infrastructure and Transport – Modelling and mapping for sustainable infrastructure development in an urbanising landscape West Africa. KNUST, Kumasi, August 2009 and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigations Issues, Mklin Hotel Hotel, Ghana, October 2010.

Make GETfund available to private Universities— Bishop Osei-Bonsu at the 5th congregation and 12th Matriculation

The Catholic University College of Ghana has held its 5th congregation and 12th matriculation ceremony on the 9th of February, 2011. The ceremony was graced by the President of the Catholic Bishop Conference Most Rev. Joseph Osei – Bonsu. At the ceremony were also invited guests, parents of matriculants and graduates and people from and around Sunyani.

Speaking on the same occasion the Vice Chancellor, Prof. James Hawkins Ephraim, noted that “The Catholic University College of Ghana, Fiapre is growing steadily. Interest in the University is also increasing significantly.” He added that “We at the University want to believe that the high interest is a consequence of an expectation that only quality education can be delivered at the Catholic University.” He added that the matriculants were chosen by the University to do greater things for God and Country. The Vice – Chancellor revealed that the total number of applications during the 2010 round of admission was 1,873, of whom 379 were disqualified. The enrolment of students in the Catholic University College of Ghana, now stands at 3,595 said the Vice – Chancellor.

“The university has been granted accreditation by the National Accreditation Board to run the following programmes effective January 2011: BSc in Actuarial Science, BSc in Mathematics with Economics, BSc in Mathematics with Finance,” he said.

Admission letters issued to qualified students came up to 1,450. Of these, 874 new students matriculated. He gave the breakdown of the new student population as: 31.6% Catholics; 8% Methodist; 1.4% Anglican; 10.3% Pentecostal; 8.58% Presbyterians; 5.26% Muslims and 9.6% Charismatics. In terms of gender: 45.8% are females while 54.2% are males. In terms of regional breakdown, the majority of this year’s freshmen are from the BrongAhafo Region (39.5%); the Ashanti Region (21.6%); and the Greater Accra Region (33.9%). The January class of 2011 matriculating is 386 students.

The Vice Chancellor expressed his appreciation to all those who have been supporting the University in the past years. He thanked the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference, the International Foundation for Education and Self - Help (IFESH) for bringing back Mrs Pamela Fisk to assist in teaching some aspects of the University’s Education programme. He also extended the University’s appreciation particularly to the National Investment Bank, the Ghana Commercial Bank, the Social Security and National Insurance Trust and the EcoBank for their “positive engagement” and to all who in diverse ways have been of any assistance to the University.

In his speech the Brong Ahafo Regional Minister, Kojo Nyamekye

--- Continue p.3
Some Members of the Faculties.tif

Faculties celebrate Week

In its eight year of establishment, the Catholic University College of Ghana can be said to have matured into a university of respectable standing. The University has won the hearts of the people by producing quality graduates who are equally distributed everywhere. The University is also well respected by the people because it is the alma mater of many people who are making significant contributions to society.

The desire of the Catholic Bishops of Ghana and the world at large is to have Catholic education as the way to produce men and women who would be good agents of the Church. Many people, including the University, have contributed to this end by providing quality education.

In October, the University celebrated its Faculty Week. The University has a tradition of having a Faculty Week every year, which is a week-long event that involves various activities. The Faculty Week is an opportunity for the University to appreciate the work of its faculty members.

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He also called on the Government to assist private universities with money from the address, told the class of 2010, "The education that you have received in a Catholic institution must transform you morally; it must leave an indelible mark on you so that even when you have forgotten most of the technical things you learned in this university, there will still be an enduring trait that will make you seek and defend the truth at all times."

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Make GETfund available — Continued from p1

Marfo assured the University of his continued support. He assured the University that the Faqre – campus access road has been catered for in this year’s budget and work would begin soon.

The guest speaker, Most Rev. Joseph Osei – Bonsu, the President of Catholic Bishops Conference in his address, told the class of 2010, "The education that you have received in a Catholic institution must transform you morally; it must leave an indelible mark on you so that even when you have forgotten most of the technical things you learned in this university, there will still be an enduring trait that will make

Improvement on Finances of the CUCG

The Finance Office role in managing the financial goals and the overall administration of the financial system of the University has become more challenging as we keep experiencing expansion in all sections of the University. However, the situation is ably managed by a team of highly trained and experienced professionals who are responsible for overseeing a variety of financial tasks of the University.

The Finance Office System

With constant upgrading of our software, we are currently working smoothly while saving about 70% of manual work, resulting in a hassle – free and paper – less management. Our goal in this regard is to move toward saving about 90% of manual work within a year.

Donations to the University

Once again, we are humbled by the generosity of all Catholics and friends of the University for making 2010/2011 one of the University’s best fundraising awareness and donations year ever. Their generosity and demonstrated faith in the mission and vision of the Catholic University of Ghana give us the confidence to set even more ambitious goals for the University.

While our economy struggles to gain student community on the universal Catholic Church; its doctrines, dogmas, practices and activities of IMCS Pax Romana. The target students were members of the Catholic Student Union (CATHSU). The theme for these visits was “Strengthening the Youth Apostolate through Reorientation”.

The PAX President and some executive were at the inauguration ceremony of the Catholic Student Union (CATHSU) at Yamfo Anglican Senior High School. He spoke to the students on the need to embrace the Catholic doctrine and also strive to share the doctrine with unbelievers. He also advised them to become ambassadors of the Catholic Church wherever they find themselves.

A total of US$ 50,000 was received by the University as donations from abroad. These were fundraising through Fr. Augustine Owausu Sakyere in USA and the Ghana Catholic Apostolate also based in the USA.

IMCS PAX ROMANA CUG LOCAL

The International Movement of Catholic Student (IMCS) PAX ROMANA Catholic University Local has organized a lot of activities to help improve the spiritual formation of the Catholic University Student. Pax Romana places importance on growing the spiritualty of the student together with intellectual formation. It is therefore due to this reason that the Chaplaincy and IMCS Pax Romana have organized a number of programs this semester.

At the beginning of the semester, an opening mass was celebrated to invoke the Holy Spirit on students as they go through the semester. The principal celebrant for this semester’s opening mass was the Bishop of Sunyani, His Lordship Most Rev. Mathew Kwasi Gyanfi. The IMCS Pax Romana CUG Local presented a citation in honour of the Bishop. The Bishop was very pleased with the gift.

The first crusade on campus was organized from the 1st to 4th March, 2011. The main speaker at the event was Rev. Fr. Gordon Asare of the Dorma Ahenkrong Parish. The program was well patronized. IMCS Pax Romana also organized an excursion to tourist site in Cape Coast. Students took a day’s trip to Cape Coast to see some of the historic sites in Ghana. The trip took place on 26th of March, 2011. The places visited were the Kakum National Park and the Elmina Castle.

Pax Romana, as part of its outreach duty has visited some selected Senior High School in the Brong Ahafo Region. The main aim of the visit was to educate, enlighten, and inform the entire student community on the universal Catholic Church; its doctrines, dogmas, practices and activities of IMCS Pax Romana.

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A strong support means a strong University and we have you to thank for it.
Nana Opoku Ababio was impressed and thankful for the school's establishment in the Fiapre township. He acknowledged that the presence of the University has boomed economic activities in the area, and that many people have become better-off since the university moved to its permanent site at Fiapre.

On 14th January, 2011 a delegation led by the Chief and some elders of the Fiapre community visited the University to acquaint themselves with the developments going on in the University campus. The Vice Chancellor was happy that the Chief and his elders had taken the time off their busy schedule to come and see the developments on the campus. He also took the opportunity to formally introduce himself to the University community after his long stay abroad. Nana Opoku Ababio was away for seven years. The theme for the visit was to enable him catch up on latest development that has been going on in the school. His long stay abroad was borne out of some misunderstanding that ensued between him and the community regarding the land released for the establishment of the Catholic University College of Ghana, Fiapre.

SIFE Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG) was started in 1997 to mobilize university students to make a difference in society. It is a joint initiative of universities and business leaders that works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilize university students to make a difference in society and build socially responsible leaders. Participating students form teams on their campuses and compete in local seminars before attending the SIFE World Cup. It is a world wide competition for teams of students to present their projects and solutions to societal problems.

The SIFE World Cup is an annual competition where university students from around the world present solutions to global issues. The competition is organized by SIFE, an international non-profit organization that works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilize university students to make a difference in society and build socially responsible leaders. Participating students form teams on their campuses and compete in local seminars before attending the SIFE World Cup. It is a world wide competition for teams of students to present their projects and solutions to societal problems.

For further inquiries:
Contact the Registrar:
Box 363, Sunyani or
Call: 03520-26751/03520-25667
Email: registrar@cug.edu.gh
Visit our website: www.cug.edu.gh

SIFE in Ghana is an international non-profit organization that works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilize university students to make a difference in society and build socially responsible leaders. Participating students form teams on their campuses and compete in local seminars before attending the SIFE World Cup. It is a world wide competition for teams of students to present their projects and solutions to societal problems.

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In July 2008, a twenty - member delegation from the Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG) visited Fordham University of USA and praised the Catholic University programme in the CUCG. Prof. Dennis E.A. Lynch, ESQ, a board member of CUCG, attended a two-week seminar on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in various tertiary institutions in New York City including Pace University, St. John's University, Fordham and Western University.

Fr. Joseph Domfeh, the Executive Director of University partakes in clean up exercise

The Catholic University College (CUCG) was honored by the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) for the management of many such exercises and that the university was the first to begin a week of national mourning. The Catholic University College (CUCG) went on to be invited to the launch, which was performed by the Brong Ahafo Regional Minister. On the 8th of May 2010, students of the Catholic University College (CUCG) were conveyed at 6:30 am to the Nana Bosoma Market. The gutters and drains were cleared and cleaned in preparation for the coming rainy season.

We at the Catholic University College (CUCG) hope and First Minister for the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, Mr. Samuel Papapapa, assured the nation that this exercise will be the first of many such exercises and that the government of Ghana will continue to ensure the safety of its citizens. The government will ensure that the Catholic University College (CUCG) plays a major role in the training and equipping of Ghanaians with such knowledge and skills. He disclosed that Fordham and the Government of Ghana have collaborated to train some Ghanaian judges in the ADR programme, and the Catholic University College (CUCG) will continue to do so.

The Catholic University College (CUCG) gives to Ghana

The Catholic University, as part of its social responsibility, gave a number of computers and books to some senior high schools in and out of the Brong Ahafo Region. The schools that have so far benefited from this generosity are:

- St. John of God Hospital, Duayaw Nkwanta
- OLA Girls Senior School, Kenyase
- St. John School, Sekondi
- Notre Dame Girl Senior High School, Fiapre
- Afrancho R/C School

The Heads of these institutions very much appreciated the generosity and expressed their gratitude to the Catholic University College (CUCG) for the donation.

University participates in clean up exercise

A section of the US delegation

University participates in clean up exercise

A section of the community at the clean up exercise

CUG GIVE TO INSTITUTIONS

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On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Ernest Kwaku Appiah Odoom (the Registrar), welcomed the attendees at the End of Year Party. The use of such principles and skills to manage students and staff conflicts was encouraged to students to undertake research works in preparation for the Introduction of the ADR Code. The festivities we anticipate are usually the main cause of this happiness but basically, our joy stems from the fact that most of us will get to enjoy a much deserved break or some period of holiday which will rejuvenate and revitalize us after a stressful year.

On the 22nd of December, 2010, a small US-Fordham delegation to the Catholic University's Campuses praised them for their unflinching support to the Catholic University. He further appealed to them to help explore all the necessary possibilities for the University to be an excellent research institution, to entrench itself as a research base institution, to become a world-class center, to encourage reconciliation and peace.
Sister Kathleen Feeley named interim president of the Institute of Notre Dame

If a good leader is one who is well respected, experienced, and devoted, then experienced and devoted, then the Institute of Notre Dame (IND) has chosen the ideal person to lead the girls’ high school. In July, IND’s Board of Directors appointed Sister Kathleen Feeley, SSND as interim president of the school. “Sister Kathleen is a dynamic leader with a wealth of experience,” explains Sister Delia Dowling, SSND, Chair of IND’s Board of Directors.

A “legend” in the Baltimore area, Sister Kathleen served as President of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland for 21 years—a period of significant innovation and growth. Most recently, she was missioned in Sunyani, Ghana, where she served as professor at the Catholic University College of Ghana and a teacher of young religious in various congregations in the Sunyani diocese.

Elected to the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, Sister Kathleen is well regarded in both educational and business circles, having served on the Board of Directors of First National Bank, Baltimore Gas and Electric, Mercy Medical Center, and the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame. Sister Kathleen is a dynamic leader with a wealth of experience, “explains Sister Delia Dowling, SSND, Chair of IND’s Board of Directors.

In this historic East Baltimore building, students are receiving a first class, timeless, and timely education. They are learning for life, and the future quality of their lives is being influenced teacher, day by day. I want to spread this news.”

Prayers were said and holy water was sprinkled in the various rooms; holy incense was also burnt in the hall to sanctify the place. The proposed name for the hostel was Sacred Heart hostel.

Sister Kathleen began her first day at IND while Principal Ann Seeley devotes her attention to teaching and learning, including overseeing the continued implementation of the 1:1 Student Tablet Program, a program, launched in 2009, in which each student has her own tablet computer. Sister Kathleen noted: “I have been given a great opportunity to lead an institution that is significant to every School Sister of Notre Dame—an institution that has embodied the SSND educational charism since 1847,” says Sister Kathleen. “My goal for this year is to make the diamond that is IND sparkle even more brightly. In this historic East Baltimore building, students are receiving a first class, timeless, and timely education. They are learning for life, and the future quality of their lives is being influenced teacher, day by day. I want to spread this news.”

Sister Kathleen will work to increase external support of IND while Principal Ann Seeley devotes her attention to teaching and learning, including overseeing the continued implementation of the 1:1 Student Tablet PC program—a program, launched in 2009, in which each student has her own tablet PC, enhancing learning across the curriculum and improving overall organizational effectiveness.

Planning is perceptive and precise; implementation involves many people working together harmoniously.
Formation of Conscience and Character: The Core of Authentic Education

By Rev. Msgr. Dr. Stephen Ntim, Dean, Faculty of Education

John Fletcher Moulton (1844-1921), a renowned British Judge and Barrister, appointed Counselor of the United Kingdom during the reign of King Edward VII in 1906, made a public speech in 1920, a year before his death and said inter alia:

'The real greatness of a nation, its true civilization is measured by the extent of this land of obedience to the unenforceable. It measures the extent to which a nation trusts its citizens, and its existence and area testify to the way they behave in response to that trust. More obedience to law does not measure the greatness of a nation. Such obedience can easily be obtained by a strong, executive, and most easily of all from timorous people. Nor is the license of behaviour which so often accompanies the absence of law, and which is miscalled liberty, a proof of greatness. The true test is the extent to which individuals composing of a nation can be trusted to obey self-imposed laws.'

Civilization is not so much compliance to an external imposed law. Neither is it the freedom to do everything and anything that one wants. True civilization and authentic liberty is the obedience to self-imposed law called conscience, the realization that there is something much more to our human person: a spiritual dimension that makes a fundamental distinction between human beings and other biological animals. Unlike humans, animals do not have conscience. A sheep or a goat does not have any guilt feeling when it destroys some one’s garden. A human being on the other hand will have a sense of guilt when, for example, driving on high way and he/she comes across a fatal accident and sees fellow human beings bleeding to death and passes by. He/she will stop to offer a helping hand, drive the injured to the nearest hospital, no matter how he or she is rushing to his/her destination. Failure to do so might probably hunt such a person perhaps for the greater part of his life. It is this ‘self-imposed law’ which is part and parcel of our human architecture, called conscience.

Education and Formation of Conscience

Conscience forces us to obey the moral imperative: to do what is right and avoid what is evil. Conscience however could be erroneous and be misinformed. It is for this that it has to be nurtured, formed and shaped through Education. Forming conscience and character is the core of the art of educating the younger generation. Seen in this perspective, education then is inextricably linked to moral and character formation.

One is educated, not just to acquire academic knowledge, get a good job and acquire some social status. It is to use the acquired knowledge for life- a life based on the fundamental values of justice, truth, honesty, and respect for the common good.

This moral imperative has nothing to do with whether or not one is a believer, Christian or non-Christian. It has to do with the reasonability principle. The classical Aristotle calls it ‘ratio’ (reason). For him, the human being is nothing but a ‘rational being’. In fact, to go against this moral imperative is to underestimate and devalue the ‘ratio’ (reason) that sets us over and above brute animals. Moral imperative has become and continues to become a perennial issue in this 21st century global ethics governed by excessive materialism, inordinate desire for so-called absolute knowledge for life- a life based on the fundamental values of justice, truth, honesty, and respect for the common good.
"Let the Latin word 'magis' the 'magic word' of the Jesuits guide you"

- The Most Rev. Matthew Kwei Gyanf, told the matriculants in his opening remarks.

Before you formally matriculate, I plead with the Vice- Chancellor, the Registrar, the Faculty, matriculants and their relations, and all present, to permit me to benefit from my privileged position as the nominated chairman for this historic occasion to give a brief overview of a university education in the Catholic tradition, specifically in the tradition of the Catholic University College of Ghana.

This University, which is a centre of Catholic excellence, is characterized by the illustrious tradition of study, the impartial pursuit of knowledge in all realms and a strong commitment, both with divine as well as with human reason.

It aims, among other things, to introduce Catholic thought into public education at the higher level as a sign of effective openness to plurality. Its contribution to education is expected to be total, not only for the mind but also for the heart, recovering the best philosophical tradition of educating the heart.

My dear Matriculants, this in brief is the university you are choosing today to help shape your life according to its goals and objectives. The professors are supposed to be always guided by these summarized goals and objectives as they engage you in various academic and other extra-curricular discourses. You have chosen to come to a university that teaches you how to learn to live better. Plato would say: The objective of philosophy is to help to live. This temple of academic, spiritual and moral excellence should help you form yourselves to contribute to make your fellow students here on campus and, later, the Ghanaian society at large, live with joy, openness, truth and in freedom.

One of the most protected and cherished values in this University is freedom. You are free to explore all forms of knowledge and to follow your conscience at all times. At the same time, remember that liberty of conscience is acquired through the pursuit of truth. And fidelity to conscience is something that is always difficult.

I encourage the University community administration, teaching and non-teaching staff and students to be dedicated, with heart and mind, to the pursuit of divine and human wisdom. Dig deeper into knowledge and do not be shallow and superficial for a university is not a place to nurture common sense. Rather it is a place to struggle against "common sense," understood as the spirit of the time, which does not always mean good sense but prejudice and preconceived ideas. Have the courage to come out of common sense and seek something more profound.

A "magic word" for the Jesuits, who are some of the best brains in Catholic University tradition, is the Latin word: 'magis,' [which means] more, that is, to dig deeply, to understand the question that is behind the question, to look for something even more profound.

For the length of your stay here, as a student or as a teacher, seek to acquire not just knowledge but seek also to know the value of the knowledge you have acquired. In other words, how can you what you have acquired here and contributed to the university be used to give joy, peace, progress, etc. to other people and to you?

With these introductory words, I wish to inform all of you that I have happily accepted the honour of being the Chairman for the 11th matriculation ceremony of the Catholic University College of Ghana. Please co-operate with me to steer the affairs of this ceremony to the necessary conclusion.

Conclusion

Forming the self-imposed law called conscience of the younger generation is one of the core imperatives of society over the centuries. Society mediates this through education in its varied ramifications but especially through formal education. Helping to form students in their formative period in such areas as justice, truth, service to the common good constitutes the very fabric of sound education. These principles need to be seen as part of our human architecture: a kind of self-imposed discipline based on the categorical imperative of the reasonability principle and not just an externally imposed legal code. Life is an on-going process of examination of conscience and obedience to reason.

Catholic education is nothing more, nothing less than forming good character and consciences that are sensitive not simply to the enforceable external legal codes, but to the principle of reasonability and to the Socratic adage: 'the unexamined life is not worth living'.
The seminar also revealed that the problem is real and not far from our doorsteps; failure to see it would be “myopic”. But refusing to fight against the menace scandals such as the following can be found in our institutions: “Pornography, sexual promiscuity, occultism, alcoholism… examination malpractice, bribery and corruption, bullying and abortion.” Pray that all and sundry may find ways and means of eradicating these vices to promote values in our Christened institutions.

In a communicare (dated 28th September, 2009) the Most Rev. Dominic Yeboah Nyarko (Bishop of Techiman) shared in the dilemma of moral failure, a spiritual disaster of our time? We need to move beyond the slogan “Nkrumah, Dean of RS, CUCG, as the national malaise. Education appears futile because of lack of employment, rampant cheating and bribery for passing exams and favouritism at all levels. Many turn to crime and prostitution…” The claimants attributed this sad state of affairs to: “schemelessness, materialism, ignorance, selfishness, lack of respect for the rule of law, the attitude of ‘I am not afraid of God’ and the ‘monopoly of power’…” We are a nation of thinkers, yet we are poor in giving answers.

In his address at the Staff Retreat (May 2010), the Most Rev. Bishops of Techiman, in a follow-up encounter with a three-member delegation from ECHUD, the Bishop shared his vision for the Church. “The Church invites all stakeholders in youth welfare, the Ghana Federation deplored “the ascendency of sexual perversion on the screens of our youth. During all the available “means of ‘50s game’ provided by the University, we must go beyond the slogan, putting our heads together and working as one to build a new generation of youth.”

The student’s representative council has organized its election to elect students who would steer the affairs of the Student’s Representative Council (SRC) for the academic year.

Challenge of Prayer: Speaking on the theme “Restoration of Moral Values,” Bishop Yeboah quoted from St. John 3:5-6, “’For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life…” Speaking about the need for people to stop sitting on the fence and to join the crusade against indiscipline and moral catastrophe so as to ensure “thumbs up for Jesus”, he said people who say that they believe are those who should do more.

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