SCHOOL HISTORY SPEECH

FOR

KENNETH SAMPONG

Hello everyone. I am (**Do you want to say Dr.?)** Kenneth Sampong and together we have gathered here to celebrate forty years of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School. Those of us who had the privilege to attend this school may have gone our separate ways after we earned our education. We are all different people. We follow different paths and we have different goals and challenges but the one thing we all have in common is the need for a thorough, enriching and inspiring education to give us the foundation with which to go forward in life. Whether we choose to be managers or workers, doctors or domestic engineers, there is no escaping it- education is **essential**. I am so grateful that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School was an integral part of my own personal history. For my classmates, colleagues and contemporaries that also share this history, I acknowledge and congratulate all of us. We have received, and future students **will** receive, a substantial education based in the belief that the possession of well-taught knowledge and Christian faith are the cornerstones for having a life filled with character, integrity, and wisdom.

I am proud to say that I attended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School forty years ago and the lessons I learned back then supported me in having the life I am blessed to have today. The school’s symbol is a solid bulwark, a tree. The school motto is “In their light we shall see light.” As students we may have wondered what these powerful verbal images meant. I know I wasn’t sure back then, but with the curiosity for knowledge that was instilled in me at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School, those symbols stayed with me and every so often, as I faced challenges and opportunities throughout my life, in the back of my head I thought, “solid bulwark.” I pictured a tall strong tree with branches majestically outstretched. I thought of what it means to see the light. A bulwark is a foundation. It’s a place or a structure that protects. In education it is a principle or an idea that acts as a defense. It’s true. The education we received here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ really was and is the best defense we all have against adversity, ignorance, and the puzzles that threaten to challenge us in life. A strong tree is a majestic, multi faceted living marvel of nature. We’ve all heard of the tree of life and the tree of knowledge. Pages in a book are referred to as leaves. Each leaf on that tree of knowledge presents opportunities, solutions, and information with which we can all live rich and fulfilling lives. And what does light mean to us? To me that’s obvious. Light guides the way. It provides clarity. It highlights the goals waiting for us in the distance. Light symbolizes wisdom, enlightenment, and awareness. The philosopher Alan Bloom said, “Education is the movement from darkness to light.” Think about it. I know someone who says very simply, “I don’t know what I don’t know.” Enlightenment is education and using that education to make the pieces fit in our vast puzzle of life.

As I said earlier, it’s been forty years since I attended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School and I am so thankful to have had such an inspirational force in my life. I took the light of our solid Christian education and I used it to guide me through life. It’s taken me through university and medical school; through my internships and residencies; it’s taken me to my patients, my friends, my family and my community. I would not be the person standing here today without the principles I learned at this school. And the most wonderful part of having this education and these symbols to guide us is that they are sustainable, renewable, and even more relevant as the years go by. Each time we share what we have learned here, the message and mission grows and extends further and further. As each new student enters its portals, those messages and symbols and motto become reinforced. The principles of faith and integrity, and the thirst for knowledge and inspiration are there for each new student to adopt to be used as each new generation inherits the responsibilities of society and the modern world.

Saint Augustine said, “Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.” The symbols and tools we were given as students weren’t necessarily visible to us when we were young. As we matured, their value not only became apparent, they became essential to our core beings. It’s those values that guide us today to teach our families, friends and colleagues. We who have attended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School have learned to take our faith and education and lead by example. Institutions like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ need our support to continue to shine the light and provide strong foundations for our future citizens and leaders. It is a privilege to be able to come back to a place that means so much to me- one that has had such a positive impact on my life. I am also sure it has had a timeless, enduring, affect on the lives of each one of you. I know that I will continue to support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School as much as I can to insure its future as a bulwark and a light in this community for many years to come and on behalf of (**name the leaders of the school**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for your generosity in giving back to this inspirational institution.