

## University of Liberia, the Best in Africa Says Convocation Speaker

By Hampton N. Mason, May 29, 2003, <http://www.allaboutliberia.com/may2003/230529n2.htm>



(Applause) “Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. This is fantastic. I never expected to graduate from the Medical College today- others said I didn't have enough money to make. But here I am”. This was the voice of one of the candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicines (MD), Cuallian L. Jabbeh. The University of Liberia Wednesday graduated 1,150 students in various academic and professional disciplines. Dr. Wulf Gatter, an environmental authority on Liberian wildlife, served as the Commencement Speaker. He has 100 scientific publications to his credit, including a book titled, “Birds of Liberia”, published by Yale University press in 1997.

Speaking on the topic “Environmental Stability” the Convocation orator, Dr. Wulf Gatter, said, members of the Royal Class are the future leaders of Liberia, who must fight hard to reduce the illiteracy rate in the country. “You must ask yourself first who you want to be, and what you want to have, and what do you want to give,” Dr. Gatter told the graduates. He called on the graduates to turn information into knowledge, “because knowledge is understanding, and understanding is wisdom... because the future is near our eyes.”



The speaker said, even though the graduates had experienced difficulties in their studies, they persevered. He cautioned the graduates to utilize the knowledge obtained from the University towards productive ventures for Liberia, adding, “The University is the only institution in Africa that you can be proud of. Dr. Gatter also congratulated the President of the University, his faculty and staff for reaching an acceptable international standard. He further commended the Government for recognizing the importance of education at a time the country is faced with economic sanctions and arms embargo. In response, Rev. Jonathan C. Taylor, who stood in for the Visitor to the University President Charles Ghankay Taylor, said the future of this country lies in the hands of every Liberian.

He stressed, education is not possible in a state of confusion or conflict. The Minister of State also extended President Taylor’s warmest congratulations to the faculty and staff of the University. President Taylor’s absence, he said was due to the crucial work he’s undertaking for the restoration of peace in Liberia. Rev. Taylor said the Liberian leader has called on all stakeholders meeting in Akosombo to make Liberia their first priority. The university faculty senate and staff conferred a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree on the honorable speaker, Dr. Gatter.