

### GIJ ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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JAN. - JUNE 2022 EDITION



### Alumni, let's get on board!

Steadily, the dream of having a strong alumni for the Ghana Institute of Journalism is becoming a reality. Since a few old students driven by intense desire for this realization got together to initiate positive moves, there have been activities geared towards laying the strongest of foundations for a vibrant alumni. The outcome is that the Alumni Office is located right within the Institute.

Among other grand plans, the Institute hopes to leverage its own alumni members whose skills could be tapped to support staffing needs.

While organising and mobilising all the alumni scattered across the length and breadth of the world in the past had been a herculean task, thanks to technology, it has been made easier and thus, the need for everyone to get on board.

Obviously many of us have gone on to become something else other than what the initial training GIJ gave us when we chose it then and we can be proud of the professionals and leaders we have become. GIJ, no doubt is also proud of us all!. It's time for us to turn that mutual feeling of pride into something tangible. Something that helps to become a legacy for us as alumni. This, we can do by being an active alumni, mentorship the current generation and supporting the school to build on its pride and excellence.

We all remember when we first enrolled at GIJ, our big dreams or sometimes having no plan at all. GIJ played a role in shaping us to become confident, eager and looking living our dream, irrespective of the challenges. It's time for us to bring these qualities together for the common good of our alma mater, first by being active with our year groups, a platform that will also provide us the change to reach out to those who are still working to get there!

Together we can be stronger and on our strength, GIJ can remain the best!

# A Special Message from Deputy Rector PROF. ERIC OPOKU MENSAH

### Greetings to GIJ Alumni!

It is both an honor and a privilege to share some updates on your alma mater. For the past two years, the COVID 19 pandemic and the world's economy has been hard on higher education and GIJ has had its fair share of the challenges. Truly, we have been able to maneuver through the challenges till date. The good news is that we have found and adopted new and creative ways to work and innovative ideas for the smooth running of the Institute.

Drawing on more than 62 years of success in training, researching and engaging students from across Ghana and abroad, GIJ seeks to remain focused on its mandate and reinforce the importance of further improving on our existing academic programs both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In addition, I am happy to announce to you that the Institute is almost ready to get introduce new undergraduate and post graduate programs. Some of these are:

- 1. M. A. IN Public Relations with Marketing
- 2. MA/MPHIL in Political Communication Management.
- 3. M. A/MPHIL in Strategic Public Relations Management
- 4. Bachelor of Art in Development Communication
- 5. Bachelor of Art in Environmental Communication
- 6. Bachelor of Art in Journalism, with Politics/sports/ Economics
- 7. Bachelor of Art in Public Relations with Marketing.

Again, within the last two years, Management has worked tirelessly to improve the number of full-time lecturers in the Institute. This positive development has tripled the number of permanent faculty. In addition, to this, we have recruited many administrative staff at all levels to provide administrative support to existing and new departments. These new administrative staff are currently providing a huge support to Heads of Department and Deans of Faculty so they can really focus on their key mandate in providing academic leadership in teaching and research.

In addition to our famous Macmillan Library at the Ringway Campus, we have opened an additional library at the Dzorwulu Campus. These libraries have been equipped with new book collections and variety of online resources. The libraries are opened to the entire GIJ community including you our cherished alumni. Our new Dzorwulu campus is equipped with seminar rooms and a state-of-the-art auditorium which can seat 300 guests. This is ideal for large events and academic gatherings.

As we look forward to the establishment of our new Council, the Institute will become an essential part of the new University of Media, Arts and Communication (UMAC). Within all this, GIJ will continue to strive and preserve the cherished traditions of the GIJ community while embracing new ones. We look forward to continuing to form a trusted relationship with our alumni and invite you to be part of the future of the Institute.

As I conclude, I wish to thank you all who made some generous donations over the past year. Our Alumni contributions are a critical component of the development of GIJ today and therefore we ask for your continuous support and network. We hope that 2022 will be a fulfilling year.

Thank you





The Alumni & International Relations Unit is excited to introduce to you Dr. Janetta Sika Akoto, the first female Registrar of the Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ). Dr. Sika Akoto was appointed to the position in January 2020. She has a powerful personality and has shown herself with strong leadership competencies in governance, administration, and management of the Institute. Prior to her appointment, she was the Deputy Registrar in charge of Academic Affairs for GIJ.

Dr, Akoto had risen through the ranks, from Assistant Registrar to the current high office of the Registrar. She has held senior management positions in the Academic Affairs Directorate, Public Affairs Directorate, Human Resource/Training and Development, International Education, Teaching and Examination, School of Postgraduate Studies at various universities in Ghana including the Ghana Institute of Journalism, University of Mines and Technology, University of Cape Coast and Ho Technical University. She performed excellently in all the roles she found herself in and she has built up years of experience in administration and management of Higher Education Institutions.

Dr. Akoto holds a B.A. Degree in Theatre Arts with English from the University of Ghana, Legon. She also holds two master's degrees one in International Affairs from the University of Ghana and the other in Human Resource Development from the University of Cape Coast. She studied for her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Education at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.

She has to her credit several academic papers published in renowned journals. Her research interests are in areas such as management, qualitative research methods (Narrative Inquiry), and gender. Other interest areas include human resource management/development and international affairs.

Dr Akoto is very committed to seeing the development of GIJ. Through her role as the secretary to the Council, she has contributed ideas to the development of new policies for specific areas of GIJ and supervised implementation of same. She has since supported in the career development of her administrative staff and has successfully implemented some major structural changes of GIJ especially the relocation to the new established GIJ campus at North Dzorwulu.

Her office is always open for new suggestions.

She could be contacted with the email address, registrar@gij.edu.gh.



# PHOTO GALLERY



### 15th CONGREGATION

































### **EVENTS AT GIJ**



















# PHOTO GALLERY

### 15TH CONGREGATION

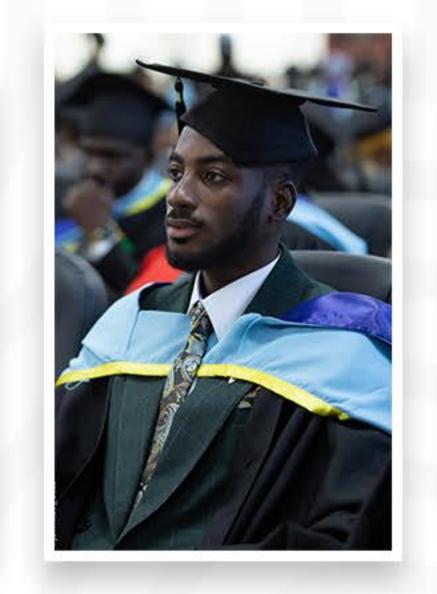












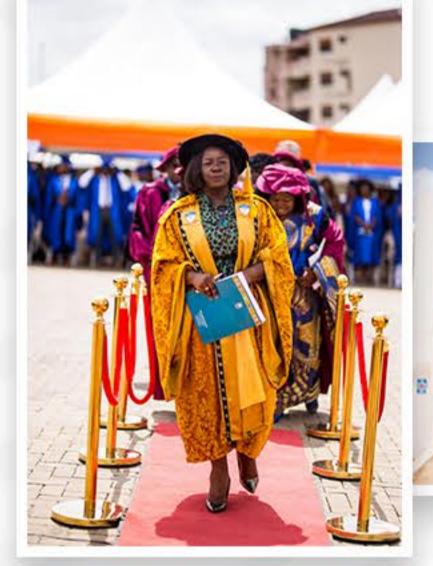










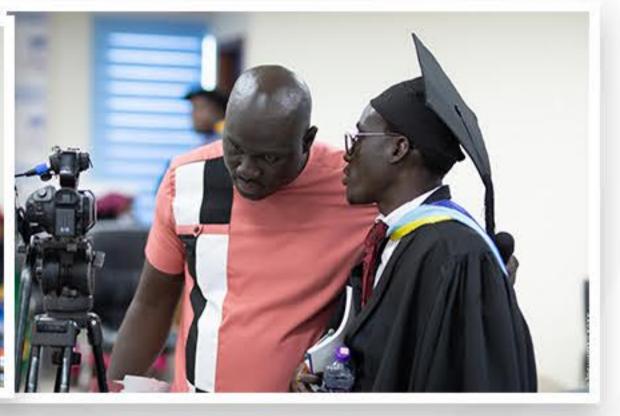




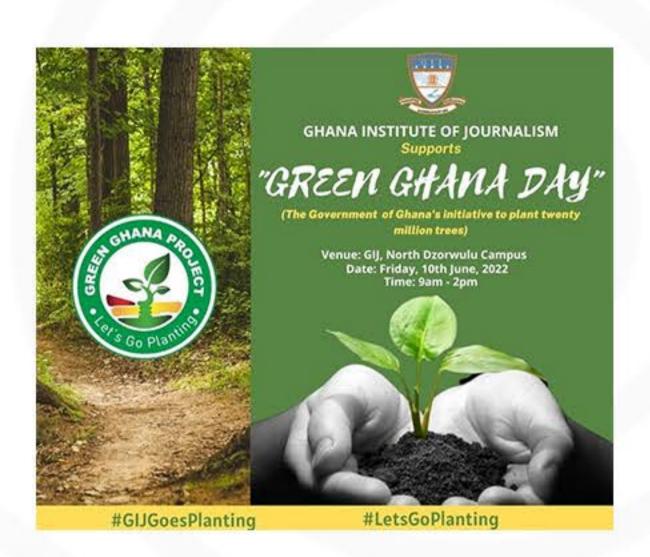








### **EVENTS AT GIJ TO DATE**

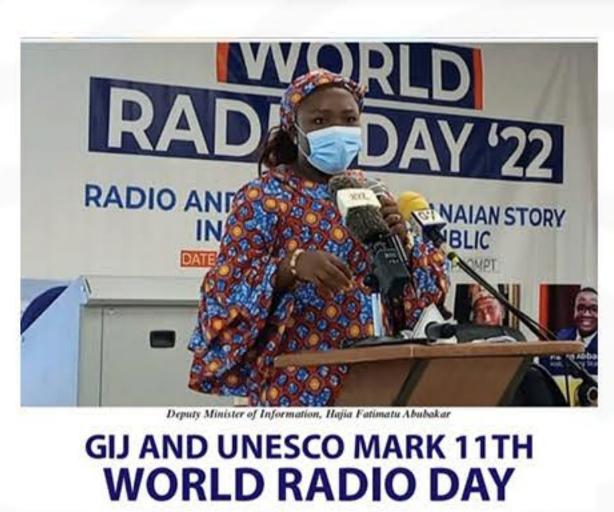


















"At the end of the day when the polls closed, we had won. The students won, I won and GIJ won. Yes, GIJ won." – One on one with Mrs. Rhodalene Amartey- GIJ Dean of students & Award-Winning Dean of the Year 2021.

Mrs. Rhodalene Amartey is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Public Relations, Advertising and Marketing at the Ghana Institute of Journalism. She joined the Institute in 2007 as a Marketing Lecturer and was among the first batch of lecturers employed to augment the staff strength of the faculty after the Institute was granted a Presidential Charter in 2006. Mrs. Amartey was appointed to her current position as Dean of Students in January 2021.

The Alumni Relations Office had the opportunity to interact with her at the office. The scope of the conversation focused on the role of the Dean of Students' Office, how it cushions the state of students on campus, how the Alumni can assist to make life comfortable for the students and some initiatives that the alumni can also bring on board.

Below are excerpts of the interview:

## Q. Your work must be demanding, any tough moment to share with us?

Dean: Dealing with human being comes with its own complexities. One most recent challenging experience I had was when one student wanted to drop out of school because she was pregnant. But after a lot of persuasion and conviction she stayed, wrote the exams and excelled. Some of them want to give up on education due to one or two reasons. However, a little cajoling here and there brings them back on track. In the end these are good results that I am proud of. Being a Dean of Students is just like being a mother who never takes her eyes off her children till they achieve their purpose on earth.

# Q. I know that in your position, you are even going to encounter more of them. Can we look at the current term population? Do you have any idea?

Dean: As we speak, we have 230 postgraduate students, with 133 being females and 97 being males. The Undergraduate are 3234

## Q. What would you like to see in a successful GIJ graduate?

Dean: I want to see a disciplined, hard-working person, who values ethics and exhibits professionalism in his line of duty. I once held the position of Internship Coordinator where I realized students of GIJ take a lot of things for granted. An example is their appearance. So many students were turned away from internship opportunities as a result of how they presented themselves. In the corporate world there's no space for ripped jeans and transparent blouses. It's a dog-eat-dog world out there and students of this university must be prepared.

## Q. What are the new available services and facilities that make learning possible for current students?

Dean: Now we have online services which is a big plus. Learning made easy amidst Covid 19. Initially, the students opposed online lectures so much, now it has come to stay. So that's one thing that we have all benefited from the COVID 19.

The E-library services is another facility we can talk about. Students can easily access all the information they need with the help of the Librarian Assistants.

# Q. You know sometimes, when we have conversations, you realize that people deep down wish they would but because of certain experiences on campus.

Dean: We cannot begrudge people for having bitter experiences but to build a better GIJ, we must put behind us all these negative thoughts and forge ahead. It's a new day. Let's move on.

# Q. There is also the issue of dressing on campus. Is there any strategy to help curb the indecent dressing of some students on campus? Is there any institutional decision that is being taken?

Dean: GIJ as an Institution should adopt a holistic approach to address this issue. To an extent there must be some guidelines regarding what students can and cannot wear on campus. Dressing is part of personal branding. It speaks volumes about a person and is often a major influence on other people's opinions and impressions. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to plead with GIJ students to brand themselves through their dressing.

### Q: So, at the students' front, what challenges do you think require the intervention of the Alumni?

Dean: GIJ is fortunate to have alumni such as Gifty Anti, Manasseh Azure, Umaru Sanda among others who are strategically placed in top organizations. In light of giving back to GIJ, the alumni should groom the young ones through internship opportunities or sharing their experiences both in and out of school with them.

### Q: Anything new with the SRC? There has been recent uproar in the news but currently, things seem to have gone down. What has been the magic?

Dean: I think I told you earlier that the young people just need guidance, and they need somebody to listen to them. Sometimes you may not even have any solution. You let them come to your office and vent. Let them speak and air out their grievances. Once they know you will listen to them, they will flock to your office with all sorts of issues. I think it is better than going to the media. People want to have a sense of belonging so let's just make them feel accepted.

In recent times, I've always encouraged them not to run to the media because it won't solve the problem. The media will blow it up and then what next? So, I think that someway, somehow, we are still in the talking stage. That's why you have not heard anything from them.

### Q: Thank you. Before we bring the conversation to an end, do you have anything to share with the alumni?

Dean: GIJ is proud of its alumni. They have gone through GIJ, know our difficulties and our challenges, have gone into the world and have made it. We just want to encourage them to come on board. We all have something to offer. Be it internship slots so our students gain more hands-on experience or talks on developing your resume, how to dress and conduct yourself during an interview among others. Anything worth sharing is welcome. We all have experiences. So, we plead with our alumni. We love them so much and we know they love us too. So, let's start building GIJ into a better place. The welcome starts now.

### Q: Yes! Tell us a bit about your Award.

Dean: I was nominated in the category "Dean of the Year" by the National Students Award, Ghana. Initially I was apprehensive, what if it was another "UN award"? After some background checks, it was found to be legitimate and so together with the students we pushed for a win. The students really supported by campaigning, using their social media as a launch pad to get the word out. It was a difficult battle we fought, and the competition was keen but GIJ never gives up. We pushed and pushed harder. At the end of the day when the polls closed, we had won. The Students Won, I won and GIJ won. Yes, GIJ won. Thank you very much for having me. I am very grateful.

NB: Please watch the full conversation on youtube.





Mr. Gayheart Mensah completed GIJ in 1988. He majored in Journalism and went straight into media. He has been in different kinds of employment which include The Ghanaian Times, Daily Graphic, Unilever, Barclays, Tullow Oil, Vodaphone and the parliament. He has years of experience in the field of Communications. Now, Mr. Mensah is a communications Consultant for the Speaker of Parliament. He runs his own company called KOMSCRAFT CONSULTANCY and he consults for the University of Ghana, the Ministry of Agriculture and a few others.

Below are excerpts of the interview.

Q: Any memorable experience to share with us? Aside studies, did you engage in extra curricula activities? How relevant have your studies and activities at GIJ been to your career?

A: Well, I was in everything that was exciting. I was almost into everything that was tagged as bad. You know students and what we do while in school. I was my quiet self, and I still am a quiet person. But I'm also a very active person. I was the local NUGS president, not the SRC president. I was very active on NUGS. I served on NUGS' editorial board. We published several Magazines. I was a member of a group that called itself the GOGGLES FRATERNITY. Goggles in the sense that we always sat in class with our dark glasses and lecturers come and they are angry. Some will say we should remove it, but we wouldn't. We created all kinds of confusion. Some lecturers stormed out of the lecture halls because we won't remove the dark glasses. So, I was quite active whiles I was on campus.

It was exciting! It was fun! Even at that age, we were ambitious. There were lecturers whose class we wouldn't miss and there were lecturers who enter by one door, and we exit by the other door because we felt their class was boring and so we exit, and we found ourselves in the canteen drinking glasses of beer. And the administration gets extremely unhappy with us. We had our own assessment of how the lecturers were performing and we made decisions on whether we should remain in class or step out depending upon our assessment of various lecturers. Those were some of the bad things that we did.

Q: What should students expect after school in terms of work and further studies? How have you been able to maintain your relationship between your colleagues and other Alumni year groups?

A: What students should expect after school should start during the time that you are in school. And it all starts from taking your studies serious because let me tell you what, despite the troubles that I have told you, my friends and I believe, we were among the best in the class. And most of us who were in the Goggles Fraternity came out to do very great things. And so, a lot depends on the student and how he or she takes studies seriously. I think the other thing to expect is that we should bear in mind that we are students at a communication university and communication comes with branding. Whether you find yourself as a journalist or find yourself in public relations, it is very important and so applying the skills that we acquire in them is very important. It's not just about acquiring the skills in them but need to bear in mind that what we do as communicators is almost out there in the open, completely different from what students in other disciplines are doing.

You and I, whether in Journalism or PR, our works are in the open and so is a jury on how they assess your work. The lesson here is, with everything that you do as a communicator, you are writing your own curriculum vitae (CV) with every piece of writing that you do. Whether it is a story that you are writing for a newspaper or if it is a newspaper, if it is an interview that you are conducting, you should expect that the consumers or the audience of that piece of journalistic work are out there. You need to bear in mind that every work is a piece of your CV because people read it, people listen to it and make decisions based on that and so for that reason, for everything that you do as media practitioners, we should be involved and be committed and do it in such a way that at the end of it, you would fall dead actually. What I mean is that you should give it your all because it is your CV you are writing, and it will bear you out one day.

# Q: What does it take to become a GIJ Alumni Association member? What is the current membership status? How vibrant has the association been? Any significant events in the past? Anything to expect?

A: Unfortunately, not too much good news on the Alumni. We were very active when the Alumni Association came into being. I think that we were held back significantly by the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. Because we couldn't attend meetings, we couldn't attend events but that is not an excuse anymore. COVID 19 has subsided. Life has picked up again, but the Alumni hasn't picked itself up unfortunately. That's one of my major worries. We have tried meeting a couple of times, but it hasn't happened, but I haven't slept. The reason being that there appears to be a group of enthusiastic alumni members who have also started putting together some ideas. The intention is to have a chat with the executives to see how best we can put what we have already planned into some of the ideas, the strategies and some of the proposals that other groups are putting together. I think ultimately, we are looking at having an interim election, call leaders and see whether we can have some fresh blood to revive the association.

I honestly don't intend to contest again because though we've been around for a while, we've been dormant for the last part of two years, and for me, I think it is time to step aside for a fresh blood to continue.

## Q: Are there some associations or professional bodies that alumni should join after school?

A: Yes. There are some institutions that one ought to be a part of once you step out of the Ghana Institute of Journalism particularly, the Institute of Public Relations (IPR). I am a member of the Institute of Public Relations. The reason to join if you are into PR, is the of capacity building programs that IPR undertakes. Every month, they try to scan through what is happening within the industry and put some topics together for senior members of the Institute to take members through some of the talks.

Besides, it is an association that you join based upon an examination. So, there are various levels that you can join. You can become an affiliate member or an Associate member or an accredited member. Moving from one level to another requires undertaking some programs and writing an examination so it compels the members of the IPR to be engaged in constant learning and personal development. The other issue is that if companies want to recruit Public Relations practitioners, they want to employ somebody who is a member of the IPR, and invariably, we sit on most interview panels.

The other one that I will recommend is the Ghana Journalists Association, a very powerful association, I call the sleeping giant. If the GJA is positioned appropriately, it can become the voice of the voiceless. I tell you what, there is a voice in this country that we seem not to be noticing, maybe we are not paying attention. Today, you and I know that these associations are not what they used to be. Some of them compromise a little bit because of political interest but what we lack in this country is the vast organization that speaks truth to power and authority. That professional association that acts as the voice for the voiceless, that is so connected that they take positions that reflect the hopes and aspirations, the concerns, and challenges of the Ghanaian. This is what the Ghana Journalist association should be taking a step into. If we can mount that platform, it could become the most relevant professional institution in the country and that is why I call it the sleeping giant.

I believe you are aware I'm contesting to become the president of the GJA, I must say this is not a campaign platform. But I see a lot of potential in the association. If you are out of GIJ, I think you should be a member of the GJA.

There are other associations that one could be a member of. Media practitioners, marketing practitioners, we work together. I honestly think that it is important to be a member of a professional body because invariably, if you find yourself in a corporate organization, it brings out your PR qualities effectively.

## Q: Any final words for the alumni and the prospective alumni?

A: Well, it is to say that we all came from somewhere, we all must have attended some institutions that define who we are today and for us who are into media, journalism, and public relations, I think the Ghana Institute of Journalism has been a significant contributor to who we are today.

Its left on us to acknowledge this fact and try to become active members of the Alumni Association. I guess the worry for most people is that once you join the alumni, there is an issue of money, contributions, and all that, look we can make it look as meaningless to us as possible, but we must also bear in mind that it is our responsibility to contribute to protect the integrity of where we came from.

If we don't support GIJ to achieve its goals, there is a way it will come back to bite us. Because if the institution that produced you is weak, you cannot be seen to be strong. So, I think it is in our own interest to make GIJ the strong and attractive institution that it ought to because if that is what makes us as professionals, then we ought to make it attractive.

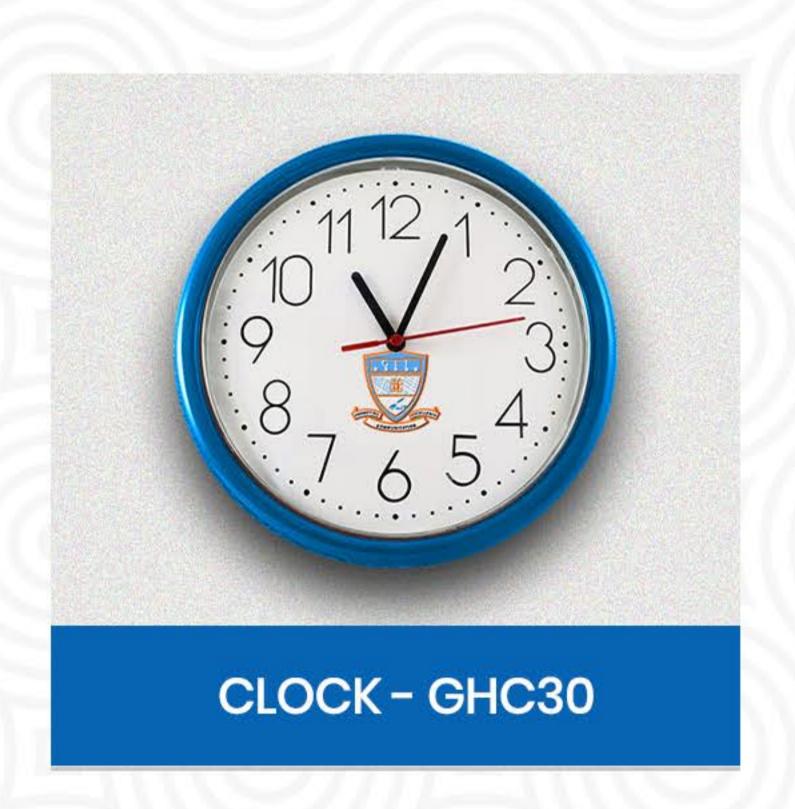


# Boutione Boutione

The Alumni & International Relations Unit is happy to share this new line of GIJ branded merchandise for use. This is a new opportunity to buy a GIJ branded souvenir for yourself and friends. The purpose is to raise funds for the GIJ endowment Fund.







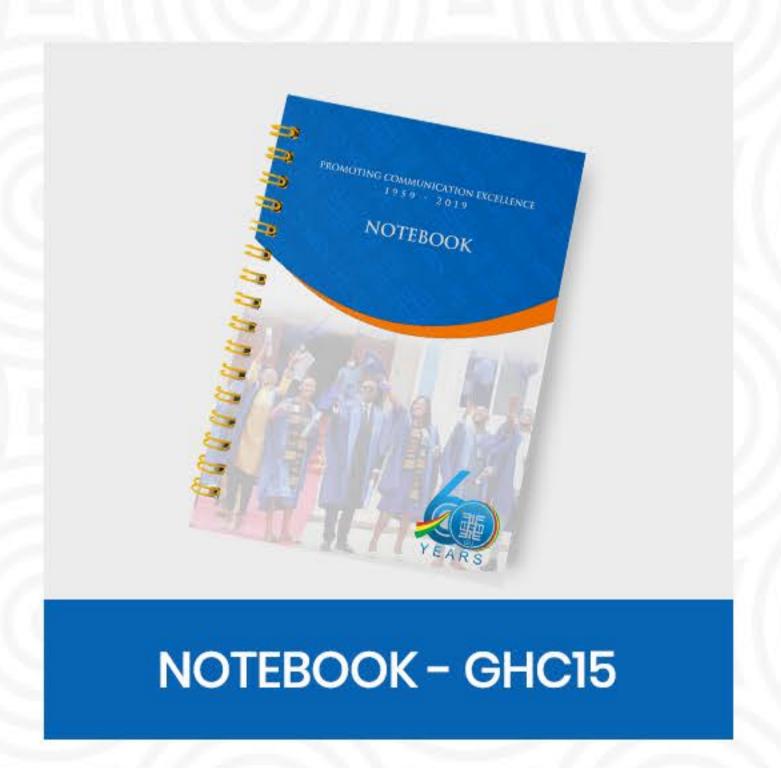












Contact GIJ Alumni Unit on 0202340816 to make a purchase

### OTHER

**GIJ CONNECT**- is open to all Alumni. Signing up is a quick and easy. Please update your details so we can let you know about the latest news, events and alumni opportunities.

(https://forms.gle/xmRBWU7tVnTPkb2P6

**ALUMNI SURVEY** – This survey is to identify issues concerning alumni participation in the Institute's activities and develop a roadmap in strengthening alumni participation. All information obtained here will be treated as highly confidential ( https://forms.gle/RWUCoZpTkvRsaHcX7)

# CAN YOUR WORKPLACE GIVE GRADUATES A TASTE OF THE REAL WORLD? –

(perpetua.opoku-agyemang@gij.edu.gh)





## ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES PLEASE SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORIES WITH US.

(perpetua.opoku-agyemang@gij.edu.gh).

### UPCOMING EVENTS



Alumni homecoming event date is on 26th August 2022 at GIJ Ringway Campus Car park. Please let's come in numbers.

GIJ ALUMNI MEET STUDENTS. This is part of the activities scheduled for the Home coming event. The date is 24th August 2022. Alumni will have the opportunity to share the experiences with students in many forms.

Please contact Perpetua - 0202340816 if you want to share.

ALUMNI WEBINAR SERIES – The Series of webinars is exclusively for GIJ Alumni. Every quarter, you will have opportunity to tune in live and hear from some of our leading academics, researchers, and Practitioners on some of the most important issues of our time.

(Please watch out for the date)



GIJ Alumni are a critical component of the development agenda of our University today. The management is currently seeking for all Alumni who have benefited greatly from the education they received from GIJ to donate to support for the development of faculties and Image of their alma mater such as:

By donating to either the GIJ Scholarship Fund or Endowment Fund, you have the power to help bright students from low-income backgrounds access tertiary education and the growth and strengthening of the institution.

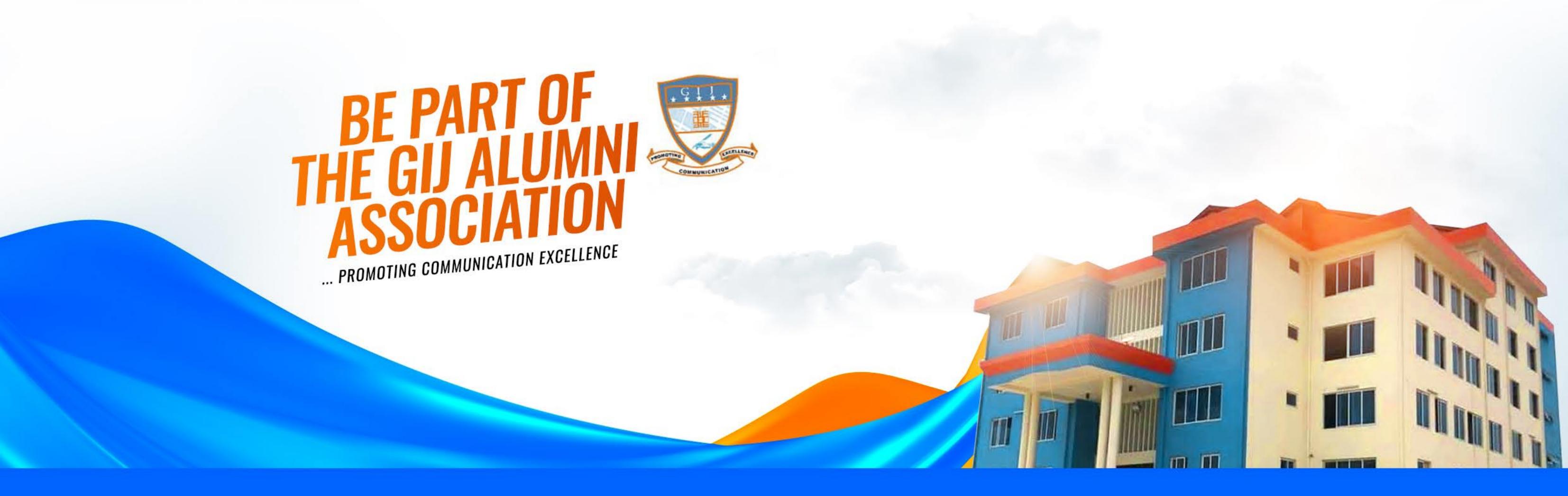
**MENTORING** - Sign up as an Alumni mentor or mentee and share your knowledge with GIJ Alumni and students.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS**- supporting GIJ today, you have the opportunity to transform the lives of bright students from low -income backgrounds.

### PLEASE CONTACT PERPETUA VIA

EMAIL perpetua.opoku-agyemagn@gij.edu.gh

OR WHATSAPP 0202340816 for donations by groups or individuals.





## GHANA INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- 1. A two-year Diploma in Communication Studies (Regular, evening and weekend).
- 2. A four -year B.A. in Communication Studies.
- 3. A Two-Year BA Communication Studies (Top-Up programme)

#### A. FACULTY OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES

- B. A. IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES [JOURNALISM OPTION]
- I. Regular
- ii. Top-Up Weekend Session (Lectures are on Saturdays & Sundays, 7.00 am 8.00 pm)

## B. FACULTY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, ADVERTISING & MARKETING

- B.A. IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES [P. R OPTION]
- I. Regular
- ii. Top-Up Weekend Session (Lectures are on Saturdays & Sundays, 7.00 am 8.00 pm)

## C. FACULTY OF INTEGRATED COMMUNICATION SCIENCES DIPLOMA IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

- i. Regular
- ii. Evening Session (Lectures start from 4.00 pm 8.00 pm)
- iii. Weekend Session (Lectures are on Saturdays & Sundays, 7.00 am 8.00 pm)

### MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SSSCE HOLDERS Applicants must possess passes (A - D) in six (6) subjects comprising three (3) core subjects, including English, Mathematics and three (3) elective subjects with an overall aggregate of 24 or better.

Or

WASSCE HOLDERS Applicants must possess passes(A1-C6) in six (6) subjects comprising three (3) core subjects, including English, Mathematics and three (3) elective subjects with an overall aggregate of 36 or better

Or

GCE ADVANCED LEVEL HOLDERS Applicants must possess a General Certificate of Examinations (GCE) 'A' Level Grade E or better in three (3) subjects, at least, one of which should be Grade D or better Credit passes i.e. Grade 6 or better in five (5) GCE Ordinary Level ('O" Level) subjects including English, Mathematics and a Science subject, for non-science students.

#### International admissions

- Email: perpetua.opoku-agyemang@gij.edu.gh, admissions@gij.edu.gh
- All programmes : www.gij.edu.gh/ admissions
- Querries WhatApp +233202340816

### **GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

Mrs. Perpetua Opoku-Agyemang, GIJ International & Alumni Relations Unit.

Telephone Number: 0202340816 Email: perpetua.Opoku-Agyemang@gij.edu.gh.



- All programmes: www.gij.edu.gh/ admissions
- Querries WhatsApp +233202340816