



Remarks for Dr. Kase L. Lawal
Visit of the Honorable Patricia Appiagyei, Mayor of Kumasi, Ghana
October 2, 2008

Good evening. I am Kase Lawal. My wife, Eileen, and I are pleased to serve as your dinner hosts tonight along with Sue Ann Strauss and Gerald Bodzy and Alyson and Jim Illich.

To the Honorable Mayor Patricia Appiagyei, the Honorable Consul General of Ghana for Houston, Jack Webb, and his wife, Diane, the Columbia University Millennium Cities Initiative Leadership team - Dr. Susie Blaustein, Co-Director of the Earth Institute, Ms. Abenaa Akuamoah-Boateng, the MCI Representative from Kumasi, Beth Browde the New York Representative for Columbia, Mr. Kwesi Simmons, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, and our Kinkaid Parents – Sue Ann and Gerald Bodzy, Alyson Illich, Chelsea Pope and Keith Collins, and other special guests and friends of Ghana, welcome.

Thank you for joining us to honor the Mayor Patricia Appiagyei. We hope that the successful Summer 2008 Kinkaid Study Abroad Program will result in an even more successful partnership between the city of Kumasi, Ghana, Columbia University's Earth Institute and The Kinkaid School.

This past summer, four Kinkaid Students traveled to the city of Kumasi, Ghana on the African continent with Sue Ann Strauss. There, they worked under the auspices of the Columbia University's Earth Institute, which is coordinating the Millennium Cities Initiative. As the parent of one of those students, I am grateful that they were able to productively channel their energies by helping others, one of the mandates of the Millennium Cities Initiative.

This dinner is our way of extending a heartfelt thank you to the Honorable Mayor Appiagyei, who so graciously opened up the city of Kumasi Ghana to these students. Thank you also to Dr. Blaustein's team at Columbia University and to the Kinkaid School Parents for supporting the students on this Study Abroad Program, especially Sue Ann. We appreciate your individual and for your collective contributions in making this educational partnership a success and look forward to an even brighter future. Enjoy the rest of your evening.

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