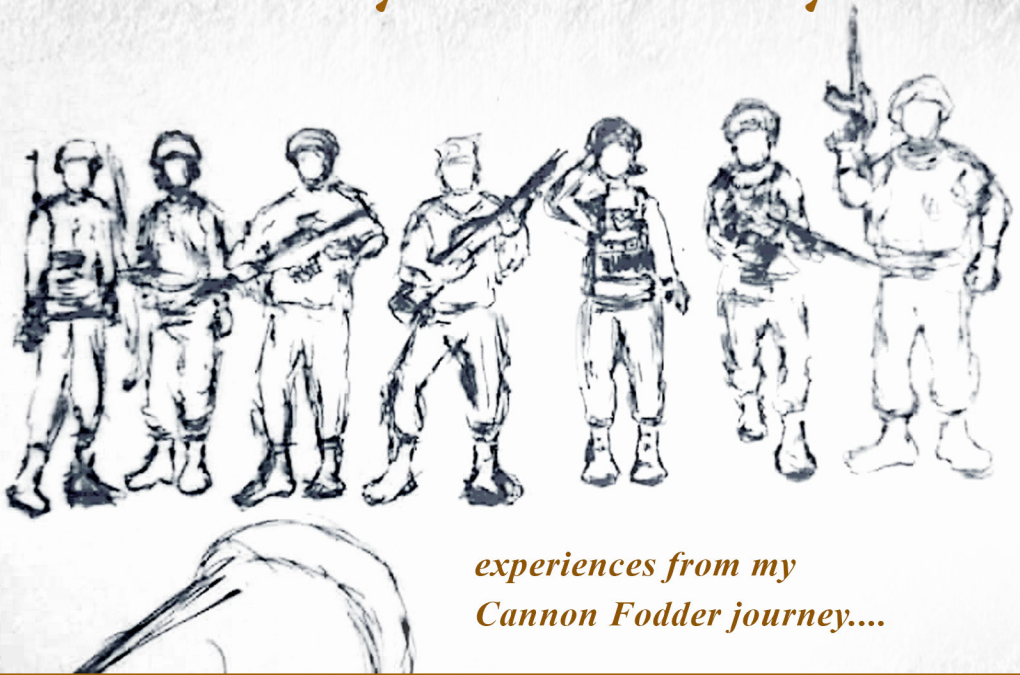


Playing **SECOND FIDDLE** - Harmony or Timidity?!



*experiences from my
Cannon Fodder journey....*

Frances Owusu-Daaku

Foreword by Victoria P. Dzogbefia

Cover Illustration by Kwabena Ofosu Owusu-Daaku

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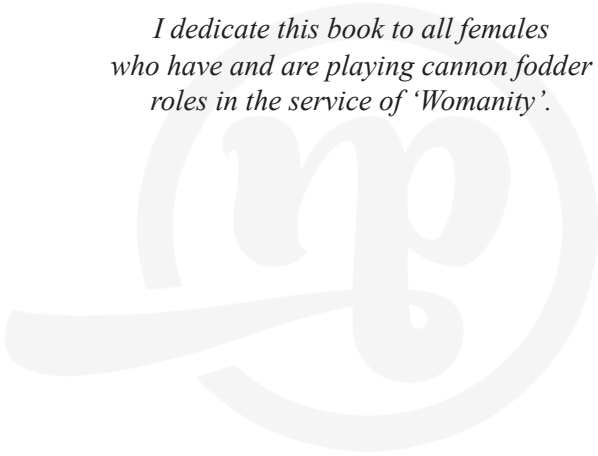
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*I dedicate this book to all females
who have and are playing cannon fodder
roles in the service of 'Womanity'.*



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To those who definitely were and are wittingly part of my life, I say 'Thanks for allowing me into yours' and to those who unwittingly were, and some are still part of my life, I say 'Every cloud has a silver lining'!

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Foreword

My first encounter with Professor Frances Owusu-Daaku was at a Hall Fellows' meeting with Hall Executives of Africa Hall, she being then the Hall President, in the early 1980s. I was impressed by her confidence and boldness as a leader. The typical Ghanaian culture, however, does not encourage female leadership; this is true even in an academic environment like a university. Many capable women, therefore, prefer to take a back seat and play secondary roles to avoid being labelled as "too known". Females who aspire for leadership positions in any organization most often have to work twice as hard as their male counterparts and be courageous enough to put themselves up for election in order to be given such a chance.

In *Playing Second Fiddle*, Frances vividly narrates how as a female, one can still play a significant and fulfilling role as the sacrificial lamb or 'second fiddle' that can eventually open doors for other females to excel or succeed! Using many biblical examples, Frances shows how significant accomplishments occurred through many people who played second fiddle

(cannon fodder) roles such as John the Baptist for Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world; Andrew for Peter who later became the ‘rock’ among the disciples of Jesus; or Barnabas for John Mark who became the author of the first gospel in the bible.

In her life experience, she was the first visibly Christian Fellowship female to serve as a Hall President in Africa Hall, the only female and only student to complete a pioneering M.Sc. programme in Pharmaceutical Chemistry as well as the first established Ghanaian female lecturer in the then Faculty of Pharmacy (now Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences).

Focusing on female leadership in KNUST and in the Pharmacy Profession, the author cites the instance of at least four females including her, (and myself) who were nominated for the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor in KNUST, but none got elected for the position. Eventually, the next female nominated for the position after her turn was successfully elected and moved on to be elected as the Vice-Chancellor! Apparently, some people must act as sacrificial lambs or forerunners (cannon fodders) for the ultimate to be realized!

Her experiences in the pharmacy profession also tell the same story: although the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana (PSGH) has been in existence for about 85 years, no female has been elected President. The closest is the Vice-President position of which she was the first among the three that have so far been

elected; with the hope that eventually a female president will one day emerge!

The book concludes with some useful advice to all females who may aspire for leadership positions in the Ghanaian society: such as being assertive, but with decorum; working hard, encouraging and mentoring others, etc. in order to succeed.

Frances Owusu-Daaku has done a great job by documenting in simple language, experiences in her professional career as a woman aspiring for excellence and I wish to encourage all female professionals to passionately read this short piece, particularly the pieces of advice given towards the end of the book if one wants to go for leadership positions during her professional career.

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March, 2021

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

What's in a Name?

My name is Johanna W. Kanon Foda. Strange name isn't it? Let me explain:

One day a colleague told me (and I reluctantly admitted it was a 'word of knowledge') "You know the way I see you- your destiny is that of one who paves the way for others."

I initially smiled, was taken aback and then became angry. What did that mean- that I was not good enough to be 'THE ONE'- but that I had to be the stepping stone? After my internal emotional turmoil had died down, I realised what a privilege it was (and still is) to be the forerunner- the one to announce the King, the Queen- the one to announce the victory! I asked for forgiveness from the Lord and began thanking him for the many times he had used me as such. This colleague's insight continues to be played out in my life to date and I take pride in that.

It is said that in a battle when cannons were the order of the day, there had to be some soldiers who would have to brave the

initial fire of these cannons so that the rest of the army could get through. They were expendable and often poorly-trained recruits who could not beat a retreat even if they felt overwhelmed. They were not expected to survive the barrage, but they were an essential part of the war. These were the ones known as ‘cannon fodder’ – food for the cannons, so the destructive equipment could be fed and tamed! Cannon fodder is, by large, a derogatory term; I, however, like to think of cannon fodder in a positive sense- more like the sacrificial lamb; because without the sacrifice of these soldiers, albeit an unwilling or even deceitful sacrifice, more ‘valuable’ soldiers would be lost.

When I read the Bible, I come across a number of sacrificial lambs, willing Cannon Fodders. Unfortunately, the popular ones (except Queen Esther) are all male. The most popular of them, John the Baptist, was the forerunner of Jesus- and he, typically, did not survive the onslaught of the leaders of the time. Since I am female, I am a Johanna and not a John; and to give my name an African flavour, I have called myself Johanna W. Kanon Foda. JWKF. You can ascribe any meaning and significance you like to the W in the name.

The Second Fiddle Concept

Leonard Bernstein, director of the famous New York Philharmonic Orchestra, who died in 1990, was once asked what instrument was the most difficult to play. Without any

hesitation, he replied: “Second fiddle! I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays the second violin with as much enthusiasm, or second French horn, or second flute, now that’s a problem. And yet if no one plays second, we have no harmony.”- You see, the first fiddle always occupied the first chair, was the prominent player, the one who played the tune- as it were- but not much else. Yet, harmony is what life and living are all about! The first fiddle, I am told, brings out the melody, but if the other parts do not come in, the music, all too soon, becomes boring and predictable. I have always found the melody in a song easy to pick up and have envied those who can add harmony to the melody. Little did I know I was envying the second, third and fourth fiddles!!!

Chapter 2

SOME SECOND FIDDLES IN THE BIBLE

Jonathan, Son of King Saul

Jonathan, the eldest son of King Saul and therefore the crown prince, was noted for his intrepidity (fearless bravery) rooted in a deep faith in God; and his loyalty to his close friend and brother-in-law, David. 1 Samuel chapters 13-16 serve as a key reference to the character of Jonathan. Despite his position, despite his strength and bravery, he played second fiddle to David. He knew he would never be king and he was willing to work towards securing David's promise to the throne in his stead. He sided with David and protected him against King Saul, his father! Who these days has such an understanding of the will of God in one's life? Most people today would think of Jonathan as foolish, not seizing the opportunity. No! He was a very brave man who understood the times and actively worked to bring God's will to come to pass in the nation of Israel.

Queen Esther

She was second to a temperamental King Xerxes (the Bible narration is found in the book of Esther) but she played her role so well, that when she went in un-summoned by the king (and could have lost her life by that single act), he granted her audience. Through a series of wise and providential actions, she was used to save the whole Jewish nation at that time in history.

John the Baptist

John the Baptist appeared on the scene while still in the womb; and is mentioned in all the four gospels of the Bible, notably Matthew (chapter 3) Mark (chapters 1,2,6) Luke (chapters 1-3) and John (chapter 1) The purpose of this simple, yet enigmatic man was that of being a voice in the wilderness announcing the coming of the Messiah; so he went about setting Jesus up for success. His famous answer to his disciples, when they came complaining that Jesus was drawing crowds to himself was “He must become greater; I must become less”- or the better well known version- “He must increase, while I decrease”- and oh, did he play that second fiddle well! He played it so well, the first fiddle, Jesus, came to him to be baptised.

Andrew, the Apostle

The story of Andrew who introduced Peter to Jesus is narrated in John 1:40-42: “⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John the Baptist had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his

brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.”

Peter later became the ‘rock’ on which the church was built, not Andrew; but if there had been no Andrew, would there have been a Peter? Very little is written in the Bible about Andrew again but we know he remained close to Jesus as implied in Mark 13:3 and John 6:8 (where he introduces the boy with the 5 small loaves of bread and 2 small fish that Jesus used to feed the 5,000!) In John 12:20-22, when some Greeks who went to worship at the Passover festival wanted to see Jesus, they told Philip, Philip then told Andrew and both of them went to tell Jesus. Why did Philip want the support of Andrew in this regard? Most likely, he saw Andrew as being closer to Jesus than he was.

Barnabas

His original name was “Joseph” or “Joses” but the ‘nickname’ given him by the apostles is so demonstrative of his character that it stuck. Several references are made in the New Testament about him, notably, in Acts of the Apostles chapters 4,9,11,13,14,15 and also in Galatians chapter 2. His nickname apparently marked his ability to console and encourage rather than his prowess in exhortation or teaching. Barnabas was as good as his nickname because his ‘goal was good, not glory’. He was always a secondary figure, standing in the background,

helping others come into their own. Just like Andrew did for his brother Simon Peter, Barnabas did for Paul by connecting him to 'higher authority and influence'. When the other apostles in Jerusalem were sceptical of Paul's conversion, Barnabas opened his home and his heart to the friendless Paul. Once Barnabas was convinced about the genuineness of Paul's conversion, he brought Paul to Peter and Peter subsequently took Paul into his home. There probably would have been no Paul, the greatest missionary in Christendom, without Barnabas making himself available to be used of God. Not just this once- there were other occasions: when Paul's teaching stirred up trouble in Jerusalem and he had to retire to Tarsus, it was Barnabas who sought him out later and brought him to Antioch, where, significantly, the believers were first known as Christians.

When John Mark, who later wrote the gospel of Mark and incidentally, Barnabas' cousin, was considered a deserter by Paul and strong disagreement arose between the two 'elders', Barnabas insisted that Mark be given a second chance. Paul, who himself had been given a second chance earlier by Barnabas, would not hear of it. Barnabas took Mark, went to Cyprus and there is no further record of their journey. One might think- what a waste- Barnabas could have been great alongside Paul, but Barnabas gave up his chance for fame, to help another become great. In Paul's eyes, Mark was a loser but because Barnabas did not give up on him, John Mark played a great role in Christian history by authoring the first gospel. Even Paul

later conceded that John Mark became one who was “useful for ministry” (2Timothy 4:11).

Jesus, our Example

THE greatest second fiddle player of all time was Jesus himself, and one has to read the whole Bible for references but can start with the gospels of Mark and John. Jesus gave up his position and rights of deity to become a human being, a sacrificial lamb and to die on the cross, a disgraceful and painful death; for all humanity, including you and I. If we will allow our lives to be conducted by the maestro, Jesus Christ, we will realise that the obscure notes of our fiddle will exquisitely be transformed into the most angelic music we have ever heard. Indeed, when God plays second fiddle through us, others will hear the harmony of the orchestra of heaven.

Like all the above examples, I pray that our lives would be used to open doors for others to walk through to better and exciting tomorrows.

Chapter 3

MY SECOND FIDDLE JOURNEY

The Beginnings

Surely, I can say that life has been good to me. I was born in a village, Nankese, which has grown quite a bit since then. My mother was a midwife there and the major source of healthcare in the village. My father worked as a pharmacist in Suhum, which was not too far away. When I was five years old, we moved to Accra. So, I grew up in a home with educated parents and a nuclear family. I went to a preparatory school and I had a comfortable childhood. We were not rich, but we were not poor either, a respectable middle-class family. I was an intellectually gifted child who was often first in class.

Learning came easy for me and I enjoyed it. Primary school was a walk in the park, secondary school up to ‘O Level’ was equally so. I got the best grades in the year (grade 1 with distinction) and I remember telling our guest speaker at that year’s speech and prize-giving ceremony, who happened to be THE Leticia Obeng, (sometimes described as the Grandmother of Ghanaian female scientists) that I wanted to be a psychiatrist in future.

Then the tide changed and ‘A Level’ was tough! I fell ill and lost most of my first year of sixth form, and the school authorities advised that I repeat the lower sixth class. Suddenly, I was fed up with school and wanted to leave as quickly as possible. Seven years in one school was bad enough. I did not want an eighth. The decision, however, to consider repeating the year was to be mine and I chose to finish with my classmates. My biology teacher- bless her soul, made sure I was able to catch up with extra practical and theory lessons. My mathematics and chemistry teachers also did their bit. The result was that though I did not make an excellent grade for medical school- the aspiration of every science student then (and perhaps even now), I made it to university- initially to read biological sciences, but then was advised (incidentally by older and well-meaning biological sciences friends) to switch to pharmacy before I even registered. Those were the good old days for you when changing programmes in the university was no big deal.

I completed university when I was 21 years- a very young age then and I went back to do my masters in 1979. Those were difficult times for the country and the universities in particular. Government subventions to the universities were not forthcoming and chemicals and reagents were hard to come by. Five of us registered for the Masters programme. I was the only female among the five and was the only one to complete it. The males either passionately pursued scholarships abroad (a process known as ‘Komsor’ then, and gained admission to universities

abroad) or left to work. Little did I know I was serving as cannon fodder for the MSc programme which came to stay. I also decided to stand for Hall President during my graduate years - the first identifiable Christian Fellowship (Chrife) female to vie for a political post. Cannon fodder al-right! Even though the Fellowship had been advocating for Christians to get involved in politics so we could make our voice heard, the vast majority was reluctant to openly support the move. I remember my administration cancelling 'rag day' during the hall week and substituting it with a cultural day. And did we have fun! So much dancing, participation and the usual spectator-ship from a lot of ladies! I did not successfully navigate all aspects of this involvement- but that is a story for another day.

When I completed the Masters, nobody wanted to be a lecturer, especially in professional areas like pharmacy. It was more lucrative to be in practice. The conditions of service were bad (lecturers earned the equivalent of less than 100 US dollars a month) and someone remarked that when we went for professional meetings, you could pick out the lecturers' cars from among the lot- They were the rickety ones! Since my childhood, however, I had always loved to teach so there was no question about what I wanted to do. I was recruited right after the programme in February 1983 and became the only female teaching member of staff then- again, a cannon fodder role. A few females had passed through earlier but they did not last for one reason or the other so I did not come to meet any

as colleagues. I had to learn how to be assertive without being obnoxious and the Beijing Platform on women, several years later, also helped me. I ended up being referred to as the Beijing lady, without having to set as much as a foot anywhere in China. I loved the name. It gave me the legitimacy to do some things that I could not have done otherwise; like championing the cause of all women, especially, less privileged ones and being a voice for the voiceless.

For the first few years, I believed that I was viewed as a showpiece, a trophy for my faculty and I was humoured most of the time, so I felt special. Frankly, I did not experience any of the discrimination that most women intellectuals talked about till I began to be assertive and get ahead in my career. Fortunately for me, my immediate supervisors, who obviously were male, were very, very supportive and protective of me. When I was recruited, they asked me how much I estimated I would need for about two months because it could take that long before I received my initial salary. This was given to me as a personal loan and when later I received my salary and prepared to pay it back, it was gifted to me with no strings whatsoever attached. How I wished I had asked for a much bigger amount! - but then, who knows, if it was bigger, I would have been required to pay it back. It doesn't pay to be greedy.

I got married to my best friend less than a year after lecturing and we started raising a family. The plan was that for every year that

I did not obtain a scholarship to embark on a PhD programme, we would have a child! God obviously ‘got alarmed’ and granted me an Association of Commonwealth Universities’ scholarship when I was pregnant with the third (and last) child.

My Cannon Fodders

My Number Ones- and the Greatest

I would like to look back to some people who availed themselves to be used as cannon fodders in my life. Obviously, I cannot attempt to even mention all those, both men and women, who were used to prepare the way before me in life. Even the females would be too many: My conscientious meticulous and thrifty mother, my female teachers, my grand aunt who was one of the first female PhD holders in Agriculture in the country and so many outside my family who inspired me even before I was employed by the university. The good Lord knows your toil and as many of you are with Him right now, I’d like to think that you have received your crowns.

So, let me limit myself to leadership in the University and in the pharmacy profession. After returning from my PhD programme in 1992, with three children all aged under ten, I needed to negotiate the minefield of work and raising a family. The Lord indeed has blessed me with a husband who revels in my success. He was the one who insisted that I go on to do my PhD ahead of him when my scholarship was awarded, he was the one to

choose to come to do his PhD a year later in the same university as I was so we would be together; and he rejoiced greatly when my promotions always came ahead of his. I don't know what life would be without his encouragement and TOTAL support- and that is also another story! He is my greatest cannon fodder, but let us stick to female leadership at KNUST and in Pharmacy.

Female Pro-Vice-Chancellor Nominees before me.

KNUST, first established as the Kumasi College of Technology in 1951 and granted full university status in 1961, is 60 or 70 years old in 2021, depending on which angle you observed it from. In all its 60-70years existence, there have been only five female nominees for the election of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (VC) and boy (or should I say 'girl'!) did they represent the proverbial cannon fodder! Most were nominated for political expediency and it was only recently in late 2017 that the first female Pro VC was elected by the testosterone-filled environment of KNUST. Earlier that year, 2017, I had filed an application for participation in a 'DIES-Conference: Female Leadership and Higher Education management in developing countries (which, incidentally, was not successful) and this is what I wrote:

“Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) like most Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) institutions, is a male-biased and male-dominated university. In addition, the cultural setting of the

Ashanti region and Ghana as a whole does not promote the active participation of women in leadership and decision-making; and this outlook has been infused into the culture of the University. After 55 years since the attainment of full University status, and 66 years of its establishment, KNUST has not been able to elect even one female Pro Vice-Chancellor (let alone a female Vice-Chancellor) even though a number (at least four, including myself) have been nominated for election by various Vice Chancellors. It appears that when females apply for appointed positions, however, they stand a better chance of getting them; but as is often the case, most women do not qualify for the position. At present, the highest office occupied by a female at KNUST is the appointed position of Provost. An earlier one was that of Registrar, also an appointed position. If we must promote females in higher education, then KNUST needs to do more than just talk. It must initially come in the form of affirmative action because institutional leadership can often make changes if there is a critical mass of like-minded individuals to serve as a pressure group to advocate for those changes.” That was in June 2017!

Who were these Pro VC nominee Cannon Fodders before me? The first was Prof. Martha Tamakloe, whom I came to meet as Hall Warden, Prof Comfort Atuahene who used to be my Senior Tutor, then Prof Victoria Djobgefia who was my ‘mentor in the KNUST diaspora’. After these came myself and the ultimate, Prof Rita Akosua Dickson, who finally won the election. I

was the last Cannon Fodder and it feels great to know that. I remember Rita's excitement when I told her of my nomination. I don't think it ever crossed her mind then that she would be the one to lead us through to the 'Promised Land'. Each time, we hit harder on the glass ceiling and Rita Akosua Dickson finally broke through.

Before the Pro VC saga, let me recount that of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. I gained an ACU fellowship to study social pharmacy, with KNUST's approval, at the then School of pharmacy, University of London in 1999, although I had been employed to the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. When I came back and wanted to move to the then Department of Clinical and Social Pharmacy (now Department of Pharmacy Practice) to 'showcase' my newly acquired knowledge, it was difficult and I had to wait more than a year before I could do so.

Thinking I now had me 'situated' in my new department, I worked hard at my publications and applied for promotion to Associate Professor after six years with double the required minimum of publications. Lo and behold, all manner of technicalities cropped up, including the new one that said I did not have any qualification in social pharmacy!- and the inconceivable suggestion that I either applied for the Associate Professor position in Pharmaceutical Chemistry (with what publications, one may ask?) or I applied for the position of

senior lecturer in social pharmacy- a position that I had already gained in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. I was given a ‘window of escape’ though that of proving that I was an authority in social pharmacy- a criterion that could not specifically be spelt out for me when I asked for it. I set to work even harder to add three more papers to apply again two years later in 2009. This time around, I seemed to have provided all the answers to the College Appointments and Promotions Committee and I was promoted to the position of first associate professor of social pharmacy in Ghana and the first female associate professor of pharmacy in the country. Cannon fodder for all professors of social pharmacy to come- and for all female professors of pharmacy in Ghana.

Then it came to Vice-Deanship elections. I was never presumptuous or qualified to have stood for Deanship but somewhere down the lane, after I had initially lost an election as Vice-Dean, I was elected the next time around, two years later. It was at this time that I was nominated to stand for election as Pro VC. All initial indications were that I would win but then I lost for all sorts of reasons and rumours, one of which was that I was not even a Ghanaian (which was absolutely false) and another was that my husband (who was then Dean of Students) and I would be ‘in charge of KNUST’! Little did I know that the Lord was setting me up to have a taste of Vice Chancellorship elsewhere. Even if I had won the election as Pro VC, I could never have been a VC because age was not on my side. A close friend, however, shortly after the Pro VC election, gave another

‘word of knowledge at a funeral on campus: “you will be VC someday.” I told him “Uncle Dallas, you know I can’t be. Age is not on my side”. He replied: “KNUST is not the only university” I dismissed all that till I was head-hunted for the position of President of Christian Service University College (CSUC) a private Christian University. I was due for and applied for sabbatical leave in 2013 to take up the job. I remember my investiture very well and how I cried tears of humility (if there is ever such a phrase) for the Lord’s faithfulness. Life at CSUC is also a story for another time. I came back to KNUST after that two-year stint. A year later there was another vice deanship election for which I was eligible, but could serve only one term before my retirement. Rita too was eligible for the position and considering that I would not go far with it, I declined to stand to increase her chances of success. She was elected and that set her up for her rapid, and emotional rise to Dean, Pro VC and ultimately VC- but that story is hers to tell someday, not mine. If it had not been the Lord on our side...! (Psalm 124)

Female leadership in the Pharmacy Profession

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana (PSGH) was established in 1935, therefore in its 85+ years of existence, there has never been a female President out of 23 presidents and only three female Vice-Presidents, the first of whom was myself. Up until that time, the highest position a female had attained in the governance of PSGH was that of Treasurer, stereotyping females as being only prudent and competent with safeguarding money. I served the constitutionally allowed maximum of two

terms under two different presidents. During my terms as vice president of PSGH, I guess I can talk about my cannon fodder role as a Ghanaian female vice-president for CPA, (Commonwealth Pharmacists Association) and how it opened doors for me in my career. Sadly, the position was tied to the vice presidency of PSGH, so the CPA position had to be curtailed when my term of office at PSGH ended. Many asked why I did not contest for the PSGH presidency after that, but at that point in my life, I wanted to devote more time to my career as a lecturer. Maybe, I missed a great opportunity then, who can tell? After me came another female vice president and now there is a third one. My prayer is that we will soon have a female president of PSGH after I had served as cannon fodder for the presidential contest in 2015. As someone remarked after that election “some people were desperate for the post and others were not”. I was in the latter category.

Chapter 4

EPILOGUE

Throughout my cannon fodder journey, several experiences have taught me the following tips that I would like to share with all females aspiring to do well in their careers and take up any leadership position:

Be assertive: This can be seen as either good or bad, depending on the level of maturity of those you are working with; and sometimes, one has to back off for a while by beating only a temporary retreat. What is needed is a lot of humour and consistency in strategically driving home a point firmly, without being offensive or obnoxious.

Work hard: As a female, benchmark yourself higher than your male colleagues and work harder than them. Planning your limited time is important and as much as possible, don't take work home so you can concentrate on your other life and be fulfilled in both. Remember that a woman has many seasons in her life which are often tied to nurturing and raising children; so memorize Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (a time for every season) and when

each season is over, thank the Lord with Psalm 131!

Encourage and mentor others: This is key to one's progress. Selfishness will not do and mentoring clearly illustrates the adage "If you want to walk fast, walk alone; but if you want to walk far, walk together" If I had walked alone, the Faculty may not have had a female Dean who would have gone on to be Pro VC and eventually VC. I could not have even attained the deanship position either, assuming I had won the vice deanship election because I would not have been eligible when the higher position became vacant.

Do not forget to count on the support of progressively-minded men: You will be seen as invading territory that does not belong to you and so, what is better than to have one of their kind introduce and pave the way for you into that territory?

Offer yourself for election even if chances of winning are slim: Cannon fodders are necessary in every battle and visibility is important. How else can one be known without being present, seen and heard? Who knows, it may just be God's appointed time.

Be prepared for the worst outcome: I learnt early that my "womanness" always goes before me and that not everyone thinks that a female is as capable as a man in leadership. Be prepared for disappointments, but plod on, regardless. I am

not afraid of failure because I have experienced both success and failure and have learnt from them both. It is even said that sometimes failure teaches us more than success.

Be willing to be a lone voice if need be: It is always important to remember that there is strength in numbers, but it takes only one person to rally those numbers for the common good. Don't give up. As much as possible, confront the issues, drag them into the open even though you may be branded unfavourably; because it is only in discussing the issues that we can face up to and find solutions to them. You may be surprised by the non-vocal mass that will lend their voice when you lead the cause.

Last Word

All said and done, having a supportive partner is very important to the success of any venture, so 'look before you leap' into any marriage and don't be coerced into any union simply because you think you are growing old. Always remember Jeremiah 29:11. God knows the plans that He has for us and even though we stray sometimes, His eye is always on us and He longs to bring us back on track. "Your own ears will hear Him. Right behind you a voice will say 'This is the way you should go' whether to the right or to the left" (Isaiah 30:21).

God bless you!

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ABOUT AUTHOR

Frances Thelma Kwabea Owusu-Daaku is a retired Professor of Social Pharmacy, still in active service at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) where she has spent 38 years of her working life. She obtained her PhD in pharmaceutical analysis but branched into social



pharmacy to become Ghana's first associate professor in social pharmacy; and the country's first female professor of pharmacy.

In her professional arena, Prof. Owusu-Daaku has been a vice-president of the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) a LAPAG (Lady Pharmacists Association of Ghana) regional coordinator and a vice-president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana (PSGH) under two presidents. She is a Foundation Fellow of the Ghana College of Pharmacists; and a fellow of both PSGH and the West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists.

Between July 2013 and June 2015, she was on sabbatical leave from KNUST and took up a leading role as the President of Christian Service University College in Kumasi.

Prof Owusu-Daaku was baptized a Presbyterian, attended a Catholic primary school, was confirmed an Anglican and is now married back into the Presbyterian Church. Her mother was a Methodist. She was the chairperson of the children's Sunday school committee of the Protestant Chaplaincy, KNUST (1995 to 2013) President of PPAG (2002- 2007) and is currently, the Chairperson of the Zonal Advisory and Support Committee of GHAFES (Ghana Fellowship of Evangelical Students) in the Mid-Ghana Zone.

Frances Owusu-Daaku, who believes in 'walking the talk' in all areas of her life, is married and has three adult children who are also married; and one adorable granddaughter.

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Playing Second Fiddle - Harmony or Timidity?!

