Speech

by

**Prof. D. Sc. (Econ.) Statty Stattev, Rector of UNWE**

at the opening of the academic year 2012/2013

September, 17th, 2012

Maxima Aula

Dear Mr.Iskrov,

Dear lecturers, students and employees,

 Dear guests,

 Today we are together again at the Maxima Aula where by tradition we open every new academic year to continue the noble deed we have been devoted. Today Maxima Aula is again solemn, complete of fine mood, smiles and beautiful young faces, spirit of academism and authority, full of pure thrills and constructive optimism, expected and unexpected challenges.

It is a great honour to me as a Rector to open the ceremony for the 92nd academic year of our glorious university whose spirituality is built on the traditions, efforts and dedication of many generations of lecturers, students and employees.

 More than nine decades ago in the hardest and dramatic years after the Liberation of Bulgaria, Prof. Stephan Bobchev – the founder and the first Rector of our university together with his followers – by the own funds, bank credits and donations – have established the Free University of Political and Economic Science – the predecessor of today`s UNWE. Besides the renovating educational ideas of their times they have built in its foundations the patriotism of Paisii. “Believe in the star of your fatherland”, says Prof. Bobchev in his welcoming speech to the first 300 students at the opening of the first academic year.

 Our predecessors are led by the thought that even since the first decades of Bulgarian Liberation it is needed a free university for knowledge in the field of economic, financial, administrative and public science where citizens with high level of culture and experienced specialists for the fatherland to be educated. Five of the seven members of the first Academic Council have been professors who have educated and qualified at the most authoritative European universities. They have had not only indisputable scientific authority but they are also eminent public figures and statesmen, national representatives, Prime-Ministers, ministers, chairmen of the National Assembly, economic figures and bankers as well as it is also nowadays.

Today, we, their followers, remember and appreciate their great deed. We keep and develop the academic traditions and enjoy the huge public authority and meritorious respect.

One of the numerous proofs in this relation is the interest of the prospective students to UNWE. For a consecutive year our university filled up all the announced places even in August before all our Bulgarian academic colleagues. And it occurred in conditions of demographic collapse, low results from the matriculation exams and a retained difficult admission – minimum score of eight units from the diploma of secondary education and compulsory exams for prospective students without admission by the results from matriculation exams. And what is more – we admitted 300 students more than the last year – the first who will study in a distance form of education in Sofia.

Dear first undergraduates,

Our dear children,

Allow me to address especially to you, the four thousand first year undergraduates and on behalf of Rector`s management and personally by me to greet you heartily by “Welcome!” in our academic family.

 You are among us because you have won the difficult competition for prospective students due to your excellent preparation and genuine desire to study at the UNWE. I would like to believe it is a realized dream for you.

I wish by my heart a lot of health and joy to you and your parents who nurtured you, brought you up and give all their best for you to educate and take your fate in your own hands as students at the UNWE.

 Today you are coming into a new world – a world full of charm and fine new friendships but also a world of disappointments and also why not - tears. But in this world your most important mission is to invest in yourselves because it is an investment in the future. Albert Einstein says the science is “a drama of ideas”. It absolutely concerns the education too. Be proud you will participate in this creative drama in the world of knowledge that will make your life worth-while, desired and necessary and will be your bridge to a successful career.

 You have ahead a lot of unknown challenges, interesting lectures and seminars at one of the most authoritative Bulgarian lecturers and scientists, a serious preparation, intensive examinations, acquaintances with colleagues, friendships which last the whole life long.

The bright and comfortable auditoriums, computer rooms, the excellent library with huge paper and electronic fund, the most modern university sports complex wait for you. And the most important of all you have ahead is the splendid world of knowledge and the genuine love of your lecturers.

 Be students with self-confidence because you will study at the best university but contribute for its good reputation – by visiting your lectures, by your respect to your lecturers and colleagues, by your civilized behavior and good education, by all you do. Because UNWE is already your university and you are inseparable part of it. I have always asserted that at our university study the smartest, the most motivated and beautiful students, the future elite of the nation. And so it is for nearly one century.

Learn hardly and dedicatedly because after the second year you`ll face a new rivalry competition – the ranking for specialities which depends on your results. You will have the opportunity to study for one or two semesters at the prestigious European universities on the Erasmus Programme for students` mobility, to carry out your internship at the state and private sector by the mediation of the Interuniversity Center for Career Development, to learn foreign languages and to acquire additional knowledge at the Institute for Postgraduate Studies.

I would like to wish you to believe in yourselves, to be honest citizens and good people, to look for the truth and to defend it. Don`t betray your dignity and conscience, be friends of responsibility, decisiveness and spirituality which are inherent for the strong minds. Keep the academic valuables and spirit. Don`t surrender to difficulties and disappointments because your fate is in your hands. You have our full support.

My dear colleagues,

 When you trusted me by electing me as a Rector I stated that each of you counts on, each is respected researcher and lecturer, an academic personality. It is a huge, invaluable asset. Due to it and to your dedicated work and love to UNWE and its students we go forward. In the spirit of continuity it is strengthened the creative dialogue in the scientific research and academic activity, more and more projects are won, more often our representatives participate in authoritative international and national forums. We pursue effective politics in the field of academic positions and modernize the material and technical facilities. Education of Bachelors, distance form of learning in Sofia and new specialities where education is in English language are opened.

 But all that is a fact because of your united efforts and loyalty to UNWE. I believe we will continue working in the spirit of understanding and solidarity, will up build what has been achieved, will strengthen the image of our university to make its voice in the society more powerful and won`t allow any compromises by its figure and valuables because the university is fate and cause for all of us. UNWE contribute to our development, we live by it and because of it. It is our “drama of ideas”.

Dear employees,

 Thank you for your loyalty and responsibility in your work for our university, for the qualitative administrative service and your adherence to our work in common. I believe it`s your conviction.

**The new academic year 2012/2012 is opened.**

**Congratulations and let it be more useful!**

**Good luck!**