

IN MEMORIAM

Greg Cherry

Donald Rothchild

Victor C. Uchendu

DONALD ROTHCHILD

We received word today that Professor Donald Rothchild died yesterday. Our condolences to the Rothchild family and to our colleagues at the U of California, Davis. Professor Rothchild was a friend and colleague to many in African Studies and a dedicated Africanist scholar. He will be missed.

Donald Rothchild was a professor of Political Science at the U of California, Davis. He earned his PhD from Johns Hopkins U in 1958, his MA from the U of California, Berkeley in 1954, and his BA from Kenyon College in 1949 (High Honors in Po-

litical Science). He taught at UC Davis, Makerere U, UCLA, U of Nairobi, U of Zambia, U of Ghana, and Johns Hopkins U. He was the recipient of numerous grants and awards and was widely published. His most recent works include co-editing *Africa in World Politics: The African State System in Flux* (with John W. Harbeson) and *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters* (with Edmond Keller).

Submitted by the James S. Coleman African Studies Center, January 31, 2007

VICTOR C. UCHENDU

The Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign is very saddened to share the news that Prof. Victor C. Uchendu, founding director of our unit has passed away on December 7, 2006. He was buried in Nsirimo, Nigeria on December 22, 2006.

It is particularly troubling because we understand from his family that he was killed in his home at Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria, and that individuals were hired to kill him to stop him from becoming the mayor of his community. According to the Nigerian newspaper, *Vanguard*, this violent crime has not been fully or satisfactorily solved. We are still seeking more information on this case.

Prof. Uchendu was the director of the Center for African Studies, U of Illinois from 1971-1980. He led a very distinguished career, as you can see from the following biography published by his family.

We extend our condolences and deepest sympathy to his family and friends during this difficult time.

From the faculty and staff of the Center for African Studies, U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

FAMILY ORATION ON HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, EZE (PROF.) VICTOR CHIKEZIE UCHENDU; FATHER, GRANDFATHER, BROTHER, UNCLE

Jan. 1 st 1930 - Dec. 7th 2006

Our father (Prof. Victor Chikezie Uchendu) was the first child of the late Ezeji Isaac Uchendu Aburonye, of Umuerim Nsirimo, and the late Enyidiya Sabanna Nwampagha Uchendu of Ezu na Erim Autonomous Community Umuahia South Local Government.

He was definitely in his mother's womb during the Abia Women's Riot in 1929; hence his mother, a woman activist, could not participate in the Women's Rally taking place in Aba. The exact day and month of his birth could only be placed in late 1929 or early 1930.

Education: Our father started school in 1938 at the Infant School and attended a variety of Catholic schools including: St. Joseph's Catholic School in Nsirimo, St. Jude's Amapu Ntigha and St. Anthony's Nbawsi.

In our father's primary school days, he told us that he made blunders in his best subject (mathematics) during the Standard 6 final exams (1945). He finished the paper 40 minutes early, copied his answers and submitted his papers. Those who completed their papers 40 minutes later came and compared answers with their classmate (Chike Obi) and thought they had failed. Mr. V. Njoku, the headmaster at the time, solved the problems and showed that his "Agar Khan" grade class

mathematician was wrong and others were right.

Our father passed the Standard 6 exam probably because his processes were correct. The lesson of that exam on patience and thoroughness guided his life as a pupil teacher where he came first in all the Teacher's Grading exams, and received the highest number of distinctions in the Teachers High Elementary exams of 1951 to 1953 at Bishop Shanahan Teacher's College (BSTC). As a mark of distinction, our father was invited to teach Geography at BSC Secondary from Class 1-5 in 1953. The following year he was moved over to the Teachers Training Wing of Bishop Shanahan College.

He was an academic giant: a "teacher of teachers", an administrator, a social anthropologist, and an economic and community leader. After his college education at BSTC, he taught for several years before proceeding to the U College, Ibadan, in 1959 where he studied Economics. "Twice-a-Prize" winner at the U College, he led his class, earning the Departmental Prize (1959-60) and the Faculty Prize (1960-61); the first student of the Faculty to achieve such a distinction at Ibadan. He obtained the following degrees both here and abroad: B.Sc. Econ (Hons) London U; M.A. and PhD from Northwestern U, USA. As a recipient of a Rockefeller scholarship to Northwestern U in Evanston, Illinois, our father completed his masters and Ph.D. in record time of three years; a record that still stands today.

Professor Uchendu has taught at all levels of education and has been associated with teaching and lectureship in three continents since 1966; USA (1965-1968; 1971-1980), Africa (1969-1971; 1980-2006), and Asia (1970). He has lectured at over 250 universities and institutions and is a widely published author. Suffice it to say that he was an eminent figure that served on numerous bodies in a variety of capacities, including, but not limited to the following:

- * Consultant, Dept. of Sociology, Abia State U (2003-2006)
- * Director of the Institute of Public Policy and Administration, U of Calabar, Cross River (1988-2001)
- * Professor, Dept. of Sociology, U of Calabar, Cross River (1980-1986)
- * Foundation Dean of the Graduate School, U of Calabar, Cross River (1982-1985)
- * Appointed Professor of Anthropology by the U of Illinois, Urbana, in April, 1970 and assumed office in March, 1971 as the Foundation Director of the University's African Studies Centre

* President, African Studies Association of North America (1976)

* Committee member of the Harvard College Overseer's Committee to the Dept. of Afro-American Studies of Harvard U (1974-1977)

* Consultant to many International Organizations, including the U.S.A. Office of Education, the National Science Foundation, the World Bank and UNESCO,

* Listed in the American Men and Women of Science (1973); Outstanding Educators of America (1975); Who's Who in the Midwestern USA (since 1975); and Who's Who in the United States (1979).

A professor of Sociology and Anthropology for over 30 years, he has taught and held academic and administrative positions in leading Nigerian and international universities including Stanford U, Makerere U, U of Ghana, Legon and U of Illinois, Urbana. He was a widely published scholar with 15 books authored, co-authored or edited by him. His contributions to academic journals are equally impressive and commendable.

Other Titles Held by Prof. V.C. Uchendu

* Member of two Title Societies in Nsirimo: Eze Okonko (1986) and Eze Ji (1978)

* Izumba I of Ngurunwenkwo (1988) by His Royal Highness Eze I.E. Nwachukwu-Udaku

* Ebube Dike I of Okata (1989) by His Royal Highness Igwe Dr. M.A. Okoro

Philanthropic Efforts of Prof. V.C. Uchendu

Our father has always been a great philanthropist. He has contributed to many causes in church and society. He was a founder and manager of institutions that promote charities and benefactions. He founded the Enyidiya Uchendu Foundation that contributed to secondary and university educational efforts.

In 2003, he founded the Dr. Gann Ewulonu Foundation that encourages the training of general medical practitioners at Abia State Teaching Hospital. The Foundation also provides cash prizes to Nsirimo students in primary and secondary schools. The Foundation is made possible by the generous contributions from members of the Eze's family and Committee of Friends he assembled.

Submitted by Jamie McGowan, U of Illinois, January 16, 2007