

In Memory: Eleazu S. Obinna



Dr. Eleazu S. Obinna was born April 6, 1934 to Mazi and Lolo Obinna in Ogbeke Obibi in Owerri North, Imo State in Nigeria. He attended St. Augustine Catholic School in Ori Obibi and secondary school in Onitsha, Nigeria. Dr. Obinna lived and worked in Ilorin, Kwara State Nigeria and in Cameroon. He worked as a financial analyst for Wesman Corporation and advanced to the rank of vice-president in the corporation.

Dr. Obinna's higher education began when he left Nigeria for the United States in 1965. He attended Bishop College in Dallas, Texas from 1965 to 1969 and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. He attended Loyola University, Los Angeles from 1971 to 1973 and earned his M.Ed.

Dr. Obinna continued his studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) from 1973 to 1979 and earned his Ed.D. His areas of specialization included African Studies/cultures, business, economics, statistics, education management business administration, accounting, international management and Educational Policies.

Dr. Eleazu Obinna joined the staff at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) in 1971, and began a distinguished career as a Business Economics professor in Pan African Studies. He was one of the founding Chairs of the Department of Pan African Studies at CSUN and contributed to establishing its core curriculum, he also contributed to Pan African Studies classes at CSUN becoming institutionalized as part of the university's curriculum, which allowed the Pan African Studies Department to survive when others were closed. It is directly because of Dr. Obinna's efforts that the Pan African Studies Department has survived today. Dr. Obinna served as the Personnel Chair for the Pan African Studies Department for the last ten years. He also established, along with others, Casa Loma College and Northeast Valley Community Health Clinic in Pacoima, California.

He was a pan Africanist who organized and traveled with students to Washington D.C. to participate in the national model African Union Conference at Howard University. Students presented resolutions for solutions to the various problems faced by African countries. He loved Africa and spent the majority of his life building bridges and establishing and maintaining linkage between Africans and African Americans. Dr. Obinna was the founder of the African Student Organization and CSUN Africa's Week, now instituted throughout the United States. He published several books over his 40 years of teaching. He was a dedicated and hard-working professor who loved teaching and helping students realize their full potential. He was responsible for getting numerous CSUN students into Harvard and Howard Universities. The name Eleazu Obinna is well known and respected throughout out the United States and Africa.

He loved the United States and Africa and held citizenships with the U.S. and Nigeria. A person like Dr. Eleazu Obinna comes once in a lifetime to make a difference in the lives of peoples in the U.S. and Africa by establishing a core curriculum that is. He will greatly be missed and will live forever in the hearts and minds to those he brought so much joy, love and appreciation of African culture and heritage.

Dr. Eleazu S. Obinna joined the ancestors on December 20, 2011. He leaves to celebrate his life and cherish precious memories: his beloved wife Elizabeth, son Iheanyi, daughter Obiageri, brother Ndu, sister Ewekechi, grandchildren, sisters-in-law, a host of nephews, nieces, extensive family members in America, Nigeria, students, colleagues at the Pan African Studies Department (CSUN) and friends.