



Dr. Emmet Adolphus Dennis Sr

March 6, 2022

The Family of Dr. Emmet Adolphus Dennis Sr. announces the passing of their devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, cousin, colleague, and dear friend. Professor Dr. Emmet A. Dennis passed on Sunday, March 6, 2022, in Englewood, New Jersey, USA at 2:44 p.m.

A distinguished scientist and academic, Dr. Dennis served as President of the University of Liberia, Dean of University College at Rutgers University (New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA), and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Tubman University among other professional assignments. He was also a member of the inaugural Board of Directors of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia.

His outstanding service was recognized internationally and nationally. Cuttington University named its College of Natural Sciences in his honor. Liberian scholars of scientific studies launched in 2018 an annual science conference named the Emmet A. Dennis National Scientific Conference. Dr. Dennis was the founding Director of the Liberian Institute for Biomedical Research (LIBR), a World Health Organization Collaborating Unit. The laboratory building at LIBR is dedicated to him.

A graduate of St. John's High School in Robertsport, Cape Mount (Liberia), he earned the Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Cuttington

College and Divinity School (now Cuttington University) (Liberia), Master of Science degree in Zoology from Indiana University (USA), and his Doctor of Philosophy in Parasitology from the University of Connecticut (USA). A dedicated man of science, Dr. Dennis authored and published numerous scientific papers in the field of parasitology.

Son of the late Reverend Samuel Ford Dennis and the late Mrs. Louise Princess TeeTee Dennis, he is survived by his wife Dr. Yede Baker Dennis, his son Emmet Dennis, Jr., daughter-in-law Sheila Estacio Dennis, daughter Yede-Michelle Dennis, two grandchildren Dylan (14) and Dani Sofia (12); three brothers Samford, Gabriel, and Eric Dennis; one sister Mrs. Lucinda Dennis McClain; and a host of close relatives and friends. He was pre-deceased by his younger siblings Joseph and Paul Dennis.

Visitation at Barrett Leber Funeral Home 148 Dean Dr., Tenafly, NJ USA on Sunday, March 27, 2022, from 2-6 p.m. Funeral Service on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Englewood, New Jersey.

His final resting place will be in his beloved country of Liberia, West Africa, where

Dr. Dennis' remains will lie in state at the University of Liberia followed by a Requiem Mass at the Trinity Cathedral, Monrovia, Liberia.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Dr. Emmet A Dennis Sr Memorial Fund for organizations and institutions here and in his beloved home Liberia that Dr. Dennis advocated so tirelessly for.

For organizations and institution in Liberia, West Africa:

<https://gofund.me/2e69ce79>

For organizations and institutions in the United States:

Dr. Emmet A. Dennis Sr. Memorial Fund
c/o Chequers Financial Management
847 Sansome St
Suite 250
San Francisco CA 94111

Please make checks payable to "Schwab Charitable" and note the
Dr. Emmet A Dennis Sr. Memorial Fund in the memo.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **27**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
113 Engle St., #1
Englewood, NJ 07631

Tribute Wall

AG

“ *Yede and Family,
Saddened to learn of Emmett's passing and extend my sincere
condolences.
Praying for the comfort of the Holy Spirit.*

*Alice Ghoah
Pittsburgh, PA*

Alice Ghoah - April 14, 2022 at 11:40 AM

DS

“ *David R. Sonjor lit a candle in memory of Dr.
Emmet Adolphus Dennis Sr*



David R. Sonjor - April 09, 2022 at 03:04 PM

DS

*We Were the first class that graduated from the University of Liberia
when he took over as it's president. The Eclait class will always
remembered you for your commitment , value and rebirth you brought
to the university of Liberia while serving as it's president. May this
candle continue to live your legacy . Rest Dr Dennis Rest on in perfect
peace.*

David R. Sonjor - April 09, 2022 at 03:15 PM

DS

“ Emmet was God's gift to us. I am grateful to have known him. He touched my life in a very meaningful way.



Dr. Mardia Stone - March 28, 2022 at 01:54 AM



“ My deepest condolences to sis Yede, the children, and the family. Dr. Dennis was one of the best deans Rutgers The State University had. He truly was a dignitary. He was an awesome person. He was caring, compassionate and kindhearted to all his employees. He was missed when he retired from the university and returned to the university in Liberia. He would always stop by and visit his former employees at Rutgers. He was a good man. May his soul Rest In Perfect peace and light perpetual shine upon him. Amen.

Roberta Ricks-Gardiner - March 27, 2022 at 11:17 AM

CK

To Yede, the children and the entire family please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your other half. Father, Grandfather, Brother and family man. My friend(Moussy). May his gentle soul rest in eternal peace.

Catherine Ketter - March 27, 2022 at 02:33 PM

IM

“ Thank you, Dr. Emmet Adolphus Dennis, Sr. for sharing your life with me and my family. For been such a wonderful and kind person. Thank you for accepting me as a friend, and brother. Thank you, for your all your contributions in education, and health to the U.S. communities, and Liberia in particular. We will miss you dearly and may your soul rest in peace.

With much sympathy

The Manjoe Family {Isaac, Florence, Ian, & Evelyn}

Isaac S. Manjoe - March 24, 2022 at 04:31 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Dr. Emmet Adolphus Dennis Sr.



March 24, 2022 at 02:21 PM

BK

“ Thank you for mentoring and guiding me...for taking me under your wing, and ensuring that my journey was meaningful.

As your time with us on earth is now done and you have rejoined the Angels, I pray that you rest in perfect peace.

Binyah Kesselly - March 23, 2022 at 08:09 AM

CY

The EES/EHS Alumni Association in the Americas extend deepest sympathy to Dr. Yede Dennis, the children and the entire bereaved family for the passing of Dr. Emmet A. Dennis, our dear colleague. May his soul rest in perfect peace and light perpetual shine on him. Amen 🙏.

Rev. Canon James T. Yarsiah, Welfare Committee Chairman

Canon James T. Yarsiah - March 26, 2022 at 03:45 PM

GF

“*Coz Emmett, Dr. D, The PROVOST, DOC, COZ PRESO, The many titles we called you, you will be truly missed. Thanks for always visiting, advising and calling to check on us in Princeton. When we could not hear your voice, you kept in touch by text. I will always remember Coz Emmett as one of the few Liberians who truly made enormous sacrifices to help revitalize LU. He did not compromise his beliefs and dreams as to what he wanted to do for LU. He would often call and say " How do ya, how your doing? I am in town oh! But I am on my way to this place or that place to see what help I can get for the University. There is so much that needs to be done at LU. "He was very passionate about raising the education standards at LU. Our family have lost a strong man and Liberia have lost a great Academian. To Coz Yede, Emmett Jr. & family, Yede Michelle, His siblings and the rest of the family, My heartfelt condolences. Grief is messy, it's traumatic, devastating, confusing and exhausting but let us all hold on to the memories of having a great husband, father, grandfather, Bro, Uncle and cousin and friend, Dr. Emmett Dennis in our lives. " Eternal rest grant unto Coz Emmett , O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed. Rest in peace.Amen.*

Gwen & Coz Annie Gibson-Hamilton & fami - March 21, 2022 at 06:17 PM

MS

“ Dr. D my brother and friend you left a big void in my heart It was a blessing being a part of your family. You will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to your family. RIPP.

Mary Freeman Simpson - March 21, 2022 at 12:33 PM

RF

“ Richard & Elaine Freeman
Emmet, our brother, friend & confident you have left us forever with a deep deep hole in our hearts that can never be filled . We had such a unique relationship. I was always Mr. cantankerous and Elaine was Pency. Rest now dear brother in perpetual peace.

Richard & Elaine Freeman - March 20, 2022 at 09:05 PM

DD

“ Scholar, Teacher, Gentleman, Cousin, Friend, etched in our hearts forever. You called us your role models. You planted flowers in our lives and they continue to bloom. Rest in Peace.
Joe and Rachel Diggs

Dr and Mrs Rachel Gbenyon Diggs - March 17, 2022 at 11:38 AM

DD

“ Scholar, Teacher, Gentleman, Cousin, Etched in our heartd forever. You called us your role models. You planted flowers in our lives and they continue to bloom. Rest in Peace.
Joe and Rachel Diggs

Dr and Mrs Rachel Gbenyon Diggs - March 17, 2022 at 11:31 AM

AF

“ A calm, humble and loving presence has departed.
May he Rest In Peace as the family is comforted.
Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman
Sr. Pastor, Fisk UMC, Natick, MA 01760

Alecia Reeves Freeman - March 16, 2022 at 09:10 PM



“The honest man, tho’ e’er sae poor, Is king o’ men for a’ that” (Burns, 1795). Dr. Emmet Dennis, Chair of the Board of Trustees of William V. S. Tubman University (TU) during its infancy, was an honest, cheerful, unmovable Chair, no matter the difficulties of traveling to Harper, Maryland County, Liberia, or navigating through TU’s growth pains. He was a source of strength.

And I will never forget his down-to-earth attribute of bringing welcoming moments to Board meetings, announcing me as “The Right Reverend”, a nickname garnered in Harper, whose imminent response was “And not the wrong one”.

For all his accomplishments, Dr. Dennis never lost the common touch. And for that, he is “a man for a’ that”.

You will be missed, Dr. Emmet Dennis. May your gentle soul Rest in Peace in Christ Jesus. May the Holy Spirit comfort your wife and family, and all you impacted.

*Rev. Rita E. Townsend, DBA
Vice President for Institutional Advancement (Retired)
William V. S. Tubman University*

Rita Townsend - March 25, 2022 at 10:26 PM

JG

“ Emmet Dennis was a mentor, a colleague, and a friend. He was incredibly accomplished, yet he never lost a common touch. He had time for everyone. His hands were large enough to embrace all.

When he was President of the University of Liberia, I witnessed him dealing with a group of students engaging in some sort of protest. The students had amassed outside the Administration Building where he had his office. Unaccompanied by any protection, he came out on the steps and addressed the students. Afterwards he went down and talked with the students one on one. Despite his undeniable status as president of the national university, he was never pompous. He respected everyone regardless of their status and was always approachable.

I remember meeting Emmet a number of times at TerraCotta, the restaurant where he often dined after work. He always sat at the long table in the rear of the restaurant where he was invariably joined by his many friends eager to share in his wisdom and humor. It was a pleasure and an honor to be there with him.

Although it will be difficult to replace this illustrious educator and leader, I hope that one of those he taught, trained, or mentored will surpass him. As an educator, I know this was what he would have wanted and what he spent his life trying to achieve. However, I do know that this will be very, very hard.

Lyn and I were saddened by the news of his passing, and we hope all his family and friends will find comfort in knowing that he led the good life and made the world a better place. May God hold all those who knew and loved Emmet Dennis in the palm of his hands.

Jim and Lyn Gray

Jim Gray - March 11, 2022 at 10:30 AM

DB

The life of this eminent scholar is clearly measured by his academic achievements, research, publications, and, most importantly, by his effective mentoring of so many students in pursuit of the sciences. His contribution to academia in Liberia and the United States will remain a permanent legacy.

As a family member and dear friend, his affection and unwavering loyalty will be sorely missed.

May he rest as well as he lived.

With love and deep respect,

Dawn & Nat Barnes

Dawn & Nat Barnes - March 16, 2022 at 07:46 PM

KP

I knew Dr. Dennis briefly. We met at the LSA conference where he served as the keynote speaker. He was then president of the University of Liberia. Following his address, he and I had a brief one-on-one chat. It focused specifically on the teachers' scholarship program initiated by the Ellen Sirleaf-led government. His comments had addressed educational challenges in postwar Liberia.

It was also refreshing to hear that he was the son of Honorable Samford Dennis of the Ministry of Education. I had taught at the high school named in his honor---The Samford Dennis High School.

It is interesting how people link well in society, I'd thought. We never again saw each other, because he returned to Liberia, and I've been in America. I believe he played his part in driving educational progress in Liberia. Now that he returns to his Maker, may he have a pleasant rest from earthly labor.

K-Moses Nagbe, PhD - March 16, 2022 at 08:03 PM

DS

Emmet was my friend, my brother and my teacher. He was also my president at the University of Liberia.

Yes! And above it all, he was a genuine leader; one worth following passionately to the ends of the earth. He was a leader who made things happen. He demonstrated the capacity and will to rally men and women to a common purpose and a character which inspired confidence.

He was willing to risk his success, his fortune, and even his life to solve his mystery of those crashes but not his integrity. And that takes character.

Emmet had the requisite charisma "how can you have charisma, be more concern about making other people feel good about themselves then you are making then feel about you". "I have yet to find the man however exalted his station who did not do better work and put forth greater efforts under a spirit of approval than under a spirit of criticism".

May his soul rest in perfect peace and light perpetual shine upon him.

*Dr. Eugene H. Shannon
Professor
Geologist, Environmentalist
University of Liberia*

DR. EUGENE H. SHANNON - March 21, 2022 at 11:47 AM

JG

We are so sorry about the news of the loss of our Cousin Dr. Emmet Dennis. May his soul rest in perfect peace. Jacob & Henry Gardiner.

Jacob F. Gardiner - March 22, 2022 at 07:40 PM

VS

We mourn the loss of Dr. Emmet Dennis, our friend, colleague and fellow alum of Indiana University, . We first knew him at the time he became President of the University of Liberia and worked with him through his years there. We appreciated his gentle approach to people and problems and his twinkling sense of humor.

Verlon Stone, Ph.D.

Former Head of Indiana University Liberian Collections

Ruth Stone, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita of Ethnomusicology

Scholar & Researcher of Kpelle Musical Performance

Verlon Stone - March 24, 2022 at 12:19 PM

JB

Dr. Dennis was not just my boss at the University of Liberia; I first met him when he visited Indiana University when I was a grad student. I feel for him on our first meeting- he was so vibrant, optimistic about Liberia and ready to work with anyone. He and Dr. Sawyer during his Bloomington visit, electrified my decision to return to Liberia and contribute to our beloved country. How could we be hit with such a double loss of nation builders and selfless mentors? Only Heaven Knows. Rest in Peace Mr. President.

Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu

Jallah A. Barbu - April 05, 2022 at 01:58 PM