

WHAT SOME COLLEAGUES SAY OF AFUWAPE

We begin this article, which deals largely with what Uyi Afuwape's colleagues, friends and associates have to say about his significant influence on Mathematics and impact upon lives as attested to by those that worked with him. Some comments from his colleagues, friends and associates are as presented below:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT (PROF. A. I. AKINWANDE)¹

A COLLEAGUE, FATHER AND MENTOR

The President, Council and Members of the Nigerian Mathematical Society (NMS) join the family and the OAU community to mourn the sudden demise of our dearly beloved colleague, father and mentor PROFESSOR ANTHONY UYI AFUWAPE. Professor Afuwape, like a candle in the wind, traversed mother earth with indelible footprints until he was snatched away by the cold hands of death. Your brief but eventful life was positively infectious and we attest to the fact that you were a blessing to many who came your way from diverse walks of life and most especially in your chosen field of endeavour which included Teaching and Research in Pure and Applied Mathematics with particular interest in Differential Equations. Professor Afuwape played significant role in the re-invigoration of the NMS and remained a veritable source of encouragement to many of us. He was the Treasurer of the Society from 1991 to 2006. His most recent assignment with the NMS was his presence at the 35th Annual Conference which was held at Minna, Niger State on May 2 to 6, 2016, as a Plenary Speaker.

Professor Afuwape was a good listener, easily approachable, amiable and had the deepest interest of the Society at heart. His parting word to the current leadership was that we should put in our very best to ensure that the Society continues to be relevant and make positive impact. His exit at this time is indeed a great loss to the world of Mathematical Sciences.

We of the NMS mourn his demise and wish the family and the OAU community the fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss.

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MAY HIS GENTLE AMIABLE SOUL REST IN PERFECT PEACE.

ADIEU TO A GREAT MIND.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (PROF. SAMUEL S. OKOYA)²

WITH THE EYES OF A COWORKER

I interacted with Professor Afuwape when I joined the service of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile - Ife in 1984 till his retirement in 2005. I first learned that he was a regular Associate of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy and I am happy to be an alumnus of ICTP also today.

It was not so easy serving under Professor Afuwape's two terms of six years as head of Mathematics department at OAU. I was co-ordinator of large service courses throughout his tenure, needless to say, given all the effort and time I put into each semester preparing for mid-semester test, final examination, allocation of marks to marking guide and scripts for grading as well as tutorial grades, collation and computation of scores and grades, he kept encouraging me that there is no substitute for hard work.

Professor Afuwape was one of the most prolific mathematicians based in Nigeria that rose to become a Senior Associate of ICTP and was an extremely successful lecturer of his time.

BUSINESS MANAGER (PROF. O. J. ADENIRAN)³

TEACHER & MENTOR PER EXCELLENCE

My first contact with A.U. Afuwape (AUA) at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife was in the MTH 201 Mathematical Methods I (a course he co-ordinated for many years until it almost became synonymous with him) class. The class was a very lively one due to the fact that it is offered by all students in the Faculty of Technology and Physical Sciences students on one part and more importantly the fact that AUAs classes were never boring. While many of the so called mentors during our student days were actually tormentors, AUA distinguished himself as an excellent mentor both within and outside the confines of the classrooms/lecture theatres. When you take AUAs courses he would put on your toes throughout just to

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ensure that you succeed. Despite the fact this wasn't too palatable to us then we were always happy at the end of the semester that not only have we passed through the concepts contained in the courses but the concepts have passed through us. The good grade obtained is just a part of every other thing gained in the course all because the teacher was AUA.

On assumption of duty as a Graduate Assistant at the Obafemi Awolowo University few days after the completion of the compulsory national service, AUA invited me to his office to and gave an admonition on how to be an all-round Mathematics lecturer. You must succeed in the academics and on the home front otherwise you are failure, he told me despite the fact that the last thing on my mind then was settling down as a family man. This I found to be true, AUA is very practical and this is evident in his well trained and morally upright children. He advised that the correct slogan in academics is Publish or Perish and so I must make it my watchword. AUA wasn't my graduate supervisor but despite this it was mandatory then that I give him a fifteen minute talk on my research on weekly basis, just the two of us. AUA later confessed that most of the jargons I was presenting he did not understand but all he wanted from me was to ensure that I succeed as an academic. I wonder now on why he had so much interest in me and settled with the fact that my supervisor Professor A.R.T. Solarin was AUA's younger brother in every sense of it despite the fact they are both from different parentage and origin. AUA's friendship is a total one. I never knew friendship to be transitive but relationship between AUA, my supervisor and I was a concrete example of transitivity in friendship. This is a particular friendship that I will continue to cherish till eternity. The following day after I defended my Masters thesis, I was summoned into AUA's office to be informed by him that I should not regard myself as a lecturer until I had a doctoral degree hence a decree was passed down to me to immediately commence research towards a doctoral degree. On completion of the doctoral degree, another directive was issued to me unless you become a Professor you are just an assistant as an academic. I am in position now that all these decrees were to ensure only one thing success.

Since I learnt of the passing away of the best teacher I ever had on the 16th June, 2016. I have been at loss thinking of his admonitions on the nights of 3rd and 4th May, 2016 when he was around to attend the . I never knew then that those sermons were valedictory.

His teaching was not just in the class as mentioned above. Once he found you not to be lazy you are his son. Whenever you are with him he would never be tired of feeding you from his pot of wisdom. I cannot recount all that AUA has done for me and others. Is it his facilitation of my first ever academic trip outside the shores of Nigeria, his harassments to ensure that I complete my doctoral studies on time, his advice to me to marry on time to ensure that my pensions on retirement would not be spent educating children, his constant lectures on how to manage our homes, his advice on how to ensure that our compact pays are managed properly etc.

Over the years, I have discovered that AUA has an army of admirers like me who he has nurtured /mentored not only to success as academics but also successful family men and women.

AUAs is very passionate about membership of academic societies. He believed that its through attendance of academic meetings particularly the ones organised the academic societies is where one can be nourished properly academically. He encouraged the young ones to participate actively in the activities of academics societies particularly The Nigerian Mathematical Society. His membership of Academic societies include: The American Mathematical Society (AMS) (since 1974); Science Association of Nigeria (SAN) (since 1979); Nigerian Mathematical Society (NMS) (foundation member since 1980). Edinburgh Mathematical Society (EMS) (since 1983). Quality Control Society of Nigeria; (QCSO), COLCIENCIAS Research group: Higher Order Differential Equations and Applications (Ecuaciones Diferenciales de Orden Mayor y Aplicaciones) and IMU (International Mathematical Union) where he served in the Filed Medals nomination committee for 2009-2014.

AUA has engraved himself in the hearts of multitudes hence continues to live on. May his gentle soul continue to rest in perfect peace.

DR. JAIYEOLA TEMITOPE GBOLAHAN⁴

TRIBUTE TO PROF ANTHONY UYI AFUWAPE

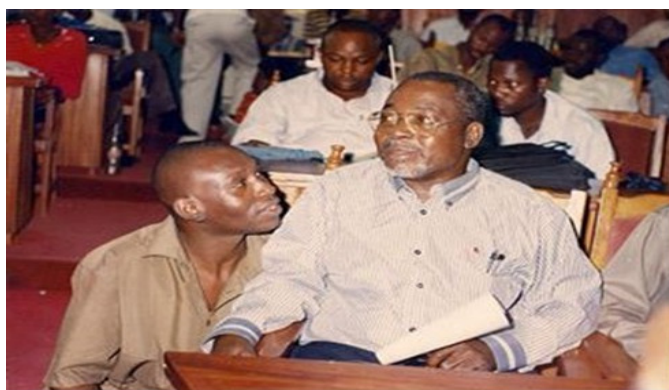
Prof. Anthony Afuwape is a retired Professor of Mathematics at the Department of Mathematics, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria (OAU) before he finally moved to the Instituto de Matematicas, Universidad de Antioquia, Calle Medellin, Colombia.

HOW I MET PROF

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I met Prof at the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta-UNAAB (now Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta-FUNAAB) Nigeria in the final year of my 1st degree programme. He taught me two courses; Differential Equations and Measure Theory and Integration. This was around 2002. He also supervised my final year project work titled 'Equivalence Relations in Algebraic Structures'. I had to visit him at OAU concerning my project, not knowing OAU would later on become a working place for me. In fact, I can remember that the lecture auditorium (CHM 102) where I waited for Prof before his arrival in his office was the 1st venue where I delivered my 1st lecture at OAU in 2006.

In 2003, I met him again while I was on my M.Sc. programme at UNAAB during the African Mathematical Union Conference, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, 16th-22nd November. I approached him, introduced myself and he welcomed me, encouraged me and gave me the right hand of mathematical fellowship (as shown in the picture below). While I was concluding my M.Sc.



research work, Prof visited UNAAB occasionally. On one occasion, he 'academically harassed' me saying 'when are you starting your Ph.D.?' I was wondering, 'but I have just completed my M.Sc., can't I just rest a little?'. Then he said something that struck me: 'YOU ARE NOT YET A MATHEMATICIAN, UNTIL YOU HAVE A PH.D.'. Those words kept ringing in my mind! Until I completed my Ph.D.

MY JOURNEY TO OAU

Prof was instrumental to my joining the Department of Mathematics, OAU. Even though he had retired by the time I assumed duty at OAU, his love, compassion, encouragement, direction and chastisement as well as academic harassment still continued online and

via emails. Any time Prof visited Nigeria from Columbia, it was a pleasure being with him. Sharing his wealth of experience in life, profession, family and career, as a father and a mentor, with all delight and joy. I learnt a lot from him.

Exactly on the 13th of March 2016 (I actually assumed duty at OAU on the 13th of March, 2006), my heart was moved to write a special composition for Prof using his name:

A-Articulate

F-Fatherly

U-Ultimate

W-Watchful

A-Academic

P-Professional

E-Experienced

I thank God for all your children (both Biological and Academic) and the grace God almighty granted you for your life on planet earth. You will be missed! Like you often drag the last vowel in my name when you call me 'Topeee'.

Oh Prof! a father and friend, an inspiration and a source of encouragement. From differential equations of order 3, you have moved into the 3rd heaven (paradise).

1 or 2 days before you finally left, I was troubled in my dreams, and then I made some calls. Goodnight Prof.

Like dy sleeps on the bosom of dx, sleep in the lord! We shall miss you. We love you.

PROFESSOR SURAJU O. AJADI⁵

GREAT MATHEMATICIAN, TEACHER, MENTOR & FRIEND

The news of the death of Professor Anthony Uyi Afuwape via a phone call on the 17th of June, 2016 came as a rude shock to me. That Prof. passed on the previous day (16th of June, 2016) and no more was better imagined due to my closeness to him and particularly because he was not looking like it during his short and last visit to Nigeria between 4th and 9th of May 2016. Before now, I have always thought that it is the death of a very close blood relative that invokes in most men a deep sense of loss and grief but this sad loss has proved to be an exception. The sudden passing of Professor Afuwape will remain one of my greatest personal losses of a loving, unassuming, humane and brilliant senior colleague and friend. Also,

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there is no doubt that this is a very great loss to the mathematics community, his numerous mentees and more importantly his family.

Professor Afuwape's passion for Mathematics is next to none. He has left no one in doubt that he is extremely committed to the discipline of mathematics. I have known him over the years as a towering academic figure with positive disposition to the progress of young ones irrespective of tribe, religion or nationality. As a strong adherent of "Publish or Perish", Professor Afuwape provided sufficient encouragement and motivations to young researchers to study hard and publish results in reputable journals. This significant effort and contribution by the Ode-Erinje born mathematician has resulted in a remarkable presence of some young mathematicians on the international journal landscape. As a teacher, he made significant efforts to impact and diffuse knowledge even beyond mathematical sciences. He will be remembered not only for being a Professor of Mathematics, but also for the determination and resilience with which he carried out all his duties throughout his academic life. I recalled telling me on 8th of May, 2016 about his book on Frequency Domain technique in differential Equation in progress.

As a teacher, his impact was vast. Very few teachers get to impact positively not only on the academic landscape of their community but of their country. As a leader and mentor, Professor Afuwape made significant efforts to change his world for good by producing other leaders. Some of us who were his mentees recognized him as not only a first class mentor but one who has personified mentoring. There is no doubt that he has made significant impact on the sand of times going by the number of graduate students he produced during his life time. Some of these graduates are currently making strong impacts within and outside the country. Prof., as fondly called would be remembered as a highly detribalized Nigerian who built bridges across many divides in the mathematical world.

Prof. Afuwape is a family man to the core. His strong belief in family value is manifested in words of advice on how to run a crisis-free family with reference to his personal experiences. He preaches love and education for the children and also gives unsolicited tutorial on managing handling issues of life. Professor Afuwape, it is just coming to reality that you are no more! I thought it was the usual joke when you pointed at a spot in your newly built house at Ode-Erinje in Okitipupa on December 23rd, 2015 and telling me "this is where I should be buried". It never occurred to me that the so-called joke will become a reality in matter of months.

Despite this remarkable notification and prediction, you were in a very high spirit during your last visit to Nigeria on your investiture as a Fellow of the Nigerian Mathematical Society (FNMS) on the 4th of May, 2016; and your fascinating dancing steps at your son's in-laws wedding on the 6th of May at Osogbo. Little did we realize you were making your last public appearances. I also remembered our discussion on our way to the Airport from Minna to Abuja on your proposed 70th birthday celebration, which is now a thing of the past. How I wished death could delay the hour by two months, you could have witnessed your most cherished desire for me to get to the professorial cadre.

As we mourn your exit, we are consoled by the fact that you have left an indelible footprint of a great father, mathematician, teacher, mentor and friend; and we also take pride in these excellent legacies.

Adieu Prof and rest in peace.

OLUMIDE OLORUNJUNE AFUWAPE⁶

MY FATHER MY FRIEND

Its been 8 months now since you have gone to rest with the Lord but its been 8 months of me waking up hoping I will have another chance to speak with you. Watching videos of you brings smiles to my face and seeing how joyful you were during your lifetime renews my zeal to always stay happy no matter the situation.

DADDY, I miss you. Your legacy of peace and humility is one that I wake up every day hoping to be able to sustain even amid chaos and trouble. Your words of wisdom ring a bell and your passion to see people excel reminds me never to be satisfied with my present position. You were always curious to learn new things. You always asked me, HOPE YOU ARE STUDYING? even when I was not enrolled in classes or had an exam. I remember Mummy always telling you to give us a break and your response was THEY NEED TO KEEP LEARNING EVERYDAY. I did not cherish those words until now, when I look back to where I was and where I am now.

DADDY, you were my friend. I remember while growing up, Mum always wanted me to stay at home and study. You believed a child should not only always study while growing up, but also be exposed to the realities of life. We went to the car mechanic together. We went to the Amala joints (Local Restaurants) together. We went to the village together. All this we did while I sometimes hid in the

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car boot so that Mum wouldn't see me following you. Sometimes I even had to walk to the junction of the street where you then picked me up. I can say we were partners in fun. We went to church together while everyone else was tired and sleeping. We talked about life together. Your angry words were **YOU MUST BE VERY STUPID**. Once those words came out that was it, someone must have crossed the line. Now for the whole 30 years I had you around I probably heard those words not up to 5 times. You were never an angry person. You ignored a lot. You tolerated even more. You suffered in pain so that others could keep their smiles. You did even till death. You did not want to bother us, your children and wife, with your health worries even on your dying bed. You wanted us to be happy and united.

DADDY, you were a writer. That was a secret I never discovered till your death. You wrote all your experiences and expectations in your diary. Only if I discovered that diary early enough, maybe I would have even made you happier. You were the best. You were the example your graduate students wanted to emulate. You shared life experiences with them in words and actions. You travelled with them, invited them into your home, and you told them **PUBLISH OR PERISH**. You corrected them in love. You were not just their teacher, you mentored them just as you did your children. We are all sad you are gone, even though we are happy you lived a fulfilled life and a peaceful one. Going through your diary and seeing how you felt, when you were put in the dark during some circumstances, breaks my heart. You cared so much and all I can wish for is for people to love as deeply as you loved others. Your writing did not stop at filling your diaries, you also wrote academic papers. You published internationally, while your colleagues published locally. You set the bar high for yourself. People laughed at you but those were encouraging reasons for you to aim higher. It paid off. I have attended three major universities in three different countries during my undergraduate and post graduate studies. Guess what? I have met your students in all of these universities. Not only did I meet them but they have been sources of blessings to me because of your good deeds.

DADDY, you were a globetrotter. You were a village boy from Ode Erinje, (a place that was never in the Map of Nigeria) who became a world-renowned Professor of Mathematics (Not just a local champion but a global champion). I always wondered who your mentor was, since you were such a great mentor to me. I wondered

what motivated you to reach for the sky. I wondered what kept you going even when people pulled you down. Then I remember your words **HARDWORK IS THE ONLY SURE CONQUEROR OF POVERTY**. You preached those words when telling your story. You told those words to your students. You told those words to your children and anyone who cared to listen. Those words keep me going even when I want to give up knowing fully that you never wanted any of us, your children or grandchildren, to experience the poverty you endured in your youth. Your students in Colombia wept when they learnt of your passing. Your colleagues wept and had only great things to say about you. Your friend, an Italian Professor, messaged you first when her grandchild was born, not knowing you had passed away. Her relationship with you is just one of the many people who could count on you for support during good times and bad times.

DADDY, you loved God, your wife, children and grand-children. **HOPE YOU ARE PRAYING. OLUWA O SE OOOO**. Those are words you said several times in a conversation. During one of our several trips, I discovered that you said a word of prayer immediately you woke up. Not many knew but this I knew. I do not know where to start. Married for 40 years. **WOW!!!** That is a record. That is an example I hope to surpass. You always made sure our needs were met. Never begged for a day, not because you were rich, but because you were hardworking. You were my Mums best friend, and now we are worried she might not survive your passing. You were everything to her from day one. She has cried every day since you left and she is still crying. I cant console her because I do not understand what it means to have lived 40 years with a person. Please, I need you to help console her. We your children, are keeping your legacy strong. Your passing is our first major blow in life. This hit us hard. We are struggling with the pain, but we are hopeful. Your grandchildren just know you are gone, but cannot explain it. Please comfort us all. We love you and we will continue to love you and live that legacy of **PEACE, LOVE and HUMILITY**.

Your Ultimate Pal and Last Biological Seed

THOMAS OLAGOKE FABUNMI⁷

HE WAS SUPPORTIVE, BRILLIANT AND DILIGENT

It is still surreal writing about Uyi in the past tense, given that I have known him pretty much all of my adult life. I first met Uyi in 1967, when the University of Ife, Faculty of Science practice of pairing students to perform Physics Practical experiments made him my laboratory partner in our 'Prelim' Year at the Ibadan campus of Unife. He had been admitted into our 'Science Prelim' class with WASC Grade One from Stellar Maris College, Okiti Pupa, and I also with WASC Grade One from Igbo Elerin Grammar School, Ibadan. After high school, I had a short stint as a classroom teacher, while Anthony Uyi Afuwape proceeded to School of Surveying, Oyo. Given his background, he was more proficient with 'Practicals' than I was.

He was supportive, brilliant and diligent, yet self-effacing in a way very few people could be. He invariably contributed more during our practical experiments than I did. The grading system however allowed the two of us to report the same experiment, so I often rode on his back to have better scores in Physics Practical than I would have had, if I had worked alone.

Many of those Physics practical experiments were not often completed within the 3 hours allotted to each one, and laboratory space constraints imposed the limitation that students could only return to finish any pending work in the 'lab' on the Saturday of the that week. We were supposed to go together on those Saturdays. He played a leading role in the 39 such experiments for the session, and covered my back for the several clean ups. To his credit, he ensured that I didn't have to forfeit going to church by offering to do the Saturday lab sessions alone. He gladly did all these for me when he was barely 20 years old! This accommodating trait will be one of his hallmarks all through life.

He was as witty as he was brilliant; above all he was absolutely honest. Outside the Physics laboratory, we shared many other traits such as frankness, joviality, a fair dose of truancy, diligence and generosity (he possessed the last two more abundantly than I do), we became partners and friends. Somehow, both of us ended up reading Mathematics in our undergraduate years, surely not by

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any seriously considered parameters, but surely Prof E. Oshobi, Late Prof. Abiodun and Late Prof B. L. Sharma had something positive to do with it. Whether at Unife Ibadan Campus or later at the White House Faculty of Science, we were inseparable. People called us twins, often on account of little truanacies. When my children later attended the same University, he was a second father to them in more ways than one.

I sorely miss my late friend Prof A.U. Afuwape for the fond memories of the things we shared. He will be missed by the many people to whom he has given encouragement in difficult situations. His friends whom he has refused to flatter when they needed to be told the truth, his former students for whom he sacrificed and helped to succeed just as Prof Oshobi & co did for us earlier, the many Mathematical societies in across the world where his outstanding contributions to Differential Equations have been published in world class Journals and mostly by his family members to whom he cannot be replaced.

Adieu. Uyi. Le o.

DEAN OF SCIENCE (Prof. A. O. OGUNFOWOKAN)⁸

EULOGY FOR PROFESSOR ANTHONY UYI AFUWAPE

Let me first thank you all for honouring the invitation to celebrate a significant piece of the life of our esteemed late Professor Anthony Uyi Afuwape who died on Thursday, 26th of May, 2016 at the age of 68.

Professor Anthony Uyi Afuwape was born in Ode-Erinje, Ondo State on the 7th of February, 1948. Shortly after his high school education, he attended University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria where he graduated with a First Class Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics in 1971. Later being propelled by an abundance of passion and the talent for Mathematics, he graduated from Duke University in 1974, Rutgers University in 1976, and University of Ibadan in 1983, respectively, with Masters of Art, Masters of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees respectively in Mathematics.

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Shortly after having graduated top of his class from the Department of Mathematics, University of Ife in 1971, he joined the services of this University. After eighteen years of diligent and distinguished academic career precisely 1989, he received his Full Professorship in Mathematics at the University of Ife.

During his tenure in the Department of Mathematics, he directed a formidable research group in the field of Ordinary Differential Equations, a branch of Mathematics central to its theory and applications. He successfully supervised several students at the Master's and Doctoral levels, many of whom are currently distinguished Professors in that field.

Professor Anthony Uyi Afuwape was an Excellent, Brilliant, Versatile, Charming and amiable Mathematician. He has published many Journal articles and Books both onshore and offshore many of his papers were written either solely or in collaboration with other scientists. He voluntarily retired from the services of the Obafemi Awolowo University in 2007 after serving OAU for thirty-five (35) years.

He later joined the services of the Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia after his retirement from OAU. His achievements during his tenure at Colombia was no different as it was characterized by great success evidenced by the unprecedented growth of his Department and lots of papers published to his credit.

It is hard for us to come to terms with the reality of having lost Professor Afuwape. His love, charm and intellectual energies which we benefited from, and times we took for granted, shall be greatly missed. Your wife, children, grandchildren and students will indeed miss you.

Prof. Afuwape sleep on in the bosom of your saviour Jesus till we meet to part no more.

Adieu! Adieu!!!

DAMILOLA and WALE OKANLA⁹

TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER-PROF ANTHONY UYI AFUWAPE

It still feels like a dream when I reminiscence your exit from this world some months ago.

I vividly remember the last time you spoke to me and you used the endearment "Damilola my dear."

There was no indication those will be your last words to me.

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I was not prepared for your exit. I still am not .You had only told us you were going to sleep. You did not inform us you will sleep on till eternity. Our laughter is no longer deep, our smiles are etched with sadness. We feel your absence dear Dad.

It is still difficult to grasp your demise. We do not look forward to Sunday nights because they remind us once more of the void you left. We stare at Skype to see if it will ring and we can pick it up. You have refused to call.

Maybe this gnawing ache in our lives will be bearable if you had not been a loving Father but you were.

You denote the word "Selfless."

To the world, you were a man of many accolades; the best Father, the best Teacher, the best Husband, the best Scholar, the best Grandfather, the best friend. Your students have described you in words befitting only the best Teacher ever.

Time they say heals the wound but I wonder if that wound can be healed in the wife you left behind , the children you left behind, friends and students you left behind. The 256 days gone by has not healed the wounds and I doubt if the days ahead will.

It is difficult to fill the void in our hearts but we have decided to fill it with loving memories of you. Memories sketched in our hearts forever. We will remember the days filled with laughter and smiles. We cannot forget. Your grandchildren speak as if you are still with us. They miss you every day.

I was told it is not the number of years you spent on earth but the number of people you touched while on earth. It was a short stay for you but the indelible mark you left behind lives after you. We cannot forget an ICON once lived on this planet earth.

You, Anthony Uyi Afuwape once lived on earth. You came, you saw and you conquered. Apparently , God loves you more than we do and decided he needs you with him.

Sleep on beloved Father.

We love you.

PROFESSOR 'KALE OYEDEJI¹⁰

TTRIBUTE TO ANTHONY UYI AFUWAPE

It was fall 1974 when Uyi's path crossed mine in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He just completed his Masters degree in Mathematics from Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, and a Masters

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degree in Physics from Fisk University in Nashville Tennessee. Neither of us knew that that chance encounter would last till one of us departs this world. Unfortunately, he exited before me.

I was the bestman at his wedding to dear wife, Sola. I was dumfounded when the children confronted me with the wedding picture at the Somerset County Court House. Needless to say, that he was instrumental to my marriage to my wife, Olufunmilayo. That introduction sealed the friendship between our families.

Uyi has that such a friendly disposition that always attract people to him. Because of his academic prowess, Professor Ronald E. Mickens and I always wanted to have a joint journal article with him because he became an expert in third order differential equations, but that never materialised.

He will ever be in the minds of his many friends and colleagues. May soul perpetually live in peace.

Dr. SHOLA ADEYEMI¹¹

CONVERGENCE TO ETERNITY: UYILOGISING THE ANTHONYFICIENT AFUWAPE

Usually, it is the death of a very close blood relative that invokes in most men a deep sense of loss and grief. However, Professor Anthony Uyi Afuwape is my adopted father; mentor and friend, an individual whose unique life helped define his epoch. The "checking out (using his own words)" of a magnificent phenomenon, has invoked an universal mourning because of the life he lived. Death, you are a loser as Uyi lives on in my life, personally and in the lives of numerous people whose uniqueness has touched.

This eulogy would've been best suited for a retirement gathering or a 70th birthday celebration. However, convergence to eternity can be at any time (t) and this time for Anthony (ificent) Afuwape was 16th June 2016. A renowned Professor of Ordinary Differential Equation and a father to many. Driving from Chicago, Illinois to Bloomington, Indiana and listening through the hands-free system, he sounded positive, strong, and courageous as ever and I was confident in my mind that we would speak again. Unfortunately, I never knew that would be the last opportunity to speak to Prof Anthony Uyi Afuwape, my father.

It all started on a rainy day, around 6pm, I had just been posted to Obafemi Awolowo University and I was to report at the Department

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of Mathematics. On this day, being my first time on the campus and knowing no one, I headed for the Department not expecting to meet anyone. Behold, I met Professor Afuwape who was at that time the Head of Department of Mathematics. The rest is history.

The last time we spent time together, we were on Skype (That's a Nigerian professor who was always ready to learn. He embraced emerging technologies, things that his generation struggled with, he would even sometimes enlighten the our generation). We spoke at length, I was in my home office, in Belgium. I had shown him my office on video and he saw the enormous books in my collection. He was so proud that he said "I still feel you are not well acknowledged because you've chosen not to become a Professor". He knew how far and wide I collaborate with top universities in the world. He acknowledges and celebrates excellence. He would also criticize when you are under-performing. That was the man, Uyi Afuwape. By the way, despite my achievements I'm still a "stupid fellow" because if you think you've achieved something, he still challenges you that you shouldn't feel complacent.

We ended the long conversation by asking if I was truly happy, which I answered positively. He then started asking about his grandchildren, my kids. He asked about what plans I have for them, how they are doing in school. Even telling me how we should make sure they eat healthy and stay healthy and give them the opportunities we never had.

Meeting Prof Afuwape was one of the best things to have happened to me. He "adopted" me as son and we became almost inseparable. Sharing many moments together; moments of fun, Fabu (jokes), crazy travels, but also facing challenges. He was always the man to go to for all that life threw onto my plate. As we grew closer, I had learnt how similar our humble backgrounds have been.

He was my Mentor and Teacher, though he neither taught nor mentor me in differential equations. He taught me how to be strong in the midst of challenges. He taught me how to stay focused and continue to strive for excellence. He taught me nothing excellent comes cheap, but with hard work and determination. He taught me to plan within my means, he taught me not to be carried away amidst of peer-pressure. He taught me how to pull through even when I'm being pulled down. He taught me all I need to be the success I am today.

He's an astute academic, planner, organizer, economist, futuristic, warm hearted, kind, selfless, discipline, hardworking and caring

family man to his immediate family and to all who encountered him. While most professors are avoided by students like a plague, the contrary is for Uyi he has a force of attraction to everyone.

The sun has set and the great Iroko of Third Order ODE has fallen. Just like everyone else who knew Uyi, it will not sink in that he is gone. Not today, not this year, and I think not ever. It will not. Those of us to whom he was a father, it's even harder to register - definitely a sad day for us all, a heartbreak it is.

For me it's even scarier. However, I take solace in the fact that Uyi fought many battles and won all. I guess you were tired of winning. I miss you my father, my friend, my mentor, my teacher. I will always miss you. There must be a cloud in my head because rain keeps falling from my eyes. Oh no no they can't be teardrops for I know Uyi is alive and he lives forever in some of us.

The Antonificent Afuwape, you were a phenomenon and I think that was the reason for your quick convergence to eternity, "a straight tree does not stay long in the forest". Wherever you are, definitely among the Angels, it is the truth that your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. As you Checked Out, and converge to eternity, Rest In Perfect Peace, for us left behind it is a celebration of your life.

Dr. ADESANMI ALAO MOGBADEMU¹²

AN INSPIRING SCHOLAR AND EXCELLENT MENTOR

I was shocked and deeply saddened to hear of the death of my great mentor Prof. Anthony Uyi Afuwape. I was shocked because to me Prof. (as I used to call him) was a giant and giants are supposed to live on forever. I was deeply saddened because one of my main sources of inspiration was to be no more.

In fact, Prof. was considered a giant by me and many other Mathematicians because of his profound influence in the THEORY OF Differential Analysis. He is best known for his fundamental contribution to the qualitative properties of differential equations using frequency domain techniques.

I first met prof. in 1990 when I was an undergraduate student. Later, in 2003, as a Ph. D student under his supervision. I was impressed by how friendly and warm he was to me during my studentship in O.A.U, Ile-Ife.

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He was an inspiring scholar and excellent mentor to me and others. He took us to many local and international seminars, workshops and conferences. His outstanding works had a crucial influence on the development of differential equations and the qualitative study of their properties using topological degree or frequency domain method. It was my great fortune to have had him as a teacher and Ph. D advisor at O.A.U, Ile-Ife. Although, I couldn't finish the program because he retired early and immediately traveled to Columbia where he died.

Prof. set very high standards for his mathematical work and expected high quality work from his students. He was fair-minded and very careful to give proper credit to the work of other people. Prof was generous with his time when serious mathematical issues were at stake. He taught me not to be too quick to publish my results. He advised that after completing a paper, I should put it in the desk drawer for some days and then bring it out and re-read it to find mistakes.

Prof. also taught me about doing Mathematics and the world of mathematics. He taught me about publishing my work in reputable journals. He was a wonderful Mathematician and father to us all.

PROFESSOR FEMI TAIWO¹³

MISS HIS JOKES AND WELCOMING SMILES

My submitted article is dedicated to the memory of my friend and colleague Professor A. U. Afuwape. Although, I initially heard of him, we did not really get close until when I organized a Workshop on *Linear and Non-linear Analyses in Engineering and Science*, at the National Mathematical Centre, Abuja, Nigeria from 29th August to 25th September, 1999. I had approached the Department of Mathematics, enquiring about who was the expert in differential equations and was told it was Professor Afuwape. Thereafter, we became good friends. For example when I was asked to head a Department in the University and I was going to turn it down, he was one of those who encouraged me with many supportive reasons. I was particularly pleased with his easy going smiles and sense of urgency in whatever he was involved. I definitely sorely miss his jokes and welcoming smiles.

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