

*VOICES FROM MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AS THEY
HAVE COME IN*

I am saddened by the death of this fine scholar and gentleman. He was a great mentor of academics, even those from outside his Discipline. I will always remember him for his sharp intellect, empathic personality and friendly disposition to all and sundry. Who can forget the digital camera that he wielded to such great advantage? He was a great source of strength and encouragement to me when I took office as Director of LECIAD. He never missed a meeting even though he was only a part time lecturer and was not obliged to attend meetings of the Centre.

Prof Laing will be sorely missed. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Our deepest condolences to his children who are still in mourning for the recent passing of their mother, and to his family for the loss of such a great man.

HMB

His kind is rare, probably endangered in the academic arena. We will miss greatly his delightful words of inspiration and candor. May the God of all Grace grant him eternal rest.

Dr. Emmanuel Morgan Attua

Oh No, I am so so sad. He was such a wonderful person and an inspirational academic. May his soul rest in peace.

Audrey Gadzekpo

May his soul rest in peace

Patrick

A real loss. May his rest in perfect peace.

Prof. Robert Kingsford-Adaboh

We have lost another great Professor.

Dan

My condolences to Prof Laing's family. May he rest in perfect peace.

Dr. Margaret Amoakohene

This is sad news, my condolences to the family who have lost a Mother and a Father so close together.

I am sharing a picture of Prof Laing - as I remember him - with colleagues.

He was a true Renaissance man

Bio-Mathematician

Geneticist

Musician

Photographer

We shall miss him.

Prof. Chris Gordon

Owww my most inspirational lecturer and supervisor is gone to His maker. I pray his soul rest in perfect peace. Condolences to the family.

Prof. Francis Nunoo

OOOOOOOHHHHH!

Dr. George Akanlig-Pare

How sad! May his soul find a peaceful rest.

Albert K.

May the good Lord grant him eternal rest.

Prof. Essuman

A truly remarkable personality. May his good soul rest in perfect peace.

Gordon Adika

Sad indeed. Yoofi Laing is no more. UG has lost a great scholar. He was such a great companion while we worked on the UG statutes. He belonged to a distinct class; a true Professor in many disciplines. May his soul rest in peace.

Prof. J. Ayertey

Awwwww! how sad.

What a fine Prof. May His Soul be received by His Maker.

Amen.

David

Dance Studies

He was such an outstanding personality who respected each and every one irrespective of one's status or class within the university community.

He admired nature so much that he always carried a camera around taking pictures of what his Creator has created.

He was approachable and availed himself to all and the best photographer on planet earth to have come my way.

My condolences to the family for the one who showed me so much respect and always called me Chief Engineer,

Emeritus Prof Ebenezer Laing I will personally miss you but the good Lord who has called you has probably a better place for you,

You have played your role on this planet excellently.

May the good Lord your creator receive your soul in his bosom and give it an everlasting rest for a work well done Emeritus Prof.

Daniel Otabi Ahene-Amanquanor

Prof. Ebenezer Laing, popularly called "Uncle Yoosi" is no more. He was a GEM of a scholar who laboured to groom younger generations of scholars like me even in other disciplines. With his passing the curtain is almost lowered on that special breed of academics who toiled day and night to give LEGON its stature. Fortunately the current generation of scholars under Ernest Aryeetey are lifting the bar even higher. Prof. Laing, we shall surely miss you as long as we remain on planet earth. Adieu - Good fellow!

Prof. S.T. Addo

So sad to hear of the passing of a fine and influential scholar, Professor Laing. He has been an amazing mentor to all of us even in cross disciplines. May his dear soul rest in perfect peace.

Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf

Sad news indeed! May the God of Grace grant him eternal rest. My condolences to the family.

Dr. Adjei

He interviewed and recruited me in 1994 as a Bilingual Secretary for a climate change project known as START-NAFCOM, an International NGO hosted by the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was then the Honorary Secretary of the GAAS. The last question he asked me at the interview was for me to pronounce the word 'PAUL' in both English and French starting with the French pronunciation. When I got them right, he shook hands with me and I felt within me that I was getting the job, and I did get it. When the project came to an end in 1996, he advised me to apply for an administrative staff position at UG which led to my appointment as Senior Administrative Assistant assigned to the Alumni Office. He followed my career progress in the University. He always called me 'Monsieur' and spoke some French with me anytime and anywhere we met. So friendly was he with both young and old.

MY GRATITUDE TO HIM: He didn't know me prior to our first encounter as interviewer and interviewee in 1994, yet he showed so much concern about the fact that I was going to become jobless and the need to help me get another job immediately after the START-NAFCOM experience. But for him, I wouldn't have thought of applying for a job in the University of Ghana.

I would always remember him for his advice and how far that step has brought me.
MAY HIS GENTLE SOUL REST IN PERFECT PEACE!

Dr. Chris Amehoe

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

Beatrice E.M. Fosu

Legon and Ghana has lost another gem.

Prof Laing, (- Uncle Yoosi to some of us...), made it a point to encourage us, female academics in the sciences. He taught most of us as students. He inspired us. He was never too busy to spare time to teach us a thing or two. His legacy lives on.

We shall miss the sight of Prof Laing (with camera dangling around his neck) taking pictures at various University functions.

Esther Sakyi-Dawson

I doubt if there is anyone [of my age] in this community that the late Emeritus Professor did not affect. I am young enough to remember his genuine goodness and simplicity. He was enormously influential in my upbringing [and many others] here at Legon. Professor Laing mentored me as an undergraduate; he taught and mentored me throughout my graduate studies. I remember vividly his sly seemingly exoteric presentation of ideas in class that I found challenging but intriguing. It certainly was his signature.

A quintessence scholar, a humane teacher with tact, and doggedness for thoroughness he was. I personally harvested these attributes of Prof Laing when he served Editor of our class newsletter in 2004; and also in 2006 when he provided me enormous editorial guidance as I coordinated the production of the maiden SPH DIGEST. He did nurture a toddling researcher; who is still young enough to remember his genuine goodness in every detail. Emeritus, you sure will be missed, but we are challenged to hold up still the flag of excellence, and humaneness, traits you fittingly represent. You will continue to live on in the works and lives of the many that you have affected.

Amos

I first met Prof Laing during my masters in public Health program in 2001. Everyone loved his very discursive class. I particularly remember he took time to take everyone's picture. One of my few teachers who took time to know about his students, although he taught me for only one semester. He took his class of 'senior working students' to the senior common room for drinks after class. No wonder he never forgotten our names; even after I was away for years studying for my PhD and returned, he forbade me to mention my name until he remembered in a few seconds. And I believe it's the same for most people who met him. He has followed my progress since. Really been an encouragement to me and many young faculty I know in Public Health. May his soul find rest.

Richmond Aryeetey, PhD, MPH

I am so deeply saddened by this news. Professor Laing was a true academic, an applied scientist and humanist at the same time--no artificial dichotomies for him.

Who can forget him with his camera at the ready?

I still have at least one picture some place he took of me --

I can still see him, smile on his face, humour in hand.

Dammrifa due!

Akosua

Colleagues:

As I read the messages and sharing on Prof Laing I was reminded that we should 'number our days to have a heart of wisdom'. The messages are a testament to his humanity, his genuine concern about people and building institutions, not self. What will we - I - be remembered for most when we are - I am - gone? While the work we all do here is important, surely it will not be the books or articles we write, or the wonderful research we have done that will matter MOST - but who we are for our brothers and sisters, and how our science and our craft contributed to humaneness.

Certainly Prof Laing's funeral will not be one of those where people scoff at the tributes, while recounting stories about the 'real' person to a neighbour. He will be truly missed and remembered fondly.

AAA

On his passing on to glory, Heaven will never be the same again, Surely, he will be received by the angels,

Uncle Yoosi if you can hear me, I just want to say thanks and you know why.

David Odoi

Colleagues:

I have been reflecting on the testimonials to the late Prof. Laing flowing in from the community. In particular, I was contemplating deeply Prof. Adomako Ampofo's exhortation that 'we should (learn) to number our days to have a heart of wisdom'. I think it is spot on. Please, permit me to share with the community my quiet time this morning:

Psalm 49 The Message (MSG)

A Psalm of the Sons of Korah

¹⁻² Listen, everyone, listen—
earth-dwellers, don't miss this.

All you haves and have-nots,
All together now: listen.

³⁻⁴ I set plainspoken wisdom before you,
my heart-seasoned understandings of life.
I fine-tuned my ear to the sayings of the wise,
I solve life's riddle with the help of a harp.

⁵⁻⁶ So why should I fear in bad times,
hemmed in by enemy malice,
Shoved around by bullies,
demeaned by the arrogant rich?

⁷⁻⁹ Really! There's no such thing as self-rescue,
pulling yourself up by your bootstraps.
The cost of rescue is beyond our means,
and even then it doesn't guarantee
Life forever, or insurance
against the Black Hole.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ Anyone can see that the brightest and best die,
wiped out right along with fools and dunces.
They leave all their prowess behind,
move into their new home, The Coffin,
The cemetery their permanent address.
And to think they named counties after themselves!

¹² We aren't immortal. We don't last long.
Like our dogs, we age and weaken. And die.

¹³⁻¹⁵ This is what happens to those who live for the moment,
who only look out for themselves:
Death herds them like sheep straight to hell;
they disappear down the gullet of the grave;
They waste away to nothing—
nothing left but a marker in a cemetery.
But me? God snatches me from the clutch of death,
he reaches down and grabs me.

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ So don't be impressed with those who get rich
and pile up fame and fortune.
They can't take it with them;
fame and fortune all get left behind.
Just when they think they've arrived
and folks praise them because they've made good,
They enter the family burial plot
where they'll never see sunshine again.

²⁰ We aren't immortal. We don't last long.
Like our dogs, we age and weaken. And die.

Charles Godfred Ackah, PhD

I remember, as if it was only yesterday, the course Prof. Laing taught which I offered: The Biological Basis of Human Behavior, in my first year. My interest in serious intellectual engagements started here alongside Prof. Folson's "Elements of Political Science. RIP, Prof!

"But if constructing the future and settling everything for all times are not our affair, it is all the more clear what we have to accomplish at present: I am referring to ruthless criticism of all that exists, ruthless both in the sense of not being afraid of the results it arrives at and in the sense of being just as little afraid of conflict with the powers that be". Marx (1843)

Kojo Opoku Aidoo, PhD (Political Science)

ADIEU EMERITUS PROF. EBENEZER LAING!!!

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