Transition:

Joseph Appiahene-Gyamfi

Dr. Yaw Ackah, professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Delaware State University, passed away on February 17, 2010 after being in a comma for several weeks. He had been a faculty of Delaware State since 1992. The late 64-year old Dr. Ackah was born at Sefwi Wiawso in Western region of Ghana in 1946. Dr. Ackah earned his BA in Sociology/Geography/Education from Cape Coast University, Ghana 1977. He also earned a Specialist Certificate in Geography and Education from the Advanced Teachers’ Training College, (now University of Education Winneba) in 1977. Prior to coming to the USA to continue his education, the late Dr. Ackah sojourned in Nigeria where he was the Head of Department of languages at Oranyan Grammar School, Oyo, Oyo State from 1979 to 1985.

While in the US, the late Yaw Ackah attended Howard University, Washington DC where he received his MA degree in Urban Studies/Criminal Justice in 1987, and a doctorate in Sociology and Criminal Justice 1993.

Dr. Ackah began teaching at Delaware State University as an assistant professor in 1993 and rose to become a full professor in 2003. Dr. Kofi Blay, chair of the Department of Sociology described the late Dr. Yaw Ackah as a “dedicated teacher, a good scholar, a compassionate faculty member, a decent person, and he was a scrupulously honest person” who has “left a gap that will be difficult to fill.” Indeed, he will be missed by his many friends, colleagues and family members.

His research and publications focused on crime in Washington, DC, race and health disparities among prison inmates, and transnational crime. Dr. Ackah published six articles in peer reviewed journals and one book chapter. He was an active university community member, student mentor and an ardent Christian.

I first met the late Dr. Ackah in Nashville, TN in November 2004 during the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Since then we kept in contact. He was an active member of the ASC, ACJS, & ACJA, as well as several local and international organizations. Until his demise, he served on the editorial board of the African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies, hence this honor of remembrance.

He is survived by his wife Georgina and five sons; Eric, Ernest, Thomas, Samuel and Ellis. The late Dr. Yaw Ackah was interred in Ghana, his native country. Fare ye well. May he rest in perfect peace.