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# Memories in Honor of the First Anniversary of the Death of Reverend Charles Rice

Ursinus College Alumni

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Dr. Danielle Lawrence-Campbell  
Ursinus '00  
DrPH, MPH  
President & Co-Owner of L&G Research and Evaluation Consulting, Inc.  
American Evaluation Association; American Public Health Association, American Education Research Association

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Rev. Rice always encouraged me to set the bar high in terms of my graduate studies and career aspirations. He emphasized the importance of giving back and not forgetting my "roots". Finally, Rev. Rice taught me that true success and happiness in life is achieved by having a personal relationship with God, selecting a supportive and loving partner, and finding balance between work, family/children, and friends.

Memory: "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude" -Maya Angelou

Rebekah Adens  
Ursinus '01  
Mastery Charter Network Senior Director of Cultural Competency  
Masters of Divinity, Masters of Social Work

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : I went to seminary and I wasn't "Christian" :). Best and second most formative time in my life after Ursinus with Rev. Rice, Ms. Patton, and my peers.

Memory: I remember the conversation I had with Rev in Bomberger most, which changed the trajectory of my life. He told me that figuring out my life trajectory is so complicated because I could do literally anything with my intelligence level - I never even considered myself to be bright until he told me I was and no one has been able to effect that pride in myself since that day.

Madonna Green  
Ursinus '01  
DC Department of Behavioral Health  
Master of Social Work

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Rev. Rice helped set me up for success. Working as his assistant with the Chapel program was one of my first jobs. Learning from him expanded my worldview beyond coursework. He challenged me, expanded my critical thinking skills and changed how I engaged texts. Rev's line of "put your seat in a seat" rings in my head and it continues to guide me when things need to get done. With his support, I found the path that led me to my career in social work.

Julania Hubbard  
Ursinus '01  
MS Ed.  
New York City Department of Education  
NYSCEA, United Federation of Teachers, NYSUT

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Rev had a deep impact in my vocation as well as in steering my life toward a successful path. One of Rev. Rice's amazing gifts was to meet a person and really see them; not their faults or who they were at that moment but who they capable of being. It was that vision of your best self that you saw every time you were in his presence. Being able to call Rev. an important person in your life meant that you had accepted the challenge of fulfilling the vast potential that he saw in you. Simply fulfilling it was great, but even greater still was the responsibility to pay it forward and lift someone else up and to show them all they could be. Every time I step foot in my classroom in the South Bronx it is because I have been tasked with the awesome and beautiful assignment of making little people see not what they are or where they are but what they can be and where they can go.

Branden Brooks  
Ursinus '02  
J.D. Boston College, M. Div. Harvard Divinity School  
St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office  
Civic Engagement: Faith for Justice  
Kappa Alpha Psi

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : To say that Rev. Rice had a major effect on my vocation and life is an understatement. My classmates used to call me "Little Rev," back in the day.

Memory: Visiting Rev. Rice and Tonya during the holidays and having our kids play together.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10102370275281147&set=t.1619261&type=3&theater>

Kevin Hankins Jr  
Ursinus '02  
City Year  
Masters of Education, Secondary Education  
City Year, Black Male Educators of Philadelphia, Prince Hall Masonry, Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Germantown Life Enrichment Center  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Reverend Rice mentored me to be an out of the box thinker. He demonstrated to me that having proximity, responsibility, and accountability to your community are the most important things we can do in life. He empowered me to have goals that have no limits and convinced me that my mission was education. He saw something in me that I did not see in myself and now I have spent my life paying it forward. I am still fighting the good fight until it is my turn to rest.

Memory: My favorite saying is something Rev used to say to me in class. He told me, "If I keep looking at that clock, I'm going to die and never know I lived." I say that to my students, mentees and even my mentors to this day!

Andell Lewis  
Ursinus '02  
Bimbo Bakeries USA  
Masters in Business

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Rev. Rice made me feel part of a community throughout my four years at Ursinus. His role as a spiritual leader through the Chapel services and father figure contributed to my success at Ursinus. Because I felt the strength of a community, I experienced a life goal of studying abroad in my junior year and traveled to Italy, Spain, and France. I was also an RA in my senior year. I am grateful for all of the opportunities Rev. Rice made possible at Ursinus for students of color and all students. He is loved and missed.

Eboni Woodard  
Ursinus '02  
MD, American Board of Urology  
Kaiser Permanente  
Civic Engagement: Board member of At Jacob's Well, a nonprofit that provides permanent housing for homeless persons with mental illness

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Rev. Rice taught me to think outside of the box and see the world from other people's perspectives. He taught me to question why I believed what I believed. He also pushed me out of my comfort zone. When I wanted to go to medical school in Philly to

be close to home he convinced me to apply to Johns Hopkins "just to see if you could get in." "Just do it for me," he said. And I got in and graduated from the #2 medical school in the country which opened countless doors for me.

Michelle Beadle Holder  
Ursinus '03  
PhD, Sociology  
Public Health (HIV and Food Sovereignty)  
American Sociological Association; American Public Health Association

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Rev. Rice was very instrumental in my life. He taught me the importance of critical thinking and inspired my desire to teach, read and learn. Two of my favorite books that Rev. Rice introduced me to include, *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl and *The Courage to Teach* by Parker Palmer.

Harry Michel  
Ursinus '03  
Startup Founder  
Just 4 People LLC  
Kappa Alpha Psi, INC

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Rev. Rice was the first male role model that I ever found myself actively trying to emulate outside of the male figures in my family. He was the moral, ethical and critical thinking man that represented what I wanted to be. He helped shape the intellectual thinking adult that I am.

Memory: I asked Rev. to borrow the book *The Price of the Ticket* by James Baldwin. A book he did not lend out and first he required that I read it but only in his office. One day I asked him if I could xerox copy some of the pages so that I can always have the page to read. I remember him saying " I am going to trust you to take this book with you with the full understanding that I expect it back when you are ready to bring it back!" Instead of damaging the seam of the out of print book, he trusted me to hold on to it... I never felt as scared and trusted as I did in that moment!

Dennis Kearney  
Ursinus '05

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Rev. Rice showed me how to live by Jesus' example. I was headed for a cliff and Rev put me on a path to an ethically sound life.

Memory: Taking Rev's arm while walking down a street in Mississippi. The silvery stubble on his cheek by the afternoon of every day. The steady stream of people seeking him.

Chanelle Houston  
Ursinus '06  
BS in Biology  
Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.  
Civic Engagement: Spinal Cord Injury Peer Mentor and 7th Grade Tutor

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : As a Biology major at Ursinus College, I struggled freshman year with the challenging workload and saw many below average grades. Come sophomore year, I was convinced that I would never graduate with a Biology degree and considered changing my major. Rev encouraged me, week after week, telling me to hang in there and continue the Biology track because he knew it was truly what I wanted to do in life. Today, I use my Biology degree writing clinical

studies for the AIDS Clinical Trials Group. These studies encompass various co-morbidities such as hepatitis and tuberculosis.

Darron Harley  
Ursinus '06  
Center for Family Services  
Associate Pastor, Lighthouse of Deliverance Church  
Certified Trainer - Nurtured Heart Approach, Mental Health First Aid and Empowering Young Men (EYM)

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Simply put, Rev. Rice was a father to me. I often credit him for teaching me to how to read. Today you will not find a book in my library that is clean - they are all riddled with notes, underscores, definitions and questions. As the director of an adult education and workforce development program, I quote him almost daily to my staff and participants. Without Rev. Rice, I would not be married to the love of my life, an Ursinus graduate, nor would I be as committed to social justice. I am the product of his labor of love.

Memory: "To the God of Abraham and Sarah, Martin and Coretta, Malcolm and Betty..." - Rev. Rice

Alison Walker  
Ursinus '06  
MSW, Howard University c/o 2008  
Community-Based Research, Social Activism, Community Service  
NASW, National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), Institute for Integrative Nutrition (IIN), National Wellness Institute

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals?: Rev. Rice not only set the foundation for me to see my worth, he instilled in me the value of education, service, and history, and helped mold me as a conscious thinker. The Civil Rights trip, coupled with his ongoing check-ins and support of my friends and I, set my path to service as an adult. I left Ursinus to pursue my Master's in Social Work and have been an Independent Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) since 2013. I've committed my life to service by volunteering my time and energy to exposing disadvantaged families impacted by HIV/AIDS and cyclical trauma to exercise and mindfulness practices. After working in the public and private sector for 9 years, I launched my community based wellness practice to serve underrepresented populations impacted by systematic trauma. My encounters with Rev may have been spread out, but they were always meaningful. He would always leave me inspired and feeling capable of anything I put my mind to.

Memory: The memory of Rev. Rice that stands out to me the most was one of my last encounters with him. My dear friend Chanelle facilitated a well-written sermon for Chapel during the fall of 2016. In Rev's introduction he talked about the value of friendship and how true friends become family. He referenced my relationship with Chanelle and how present I was for her during her most difficult time. I always told Rev he was not going to make me cry, but that day he did. He saw me. He saw me beyond my exterior. He recognized what seemed like an automatic response for me, as a true reflection of my character. For that, I am grateful and forever indebted.

Heather Johnson (Saunders)  
Ursinus '07  
Principal of Memphis Scholars

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals?: It's hard for me to put into words the love and appreciation I have for Rev. It was Rev's tough love, his seeing and believing in my higher self, and his eye opening teaching that led me to where I am today. He opened my eyes to see the injustices of the world and showed me my role in helping change it. I never thought I wanted to be a teacher, but it was Rev that made me realize that it is through education that the world can be changed. I became an

advocate for youth in underserved communities to ensure they had a "Rev" looking out for them the way he looked out for me.

Memory: My most vivid memory with Rev was while on an alternative spring break Civil Rights tour. He took us to Money, MS to see the place where the dreadful events of Emmett Till took place. I remember looking around and just being in disbelief that a place like this could exist in America. The poverty level was unbelievable while children roamed the streets during school hours. All the while, there was a community right across the railroad tracks that had manicured lawns and beautiful architecture. I remember crying and questioning Rev...How does this exist in America? How is there such a level of difference in communities separated by a railroad track simply due to the race that inhabits those places? He was just silent and put his arm around me. I remember, in this moment, gaining my fire for fighting the injustices of this world.

Lindsey Kunkel  
Ursinus '08  
MSW, Widener University  
PA Licensed Social Worker  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
National Associations Association of Perinatal Social Workers

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals?: Rev. counseled me in relationships, got me out of depression, taught me about blackness, whiteness, fear, courage, wisdom, what it means to read, the meaning of belief and faith and that it requires action with conviction and my own relationship with these things. He taught me Cone, Baldwin, Martin and Malcom in ways that were never taught. He sat with me and prayed with me. For all of those reasons and more Rev. Rice helped me find myself at a time in my life where I could have easily lost the action and conviction for truth and the fight for change. Rev has been a pillar not only in the calling of my social work career, but my life's purpose at its core.

Memory: Extremely hard to pick just one! So I'll keep it simple. Every morning when I use my blow dryer I think of Rev Rice. When I didn't have my car the first year at UC and my blow dryer burned out, he took me to Sears to get a new one. The first one on the shelf was a Remington and I walked up to the counter. He said, "You have good taste, girl!" I said why? He said Remingtons last forever. Well, I still use it 10 years later.

Emily Mercadante  
Ursinus '10  
PhD, Immunology  
Nucleus Global, Inc.

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals?

Rev. Rice taught me to think critically and question my beliefs to better understand them, to be passionate about standing up and speaking out for what is right, to know how to back up an argument with reason, and reminded me I am strong enough to pursue my dreams.

Memory: CIE classes with Rev

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=729596141676&set=a.531781868066.2042968.35502120&type=3&theater>

Aakash Shah  
Ursinus '10  
MD, MBA, MSc  
Emergency Room Doctor, Rutgers/Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Civic Engagement: Working on access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, including the uninsured, previously incarcerated, homeless, and those suffering from addiction

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : Through his words and actions, Reverend Rice taught me about hope and faith. He taught me that neither asked you to see the glass as half full. Instead, they asked you to believe that the glass could be full, and then to do the work of filling it. His teachings instilled a deep-seated commitment to helping bring about change for those who need it most and, in doing so, forever changed the direction of my work and life.

Memory: Reverend Rice both sang and lived his favorite lyric, which was popularized by Whitney Houston but--as he would be quick to mention--best sung by his then four-year-old daughter while jumping on her bed close to midnight many years ago, "I believe that children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way, show them all the beauty they possess inside, give them a sense of pride to make it easier."

Rosie Davis Aubrey

Ursinus '15

Dance/Movement Therapy

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals?: I probably would not be where I am today if it were not for Rev. Count on him to cheer me on when I asked him to write me a graduate school recommendation two weeks before the deadline. Or when I was tired and fed up with writing my final Watson application. Nothing says "just work a little more" like seeing the look on his face when you'd tell him that you thought about giving up. Every milestone experience since Ursinus has involved Rev.in some way and I will never forget all that he has done for me. Instead, I will continue to celebrate his legacy by "working just a little smarter."

Memory: "Ride on, King Jesus, no man can hinder me."

Ornella Nooks

Ursinus '15

Cultural Academy for the Arts & Sciences

Psychology

How did Rev. Rice affect your vocational or life goals? : The Reverend Charles Rice has impacted my life in so many ways. Having the privilege to take one of his courses, African American Religious Experience, brought new perspective on how I view the world around me, my spirituality, and claiming my authentic self. His constant words of wisdom and encouragement influenced me to pursue a career in pedagogy. It is my hope to make an everlasting impact on my students' lives as Rev. Rice had on mine and so many others.