



Photo courtesy of the URI English Department

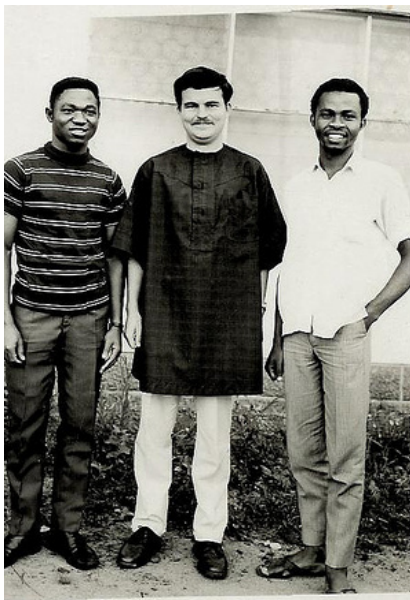
# Please Join Us in a Celebration of the Life of Dr. Felix Okeke-Ezigbo

Professor of English  
University of Rhode Island  
1994-2012

Tuesday, Oct 9, 2012, 7 pm  
Multicultural Center, URI in Kingston

Born in Nigeria, Felix earned a B.A. in English at the University of Nigeria in 1972; he was also awarded the distinction magna cum laude. After a brief stint at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he moved to upstate New York and received his Ph.D. in English from SUNY, Buffalo in 1979. He began his teaching career as a Lecturer at the University of Benin, Nigeria and received several promotions. He attained the rank of Associate Professor, served as Director of General Studies, and was finally made Chair of the English Department in 1990. He then held an appointment as Visiting Professor of African and African American Literature at Arizona State University in Tempe. From there, he came in 1994 to URI where he had been appointed Associate Professor. He was promoted to Full Professor the following year and had served ever since with distinction.

At URI, Professor Okeke-Ezigbo was a very popular professor and his classes were widely sought out. He regularly taught courses on African and African American literature, as well as classes on the short story, the Bible as Literature, and the Epic. Those in Swan Hall regularly saw a line of students eager to continue discussions with him outside of class. In addition, Felix was a widely published—and respected—scholar. His articles appeared in journals such as *Studies in Modern Fiction*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *IFE Studies in African Literature and the Arts*, *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature*, *The College Language Association Journal*, *The Journal of Popular Culture*, *Critique*, *Obsidan: Black Literature in Review*, *The Explicator*, *Notes on Contemporary Literature*, and *The Journal of African Studies*, as well as many others. He was respected, admired, and beloved by his colleagues and students alike.



Left to right) Felix Okeke-Ezigbo, Stephen Vincent, Chukwuma Azuoye; University of Nigeria, Nsukka (then declared Biafra), June 1967,  
<http://stephenvincent.net/blog/?m=200709>.