



Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D.

March 8, 2016

Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D., 66, of Lancaster, PA passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at Hospice and Community Care in Mount Joy, PA. She was born in Chicago, IL the daughter of the late Henry and Mary Ella (Lattimore) Cross.

Beginning in 1988, Doris was the Director of the Upward Bound program with Millersville University for 20 years. More recently, Doris was a Lancaster business owner of OCDC (Organizational Change and Development Company). Doris enjoyed attending church; she valued health and fitness, regularly enjoying both cycling and yoga. She was also a devoted sister-member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Cross enjoyed writing on the subject of women's leadership, her books; *Effective Communication, Leadership, and Conflict Resolution* and *Approaches to Managing Organizational Diversity and Innovation* are due to be released soon. She has previously served as a guest editor for the Lancaster Newspapers, and has enjoyed traveling as a presenter on topics of diversity in the workplace.

Surviving is her daughter, Ajani Cross of Lancaster, her nieces and nephews and 3 great nieces. Preceding her in death are her siblings, Donnie Cross, Sr., Robert Cross, William Cross, Marilyn Cross; and niece, Zenitra Cross.

Family and friends are invited to Doris' Memorial Service on Friday, March 18, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange St., Lancaster PA 17603. The family will receive friends on Friday at the Groffs from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Memorial Service

MAR 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
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Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D.*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - March 15, 2016 at 02:37 PM

PP

Sending belated prayers for the family and friends of Doris Cross. She accomplished many great achievements. I am honored to have known her, she was my Upward Bound Assistant Director, many years ago. Sorry to see her go, my love goes out to all who continue to mourn her passing during this difficult holiday season. Paulette Powell

Paulette Powell - November 17, 2016 at 10:24 AM



“ *Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D.*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

MR

“ *Your Partner in Crime as You would always call Me, My heart is heavy! For you knew what we were to each other, Sisters Fiends...Over 20 years You appointed me your Daughter's God Mother...I love you and you will truly be missed My sister Madge L. Robinson*



Madge L. Robinson - April 01, 2016 at 01:41 PM

GS

“ *My deepest sympathy and condolences to family and friends. I knew Doris from Starbucks and we had many enjoyable conversations about her ventures and travels. I enjoyed also the many photos she would share after her trips and talking about what was on her agenda in the future. As I had just spoken to her most recently I was shocked to read of her passing. I will truly miss her as will others Gail Smith*

gail Smith - March 19, 2016 at 02:52 AM

WW

“ *I will truly miss the texts we shared, of letting each other know that we miss and love one another. And Mom's (Aunt Lucille) excitement every time she spoke with You-I Love and Will Miss You Cousin! You Are Forever Resting In Our Lord and Savior! Wendy and Your Aunt Lucille*

Wendy Wood - March 18, 2016 at 12:15 PM

FR

“ A beautiful angel has left this earth, but she's ever so present in our hearts today & always. My deepest condolences to Ajani and the Cross family. I've smiled today while remembering time with my dear friend, Doris.

Fran Rodriguez

fran rodriguez - March 18, 2016 at 11:48 AM

AR

It is New Year Eve 🇺🇸 2025 and the first time I have seen Doris' obituary. During the two years I taught at MU I made a number of acquaintances, but One Friend. Smart, witty, and authentic; focused, alert and insightful; authentic, caring, engaged; Inquisitive, imaginative and all else needed to be successful in her chosen profession. One word I would add 'Stellar'. TV icon Fred Rogers of the program Mister Rogers' Neighborhood captures my vision of Doris succinctly in this sentence written by him... "The Connections we make in the Course of a Life - maybe That's what Heaven Is." Augusta Simon, Ph.D.

Augusta Simon, Univ. Professor Re'td - January 01 at 04:49 AM

AS

“ Dear Ajani - We were saddened to hear about your Mom's passing. I worked in MU's Purchasing and often spoke with her. She was a lovely person who truly loved her Upward Bound students. Doris made a difference in a lot of lives and she will be missed. You're in our thoughts. Please take care. Anna & Glenn Stauffer.

Anna Stauffer - March 18, 2016 at 11:03 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..



March 18, 2016 at 10:10 AM

JB

“ *Jan Bechtel purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..*



Jan Bechtel - March 17, 2016 at 11:06 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..*



March 17, 2016 at 10:06 PM

VT

“ *Vivian, Robert and Damian Thomas purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..*



Vivian, Robert and Damian Thomas - March 17, 2016 at 08:08 PM

JS

“ *Heartfelt Sorrow, for my Soror and Personal Doris. We met at SIU C'dale, IL in undergrad. She allow me to join the Women of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc,. I am honor and blessed to have known her. I'll be forever in her "debt"" for that opportunity. Another Angel has left this earth. Peace and Blessings to the family.*

Jackie Stevenson-Storey - March 17, 2016 at 05:55 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - March 17, 2016 at 04:13 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..



March 17, 2016 at 03:40 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..



March 17, 2016 at 01:32 PM

AM

“ Almost sixteen years ago my best friend Yasya and I graduated from Franklin and Marshall College. F&M gave us not only great education but friends and family forever. Among many special places at F&M, there is one especially close to my heart. The Alumni Sports and Fitness Center. This was my favorite student job on campus. At the front desk, we, the students, were always paired with someone from the community. This is how we met Doris. What a joy it was every time we saw each other. The Spring semester our sophomore year, Yasya and I spent in Washington D.C. When we came back we headed for the Center. Doris saw us coming through the glass wall and ran outside to hug us. Midway, she took her shoes off so she could run to us faster.

Then were the tears of joy.

Alex (Aleksandra Markovic, Belgrade, Serbia, F&M class of 2000)

alex markovic - March 17, 2016 at 03:37 AM

TD

“ Traci & Deb purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..



Traci & Deb - March 16, 2016 at 12:36 PM

TS

“ *Doris (Mom)...While I am sad that we will say goodbye to you soon, it does make me smile to think about the legacy you leave behind, the drive, that you showed us girls could make anything you wanted to achieve possible...you will be greatly missed...I will always think about the shenanigans you put up with, with Aji, Crystal and I...all the times you encouraged us, showed us what strength, courage and determination looked like...some of my fondest memories include you and the old neighborhood, you never grew tired of my crazy antics or if you did you graciously tolerated them and always welcomed me for that and many other things I have much love and respect for you...*



*Till we all get to see you again
Much love
Traci*

Traci Schafer - March 16, 2016 at 10:15 AM

CC

“ *The memories I have of mom are numerous. The days and nights I spent with Ajani at the house knowing that she was there with words of encouragement as well as "the look". I will forever cherish and treasure those memories and hold them close to my heart. I will remember each and every fried chicken dinner we tried to make her (sometimes we failed and sometimes we succeeded) and the words of wisdom she gave me when I came to her towing my baby girl at the tender age of 18. "Never give up on my dream, a gift from God isn't a road block but a blessing to push harder." God brought us back at the same time to the same hospital on the same floor for a reason mom. You will be missed greatly. You have shown women everywhere that it is OKAY to stand alone and you can be stronger for it! Thank you for the guidance you have bestowed upon us. Fly high and watch over us.*



Crystal Consylman - March 16, 2016 at 06:58 AM

CH

“ *Dr. Doris E. Cross was my Shero. She was my first boss, my mentor, and friend. God's word tell of the meaning of a true friend, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). She was my Sisterfriend. I loved her truly but God loved her best. Thank you Doris for Upward Bound, BSU, Gospel Choir and the all you did. Thank you Ajani for lending us your mom. Ms. Cross, you will always be in my heart.*

Charlette M. Harrison

Charlette M. Harrison - March 15, 2016 at 03:20 PM

MC

“ It is with great sadness that I sit here and write about a wonderful lady, a friend, that is no longer with us. Doris was a very special person, and dedicated her life to making a difference. In all her efforts to steer young lives in the right direction, she never knew how much of an impact she had on my life. Thank you Doris for being my friend, for showing me things like dedication and patience, for reminding me to keep my head up. For when I needed it most, you gave me encouragement, a kind smile, a gentle hug.

I will miss you, I am so sorry I stopped coming by...

Mike Cancel

Miguel (Mike) Cancel - March 15, 2016 at 03:12 PM

CH

“ Dr. Doris E. Cross was my Shero. She was my first boss, my mentor and friend. God tells us in His word the meaning of a friend, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). She truly was my Sisterfriend. I loved her dearly but God loved her best. You will always be in my heart.

Charlette M. Harrison

Charlette M Harrison - March 15, 2016 at 03:04 PM



“ 47 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - March 15, 2016 at 02:29 PM

LW

“ *I would have to start any tribute to Doris with stating the sentiments of everyone that knew her would state how much she cared for others. She genuinely would make you feel as though her concern for you could carry you through whatever you were going through. She kept it real, sometimes seeing things in others that they did not see in themselves. Dr. Cross served as the on campus Advisor for Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Lambda Tau Chapter. She was a valuable asset to countless student body members, staff and associates alike at Millersville. I can count it as a joy that we had her selflessness in our Lives. SHE WILL BE MISSED, NOT JUST REMEMBERED!*

Larry White

Larry White - March 15, 2016 at 11:05 AM

JW

“ *Jamah "Jayforce" Williams purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..*



Jamah "Jayforce" Williams - March 14, 2016 at 11:02 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..*



March 14, 2016 at 11:24 AM

LW

“ *I will never forget Doris. We worked on several projects at Millersville and we also had many good times. We shared some happy times and sad times. She was both a colleague and a friend. She will be missed.*

*With Deepest Sympathy,
LaVern Whisenton-Davidson*

LaVern Whisenton-Davidson - March 14, 2016 at 09:17 AM

TH

“Doris influenced me in so many ways, she believed in people and their abilities. Always caring, always concern and always wanting the best for everyone. She hired me to teach at Upward Bound at Millersville University, where we worked together for twenty or more years. Such a beautiful person, will miss her greatly.

Tom Herr

Tom Herr - March 12, 2016 at 08:02 AM

CC

“My condolences to Doris's family. I will never forget the resolute way she led the brand new Millersville Women's Commission back in the late 1980s. She was a staunch ally for women and students of color throughout her years at Millersville and helped the university become a more inclusive and equitable place.

Carole Counihan

Carole Counihan - March 12, 2016 at 07:17 AM

MG

“I am deeply saddened to hear Doris has passed away. My thoughts are with her family. I met Doris over 25 years ago; we worked together at Millersville University. I met her at a workshop about cultural diversity. She impressed me on the first meeting. She was sincere, open, smart, good heart and friendly with all. She left us too early. I treasure my memories with her.

Minoo Ghoreishi - March 12, 2016 at 06:20 AM

JR

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Doris' passing. We worked closely together at MU on several committees and I also lived down the street from her for a while. I was just thinking of her the other day. Such a very sad loss. My thoughts go out to the entire family. She was far too young.

Jeri Robinson-Lawrence - March 11, 2016 at 07:22 PM

PH

“ So sorry to hear about Doris. She and I started working at Millersville the same year and I always loved working with her over our years there together. She was an excellent colleague, a caring student advocate, and good friend. My condolences to the family.

Patricia Hill - March 11, 2016 at 12:02 PM

CP

“ Ms. Cross was one of the first people that really believed in me... May she rest in peace and she will be remembered always...

Chieu Pham - March 11, 2016 at 11:27 AM

CB

“ To the family of Doris Cross;
May GOD continue to bless you and hold you in the center of his will. God's sovereign love called Doris home to be with her parents, brothers and sisters and HIM.
Clarence Burch

Clarence Burch - March 11, 2016 at 11:22 AM

AS

“ Doris was my first "real" boss when I was a student at Millersville University... She always showed so much love and care (even tough love sometimes!) to us and I still tell stories about the times we shared in the Upward Bound Office. I'm sorry to hear of her passing but her lessons will live on in the many lives she touched... My condolences.

Amanda Sollenberger - March 11, 2016 at 08:51 AM

GM

“ Gloria Mazaheri sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D.



Gloria Mazaheri - March 11, 2016 at 06:08 AM

JG

“ My first official encounter with you was when you demanded I write the "Excuses are tools" quote 3,000 times for getting in trouble in Upward Bound. Afterwards, you explained you believed in my potential, encouraged greatness, and even gave me a job in your office my first year at MU. I'm pained with loss yet find joy in knowing you are in a better place.

Jeffrey Gardner - March 10, 2016 at 09:49 PM

OF

“ Ola Olapade & Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..



Ola Olapade & Family - March 10, 2016 at 09:26 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D..*



March 10, 2016 at 08:57 PM



Darlene Cassidy

“ *I worked with Doris at Millersville Univ and always found her friendly, good natured, and always ready to share a laugh. She will be missed. My condolences to the family.*
Darlene Cassidy

Darlene Cassidy - March 10, 2016 at 07:09 PM

KS

“ *Doris, my lifelong friend, will be missed. We met at Southern Illinois University in 1969 and immediately felt the bond of friendship. It was a pleasure to have called Doris a friend. She had so much more to give and a such a thirst for knowledge. May God bless her sweet soul and keep Ajani in his care.*

With sincere sympathy,
Kassandra (Kass)



Kassandra Scott - March 10, 2016 at 05:59 PM

SU

“ Sue lit a candle in memory of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D.



Sue - March 10, 2016 at 05:28 PM

DR

“ Doris: It hurts deeply to know of your passing. We had some good times together in college-- The Troop. That was us: You, me, Vivian, Kass, Gwen, Gloria, Beverly, Mozella, Sheila, Garnett and Lois. You were taken away from us too soon. I didn't see you as much as I would have liked when you came to Chicago, but I was glad that I got a chance to see you on a few occassions during the last year or so. May you rest in peace my friend. You will be remembered in my heart forever. Your friend in Christ, Delores E. Robinson (Dee Dee).



Delores E Robinson - March 10, 2016 at 04:28 PM

DR

“ Walk softly and joyfully to the light my friend. It was a pleasure to know and work with you. You made me smile and laugh throughout our years at MU. Thank you for your dedication to the students and your desire to make a difference!

Peace and blessings to you, Ajani. Your mother spoke of you often and I know she loves you!

Dawn Reese

Dawn Reese - March 10, 2016 at 12:57 PM

SU

It was a joy having you as a patient. I will always remember your Splenda packets you kept with you everywhere you went. You will be greatly missed. Rest in peace my friend.

Sue - March 10, 2016 at 05:05 PM



“ *My condolences to the family.*



Cheryl Hartnett - March 10, 2016 at 10:16 AM

BM

“ *Dr. Cross will always be rememberd as a beautiful woman, friend, and mentor during my time as a student at Millersville University. She was always gracious and willing to share her knowledge.*



Beth Miller 95' , 98"

Beth Miller - March 10, 2016 at 07:21 AM

JR

“ *Doris was my Big Sister Cross 45 years ago when I was a becoming a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. I will always remember her smile and kindness.*

Jo Robinson - March 10, 2016 at 07:12 AM

TE

“ Terrie lit a candle in memory of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D.



Terrie - March 10, 2016 at 05:21 AM

DH

“ I worked for your mother and painted her house we became fast friends she called me every week I know she was so excited to get her new office I shall miss her always God bless

diana hoenninger - March 10, 2016 at 05:01 AM

CF

“ Cindy Felder sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D.



Cindy Felder - March 10, 2016 at 02:26 AM

CF

I will miss talking to Doris at one of her favorite places, Starbucks, Doris was a woman of great conversation, great work ethics and a great big heart for her family and friends! Sending prayers to her daughter and family!

Cindy Felder - March 10, 2016 at 02:38 AM

CT

“ Soror my memories of you at Southern IL University at Carbondale in 1978 are good memories as a leader, very intelligent and fair. I want to thank you for your guidance and love as I pledged Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority - NU PSI. Will always remember you.



Rest in Peace soror and my condolences to the family.

*With love,
Carolyn J Toatley-Guy (Bourne)*

Carolyn Toatley - March 10, 2016 at 01:36 AM

SY

“ Sally Yacovelly lit a candle in memory of Dr. Doris Elizabeth Cross, Ph.D.



Sally Yacovelly - March 10, 2016 at 12:49 AM



“ Dr. Cross was a true Millersville legend. Being there as a mentor and outpost for the minority population of the university. She will be surely missed. May she rest in peace!



Frankie Hughes - March 09, 2016 at 08:53 PM

SC

*Classy
Intelligent
Caring
Busy
Busy
Leader
Friend*

*Soror Cross has impacted my life in so many ways. Thanks, Doris!! -
Sophia Carter-Parker*

Sophia Carter-Parker - March 13, 2016 at 08:46 PM

CD

“ *Omega Rho Soror Doris Cross*



Carolyn Dixon - March 09, 2016 at 08:32 PM

JL

“ *RIP Ms. Cross. Thank you for your guidance,
love, and dedication to the students of
Upward Bound and MU. I'll cherish all my
memories with you. My condolences to all her
friends and family.*



Jade Lovelace

Jade Lovelace - March 09, 2016 at 05:48 PM