

Obituary: David G. DuBois, retired Afro-American Studies and Journalism scholar

David Graham DuBois, 79, of Amherst, retired visiting professor of Afro-American Studies and Journalism, died Jan. 28 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital after a brief illness.

He was March 9, 1925 in Seattle, Wash., and grew up in African Methodist Episcopal church parsonages around the state of Indiana under the guidance of his maternal grandparents, the Rev. David A. Graham and Etta Bell Graham.

He attended Oberlin Conservatory of Music before serving in the armed forces during World War II. Following the war, he graduated in 1950 from Hunter College with a degree in sociology.

In 1951, his mother, Shirley Graham, married African-American theorist and historian W.E.B. Du Bois and soon after he legally became David Graham DuBois.

After graduate work at the New York School of Social Work at Columbia University, DuBois earned an M.A. in history from New York University in 1956.

Following a year's study in Chinese language at Peking University, DuBois took up residence in Cairo, Egypt in 1960. He lectured in American literature at Cairo University and served as news editor of the English language daily, *The Egyptian Gazette*. DuBois also was a reporter and features editor for the Middle East News and Features Service agency, an announcer and program writer for Radio Cairo's shortwave English language transmissions to North America, and a public relations consultant to the government of Ghana under President Kwame Nkrumah.

In 1972, DuBois returned to the U.S. where he lectured in African-American studies at the school of criminology at the University of California, Berkeley. From 1973-75, he was editor-in-chief of *The Black Panther*, the weekly newspaper of the Black Panther Party published in Oakland, California.

In 1973, his novel "And Bid Him Sing," was published by Rampart Press. The book was based on the experiences of African-Americans in Egypt in the period leading up to the 1967 Mideast war.



DuBois returned to Egypt in 1977 and made Cairo his second home. In 1983, he was appointed a visiting professor of Afro-American studies and journalism at UMass Amherst, where he taught each spring semester until his retirement in 2001.

He was the founding president of the W.E.B. Du Bois Foundation, Inc., honoring his step-father, a member of the management committee of the W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan-African Culture located in Accra, Ghana, and a member of the Council of the China-Du Bois Study Centre located in Beijing.

A memorial service is planned at a later date.

February 1, 2005.

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