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## Celebrating the Life of Cheryl Evans Green, Ph.D., 2007

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### STARS Citation

Black Faculty and Staff Association, "Celebrating the Life of Cheryl Evans Green, Ph.D., 2007" (2007).  
*BFSA Collection - Textual Materials*. 3.  
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**Celebrating the Life of  
Cheryl Evans Green, Ph.D.**



**University of Central Florida  
College of Health and Public Affairs  
October 18, 2007, 6:30pm  
HPA1- Room 119**

A Celebration of the Life of  
Cheryl Evans Green, B.A., M.S.W., Ph.D.  
Mother, Daughter, Grandmother, Sister, Friend, Colleague

April 18, 1946 - October 2, 2007

We Celebrate Her Life

Reflections on the Occasion ∞ Dr. Melvin Rogers,  
Moderator and Associate Dean, College of  
Health and Public Affairs

Greetings ∞ Dr. Terry Hickey, Provost and Executive  
Vice President

∞ Dr. Joyce Dorner, Interim Dean,  
College of Health and Public Affairs

∞ Dr. John Ronnau, Director, School of  
Social Work

Reading and Invocation ∞ A. J. Range, Office of  
Student Development and Enrollment  
Services

Musical Selection ∞ Danesha Jenkins, Miss UCF, 2007

Poetry Reading ∞ *Phenomenal Woman* ∞  
Maya Angelou

Reader: Tahnee Leclerc, President,  
John T. Washington Honor Society

A Life in Review ∞ Maxine Zimmerman, Office of  
Research and Commercialization

*"Every so often, a great soul will walk this earth with such a presence, a presence so immense that their impact is felt long after they have departed."* Danielle Tichy

Resolution by the  
Black Faculty and Staff Association  
University of Central Florida

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
A sympathetic tear.

We, the Black Faculty and Staff Association of the University of Central Florida have suffered a deep loss in the home-going of Dr. Cheryl Green who was an ever faithful and a dependable member of this organization. She was always on the alert to help Family, friends and students; her influence will long live to be felt by those who were encouraged, helped, and cheered by her advice, friendship, and counsel.

Resolved: that we mourn Cheryl Green's passing with profound sincerity. We have lost a noble, faithful, tirelessly working member and our organization will feel keenly her absence for a long time to come.

Cheryl was a soul with infectious laugh and witty humor, constantly speaking words of encouragement and urging us to higher and nobler ideals. By her kindly disposition and selfless dealings with her associates, she endeared herself to all, the memory of which will be a worthy monument to her dedicated life.

Cheryl, we are so lonely looking at that empty chair,  
Remembering all the happy times that we shared when you were here.  
Cherished thoughts will always linger, because you are a BFSA guiding star,  
Oh, may we all remember well, because your spirit is not far.

Resolved further, that we strive to emulate her examples in selfless giving with love, patience, courage and unwavering faith. We further extend to her mother, daughter, and other family members our heartfelt sympathy that they may be comforted and cheered by the memory of her kindness and devotion.



Humbly Submitted  
Black Faculty and Staff Association  
University of Central Florida  
Anthony Major, President, 2007-08

**Cheryl Evans Green, B.A., M.S.W., Ph.D.**  
**April 18, 1946 - October 2, 2007**

**Positions Held:**

- Associate Professor of Social Work, University of Central Florida
- Field Coordinator, Department of Social Work
- B.S.W. Director, Department of Social Work
- Assistant to the Provost, University of Central Florida
- Assistant Dean, College of Health and Public Affairs
- Visiting Professor, Massey University, New Zealand
- Adjunct Instructor, Clark University, Atlanta, GA

**Awards:**

- Faculty Center Faculty Fellow, 2003
- Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, COHPA, 1999-2000
- Excellence in Advising, COHPA, 1999
- Teaching Incentive Award, 1995, 1998, 2004
- Research Fellowship, Council of Social Work Education, 1987-88 and 1988-89
- Fellowship, Florida Endowment for Higher Education, 1987-1988
- Florida State University System Employee Grant-in-Aid Awards (Doctoral Studies), Florida Board of Regents, 1986-1989.

**Publications** – over 30

**Presentations** – approximately 50

**Funded Grants** - \$250,000

**Service** - Over 100 community, university, college and school committees.

**Mentor** - To countless students and colleagues

**“THE LOVE OF LIFE”**  
**DR. CHERYL PEARL EVANS GREEN**

She was destined for greatness yet recognition was never on her mind. She always gave her best to others yet she never asked for anything in return. She lived life to the fullest yet her passing left all of us empty.

Cheryl Pearl Evans was born April 18, 1946 to Mattie and Douglas Evans in Atlanta, Georgia. She grew up in that same town until she, her mother, and brothers moved to Ohio. Cheryl did not start out wanting to be a social worker but it was a natural progression. While studying Chemistry at Beloit College, a small liberal school in Wisconsin, she often found herself counseling her fellow students. It did not take her very long to understand what God's purpose was for her. Being the over achiever that she was, she

graduated in the top of her class. She moved back to Florida upon graduation, where she met Clarence Green. They courted and married in 1971. Eight years later, her beloved daughter, Tadashi Aarika Green was born. Shortly after, their marriage ended and she has been independent ever since that day.

Cheryl had a natural spirit of fun but she believed in a hard day's work. She did not believe in short cuts as a means to an end. When others would give up or go for the quickest and easiest way out, Cheryl would push through the pain to create new paths for others to follow. Cheryl was one of the brilliant minds to help establish the School of Social Work here at UCF. She knew there was a need to have professional personnel who could assist the community with not just repairing it but establishing and sustaining it. Cheryl's mother had always been a social worker of sorts for the community when Cheryl was growing up. She saw first hand how lives had been changed for the better because of one person.

Anyone that came in contact with Cheryl had an improvement to their life. I am glad that our paths crossed, we stopped to take a moment to get to know each other and became friends. By reading what others have written, I know many feel the same way as I do. You will find students, colleagues, and people from organizations that Cheryl assisted in some way, all have fond memories of her. There are people that have never met her yet they felt compelled to share their grief due to what they have heard about her. Eileen wrote that Cheryl recently made a list of all the committees and organizations that she worked with and the list was four pages long. Now, with that in mind, can you imagine the number of lives and hearts that she touched?

Cheryl had a gift for tapping into the absurd and finding the perfect anecdote for any situation. No matter the situation, she always had a story or perspective that would make others laugh. Even in the last days of her life, when she was in a lot of pain, she would tell stories and cheer those around her. Cheryl was extreme in her commitment to her students. The night before her death, from the ICU, she was on the phone giving out directions about her classes and how to handle them in her absence.

Cheryl served as President for the Black Faculty and Staff Association for a number of years as well as served as a mentor to many students. She would never limit herself to mentor only social work students. Student from around the campus and community consider her their role model and mentor. She also sat on the board of the Nap Ford Charter School. There are so many more but these were the ones that she and I shared many hours working together on. Each person that knows her, knows of a project that they worked on and drew Cheryl into it kicking and screaming only to have her say, "What time do we meet to do this thing again next year?" She never would turn down an opportunity to lend support to a worthwhile cause especially if it involved children.

Many people don't know that Cheryl had a secret life that she lived on Saturdays. She would grab a few students from the nursing department, social work, and psychology and would have them meet her in different communities. They would go door to door, assisting people in the community with filling out paperwork for state assistance, teaching them about nutrition and healthcare for their children, and just letting them know that they were not alone. Long after the students would go home, Cheryl would continue to knock on doors until she would literally sit in her car from exhaustion. Even though she would sometimes have only one or two students, she never failed to meet her established obligations.

Cheryl was a woman of great strength and respect. She gave more of herself than any of us could have expected. She loved to laugh and enjoy life. When Barbara Turnage accepted another position out of state, Cheryl arranged to have a party at Bahama Breeze and invited about twenty people. Before the night was over, there were at least twice that many people had joined our party due to her liveliness. She would walk up to a person, ask who they were and by the end of the conversation, Cheryl was their new best friend. Towards the end of her life, Cheryl's body was failing her but her mind was still as sharp. God saw her getting weary and He did what He thought was best. He put His arms around her and whispered, "Come home to me and rest. She loved us dearly and we loved her too, but fret not God loved her best. Cheryl has gone home where pain and agony do not exist. *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."* ISAIAH 41:31

### GOODBYE

How do I find the words to say goodbye? My mind refuses to think it and my mouth refuses to say it. So many times I can look back on and smile. So many times I can look back on and cry. Times, many times, I have avoided the dreaded words. They strike at the very heart of me with finality and leave no room to open the door again. I stumble over the words, my mouth dries, and my lips tremble. I can't do it. As much as I know in my head that I should, my heart will not let the words out. As hard as I strain, I fight against it. I look for you and see you are gone. The tears begin to flow. I know now in my heart that it's over. The words slowly and softly release from their bonds. Goodbye, goodbye my old friend, you will be missed.

Maxine R. Zimmerman  
October 18, 2007



## Acknowledgements

On behalf of the family and friends of Dr. Cheryl Green, we would like to thank the following people and organizations for making possible this celebration of her life and her contributions to the University of Central Florida and its community:

- ≈ Dr. Terry Hickey, Provost and Executive Vice President
- ≈ Dr. Joyce Dorner, Dean, College of Health and Public Affairs
- ≈ The School of Social Work
- ≈ African American Studies Program
- ≈ Black Faculty and Staff Association

≈ Special Appreciation is given to the Office of Instructional Resources Staff and Dr. Ruth Marshall for assisting in program production.

≈ Memorial Program Committee ≈

- ≈ Anthony Major
- ≈ Bryan Arnett
- ≈ DeLaine Priest
- ≈ Eileen Abel
- ≈ Ida Cook
- ≈ JoAnne Stephenson
- ≈ Maxine Zimmerman
- ≈ Melvin Rogers
- ≈ Patricia Pates

≈ To donate to the Cheryl Evans Green Scholarship Fund

**Contact:**

The UCF Foundation, Inc.  
12424 Research Parkway, Suite 140  
Orlando, FL 32826-3208  
Phone: (407) 882-1220 or

**On-line Donations:**

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