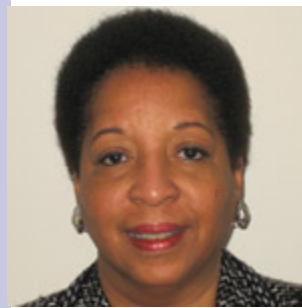


Elvyn Jone-Dube (Ed.D. 1984)
(- November 14, 2012)

The following is taken from a very moving obituary posted by *Irma McClaurin*, a friend of Elvyn.

Elvyn said it was her interaction with the African students at Lincoln that changed her life. She wanted to know more about their lives and their countries. Those she met didn't fit the stereotypes with which she had grown up. And she wanted to leave America. She considered herself a discontent, who could not tolerate the racial injustice with which she had grown up.

"I first met African [students] at Lincoln University and it had a huge influence on my life. I was one of the disgruntled ones. I'd grown up in Philly, and Philly had little to offer Black people—racist. [We lived] ...under Mayor Rizzo who made no secret of his dislike of Black people."



Upon graduating from Lincoln University, Elvyn Jones joined the Peace Corps and lived for two years in Botswana, where ironically, she could witness racism and white supremacy ideology at play again in the form of South African apartheid right next door. She loved Botswana, though she felt it was tough being a woman there. Some glimpses of what she meant can be seen in the HBO series starring Jill Scott, *The Number 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. The images of Botswana's landscape are breathtaking, and the show takes on lots of issues: HIV-AIDs, beliefs in magical practices, straying husbands, and domestic violence.

My life intersected with Elvyn's in 1974 when she and I met in graduate school at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Elvyn completed her coursework for the doctorate in Education, and returned to Botswana to complete her fieldwork and research.

She married, as did I, and we both had sons for our first born. We remained in touch over the years. I visited her in London, received gifts of chocolate from Belgium, and followed her travels through the occasional letter.

After 1996, we lost touch. She was reinventing herself as a psychotherapist studying at the Anna Freud Institute in London. It wasn't an easy time according to her. She was "the only one"— a Black woman and an American.

"I met a lot of opposition. I was the only Black woman, I was the only American. They took their whiteness for granted. And it wasn't always easy."

She prevailed and completed her training and eventually returned to the U.S. where she discovered

that foreign credentials are not recognized, and so Elvyn completed a Masters in Social Work so she could practice.

Click [here](#) for the full version.

Elvyn and I decided to marry while she was at UMass, and I was studying in England. A few years later she took me to Springfield to visit her beloved university, accompanied by our three young children then. She left a lifelong attachment to UMass , to the many friends at the Centre for International Education and the local community. I would therefore like that her passing be communicated to as many friends as possible. Alfred Dube - Elvyn's husband