

689 | Memory and Slavery: Social and Human Consequences

Dr. Emily Butler Anderson, Co-Chair of the Columbia University Seminar on Memory and Slavery, died on June 17, 2024, after a several-year battle with cancer.

Emily, a Professor Emerita and former Chair of the Department of Social Sciences & Human Services at the City University of New York and an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Social Work, leaves a rich legacy. Her professional career spanned social services, child welfare, early childhood education, psychiatric social work, and higher education teaching and administration. A proud alumnus of South Carolina State University, an HBCU, she earned three graduate degrees from New York University and Teachers College of Columbia University. Her research work at the City University of New York was instrumental in shaping the field of education.

Emily's commitment to social justice, community action, and expanding access to quality education was personal. As a brilliant, ambitious woman of color, she came of age as she participated in the civil rights movement, was jailed for her participation in civil rights marches, and experienced firsthand the awful legacies of slavery. Emily became a lifelong warrior for justice and racial healing in many ways.

Emily was a devoted member of the Riverside Church since 1984, serving in many capacities, including on the Church Council and as Chair of the Education Commission. One of Emily's most significant contributions was her service with distinction for over twenty years as a Board Member and eventually as Chair of the Riverside Hawks. This program, which has touched and continues to touch many young lives through basketball, academics, community engagement, and personal mentoring, is a testament to her dedication and impact. Emily's service extended to other nonprofit organization boards, including the Young Adult Institute, the Coalition of 100 Black Women, the BMCC Early Childhood Center, and the Board of Trustees for Good Wolf.

Emily is survived by her devoted husband, Clarence Anderson, and her daughters, Victoria and Vanessa. The family has suggested that remembrances of Emily be in the form of donations to the Riverside Hawks in support of a scholarship fund established in Emily's name (<https://riversidehawks.org>).

We are grateful for having known Emily as a colleague and friend and for her wonderful impact on family, friends, our community, and the world.