

## Select Reflections - Dr. Orlynn Evans at Ricks Institute

*Sam G. Russ, Dragon '76*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Principles of Aerodynamics

The year is **1971**, - **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**. Dr. Evans gathered wide-eyed 13 year olds around his desk in the science classroom next to the science lab. He took out a white sheet of paper 8.5" by 11". He held it by the 8.5" end and allowed the 11" part to drop. He blew straight across the "curved" top of the paper. As he blew across, the lower end 11" end rose (lifted). He explained that was the illustration of the concept of "Lift" in aerodynamics – Bernoulli's principles – how the plane is lifted. He explained the concept to the "Drag" by holding his hand perpendicular as illustration of slowing the plane. He explained the "curvature shape" and "smooth surface" of the plane as minimizing the drag and the use of the "Rudder" to change the plane directions. He explained the use of "rivets" as the strongest bond for holding parts of the plane in place.

Every time I fly a plane, sit near the wings and watch the plane take off and land, I think of Dr. Evans and the invaluable lessons from his lectures and his significant impact in science at Ricks Institute.



*Dr. & Mrs. Evans (Younger Years)*

**Total Cost of Experiment:** Less than 5 cents

**Value of Knowledge Gained:** Invaluable

Dr. Evans placed heavy emphasis on understanding physics concepts. It came through in his lectures, the experiments, exams, etc. Even multiple choice questions tested your full understanding of the concepts.

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### Full Scholarship

The year is **1973** - **9<sup>th</sup> Grade**. Dr. Evans was teacher for 9th grade science and 12<sup>th</sup> grade physics. Rev. Walter Richards was Principal. Rev. Richards had introduced "Academic Distancing" – **ALL Exams** in the auditorium, classes interspersed and 6ft apart.

Prior to 1973 and each semester, my mom would get me ready and pay half of the semester's tuition. By mid-semester, she would hustle and pay the balance of my tuition, mainly by extending LPA. In 1973, life had become increasingly more challenging for the family and she could not make the payment on time. Rev. Richards was more rigid on delinquent tuition.

At the beginning of the exam, I was pulled out of the auditorium for not paying school fees. I walked out and stood outside the building at the top of the stairs. I was completely flustered – the exam going on behind me in the auditorium, my mom was more than 100 miles away in Gbarnga, no next of kin near, etc.

Two fortuitous events occurred that day. First, Dr. Evans was coming to the building and met me at the top of the stairs. He asked, “Sam, why are you out here?” I explained that I had been pulled out of the exam for tuition. He stared at me intensely for a while with a frown on his face. His face turned red. He did not say anything to me and went on into the building. I can imagine that he was quite upset that one of his best students would be out of the exams because of tuition. Secondly, just as Dr. Evans passed me, Mr. Anthony Duor, Business Manager, stepped out of his office and saw me. He asked me why I was not taking my exam. I explained that it was out because of tuition. He turned right around, went into his office and wrote a salary commitment for me to take my exam. I would make the payment after the exam.

Back to Dr. Evans. The following semester, Dr. Evans had secured a **Full Scholarship** for me. I had a full scholarship for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. **Thank you, Dr. Evans.**

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### **Contribution to the Science Lab Upgrade**

My class, 1976 – Etoile Filante, celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. We selected the renovation of the science lab as our class project. I was asked to lead the renovation and outfitting of the science lab. I was pleasantly surprised that Dr. Evans, advanced in age, would contribute to the renovation of the lab. **Thank you, Dr. Evans.**

### **Paying It Forward:**

I studied math/physics at the University of Liberia and geophysics for grad school. While in college, I taught physics at CWA, G.W. Gibson High School and Boatswain High School. After grad school, I taught physics and math at the University of Liberia for several years. My interest in physics and teaching style were significantly influenced by Dr. Evans. **Thank you, Dr. Evans.**