

# My Quest for an Internet

In this, the 46th installment of our weekly series at [emeagwali.com](http://emeagwali.com), we present a biographical, poetic tribute by Rita Aghadiuno to Philip Emeagwali.

A Father of the Internet

*E PLURIBUS UNUM*

by Margaret Aghadiuno @2003

Once a refugee standing on long lines  
awaiting his meal,

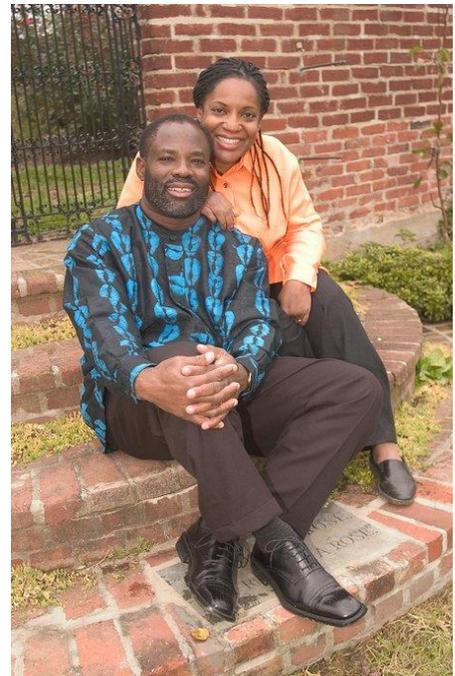
Sleeping in bombed-out shelters, willing  
himself to survive war,

From logarithms and slide rules to batches  
of punch cards,

Emeagwali learned the Fortran lingo at the speed of light;

Propelled by an ethereal sense of vocation and vision,

Demonstrating like a lion his proclivity to seek



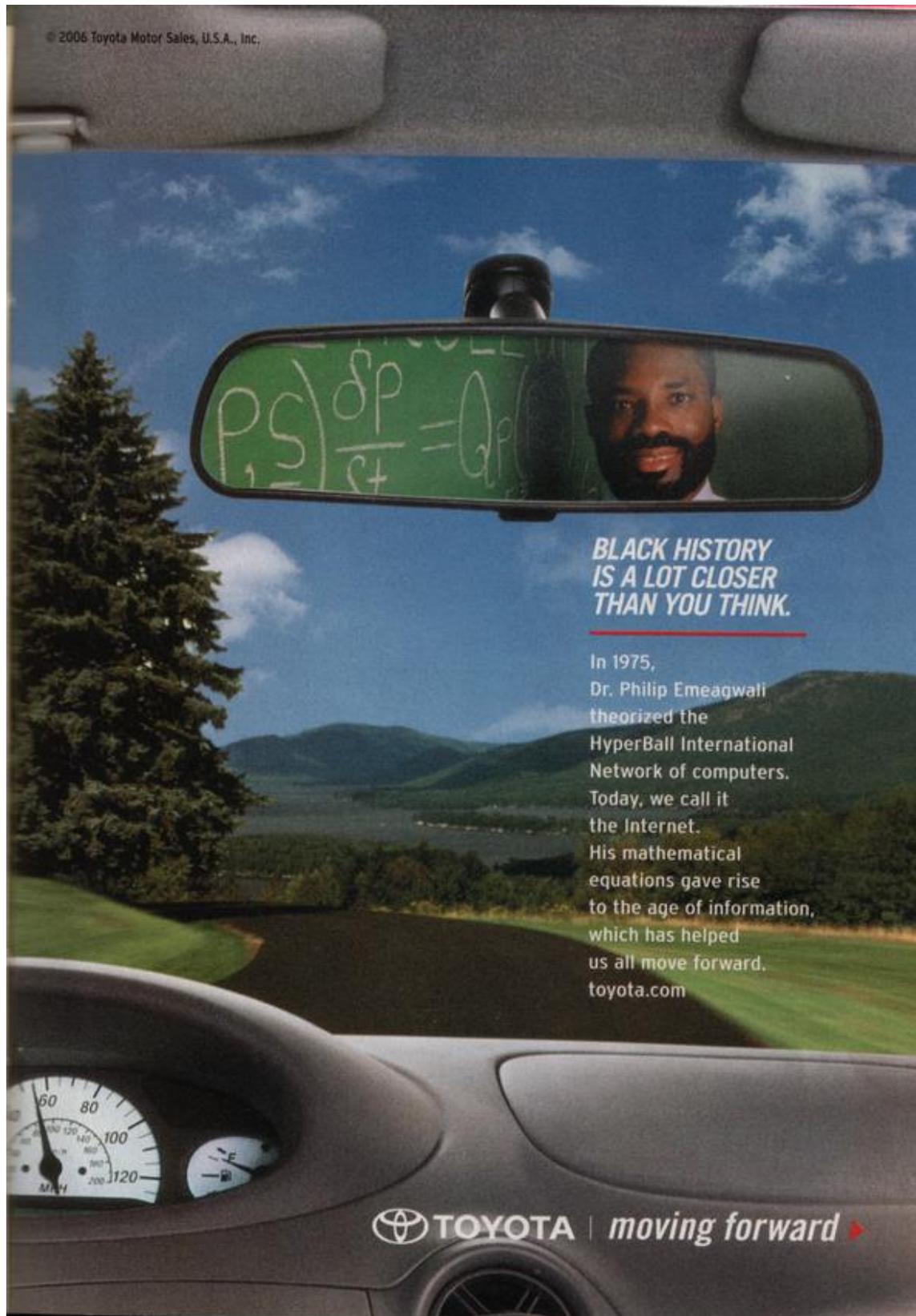
Philip and Dale Emeagwali

and to conquer those challenges most abstruse and exacting,  
With bold, daring, unprecedented and intrepid thinking;

Denied funds and easy access to research facilities,  
Ostensibly because his research was not deemed "serious"  
By those who failed to see his scintillating accomplishments,  
He tapped deeply into the unmapped boundaries of science;  
Treated less than an equal, working without pay or perquisite,  
Doors were constantly shut by those surprised he was not white,  
The tanned color of his skin condemned by peers as a stigma,  
With belief in the putative ignorance of Africa;

He took the thorny path to dispel the myth of error,  
Their aberration of a science genius from Africa;  
Where others found a wall replete with obfuscating visions,  
He unravelled an untapped vastness of possibilities;  
With sedulous focus, perception and unique enterprise,  
A lone, assiduous research into the matrix of science,  
He beat the odds to break all the barriers of time, space and depth,  
With only his wife Dale's unwavering belief in her Philip;

© 2006 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



**BLACK HISTORY  
IS A LOT CLOSER  
THAN YOU THINK.**

In 1975,  
Dr. Philip Emeagwali  
theorized the  
HyperBall International  
Network of computers.  
Today, we call it  
the Internet.  
His mathematical  
equations gave rise  
to the age of information,  
which has helped  
us all move forward.  
toyota.com

 **TOYOTA** | *moving forward* ▶

Tribute that appeared national newspapers, magazines, and radio in the United States.

<http://emeagwali.com> ®

202-203-8724

philip@[emeagwali.com](http://emeagwali.com)

Building on Richardson's fantasy on human computers,  
He simulated and surpassed the computational speed  
of the elite supercomputers once placed out of his reach,  
With revolutionary equations deemed "impossible";  
He harnessed the power of 65,000 processors,  
To perform the fastest computations ever known to man,  
Billions and billions of calculations per second he solved,  
For which feat Emeagwali received the Gordon Bell prize;

With genius unparalleled since Einstein, Newton, Equiano,  
He extrapolated the mystery of constellations,  
From observing the natural geometries and patterns,  
In the efficient construction of bees' honeycombs;  
He extended the barriers of interference and diffraction,  
and expanded the vectorial form of Navier-Stokes equations,  
Resolving heuristical arguments and algorithms,  
Momentum equations, convective motions, Cray's polemic;

Like a soaring eagle he continues his path to glory;  
Undeterred by bias, rejection or discrimination,  
He developed the theory of a computer hyperball,  
With his tessellated models for parallel computing,  
And the counter-intuitive hypercube paradox,  
Mass equations, helicity, chirality, duality-  
He unified the laws of nature, physics and geology  
Testament to a great mind that defies imagination;

A father of the internet, and a true son of the earth,  
He's the apotheosis of modern African genius.

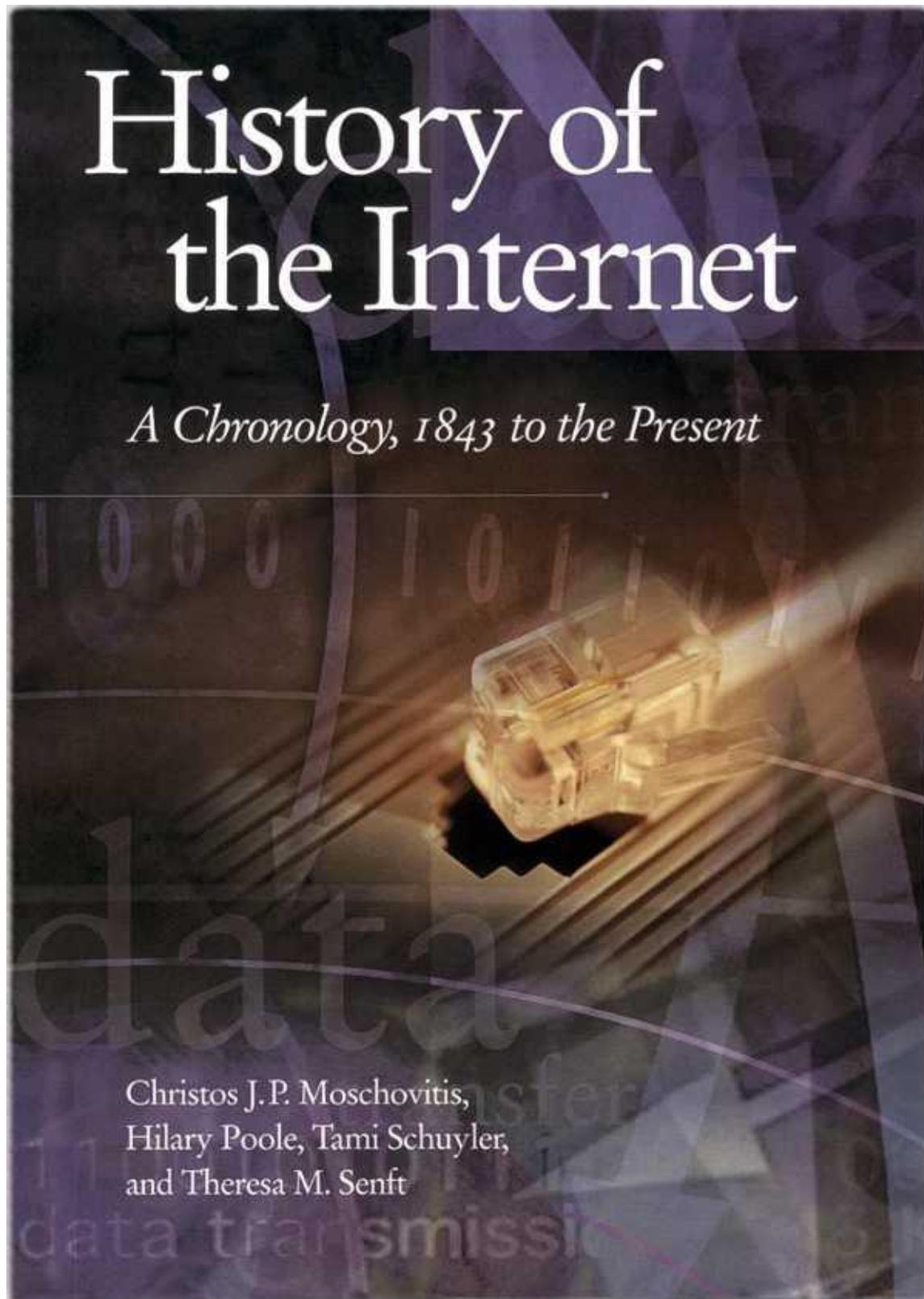


Rita Aghadiuno wrote this poem from New York.

Rita Aghadiuno developed her love for reading and writing at the age of 9, when her elementary school Librarian put her in charge of tidying up the school library. At the age of 17, she wrote her first novel, “The Second Bite” and since then has nurtured her dream to become an outstanding and prolific writer.

She crafts different genre of books: spirituality, poetry, fiction and non-fiction. She loves traveling around the world, driving long-distance, reviewing movies, gardening, gourmet cooking and the company of family and good friends.

Rita speaks several languages and has obtained graduate certificates and degrees in Translation, Editing and writing. She currently lives in upstate New York with her family.



This book "History of the Internet" contains a one-page profile of Philip Emeagwali