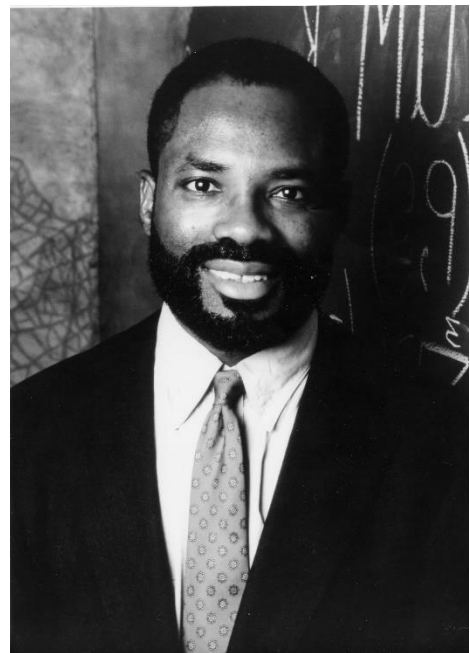


Life

Philip Emeagwali 23rd August 1954 is the only modern scientist most often ranked in the top 20 greatest minds that ever lived. That list includes Charles Darwin (1809–1882), Isaac Newton (1642–1727), William Shakespeare (1564-1616), Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519), Aristotle (384-322 BC), and Confucius (551-479 BC). The *Reader's Digest* described Philip Emeagwali as "smarter than Albert Einstein." Emeagwali is ranked as the [world's greatest living genius](#).

Philip Emeagwali lived in refugee camps during the 1967-70 Nigerian-Biafran War and is in the Gallery of Prominent Refugees of the United Nations. At age 14 in July 1969, he was conscripted into the Biafran Army and sent to the Oguta War theater to replace one of the 500 Biafran soldiers who were killed a month earlier. In the list of the worst genocidal crimes of the 20th century committed against humanity, the death of one in fifteen Biafrans was ranked fifth.

Due to the Nigerian Civil War, Philip Emeagwali dropped out of school for five years but developed a reputation in Onitsha (Nigeria) as a gifted teenager. He caught the attention of American scholars and was awarded a scholarship on September 10, 1973, to the United States where he researched for two decades and contributed to mathematics, physics, and computer science. Philip Emeagwali is in the top ten rankings of geniuses, inventors, Nigerians, and was voted the 35th greatest African of all time.



PHILIP EMEAGWALI

In 1989, Philip Emeagwali rose to fame when he won a recognition described as the Nobel Prize of Supercomputing and made the news headlines for his invention of world's fastest computing across an Internet that's a global network of processors. That vital technology underpins every supercomputer and changed the way we look at the computer. *Time* magazine called him the

"unsung hero" behind the Internet and CNN called him "A Father of the Internet." *House Beautiful* magazine ranked his invention among nine important everyday things taken for granted. In a White House speech of August 26, 2000, then U.S. President Bill Clinton described Philip Emeagwali as "one of the great minds of the Information Age." He is married to research molecular biologist Dale Emeagwali, and they have one son together.

Invention

For half a century, the supercomputer used one processor to solve one problem at a time. On July 4, 1989, Philip Emeagwali discovered how to solve 65,536 problems at once and across a global network of 65,536 processors that's a new Internet. That invention changed the way we look at the new supercomputer—as solving problems across one billion brains, or processors—and put the name Philip Emeagwali into school essays on contributions to the development of the computer and the Internet.

<http://emeagwali.com> <https://facebook.com/emeagwali>
<https://twitter.com/emeagwali> <https://instagram.com/philipemeagwali>
<https://flickr.com/philipemeagwali> <https://emeagwali.tumblr.com>
<https://linkedin.com/in/emeagwali> <https://soundcloud.com/emeagwali>
<https://youtube.com/emeagwali>

Philip Emeagwali Facts

Name: Chukwurah Philip Emeagwali
Born: 23 August 1954, Akure, Nigeria
Invention: **Fastest Computing Across Processors**
Residence: Washington, DC, USA
Email: philip@emeagwali.com
Telephone: 202-203-8724



Philip and Dale Emeagwali, Montego Bay, Jamaica

More Info: emeagwali.com (complete biography and photos)
[YouTube.com/emeagwali](https://www.youtube.com/emeagwali) (one thousand autobiographical videos)

Timeline, Awards, Honors & Prizes

- 1954 Breathed his first air in late afternoon Monday August 23, 1954 in a hospital in Akure in then British West African colony of Nigeria.
- 1955 Grew up in Sapele and Uromi with short stays in the coastal towns of — Forcados and Burutu. The oldest child with eight siblings, he was tutored
- 1963 in mathematics by his father in his childhood and developed early interest in maths.

- 1964 Recognized (by St. John's School, Agbor) as hometown's calculating prodigy, the fastest human computer.
- 1965 Recognized (by Common Entrance Examiners) as a math prodigy.
- 1969 Joined the Biafran army at age 14, after two years in refugee camps.
- 1970 Nicknamed "Calculus" at age 15 for his precocity and after his 568-page book on "[infinitesimal calculus](#)" and his "calculo analog computer."
- 1972 Mentioned in the science column of the *Daily Times* of Nigeria at age 17.
- 1973 Received four-year scholarship offer from Oregon, United States.
- 1974 Conceived 64,000 computers—3,000 square miles apart—around the world, now called an internet.
- 1974 First newspaper interview in Oregon, United States at age 19.
- 1975 Trained as an astronomer at Oregon State University, his stepping stone to [NASA astronaut](#) hopeful.
- 1977 Ends four-year scholarship. Begins fourteen-year fellowship.
- 1978 Philip Emeagwali became engaged to Dale Brown in Baltimore, Maryland. They married on August 15, 1981.
- 1979 Trained as a research engineer, physicist, and mathematician.
- 1989 **emeagwali.com** becomes [first](#) personal website, with "First Use" date of [June 22, 1989](#)
- 1989 The first and only lone and solitary programmer to program sixteen supercomputers, each powered by up to two-to-power sixteen computers.
- 1989 The first and only lone winner of the Gordon Bell Prize, the highest honor in supercomputing.
- 1989 First and second place in local Michigan [Tennis Tournaments](#).
- 1990 Dale gives birth to the couple's son, Ijeoma.
- 1990 Garnered [international headlines](#) for solving one of the 20 most difficult problems in computing.
- 1991 [Scientist of the Year](#), National Society of Black Engineers
- 1993 [Computer Scientist of the Year](#), National Technical Association
- 1993 Distinguished [Supercomputer](#) Visitor (IEEE, largest technical society)

- 1993 Critics noted that the idea of the black supercomputer genius in the movie *Jurassic Park* was taken from the Emeagwali story of the 1980s.
- 1993 A cut or two from selection as [NASA astronaut](#).
- 1993 Ran 26.2-mile marathons in the decades of the late 1970s thru 90s.
- 1995 Distinguished Supercomputer [Lecturer](#) (ACM, largest computing society)
- 1995 [Pioneer of the Year](#), National Society of Black Engineers
- 1996 50th anniversary tributes to the [Fathers of the Computer](#)
- 1996 Voted *Essence* magazine's ten most beautiful men (June 1996)
- 1996 America's Best & Brightest, *Dollars & Sense* magazine
- 1996 [Distinguished Eagle Achievement Award](#), Nigerian Eagles Society
- 1996 [Nigerian Achiever of the Year](#), Network Africa
- 1997 Bloggers noted that the janitor-mathematician in the movie *Good Will Hunting* was copied after a true story of a black janitor ([Emeagwali](#), March 1974)
- 1998 [Distinguished Scientist Award](#), World Bank & IMF
- 1999 *100 Greatest Nigerians* of all time (Internet survey)
- 1999 Influencers and Innovators of the Internet, MOBE
- 1999 [Pioneer of the Internet](#), History of the Internet
- 1999 100 Years of Black Achievement, *Ebony* magazine (December 1999)
- 2000 President Bill Clinton: "one of the great minds of the Information Age"
- 2000 [Gallery of Prominent Refugees](#), United Nations
- 2001 *Who's Who in 20th Century America*
- 2001 ARCO Award (ARCO Petrochemical Engineering Co, London)
- 2001 Best Scientist in Africa, Pan African Broadcasting, Heritage and Achievement Awards
- 2002 100 Most Influential Blacks in America, *Savoy* magazine, Jun. '02 and Aug. '03
- 2002 The Eagle Award (London)
- 2002 Africa's Most Famous Scientist ([best-known Africans of all time](#))
- 2003 Extolled by the [United States Congress](#) for contributions to humanity.
- 2003 World's [Most Searched-For](#) Scientist
- 2003 Second [Most Searched-For](#) Nigerian

- 2003 Eighth [Most Searched-For](#) African
- 2004 Ranked history's [#1 scientist](#) of African descent.
- 2004 Voted History's [35th Greatest African](#)
- 2005 Doctor of Science *honoris causa*
- 2005 "Round of Applause" for [The Father of the Internet, House of Representatives](#), Illinois
- 2005 Voted African of the Year, **Africa Man of the Year 2005** (APi Awards)
- 2005 Toyota Salutes Emeagwali for helping "us all move forward ... to the age of information" in hundreds of magazines and radio stations.
- 2006 Two [postage stamps](#) honor Emeagwali as a "supercomputer genius."
- 2007 [Commonwealth of Virginia](#) extolled the [creative genius and contributions of ... Philip Emeagwali](#).
- 2007 Proclamation of April 18 as [Philip Emeagwali Day](#) in City of Lansing, **Michigan**.
- 2007 Resolution recognizing "**A Father of the Internet**," City of East Lansing a.k.a. "Home of [Michigan State University](#)."
- 2007 Special Tribute in **Michigan House of Representatives** for "tremendous impact on the state of Michigan."
- 2007 Award from **Governor of Michigan** for "tireless contributions" to Michigan.
- 2007 History's [70 Greatest Black Achievers](#).
- 2007 "Unsung Hero" Behind the Internet, [TIME](#) magazine.
- 2008 "Eight Africans You Should Know," *Ebony* magazine.
- 2008 **emeagwali.com** recognized as well-known [trademark](#).
- 2009 Headlined *Kshitij* (Asia's largest techno-management festival) as the "**Father of Supercomputer**"
- 2009 *Emeagwali* named in stamps, schools, streets, sci-fi and songs.
- 2009 **Emeagwali Conference**: First biennial science festival.
- 2009 *Exam Syllabi*: Featured in national exams (e.g. two essay portions of Sept. 09 and Dec. 09 of the U.S. [Law School Admission Test](#)).
- 2009 Six American universities claim Philip Emeagwali as **notable alumni**.
- 2009 *Inventors & Trailblazers*: Ask your public librarian for books.

- 2009 Voted top *20 Living Legends* in Nigeria in poll by *Vanguard* newspaper and STV television.
- 2010 **Emeagwali Prize:** A newly instituted award honoring African scientists.
- 2011 **Emeagwali Conference:** Biennial technology festival.
[Texas House of Representatives](#) commendation for world's fastest computer
- 2012 **Ten Highest IQs** in [History](#).
- 2012 **Google Most-Searches:** black scientist and inventor
- 2012 **Google Most-Searches:** For "Nigerian Father"
Google Most-Searches: For "American Father of the ..."
- 2012 **Google Most-Searches:** For "African Father"
- 2012 **Google Most-Searches:** For "Father of the Internet."
- 2012 **Google Most-Searches:** For contributions to the development of the computer.
- 2013 **Google Most-Searches:** For "Father of Supercomputer."
- 2013 Listed in [Fathers](#) of the Computer (Google, U.S. school reading lists)
High School Syllabi: Featured in four million copies of study guides for
- 2014 GED, which is America's version of British GCE 'O' Level.
- 2014 Listed by public librarians as an inventor learned in American schools.
- 2014 A quarter of a century in **U.S. curricula** (from first grade to graduate schools). Entering curricula in Africa, Great Britain, and the Caribbean.
- 2014 Biography aligned with United States Common Core Standards for "Stories About Scientists"
- 2015 Philip Emeagwali [historic-preservation](#) lecture archive
- 2016 Philip Emeagwali recurring in lists of greatest geniuses that ever lived