



Roderick Douglas Bush  
November 12, 1945 – December 5, 2013

It is with considerable sadness that I report that one of our finest PhD graduates (1992) and friend, Rod Bush, passed Thursday night. Throughout his life Rod embraced and exemplified a passionate commitment to social justice and black liberation. He knew and practiced this as a collective endeavor: he was a member of, among others, the Movement for African American Unity, the Congress of African People, the Student Organization for Black Unity/Youth Organization for Black Unity, the African Liberation Support Committee, the Revolutionary Workers League (M-L), the Black Radical Congress, and most recently, a board member of the left forum.

Rod brought to Binghamton this passion and a keen, sharp intellect—qualities evident in his major works, most notably *The End of White World Supremacy: Black Internationalism and the Problem of the Color Line* (Temple University Press, 2007) and *We Are Not What We Seem: Black Nationalism and Class Struggle in the American Century* (New York: New York University Press, 1999). A jointly authored book with his partner of over thirty years, Melanie, was just delivered to the publisher last month.

Among Rod's greatest legacies to us are his personal teachings and his students—something evident in the large community of friends, activists, fellow teachers, and current and former students who surrounded him in his last days. This included a Binghamton group, from faculty he taught to the talented undergraduate students whom he had over the years directed toward our Phd program. The legions of undergraduate students he mentored at St. Johns capture his remarkable qualities well in their (anonymous) reports to fellow students:

He is one of the most amazing professors ever! He deeply cares about his students He is simply wonderful. He is a good man and tries to help every single student as much as he can. There are no words to describe his kindness.

An exceptional man of tremendous character. His teachings are not abstract entities that are exterior to his being. He has lived and continues to live what he is teaching. He breathes life into the lessons he dispenses. One is truly lucky to come across a man of his caliber, both as an educator and a human being. Truly inspiring

I love that man, and everyone I know loves him too. I am still taking his classes and he is just wonderful.

In this important sense Rod has not left us: he continues to teach us lessons from within and among us. We have much yet to learn from him, and to share from his gifts to us over so many years.

The funeral will take place in Florida and a Memorial Service will take place in New York City at a later date. Messages to the family and for the service may be sent/posted at [carepages.com](http://carepages.com) (you will need to register and then search for "powertothepeople").

Bill Martin