

DR MICHAEL SINCLAIR

(-2019)

Dr Michael Sinclair served as Deputy Director of the Education Programme from 1982-85.

- *Sadly I must report the death of Dr Michael Sinclair, the Canadian educational planner, who was Deputy Director of the Education Programme in the first half of the 1980s. He was 80. Although he served relatively briefly as a ComSec staff member Michael continued from his Toronto home base to take an interest in Commonwealth educational co-operation and kept in touch with former colleagues for several years.*

*Fortunately collaboration in this sector is built on deep foundations with a strong and resilient infrastructure and the successors to our departed colleagues feel better equipped by the insights and innovations they have pioneered to take their work forward in the years ahead for the benefit of Commonwealth learners and education systems. We are grateful to them all. **Peter Williams***

MS NOREEN JOHN

(-2019)



Ms Noreen John worked as Adviser in the General Technical Assistance Division for almost two decades starting 1990s.

- *I've just heard of the untimely passing of Noreen John in Dominica, after an illness.*

Before joining ComSec, I knew Noreen from CAFRA (Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action), a regional feminist organization of which she was a member; and SPAT (Small Projects Assistance Team), a progressive development NGO in Dominica, at which she worked.

She was also Dominica's National Representative on CAFRA's regional body. And she led the organization of a CAFRA national group in Dominica, organized around a "Women in Caribbean Agriculture" research/action project.

We were also friends and colleagues at ComSec. She was the Gender Focal Point (GFP) of her Division (GTASD), and was very involved in collaborating with the Gender Section.

*In 2013, while doing some work in Dominica, I saw her often at Government meetings as well as informally, including visiting her home in Grand Bay. She was the (then) Director of Legal Aid, and was very involved in supporting the work of the Government's Gender Bureau. At the time of her passing, she was an election candidate for her beloved Grand Bay. **Rawwida Baksh***

- *How tragic. May she rest in everlasting peace. **Magna Aidoo***
- *I am very sorry to hear this, having enjoyed my time working with Noreen in GTAS in the 1990s. A valued colleague and enjoyable company out of the office, including when I visited London in the 2000s. Thanks for filling in details of her life since leaving ComSec, and I am sure in her passing Dominica has lost a very effective potential politician. **Chris Bowman***
- *Very sad to hear of such a vibrantly useful person as Noreen to die young. It is traumatic just when she was entering a new phase of life as a politician. Please convey my condolences to the family if possible. May she be in heavenly bliss. **Selina Mohsin***
- *I'm deeply saddened by former colleague Noreen's untimely death. It was a pleasure working alongside her in GTAS over many years. We had great laughs together and I enjoyed her sense of humour. I last saw her after she had just moved back to Dominica and was looking forward to contribute to the development of her beloved Dominica. Tributes to her in the local newspapers say it all.*

*Farewell Noreen. You will be greatly missed by all your beloved ones. **Francoise Chapman***

- *May the Almighty give her everlasting joy, and rest her in eternal peace! My condolences go to her family and friends. **Evelyn Adlam***

Selected links:

[Noreen John laid to rest in her community of Grand Bay](#)

[Lawyers gathered at the High Court to pay tribute to Noreen John](#)

[Launch of the Noreen John Foundation - Dominica News Online](#)

Celebration of the life of Hilda Valerie Noreen John Sunrise: 21st April, 1953
- Sunset: 21st May, 2019

SIR ALISTER MCINTYRE

(1930-2019)



Sir Alister McIntyre, former Chancellor of the University of West Indies and a distinguished economist, served on many Commonwealth and international investigations into the economies of small member states. He was a good friend of the Commonwealth and someone who contributed a good deal to it.

- *Others in the Secretariat and wider Commonwealth family will have known Sir Alister over a long period and will be acquainted with his major contributions to Caribbean, Commonwealth and international development.*

One of his less well-known contributions to the Commonwealth was his chairmanship, when Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, of the Third Ten-Year Review of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in 1993. This was the context in which for a short time I worked closely with him, as Director of Education.

*It was indeed a brief experience but one that leaves the most vivid memories. Some are of Alister mastering his brief and chairing the review group with charm and consummate skill. Even more I recall the friendly and unassuming manner in which he befriended Secretariat staff of all grades and his readiness to focus exclusively on the job in hand for several days in succession, apparently laying aside his other preoccupations. He rolled up his sleeves, sat with us late into the evening - cheap takeaways instead of the posh hotel dinners he could have been enjoying - for two or three evenings in succession in our extremely unappealing Quadrant House office accommodation until a good draft report, bearing the stamp of his own personal insights, was complete. It is only now, incidentally, 25 years later, that some of the Group's best ideas about purposefully linking Scholarships with the Commonwealth key policy concerns are seeing the light of day. That short encounter with Alister brought home to me how admirable a role model he was and how fortunate must have been those who served with, and learnt from, him over long periods. **Peter Williams***

- *As a rather belated follow-up to Peter Williams' comments on the late Sir Alister McIntyre, perhaps I can add a little regarding Sir Alister's interaction with the Economic Affairs Division. This followed the 1975 CHOGM's decision to set up a small group of experts "to draw up a comprehensive and interrelated programme of practical measures directed at closing the gap between rich and poor countries", with Sir Alister as Chairman. It resulted in about half a dozen of us in EAD working closely with him during the subsequent two years, especially at Expert Group meetings in Ottawa, London and Ibadan. In many ways this Group set the template and was among the first of over half a dozen groups of experts serviced by EAD during the next fifteen or so years. Its report was important in setting the agenda for what became known in the UN as the 'New International Economic Order.'*

*I believe I can say that we in EAD always found Sir Alister to have shown astute leadership, an enduring capacity for sustained hard work, a great grasp of technical detail, and a friendly and amiable disposition towards those of us who serviced his Group and otherwise came into contact with him. He is greatly missed. **Ian Thomas***

- *I would like to send the CWAssn tributes to Doriene Rowan Campbell (formerly Wilson-Smillie, Director of Gender and Development) who is a close friend of the McIntyre family and is in close touch with them. I believe that they would be very pleased and that it would bring some comfort. **Lorna McLaren***

Selected links:

- [Editorial: The Caribbean ideals of Sir Alister McIntyre - Antigua Observer Newspaper](#)

- [Remembering Sir Alister McIntyre – A unique barnd and a colossus | Caribbean News Service](#)
- [Editorial | Sir Alister's value](#)

MS GEORGINA WILSON

(-2019)

Ms Georgina Wilson worked in several divisions of the Commonwealth Secretariat in the 1980s onwards.

- *I am sorry that Georgiana Wilson, our beautiful and most elegant colleague, died recently after a short illness. She was a most supportive member of the CA, and was a thoughtful and kind colleague, who was admired and respected by all who served with her in the decades of her service to the Commonwealth. **Patsy Robertson** (Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)*
- *She was such a lovely person, very elegant lady with a nice personality. She would have been 72 on 20 October. I remember with fond memories. May her gentle soul rest in the Lord's bosom. **Beatrice Morgan***
- *May her soul rest in peace. Party's tribute has said it ALL, she was wonderful Lady to work with during my 30 years of service in ComSec. My condolences go to her family she left behind. **Godson Okafor***
- *So sorry to hear this very sad news. She was a lovely lady. In sorrow, **Stuart Mole** (Deputy Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)*
- *So sad to learn of Georgie's untimely death. We all loved her in FPRD. May she rest in peace knowing how much she was loved and admired. **Antony Ellman***
- *This is really sad. MHSRIP. **Gertrude Nkhuwa***
- *I cannot improve on Patsy's words. She was a most supportive member of the CA, and was a thoughtful and kind colleague, who was admired and respected by all who served with her in the decades of her service to the Commonwealth. May Georgina rest in peace and may our little tributes give some sympathy to her family. **Raja Gomez***
- *Such sad news. I remember Georgina for her elegance and gentleness. My sincere condolences to her family and friends. **Lorna McLaren***
- *Sad news indeed. I remember her well - Georgina was a delightful colleague whose friendship I valued highly. Condolences to her family. **Chris Bowman***

- *Georgie's loss is felt acutely by her former Education Programme colleagues too, all the more so in that her final illness - whose seriousness we didn't appreciate at the time - had prevented her joining us at the Marlborough House Reunion we held this July to celebrate 60 years of Commonwealth educational co-operation (CW Education Conference Oxford July 1959). So regrettably some of us hadn't seen her as recently as we'd have wished.*

My own memories of Georgie are clear - she was a respected, very well liked and dedicated member of a strong team in Education in the late 80s/early 90s and served several years with us in Quadrant House days. Alas, my historical memories are more hazy and whether ours was her first ComSec posting others will know better; because from the many tributes it's clear she worked in many different parts of the Secretariat at different times as well as later with the CW Association.

*Nor did I ever quite resolve with her when to resort to the 'Georgiana' of her email address or the 'Georgina' more frequently used in referring to her. Whichever is preferred, 'Georgie' will be greatly missed, but remembered with real affection and gratitude. **Peter Williams***