



COMPILATION OF TRIBUTES

MARY ALISON
ANDERSON-
MCLEAN

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Department of Government
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of the West Indies, Mona
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It is always very difficult to say goodbye to someone whom you deeply admire and who have helped to shape your academic journey. I met Ms Alison Anderson in 1996 when I joined the Department of Government as an undergraduate student pursuing a BSc degree in International Relations. She was one of the first UWI lecturers I encountered as she was my GOVT1008 – Introduction to International Relations lecturer. I remember clearly just like yesterday the bright Monday morning, my first day of lecture at UWI – a group of us entered the SSLT where we were scheduled to have GOVT1008. I could not fathom that the petite lady walking towards us was the lecturer for the course.

It wasn't long before we learnt that she would be our lecturer for the semester and that her name was Alison Anderson. As the lecture proceeded, two things stood out: her soft unique voice and more importantly, the knowledge and enthusiasm she had for International Relations. This love for International Relations was further conveyed in her tutorials as I was fortunate enough to have her as my tutor. We had tutorials on Tuesdays at 10am in her office (yes those were the days when all tutorials were held in the lecturers offices) in Room 47. In retrospect, among the persons who were in her tutorial that year was Jermaine McCalpin. As we proceeded through the Programme, Ms. Anderson was always there to inspire us, as she also lectured us in our second and third year.



In the final year of the Programme, Ms. Anderson was my lecturer for GOVT3055 – Theories and Practice of International Negotiations – I still remember the simulation exercise and my assigned role as chief negotiator for the hypothetical entity that she created that year. I wondered why she chose me for such a role and I spent the better part of the semester just preparing and going to Room 47 ever so often to ask her to review my position paper and to listen while I deliver it.

After completing graduate studies, I asked Ms. Anderson why on earth she assigned me the role of chief negotiator that year. I was surprised by her reply – she said “Suzette I think you were a good student and had much to contribute and that was my way of pulling you out of your shell”. This was her way of mentoring me.

Over her tenure as a UWI Lecturer, Ms Anderson has mentored many students, some of whom are currently contributing to academia. I can think of myself, Prof. David Tennant, Prof. Lloyd Waller, Dr. Lisa Vasciannie, Dr. Jermaine McCalpin to name a few and many others too numerous to mention.

Ms Anderson was not only a brilliant International Relations scholar, she was also a practitioner who deeply loved Jamaica. She has served in the capacities of Director of the Child Development Agency, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture and Gender where she continued to contribute to national development.

She cherished family and friends. And she had lots of friends as her vivacious personality drew people in. Throughout my undergraduate studies in the Department, I remember the inseparable bond she shared with her colleagues and particularly with Dr Christine Cummings, another lecturer from the Department. I would often see them engaging in academic discourse as they enjoy a cigarette or two. As the years progressed, I learnt about her two sons but more so about Solomon. And I learnt about her husband whom she referred to as ‘Chemist’. Her family gave her much joy and you could see the twinkle in her eyes and a special smile when she spoke about them.

Mrs Anderson McLean was always pleasant and upbeat. And she loved to dance. I recall one incident, as a group of friends and well-wishers gathered for her husband’s wake – Dr McLean – while we were chatting, a particular song came on, and we saw Mrs Anderson McLean jumped up and started dancing. She danced to all the songs for the better part of the night. Later on she told me that she loved to dance and if she didn’t danced she would cry.

Today, I remember Mrs Alison Anderson McLean as an inspiring and brilliant International Relations scholar, a practitioner who was deeply interested in national development, a UWI – Department of Government lecturer, a family-oriented person and a happy and caring human being. May her soul rest in peace and light perpetually shine upon her.

Dr. Suzette Haughton
Head, Department of Government

I and other members of the Department of Government, Mona had the privilege of working with and benefitting from Allison's contribution to the Department for 15 years as a full-time staff member, and for 8 of those I was the Head of the Department. Allison's work was exemplary; her commitment to her students unmatched; her passion for whatever she was doing limitless – she put everything into whatever she was up to.

She was clearly a visionary. She developed and strengthened an annual simulation exercise for final year International Relation students. Her last such exercise, as a full time staff member, was in April 2001 and pointed to her profound interest in the youth.

The exercise simulated a World Youth Conference with the theme "Vision and Action for Human Rights: A Challenge to Youth in the New Millennium". The students were to represent 18 countries and to speak on a range of matters in particular the welfare of children and young people. This was of course a prelude to her career in the public service, championing the cause of children and young.

After her untimely passing, I had a word with some of her then final year students as to how they remembered her ... the recurring comments:

"Allison's passion" ... "her elephant memory, her knowledge of international negotiations...her willingness to stand up for what she believed in".

One of her best students put it this way "Allison had the ability to tell when a student entered her office and was in need of guidance or just needed to talk or blow off steam, once you entered and she looked at you and asked "wah gwaan?" ...without even responding she knows what direction to take the reasoning. Sometimes it was easy to forget that she was your lecturer and not your linky".

All mentioned and could never forget that inimitable high pitched voice, a voice of passion, of courage and of commitment. The department was the worse off for losing her in 2003 but what we lost, the movement for children's rights, nationally and regionally gained from her contribution.

May I express sincere condolences to her mother, two sons, close family and many friends. Please take comfort in Allison's outstanding contribution to Jamaica and in particular the cause of children and youth.

Prof Trevor Munroe, CD, DPhil (oxon)
Executive Director
National Integrity Action
Former Head of the Department of Government, UWI Mona
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Remembering Alison

I first met Alison in September 1979. It was my first class as a young UWI graduate tutor and it was her first tutorial in introduction to politics as an 18-year old first year student. She called herself Mary then. Those first memories stood out throughout the years, her friendly personality, but more importantly for me as a tutor, being the first of my students to have received an A for an assignment. That first essay struck me as different and special, easily above most. For years she laughed about that essay's title, roughly, 'the State is a product and manifestation of the irreconcilability of class antagonisms. Discuss.' If that has a Rupert Lewis ring to it, it should. He was the lecturer. I remembered it again upon Alison's sad passing. As I read the public acknowledgements of her bright career, I thought, Alison lived out this irreconcilability as intellectual and child care advocate. In life, she accepted that international law was a critical arbiter, between strong and weak in those irreconcilable class conflicts; and child care was a the special case she took up to defend in the midst of this ever vicious struggle. Alison became arbiter, not just in her island home but globally at the level of the United Nations. Children must be protected from the often sharp conflicts over funding, child neglect and abuse, and the absence of good laws in the struggles between employer and worker; IMF austerity aligned with neo-liberal mean-spiritedness-; poor and victimized families; and inhuman child labour built on man's injustice to man. In the end, I give her another A, this time for her life's work. She acted out her role in a perennially conflicted State to the end. She reached a height easily above most graduates because she worked hard for children. The lyrics to a song title once written on her office door said: "Look over yonder; what do you see; the sun is rising; so definitely; a new day is coming; people are changing; ain't it beautiful; crystal blue persuasion." That's the world Alison envisioned and has now surely entered.

Rest in Peace and Love Mary.

Robert Buddan





I am a proud former student of Mary Alison Anderson-McLean. As my former lecturer in International Law, at the University of the West Indies, Alison was, in large part, responsible for influencing my decision to pursue a career in international relations. She deftly introduced us to important and foundational concepts in international relations and international law. Alison pushed us, in her inimitable way, to think through the issues and, importantly, to think for ourselves, to articulate and defend our points of view. With her encouragement, further study was not an option, but rather a mission

As we will all agree, Alison was no “shrinking violet”, she was a true warrior in the field. She meant what she said and said what she meant and, most of all, she stood on her principles. Over the years as she moved on to ever greater responsibilities, she embodied this approach and could always be relied to speak her truth. She was a shining example of an academic, civil servant, international public servant, mother and mentor.

We all, in some way, carry part of her legacy. I strive, daily, to emulate her consummate professionalism and readiness to stand for her beliefs. In so doing, we will each make our own corners and spheres of influence the better for it. She has, indeed, fought the good fight and we will honour her by continuing to do so.

In paying tribute to Alison, let us remember, “Death is not extinguishing the light. It is putting out the lamp, because the dawn has come.”

Alison may your beautiful soul rest in sweet peace and may light perpetual shine upon you.

Walk good!

David Prendergast
Ambassador
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Kingston, Jamaica



Tribute to Mrs Alison Anderson McLean, former colleague of the Department of Government, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica

I have been in sombre mode for the last ten days since receiving news of the passing of my former colleague and friend, Mrs Alison Anderson McLean. Mrs McLean, Professor Stephen Vasciannie and I met as the core of the International Relations Unit of the Department of Government in August 1994 and we spent several years working together on the undergraduate and graduate components of our International Relations programmes at UWI Mona. Alison and Stephen had both done their own undergraduate work years before at Mona. I was the newcomer to the Campus and to the Department, having studied previously at UWI Cave Hill and UWI St. Augustine, before going further afield for my doctoral work. Alison and Stephen were very instrumental in showing me the Departmental and disciplinary ropes as they operated in the DoG/FSS context at UWI Mona. Alison and I also had in common the fact that we were young mothers, continuously sprinting the double shift, juggling domestic and academic responsibilities. My last conversation with her was in 2019 when we discussed a training project initiative. It was good to be back in touch. We all began teaching IR here in 1994, just as the student registration for the IR B.Sc. degree began to increase exponentially. This was as a result of growing recognition of burgeoning globalization and the need for every young professional to be more aware of transnational socio-economic and governance trends, and it was also linked to new trends in tertiary education and universities' drive to attract more students. So together we experienced our class sizes growing by 400% over a three year period, and together we had to learn new pedagogical methods and strategies very quickly, including delivering morning and evening lectures for the same course every week. Alison bore the brunt of this as she taught Levels One, Two and Three in the B.Sc. IR. She was a good teacher and student mentor, who took particular pride and pleasure in developing the course on Theory and Practice of International Negotiation, which had a multilateral negotiations simulation exercise as its crowning glory, and was universally anticipated and enjoyed by our undergraduate IR cohort. Alison was outspoken at faculty meetings and brought innovative suggestions to enrich our curriculum and its delivery. She and her great friend Dr Christine Cummings were key to the Department's ethos and they kept us all grounded with their wry and sometimes mocking humour, pragmatism and loyalty to the Department.

Alison moved on from UWI to the public sector. She distinguished herself in public administration and public policy as it related to child protection and children's rights, gender and women's rights and education. Her career path rose beyond the national level to culminate in her final post as the Representative of UN Women at the Eastern Caribbean office in Barbados. Alison McLean's professional profile should serve as a guide for many young people, students today who often wonder what they will do with degrees in International Relations, Political Science, Public Policy. Alison had a mix of IR and Pol.Sci. training, willingness to work in the public sector and to engage with social development policies and with civil society, and a commitment to helping vulnerable groups in our society – this was the recipe and formula that brought her professional growth and success.

Alison had an indomitable spirit, much energy and a great capacity to enjoy life, which helped her to confront and overcome the many ups and downs which we all face, some more than others. I am saddened by her untimely passing, and my thoughts, prayers and sympathy go especially to her two sons, her mother and the rest of her family and friends. May you be comforted and sustained by your treasure of wonderful memories of our colleague and friend, and by the certainty that she rests peacefully in a place that is beyond pain, sadness and fear.

Rest in peace, Alison.

Jessica Byron (Professor)
Director, Institute of International Relations,
The UWI St Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago





Good Bye, Alison

Mary Alison Anderson McLean's passing has brought much sadness to my heart. From the time of our first interactions in our teenage years in the 1970s, Alison impressed me with her intellectual prowess, determination and her enthusiasm for life. In her post-St. Andrew High days, Alison flourished in Taylor Hall, UWI, as a prominent student leader, analyst on public affairs and sporting expert on the sidelines. In those days in Taylor Hall, Alison established a reputation for scholarship and camaraderie, and entered campus politics in 1980 as part of a successful three-member group – the “Value” team.

In Taylor Hall, too, Alison was our resident International Relations expert, who spoke in erudite terms about matters such as ideological distinctions between the ANC and the PAC in apartheid South Africa, the objectives and prospects of the Non-Aligned Movement and the nuances which underpinned the quest for a New International Economic Order.

Following her outstanding UWI student days, Alison headed off to Cambridge where she continued to shine brilliantly, taking the Masters degree in International Relations through Trinity Hall. In those days, the versatile Alison took to barbering and hair styling for some of Caribbean and African friends: whenever there was a tonsorial mishap, Alison – with her characteristically warm smile -- would attribute this to the unusual shape of the client's head.

By natural progression, Alison's intellectual journey led her to the Department of Government at UWI as a highly rated and popular lecturer in International Relations. And, subsequently, she was to prove that there can be life after an exciting time in that Department by taking up a number of senior positions in the Government of Jamaica and at the United Nations, particularly in areas of child care and development, gender relations, youth activity and community advancement.

At St. Andrew, at Knox College, at her universities and in government service, Alison's generosity, caring disposition, irrepressible spirit and engaging temperament inspired many, and stimulated lifelong friendships. She was always down-to-earth, supportive and perceptive, and she was never shy to identify when there was too much testosterone in a policy argument.

I will miss Alison dearly, and I offer condolences to her mother, sons, all family members and loved ones. Mary Alison Anderson-McLean – once met never forgotten – may her soul rest in peace.

Professor Stephen Vasciannie





Quintessential Woman

The quintessential self-confident 21st Century woman – brash, opinionated, a little feisty some times. Allison was all these and more. She had a heart of gold which she could never hide. She cared even if her approach may have seemed iconoclastic to some.

I knew Allison as a little girl, a neighbor who was always ‘going somewhere’. Later I met her again as a member of the St. Andrew High School ‘posse’. Her leadership skills were eminent at all stages and her intellect was sharp, even sharper than the tone of her voice. Whatever she undertook to do, even if it was voluntary, she gave it her full hundred. As a public servant she was fearless with no doubt about her commitment and her integrity. She took the time to master her areas of responsibilities. She was determined to get things done and her affability combined with her strength of character made this possible.

Allison confronted many challenges, many of a personal nature but she used her stumbling blocks as stepping stones’. Even with her ongoing ill health and her most recent challenge, she did not dwell on her infirmities: she was concerned about solutions – how to improve the lives of others.

A consequential voice may have gone silent but her contribution resonates everywhere.

I know she has found eternal rest and reward for her selfless service to Jamaica and beyond.

Maxine Henry Wilson

June 3, 2020





For Mary Alison Anderson McLean

Alison's life intersected with mine at numerous points. Some of these are difficult if not impossible to disentangle. As a St. Andrew "old girl," Alison visited our regular high school assembly when I was in sixth form. It was then my interest in International Relations was tantalized; competing with my fascination with languages, their etymology and the decision to study linguistics. Later, In GT12A tutorials, IR Theory and International Law lectures, she guided us through the nuances of IR and ir, Hedley Bull's Timeless Wisdom of Realism, and of all things 'axiomatic' and "esoteric". Let us not forget, "I know I am ALL that, but I am not ALL-ison, I am AL-ison. This lesson, I empathically passed on to a UWI Model UN President when in October 2018, Alison kindly agreed to be guest speaker in her role as UN Women Caribbean Representative. While it was Alison's voice that first captured one's attention, followed most certainly by her eclectic, ever fabulous sense of fashion, it was always her sharp wit and intellect that would fully hold your attention.

Over the years, our roles fluidly transitioned from lecturer-student to mentor and mentee and eventually slid into one professional colleagues in fora on human rights, elections and gender. It was while straddling these roles that Alison passed the baton on to do lectures for her during her absence and later to fully recommended me to teach these classes on my own at the then Institute of Management and Production. This was Alison. She empowered others and stepped aside to clear the path for their professional advancement. Never in a spirit of competition. Always facilitating and lighting the path even in the midst of her own unspoken struggles and battles.

I am proud of Alison's professional record as UWI lecturer, head of the CDA, in the Jamaican Civil service and ultimately at UN Women Caribbean. She performed these roles with excellence and intuition; striking a fair balance between her intellect and keeping abreast of issues affecting the lives of real people. Never in abstract. Never theoretical. Alison truly lived "A Life More Abundant". I feel blessed to have had her present, intersecting in our personal lives in a bond that predates us both to the hills of Breadnut Hill and Harrison Town, St Ann through our mothers. Our wedding with Solomon- our handsome ring bearer without a ring, the christening of our sons, her wedding, sad funerals of fathers and other loved ones. We have worked, danced, celebrated, and cried together. Alison's fierce, fearless, and practical approach to her life, family and work will remain timeless lessons in my heart. Keeping dancing to your own rhythm, in eternal peace.

Lisa Vasciannie (LV)





‘A good student’

I lectured/tutored the young Alison Anderson in the 3rd year course “International Politics” in the Department of Government, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, Mona.

Alison Anderson was always well-attired, punctual, prepared and an active participant. In lectures, she was attentive. In tutorials, she had an uncanny ability to ‘master’, even out-manoeuvre, her colleagues. Her presentations were always structured—reflecting an appreciation of the required reading.

Alison never gave excuses or complained—at least not to me personally. She was deliberate, determined and diligent. So much so that when the Leader of Her Majesty’s Loyal Opposition, the Hon. Michael Manley accepted an invitation to give a lecture on the New International Economic Order (NIEO), I assigned Alison Anderson to host and chair the event.

Alison seemed delighted and her glow did not fade when I informed her that I would not be attending. On the appointed day, I duly met the guest lecturer and escorted him (and his delegation) to my office, having briefed the office attendant to extend the usual hospitality. I then introduced Alison and bade farewell. From all reports, Alison was in “top form”. When I enquired from her, she replied very succinctly “Fine”.

Having learnt that Alison Anderson had assumed a position in the Department of Government, UWI, Mona, I made it my duty to visit her in her office. We both relished the moment, even though I had entertained an unfounded expectation that it would have been my former office.

The last time I saw Alison was at the Mona Dam during one of her infrequent early morning walks. The road of life for Alison was oftentimes rocky. However, her determination never waned; her laughter indicated that she sincerely enjoyed the moment. Walk good, Alison.

Paul Ashley
ash1tech@gmail.com





Matchmaker
For Alison Anderson McLean

I fell in love with teaching, it was you who had introduced us.
I didn't want to make the first move, but you interceded with her on my behalf.
You showed her I had potential and we could build a life together.
That number 49 was where teaching came alive and I was there to watch her
bloom
You then said to me, be patient with her and she will take you places
She took me around the world and then back to where it all started.
Teaching and me went back to where it began, and there we lived, at number 49
I was hoping you would see us together
Setting the lectern afire But you always cheered on from the back row
Teaching had become inseparable from me so much that you started to call me
"Teach"
You can't leave so soon but I know the Lion, Chemist is waiting,
As you walk into Life More Abundant
Farewell the ultimate matchmaker
I owe the love of teaching to you

June 1, 2020 J. McCalpin

From the Desk of:

Dr. Jermaine McCalpin Chair, African and African American Studies



I was saddened to hear the news of Alison Anderson's death. I never knew Alison all that well—I think she was, deep down, a rather private person—but as a colleague new to the Department of Government (1999-2001), I experienced her kindness on a number of occasions. She was a truly vital soul, with a voice that betrayed humour and ever-so-slightly strained patience in equal measure. A number of happy memories of Alison stick in my memory, a shared journey in her tiny car up the steep and pot-holed hill to the home of Professor Edwin Jones. I didn't think the poor car would make it. The influence she had on her students will endure. Reflecting on this period, Alison stands out as an innovative teacher, as exemplified by the way she introduced simulations into her teaching of international relations. She was clearly (and justly) proud of her contribution to teaching, but never made a big fuss of it. That was the kind of person Alison was.

Professor Lindsay Stirton
Professor of Public Law
University of Sussex



Eris Schoburgh's tribute to Ms. Mary Alison Anderson

June 14, 2020

I was shocked and saddened when I learnt of the passing of Ms Mary Alison Anderson, whom we affectionately called Alison. It was only just a year or so ago that we met in Guyana during a UN-sponsored Forum. We talked and I remarked how beautiful she looked and remained.

My remarks were made against the background of Ms Anderson being one of my lecturers in the International Relations Programme. I recall vividly our spirited discussions on the principles of public international law. She was a staunch defender of her positions because she was always prepared as a lecturer. However she readily facilitated independent thinking in students, acknowledging then my forthrightness and willingness to challenge ideas and perspectives.

Perhaps that explained why she readily accepted my offer of assistance to drive her car to the mechanic while I was a student. Alison owned this Volkswagen (can't remember the colour... red I think) that on occasion throws up problems with its brakes. She had a class and could not leave so I told her I could drive it for her. She was hesitant given the type of mechanical problem but I convinced her that I could drive the car even with a braking problem as all I needed to do was to drive in 1st and 2nd gear and used the compression of the engine to slow the vehicle. Standard shift vehicles were the order of the day and I drove one (Ford Escort). She gave me the keys to her precious VW. The destination was Old Hope Road...a little above the intersection of Munroe Road. Within one hour I was back on campus. I am not sure who was more surprised ...Alison or the mechanic, but I know my mechanical and driving abilities became a topic of conversation among my peers.

For me that event showed that Alison was a liberal. She might not have declared this but she lived it. How else would you explain the fact that such a high achiever and an accomplished woman who sat in conversations with world leaders still had time for ordinary people and significantly advanced the fortunes of children from unfortunate circumstance in our nation, without making a big deal about it.

Alison was a confident woman as much as she was the epitome of beauty. I see it as if it were yesterday...all the male students stopped in their tracks when she passed in her white baby doll mini dress.

I am sure she will stop Peter in his tracks in heaven; and if that doesn't work she certainly will annoy the hell out of Peter with that voice!

Walk good my sister!

Eris Schoburgh
Professor of Public Policy and Management





It is with regret that I learned of the passing of Alison Anderson.

Alison was always an inspiration to me. I first met her when I was an undergraduate student at UWI where she inspired me to do better, aim higher and learn as much as I can to not only make myself a better person but to enhance my ability to contribute to society.

Alison was always larger-than-life person. Although small in stature, she had big dreams, and had the ability to encourage everyone around her, especially female students to reach for the skies. Alison's voice compelled you to sit up and listen to pay attention to what she was saying.

Alison Anderson and Christine Cummings were like the dynamic duo in the Department of Government when I was a student on campus and later we're mentors when I was an teaching assistant. They showed what was possible in a predominantly male department, carving out their own niche, doing things their own way and pulling the rest of us behind in their wake.

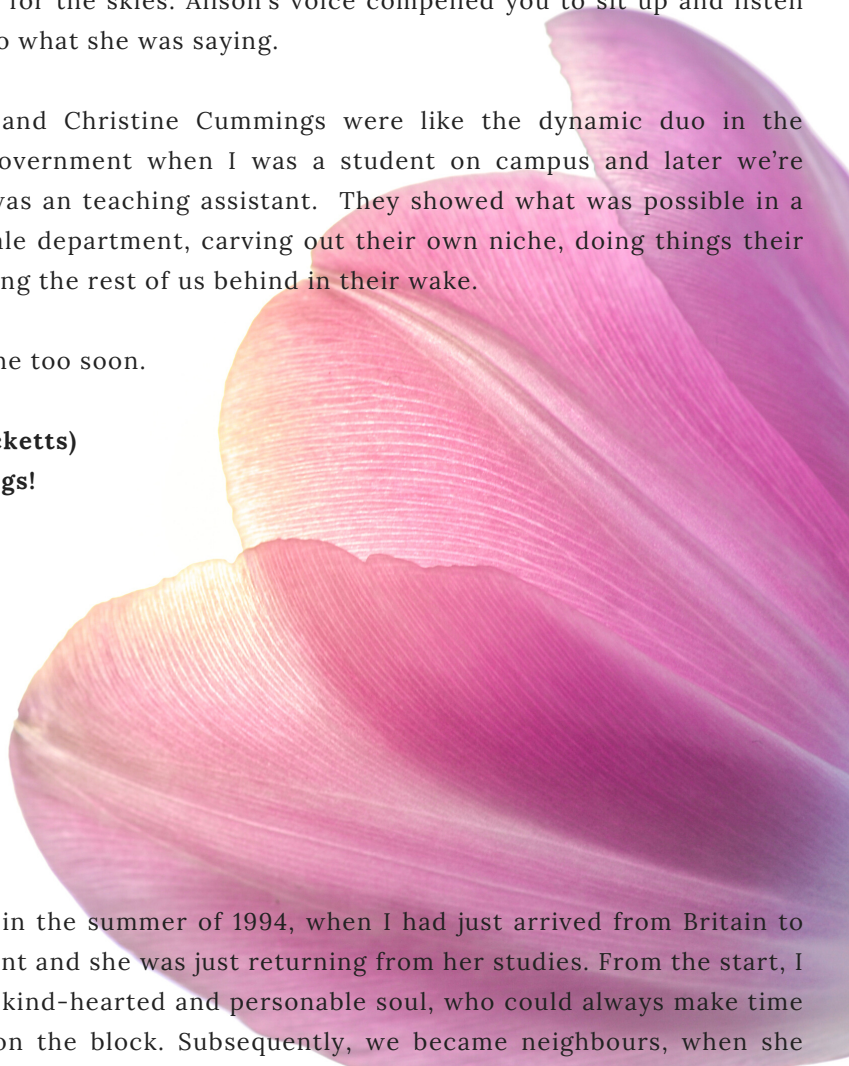
A strong voice gone too soon.

Natalie Coley (Ricketts)
Peace and blessings!

West Road Days

I first met Alison in the summer of 1994, when I had just arrived from Britain to join the Department and she was just returning from her studies. From the start, I found her to be a kind-hearted and personable soul, who could always make time for the new kid on the block. Subsequently, we became neighbours, when she moved to West Road, and I watched Jason in particular grow from being a young lad to a fine young man. Indeed, family was obviously very important to Alison, and she raised her sons to be fine young men, even as she juggled the responsibilities of motherhood with work in what was then a very male-dominated department and faculty. Later on, we both left the Department to continue on different courses, but we often crossed paths. It was always a pleasure to see her, who seemed to have found her vocation, applying her intellectual skills in the world of policy. I always found Alison to be humble, warm and good-humoured, and she could make light of many a difficult situation. I will recall with a smile her laughter at the West Road neighbourhood association meetings, and will remember her fondly.

John Rapley,
Phd, Former lecturer
@jarapley<https://brixtonsubversivity.wordpress.com/>





I readily remember Alison who fell under my tutelage. Something about this young girl immediately struck me. She was very confident, clearly intelligent,, naturally bright and impressed across a wide range of subjects. Physically slender and massively precocious, you could not overlook her presence. .Highly competitive too, an orientation to excel was a ruling passion.,These characteristics were partly innate, partly cultivated by family upbringing and as well as the by-product a good high school..Many of her university lecturers identified her as a 'bright star' whose voice would be heard at the highest level in the range of development institutions, including the UWI.

Alison duly fulfilled the promise as scholar; bright as a morning star. As such she delivered inspirational lectures; wrote scholarly research papers; transmitted core university values of freedom, justice and the celebration of human dignity. Her scholarship embodied a robust concern for the welfare of children; and none was more committed to the task of resurrecting old, under-performing social services institutions. Nothing would deter from these passions.

I shall always remember/celebrate Alison as dependable and reliable colleague and friend: Kind, gentle, always laughing, with a strong cultural fix for the dance. And as a person and professional she was strongly committed to rightness, fairness and; love for humanity and for life.

So she lives on!

Edwin Jones
Professor Emeritus



I am saddened by her passing. I taught her when she was an undergraduate and followed her career with admiration. I recall that as a student she was confidently outspoken, highly intelligent and intellectually precocious. These qualities came to full fruition in her later professional life. She made a valuable contribution to national development.

Ambassador Dr Richard Bernal
Pro Vice Chancellor, Global Affairs
The University of West Indies.



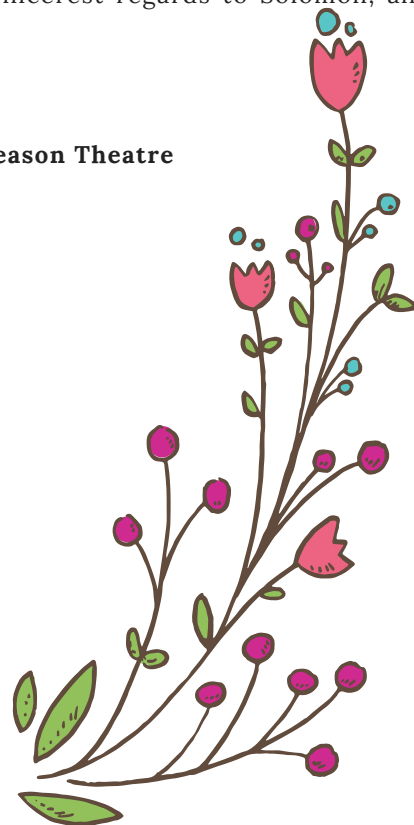
For Alison

I met Alison Anderson for the first time in the late Eighties when we were both - along with Robert Buddan and Christine Cummings - parts of the 'younger' cohort in the Department of Government at Mona. This was still very much the time of Gladstone 'Charlie' Mills, Carl Stone, Trevor Munroe, Edwin Jones and Rupert Lewis, together presenting us with quite a formidable tradition of scholarship, teaching and public service to emulate. Alison was the youngest of our new lot and she was fresh from Cambridge and London, where she had, respectively, completed her MPhil in International Relations at Trinity Hall and was enrolled in the PhD programme at LSE.

Alison was undaunted by the significant wall of achievement that all of us in the Department, but especially the women, had to climb, yet proceeded with great confidence to carve out her own space as a critical scholar and lecturer focusing on the role of the Caribbean in the world, though always anchored in a broader appreciation of International Relations theory and practice. I remember her as forthright, even feisty, and collegial. She was very smart and quick to engage, particularly when crossing swords with encrusted Western theories of realism, liberalism and constructivism. In a department with great teaching traditions, she was an outstanding teacher and developed an unmatched rapport with her students. By the time she left to pursue a more engaged career in the public service, she had rightfully become one of the most popular lecturers in the Department and Faculty of Social Sciences and a legendary mentor to hundreds of students who passed through her caring hands.

After she left UWI, sadly we didn't see much of each other, though it was apparent that she had very successfully transferred to her new endeavours the exceptional skills in teaching, leading and nurturing that she honed in her long sojourn at Mona. From far away Rhode Island my wife Patsy and I were truly shocked when, without forewarning, we heard that Alison had passed. A brilliant light shut down, far too soon. Our sincerest regards to Solomon, all her family and friends.

Brian Meeks
Chair, Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre
Brown University
Providence, R.I.
June 15, 2020





For some twenty years Alison was a brilliant lecturer in International Relations and Negotiations in the Department of Government, UWI. Her brilliance is confirmed by her students who have made their comments on her passing on social media. In her lectures and radio commentaries she explored the space and possibilities for the development of small states in a world dominated by a few powerful actors. What she had learnt as a student, in her graduate work at Cambridge University and in preparing for her lectures and tutorials equipped her well in her career after she left UWI. Alison was committed to the restructuring of Jamaica and the Caribbean to ensure a better, safer and equitable life for our citizens especially our women and children.

She moved from academia to public service in very demanding areas where she distinguished herself. She served as Chief Technical Director/ Principal Director in the Office of the Prime Minister, was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Child Development Agency and went on to become the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport. In the last three years she served as the Representative of the UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean in Barbados

I remember meeting her in Papine market one Saturday morning and giving her a huge hug and she called her husband and introduced us. They had only recently moved back home from the United States. His death was a serious blow to her but she rallied and continued living.

In recent years Alison Anderson-McLean was very busy with work, managing her health and family. She lived next door and Maureen and I had occasion to invite her over on a social basis to talk. Once she had a significant birthday and we were invited over to celebrate with her and friends. Alison was caring for her mother and was proud of the way in which Solomon, her youngest son, was shouldering his responsibilities especially as she was spending more time in Barbados because of work. She will be missed. Rest in Power.

Emeritus Professor Rupert Lewis

Research Fellow in the PJ Patterson Centre for Africa-Caribbean Advocacy





Much of my engagement with Alison was based on fleeting moments of hellos along the SALISES (then ISER) corridor. I think we crossed over one year when I taught in the department of Government. My memories of her are of the delight she took in talking about Solomon and the small joys that each stage of his development brought; crawling, walking, school, etc. Another strong memory of her was a conversation we had just before I went to Cambridge to pursue the MPhil in International Relations, a path she had trod a few years earlier. My recollection was that Cambridge was not a particularly happy experience for her. She recounted how one of her professors in the programme used the term 'a nigger in a woodpile' to speak of the spoiler effect of some European diplomat in some crucial negotiations. I asked her if she had objected to his use of the term and she said no, the environment was too intimidating. Well, years later, the very same lecturer made the same comment in my class. Remembering my query as to whether or not she had called him out on it, I mustered up my emotional resources to ask why he used what was an offensive term. His unabashed response was that 'it was a term in common usage'. Mostly, though, I was a spectator to Alison's rise in the public service, taking pride in her ability to bridge the worlds of academia and policy, as she strove to serve and make a difference in her own way. I last met Alison shortly after she had returned to Jamaica with her husband and the optimism she exuded at returning home, even though she had yet to find a job. I was stunned, shortly thereafter, to hear of her husband's sudden death, which no doubt cast a pall on her return. I was happy to hear that her talents had found a home in UN Women. Her loss will surely be felt by all those whose lives she has touched. My condolences go to her family, especially Solomon.

Patsy Lewis

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Mary Alison Anderson McLean

We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

She truly lived a Life More Abundant.



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The Family of Mary Alison
Anderson McLean