

In Memoriam: Alasdair Sinclair

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on behalf of

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In Memoriam: Alasdair Sinclair

It is with sadness we share the news that retired faculty member from Dalhousie's Faculty of Science Alasdair Maclean Sinclair passed away on March 14, 2021, at the Abbey J. Lane Memorial Hospital, at the age of 85.

Alasdair was born on June 30, 1935, in Valleyfield, Prince Edward Island, to Donald and Mary (Jones) Sinclair. He attended school in Whitney Pier, Cape Breton, and Queen Elizabeth High School, in Halifax, before taking a BA with First Class Honours at Dalhousie University. Alasdair won the Governor General's Gold Medal in 1956 and was also awarded the Nova Scotia Rhodes Scholarship. He received a BA and a BPhil from Oxford University before moving on to Harvard, where he earned his PhD. Alasdair taught Economics at Dalhousie from 1961 to 1994, focusing on Macroeconomics and International Trade. In 1982 he became Dalhousie's first elected Chair of the Senate, and from 1983 to 1988 he was Vice-President Academic and Provost. He was made Professor Emeritus in 1995, and in "retirement," he continued to lecture, served on the Dalhousie Board of Governors, sat on numerous boards and committees, and did consulting work all over the world.

Alasdair's defining characteristic was his passion for knowledge. He loved teaching, and he was very good at it. His children have often been told by friends and acquaintances that their father was the most engaging lecturer they ever had, and a fellow professor said that the clarity of his arguments demonstrated "an all-too-rare ability to connect theory to practice."

Alasdair was also a devoted sports fan. He played basketball for Dalhousie and served as the sports editor of the Dalhousie Gazette. At Oxford, he played rugby, basketball, and hockey, and he loved telling the story of how, in his Rhodes Scholarship acceptance letter, he was instructed to "bring his skates." While on the Dal faculty, Al was an enthusiastic squash player and a driving force behind the Economics Department intramural softball team.

After he finished teaching, Alasdair worked as a consultant in more than 20 countries, including World Bank Missions in Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea, Economics Department training programs in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Ukraine, and projects in Indonesia, Bolivia, Ghana, the Caribbean, Malta, and Nepal, among others. Alasdair was heard to say upon retirement from Dalhousie, "just give him a ticket and he'd go!"

In his later years, Alasdair suffered from dementia, losing his ability to do the two things he loved most—read and converse—but he was fortunate to be able to live at home right up until the end of his life.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. To view the online obituary and to offer condolences, please visit: www.coleharbourfuneral.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alasdair Sinclair Memorial Fund in the Department of Economics at Dalhousie University.