

Tracy's Legacy

Calvin Tracy Harrington
(1942-2017)



COBEC

Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation



In memory of our fellow COBEC member
Calvin Tracy Harrington
(1942-2017)

Calvin Tracy Harrington passed away on April 22 in Tallahassee, Florida, at the age of 74, after complications from a fall. Tracy's love of learning and travel, his strong sense of fair play, and his joie de vivre, made a lasting impact on his family and wide network of friends, and he will be dearly missed by those who knew him.

Tracy is survived by his children Matt, Luke (Margaret), and Megan Duncan (Brian); his grandchildren Ben, Georgia, Paul, and Jack; and eight nieces and nephews. Tracy was preceded in death by Judy, his wife of 50 years; his parents, Ben and Sallie Harrington; his brothers Ben Jr. and Nick; and his sister Jessie Burnett.

After graduating from Escambia High School in Pensacola, Florida and earning a degree in sociology from Washington and Lee University in 1965, Tracy moved his family to Africa, where he and Judy taught English at a Tanzanian secondary school. After earning a Ph.D. from Florida State University in the 1970's, Tracy returned with his family to Africa, this time as a professor at the University of Zambia. Tracy later was a pioneer in the field of international education as Director for International Programs at Murray State University and Valdosta State University, where he internationalized the campuses and established a number of faculty and student exchange programs. At his retirement in 2005, the Board of Trustees of Georgia's state university system honored his contributions by announcing the creation of a state-wide award named after Tracy, which would recognize each year the person who does the most to advance international education in Georgia.

Tracy retired to Bainbridge, Georgia, in 2005, where he and Judy turned their three-acre home into a virtual botanical garden and fruit orchard. Tracy loved cultivating roses, especially old garden varieties, and, until recently, enjoyed volunteering once a week at Goodwood Gardens in Tallahassee.

A memorial service for Tracy was held at St. John's Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, FL Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Members of COBEC (Consortium for Belizean Educational Cooperation) Who Attended the Funeral Service

- Sir Colville Young, Governor-General of Belize since 1993 and knighted in 1994; the Governor General was a Fulbright scholar at Valdosta because of Tracy's invitation.
- Honorable Patrick Faber, Minister of Education, Youth Sports and Culture; Deputy Prime Minister and deputy party leader of the United Democratic Party in Belize; Patrick was one of Tracy's first COBEC students at Valdosta and speaks well, so if you would like a tribute, he would do that well at the funeral. He would make it known how revered Tracy was by Belizean and US members. Emilia Hodge asked Patrick to prepare something in case the occasion arises.
- Dr. Betty Flinchum, retired from University of North Florida, one of the founders of COBEC (arriving from NC).
- Dr. Sue Syverud, Associate Professor, Exceptional, Deaf, and Interpreter Education, College of Education & Human Services, University of North Florida.
- Dr. John Kemppainen, Coordinates Academic Support Services, College of Education & Human Services, University of North Florida.
- Dr. Emilia Hodge, Director of Graduate Education Outreach and Associate Director for Graduate Student Affairs in the Graduate School, University North of Florida.
- Dr. Warren Hodge, Assoc. Professor of Educational Leadership, University of No. Florida.
- Dr. Kathaleena Monds, Professor and Co-Director, Center for Economic Education/Small and Minority Entrepreneurship, Albany State University.
- Dr. Ivan Nikolov, Director, International Center, Valdosta State University.
- Dr. Carvajal, President, Valdosta State University

Memories by COBEC Friends

Bonnie Higginson, bhigginson@murraystate.edu

Regents Prof. Emeritus, College of Education & Human Services, Murray State University

It is hard to imagine COBEC without Tracy. However, his vision and love for the organization will live on in all of us. Tracy was a wonderful mentor and friend. When he was director of International Programs at Murray State, he inspired me to become involved in international education and his mentorship impacted my entire career. He will be missed.

Dwight Call, dwither@yahoo.com

Retired Assistant VP for International Education, Georgia College & State University

Tracy Harrington inspired many of us to get involved in COBEC, and we're grateful we had that opportunity. COBEC is certainly an inspiring collaborative organization for those interested in higher education in Belize.

Many of you also know that Tracy was active while directing the International Center at Valdosta University as a significant leader in the University System of Georgia, serving for many years as the chair of the European Council, which spearheaded System-wide study programs abroad in half a dozen different countries of Europe. Those programs enroll hundreds of students from across the state and involve faculty from dozens of universities who teach each summer on study abroad. He helped many of us "newbies" to get integrated into the Georgia higher education international system. In particular, he helped me, and I know from others that he did likewise for them. He also helped a half dozen Georgia universities get involved with COBEC.

Many of us will miss Tracy, both as mentor and friend. He lives on, however, in the individuals he mentored and the programs he helped organize. I will miss Tracy, but will continue to be thankful that I had an opportunity to know him.

Memories by COBEC Friends *continued*

Betty Flinchum, bflinchu@unf.edu

COBEC Emeritus

Dr. Tracy Harrington was an esteemed academician who used his university position to create, initiate, and promote many successful programs in his international development field. He wrote brilliantly and in so doing he was successful in receiving many Federal and State grants for his international work. One grant from USIA, for a university affiliation program in Belize, led him to found, along with his Belize and United States (U.S.) colleagues, the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC). Through his leadership in COBEC, he encouraged a large number of colleges and universities in the State of Georgia to become members of COBEC and to establish programs of their own with Belize tertiary education. While at Valdosta University, he was able to assist Belize in providing staff training for nursing programs and in the development of libraries, to name two important ones. He initiated the CAFE workshops. He brought many young scholars to study at Valdosta and hosted two Fulbright Scholars from Belize, Dr. Colville Young and Dr. Alvaro Rosado. While at Valdosta, Dr. Young developed the first university-sponsored Steel Band in Georgia which pleased Dr. Harrington very much. His last contribution was to be a part of a COBEC team, invited by then President Santos Mahung, to help develop a Mission Statement and Strategic Plan for the University of Belize (UB). To finalize these documents, that COBEC team spent many weeks in study and deliberation. Few know that the current UB Strategic Plan, developed by Dr. Mahung, was written up by Dr. Harrington.

Dr. Harrington served as COBEC Co-chair for several successive terms. Under his leadership, membership increased, study abroad programs developed, staff training increased, professorial and staff exchanges occurred, and new programs developed between and among all tertiary level colleges and U.S. members.

In his effective way, Dr. Harrington was committed to expanding and enriching education in Belize. He was devoted to his Belizean colleagues. I am pleased to pay tribute to him as a friend and colleague. He will be missed.

Cynthia Eve Aird, eaird@galen.edu.bz

Provost, Galen University

Tracy, like Betty Flinchum, Keith Miser, John Peterson, Jim Mckoy among other early US members of COBEC, had a profound impact on my professional development, and I am sure, that of hundreds of other Belizeans who attended COBEC schools and Valdosta, in particular. I did not attend a COBEC school, but Tracy took an interest in my professional development, and encouraged me in my doctoral studies and in my research. He took an interest in my work at Galen and supported me in my early career here, as he did at UCB.

I will miss Tracy's cheerful physical presence at COBEC, but know that his spirit and legacy will live on. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Jane Bennett, jane.bennett2@dec.uwi.edu

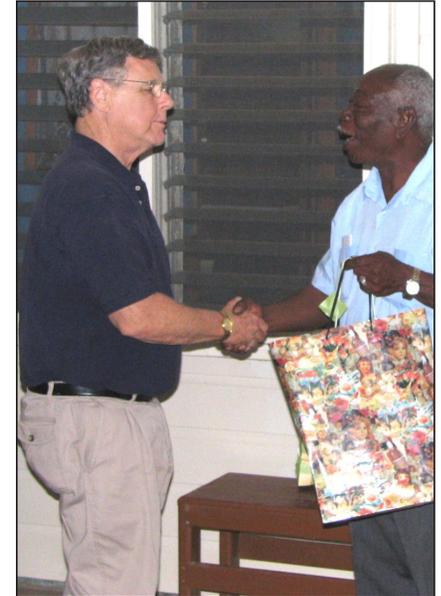
Head, University of the West Indies, Open Campus

Tracy Harrington's contribution as a founding member of COBEC was significant. His guidance especially during my tenure as Belize Co-chair was always forthcoming and his many contributions to the issues at hand confirmed his knowledge and dedication to the Mission of COBEC.

The impact he made on the lives he touched including those of numerous Belizeans as expressed by those he mentored and supported is testimony of a life well lived in the service of others.

May God grant eternal rest to Tracy, my colleague, mentor, and friend.

Photos of Tracy Harrington



COMPASSION, CARE, DIGNITY, & RESPECT
A legacy of love and learning.

