

Celebrating the Life of

# *Professor Emeritus Winston Mellowes*



June 28, 1941 - December 27, 2023

It is with deep sadness that the Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS) announces the passing of Professor Emeritus Winston Mellowes. We are thankful for his decades of dedicated service to the Caribbean Academy of Sciences up to the time of his passing. He served as the President of the CAS Executive Committee from 2002 – 2006 and from 2016 – 2021 making him the longest serving President of the Academy since its inauguration in 1988. Professor Emeritus Winston Mellowes continued to serve on the CAS Executive as the Foreign Secretary until November 25, 2023. He served as the Focal Point of CAS on the Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS).

Professor Emeritus Winston Mellowes received many deserving accolades - the Chaconia Medal Gold in 2021 for his commitment and contributions to education; Career of Excellence Award, Association of Professional Engineers of Trinidad and Tobago, CAS Long Service Award in 2021 among many others.

We pause to recognize his roles as President and Foreign Secretary of CAS in which he leveraged regional and international support raising the visibility of CAS. Professor Winston Mellowes successfully established partnerships with the Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF), UNESCO, CARICOM, the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) among other science academies. As Foreign Secretary he continued to forge collaborations with regional and international organizations to strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation capacities.

He was instrumental in pursuing collaborations with the Chilean Academy of Sciences and the French Academy of Sciences to introduce Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) through teacher training workshops in several Caribbean territories. Guyana led the first IBSE pilot project with support from CAS and UNESCO. IBSE was infused in STEM workshops in a number of Caribbean territories through a partnership with CSF.

In 2018, immediately after the 21st Biennial Conference of CAS, held in Jamaica, Professor Emeritus Winston Mellowes met and presented the Kingston Accord to the Right Honourable Dr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister responsible for Science and Technology CARICOM. This accord was accepted and follow up discussions were held with the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana. He spearheaded the resuscitation of the CAS Guyana Chapter in 2019, after more than a decade of dormancy. His sterling support to newly elected Executive of Guyana Chapter enabled Guyana's hosting of CAS' first virtual conference in 2021 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was born on 28th June, 1941 and grew up in St. Michael, Barbados without the amenities of electricity, telephone or television. He spent his days studying and playing outdoor games. At school, his teachers described him as "bright" and he was also an excellent athlete who represented his school in cricket and track and field.

Professor Emeritus Winston Mellowes started his career as a lecturer at UWI, St. Augustine in 1971. Over the years, he gained the respect of students and faculty for his skill in both the teaching and practice of engineering. He served as the Faculty's Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Student Affairs and Deputy Dean for Postgraduate and Research Matters. He also served as President of the Association of Professional Engineers of Trinidad and Tobago and Chair of the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), Trinidad and Tobago. In 1996, he was made Professor of Chemical Engineering, after serving as Head of Department in 1986 and 1992.

Professor Emeritus Mellowes' research focused on the sugar industry, its by-products and waste products, and their impact on the environment. He improved the treatment of waste from the sugar refineries of Caroni (1975) Ltd and promoted the use of modern technologies in the sugar industry regionally. His other research included the impact of air pollution on the environment, isolating dextran from various juices, and the use of biomass from coconuts, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and other crops to produce activated charcoal and biofuels. He received several awards from the Inter-American Cane Sugar Seminar for his organisation of the seminar. At the 2004 West Indies Sugar Technologists' Conference hosted in Barbados by the Sugar Association of the Caribbean, he received the Best Paper award for his work on Xanthan gum, which identified a new, efficient process for producing the gum from sugar cane by-products. In April 2008, he was granted a US patent for this process.

Our prayers are with his wife Barbara, children - Sean and Michelle and other members of his extended family.