

In Memoriam - Dr. Bridglal Pachai

Dalhousie University Announcements <DAL-ANNOUNCEMENT@LISTS.DAL.CA>

on behalf of

Dalhousie Notice <notice@DAL.CA>

Wed 12/4/2019 6:13 PM

To: DAL-ANNOUNCEMENT@LISTS.DAL.CA <DAL-ANNOUNCEMENT@LISTS.DAL.CA>

Dr. Afua Cooper of Dalhousie's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences would like to share the following with the Dalhousie community:

Dr. Bridglal Pachai, a South African of Indian heritage, came to Nova Scotia and fell in love with the history of Black people in this province. He therefore spent decades of his life researching, documenting, and writing about African Nova Scotian history. Dr. Pachai has left an indelible mark on the historiography and scholarship of African Canada. For my course on African Nova Scotian history, I use his Nova Scotia Black Experience Through the Centuries. It is a great resource: well-written, scholarly, and insightful. Both the students and I love this book. Though I have personally never met the man, I owe him a debt of gratitude.

Dr. Afua Cooper

History Dept. Dalhousie University

Professor Naa Afua Dadesen Cooper

Cross-appointed to: Depts. of History, and Sociology and Social Anthropology, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Gender and Women's Studies

Dalhousie University

Message sent from the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia: Celebrating The Life of a Community Historian and Trailblazer - Dr. Bridglal Pachai

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Black Cultural Society / Centre along with Board Chair, Craig Smith and Executive Director, Russell Grosse, offer sincere condolences on the passing this week of a community Historian, Leader and Trailblazer Dr. Bridglal Pachai.

Dr. Pachai who was affectionately known as "Bridge" was the third Executive Director of the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia from 1985 to 1989. Today we celebrate and reflect on his contributions to laying the important foundation of the Black Cultural Centre in our early years.

A native of South Africa. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in History (with Honours) from the University of South Africa as well as a Ph.D., in History, from the University of Natal. He made his journey to Canada in 1975 as Senior Killam Professor of History, Dalhousie University. He also was involved with St Mary's University and Mount St Vincent University. Dr. Pachai also made an incredible contribution to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission as an Executive Director from 1989-1994.

He had a passion for teaching and sharing the rich heritage and culture of peoples of the African Diaspora. A historian and author he penned over 20 books that shared a great knowledge of history and culture. Recipient of many awards and honours, Dr. Pachai will be sadly missed by all those he touched. He will be remembered for his humbleness, wisdom, contribution to society and for providing a reference point of research for African Canadian history and culture.

We stand in support of his family at this time and remember the contributions.

For more information visit: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/halifax-ns/bridglal-pachai-8942883>

*Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia | 10 Cherry Brook Road, Cherry Brook, Nova Scotia B2Z 1A8
Canada*