



Eddie Hufford

(ASL 1967-2003)

Eddie Hufford (ASL 1967-2003) was a familiar and integral part of ASL life throughout his many years of teaching and even after he retired.

The entire ASL community was deeply saddened when Mr. Hufford passed away, after suffering a heart attack, in August. He was 63.

"It is hard to imagine the School without him," wrote **Craig Scoriah '01**.

Mr. Hufford joined ASL's PE department in 1967 and was department head when he retired in 2003. He remained very active in the School over the next two years, working on a history of ASL and continuing to attend alumni gatherings, where students who had known him as teacher, coach and mentor sought out his smile and his jokes.

"Always ready with a quick wit, charm and a great story, he will be greatly missed," wrote **Patty Braham Denver '76**.

In 1967, ASL founder Stephen Eckard recruited a 25-year-old Mr. Hufford to join the School. In those days, each ASL division was at a different address and PE teachers were bused to and fro for classes.

Since American PE teachers were more accustomed to big gymnasiums and established leagues, the ASL bursar had recommended that Mr. Eckard hire PE teachers locally. Mr. Hufford, a Londoner, joined at the same time as current athletic director John Lockwood. He recalled an element of culture shock.

"The language, the slang — same

words, different meanings," Mr. Hufford explained in a 1997 *Accents* article.

"There was a dress and hair code, but no uniform." Mr. Hufford soon learned how to speak American English, as he oversaw students' athletic training in Regent's Park and swimming and squash practice at Swiss Cottage.

Mr. Hufford decided that ASL students should play on real teams, in real games, against real opponents so, in 1968, he arranged for a basketball team from The American School of The Hague to come to London for a game. This laid the groundwork for what was to become the International Schools Sports Tournaments or ISSTs.

Mr. Hufford planned, managed and organized the ISSTs, sometimes climbing into his car and driving halfway across Europe to deliver medals and trophies. For a while he served as interim president. Only now are his ASL colleagues beginning to realize just how much he took care of.

"His title was secretary but it doesn't really describe what he did," said Bob Carter, current head of PE. "There are already three of us trying to do the work he did on his own."

Mr. Hufford wrote a book explaining the rules of American football to a British audience. (Copies of *American Football: A Beginner's Guide to Television's Fastest Growing Sport* are in the Mellon Library.) And it was a two-way effort.

"My best school memory of Eddie finds him patiently teaching this Californian the mysteries of English football," wrote **Kevin Browne '72**.

Over the years, Mr. Hufford became ASL's de facto historian. He was there when ASL moved into Waverley Place in 1971 — and he was there to see smoke rising when the building caught fire soon afterwards. He recalled how Top Blue

and Top Green were cordoned off during repairs and how staff and students helped to clear rubble over several weekends.

In July, Mr. Hufford realized a lifelong ambition — to see the Grand Canyon — when he traveled to Las Vegas for the All-School Reunion. With his childhood friend Mr. Carter and several other ASL colleagues, he took a helicopter ride over the canyon and ate a picnic breakfast as they watched the sun rise from a crest.

The Reunion itself also was a great pleasure for Mr. Hufford, affording yet another opportunity to catch up with the students and families he had known over four decades at ASL.

"He loved seeing them all again," Mr. Carter said.

In Memoriam

ASL has been very saddened to learn of the deaths of several members of the worldwide School community.

Jan Long (ASL 1993-98) passed away on 27 September. Mrs. Long, an SLD teacher in the Middle and High schools, was the mother of **Stephanie Long '01**.

Dick Tener (ASL 1969-98) died on 30 October in Athens after a brief illness. Mr. Tener taught Middle School and High School science.

Ryan Ehrmantraut '95 passed away from cancer on 23 May in Los Angeles. Ryan, who was 28, attended ASL from 1989-93. In a note notifying ASL of Ryan's death, his mother, Kristine King, described his time in London as "four of the happiest years of his life."

The ASL community also deeply regrets the losses of alumni **Kimberly Newton '84**, **Thomas Robinson '81** and **Melissa Lewis '86**, and of alumni parent **Joe Maloney**, father of **Joseph '94** and **Andrew '97**.