

John Otterpohl

ASL 1974-00

John Otterpohl, long-time faculty member and former head of the social studies department, passed away Thursday, 10 November 2005.

The first faculty member to receive the High School Student Council's Teacher of the Year Award, Mr. Otterpohl involved students in a number of service-related initiatives and led student trips to Vietnam, Cuba and South Africa. He also helped found the Middle East Club, provided impetus for the Safe Sitters program and created the annual Quiz Bowl.

In 2004 Mr. Otterpohl was honored with the School's Stephen L. Eckard Award for Inspiring and Dedicated Service to Education. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Otterpohl said:

"For a teacher, there is no sweeter expression in any language than 'you changed my life.' With that in mind, I am immensely pleased to know that you have come to value the skills of argument – not quarrelling, but argument – discussion and debate.... I



am immensely pleased that many of you saw value in going with me on grueling, 30-day Study Tours to troubled and dangerous areas of the world to see and hear for yourselves before you made judgments. Finally, I am immensely pleased that hundreds and hundreds of you came to value programs of conflict resolution without violence. Looking back then and looking at our world today, do you think that we were ahead of the times?"

He ended his address with a request that students "seek out my address and write to me telling me about your successes and failures – yes, we all have them."

Through the years, many students and alumni did just that, and Mr. Otterpohl – and his support and guidance – will be sorely missed.



Dick, left, with Eddie Hufford

Dick Tener ASL 1969-98

Dick Tener passed away in Athens on Sunday, 30 October 2005 after a brief illness. Mr. Tener taught Middle and High School science, and coached varsity boys volleyball and Grade 7 and 8 basketball. After leaving ASL, he spent years traveling and living all over the world.

Mr. Tener's ashes were scattered in Corfu, where he and Chris Siegfried (ASL 1968-98) made their home. Throughout the fall and winter, celebrations of his life were held in Corfu, California and London, and many alumni and colleagues attended all three.

In the wake of Mr. Tener's passing, ASL received many emails, letters and messages remembering him and his

contributions to the School over the years. One colleague wrote: "Dick Tener was one of the best of us. He embraced the world and the world embraced him back. His sense of humor and ability to understand that life was something to be enjoyed and not taken overly seriously were gifts to his students and friends."

His impact on the lives of his students is perhaps best encapsulated by a member of the Class of '86: "I have always remembered him as inspirational, which, being a teacher myself now, is a teacher's highest calling. The news of Mr. Tener's passing grieves all of us who were inspired by him, who loved him as our teacher. He will be greatly missed."