

"It was incredible to see old friends after 30 years and to reunite with those we are still in touch with. Thanks for a great event!"
Class of '76



"On the way back from our visit to Glastonbury, a rock blew through the front windscreen. An omen?" Mike Casey '81



Viva Las Vegas!

The ASL All-School Reunion Las Vegas took place at the Aladdin Resort & Casino over the weekend of 24 June 2005. In all, 340 alumni, 40 current and former members of the faculty and staff, 24 alumni parents and around 150 partners and friends spent three days reminiscing, catching up — and dancing!

Alumni started arriving at the hospitality suite in the Aladdin Convention Center bright and early Friday morning. A slideshow of ASL theater productions rolled on four computer terminals and a complete archive of ASL yearbooks was available for browsing online. A message-board quickly filled up with notes asking friends to please phone other friends as soon as they arrived.

By Friday afternoon, the hospitality suite was full of laughter and conversation and the energy carried well into the night. Four "London pubs" around the hotel served Walkers crisps and Cadbury chocolates. Brit-pop soundtracks from each decade rolled in the background and alumni kept the party going long after the pubs closed down.

Saturday morning's Celebration of Excellence brunch honored the recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Crystal Eagle award, Jacob Lief '95, and the Stephen Eckard Award for Inspiring and Dedicated Service to Education, Suzanne Guest and Jan Mikrut (see page 31). Guests tucked into a full fry-up, complete with baked beans and Marmite, while master of ceremonies Jon Tarrant '82 presented the awards.

By Saturday night, the party was going again. Early in the evening, alumni waiting to have their class pictures taken sipped Pimm's and lemonade (courtesy of event sponsor Diageo) and watched a nostalgic slideshow. Next came a gala dinner, and the night ended with the whole crowd dancing to music spanning four decades, under a huge backdrop of the Westminster skyline.

A sleepy Sunday morning saw alumni and faculty gathering in the hospitality suite to say good-bye — and grab a jar or two of Branston Pickle for the road!



Joanie Creigh Little '79 recalls "attending the premiere of 'Star Wars' at Leicester Square with my ASL train buddies."



"Coming from Montana for my senior year, everything was new, exciting and amazing."
Stephanie Warner Moss '84



"My first day of school: seventh grade. My feet kept falling asleep sitting on the floor of Ms. Heuman's pod."
Amy Nordberg '79





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**.

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."