

A TRIBUTE TO PHIL CURRIER

AUGUST 1, 1947-JULY 22, 1995

Following a two and one-half year courageous battle with cancer, Academy upper school head

Phillip Currier died on July 22 at his cabin in New Hampshire.

lesson for students and faculty alike, and he wasn't timid about dealing with his illness publicly, as illustrated by the time he invited students to shave his head at an assembly before chemotherapy treatments could take his hair.

"Over the past three years the Academy school community has watched

part of The Academy and Columbus' independent school community. Phil's wife Heidi serves as librarian of the Reinberger Library; daughter Megan, a CSG graduate, is a junior at Dartmouth. Daughter Anne is a CSG senior and son David is an Academy's sixth grader.

Faculty members and students

remember Currier for his gregarious spirit and razor-sharp sense of humor and intellect, warmth and sensitivity.

One faculty member remembers Phil's support during a difficult personal period. "Phil was sensitive to the faculty's needs and was always there to offer support when I needed it," he said.

Students, too, found Phil's office door to be open for drop-in discussions and bantering. "Everybody knew how busy he was, but he made us feel like he always had time for us. He was so down to earth. What we said mattered," said one upper

school student.

"Phil's nine years at the school will be remembered for his leadership style and, just as importantly, for the lessons he taught us all in courage and the importance of human relationships. We will miss him very much," said MacKelcan.

The Currier family has requested that donations in Phil's name be directed to The Phillip Currier Memorial Fund, The Columbus Academy, 4300 Cherry Bottom Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

J. Scott Prince, formerly dean of students for the middle school, will replace Phil Currier as upper school head. □



Phillip Currier, 1947-1995

Phil deal with his cancer in a courageous and dignified way, all the while maintaining his leadership of our upper school during a critical growth period. He remained hopeful that he could beat this disease, and during his final three years lived life to his fullest both personally and professionally," said Headmaster Chip MacKelcan.

This spring, however, Currier's cancer took a turn for the worse and prevented his participation in Commencement and other related activities the final week of school.

Phil's family, too, was an integral

Currier joined The Academy in 1986, an appointment that capped a lifetime of studying within and serving independent schools. A graduate of The St. Louis Country Day School, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his master's degree from the Claremont Graduate School. From there he became Director of Admissions for the Webb School of California and, after that, Director of Admissions and a Dean of the Suffield Academy in Connecticut.

In his nine years at The Columbus Academy, Currier was an accessible friend and leader to upper school students and faculty. He was involved in virtually every facet of school life, serving at various times as college counselor, math teacher, Academic Committee chair, tennis and soccer coach, and as a member of numerous trustee committees.

In 1993, Currier was diagnosed with cancer — an ironic twist of fate for the fitness-conscious Currier who was given to 20-mile bike rides and a healthy diet. He dealt with the disease openly and with his trademark brand of candor and indomitable spirit. His battle became a