

AIDS hits home

Alumni Zach Long brings AIDS awareness week into perspective

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Director of Alumni Relations

Editor's note: The following article was printed in The Davidsonian, Vol. VII Fall 1991, in honor of Zachary Fillmore, Jr. '65 (1943-91). He is one of the ten known Davidson alumni who died of AIDS: Frank T. ...



Zack Long. Ron Chapple

Davidson has lost one of its most loyal and most memorable alumni, Zach Long '65, former director of alumni relations (1975-81), on July 30, 1991. His commitment to Davidson and his faithful friends were inspiring. Concerning his work at Davidson, Howard Arbuckle '64, former director of alumni relations said, "His service to Davidson was total dedication to the life and welfare of the college. The amount of activity that he generated in chapters and on campus is remarkable."

As alumni director Zach was the originator of the tradition of honoring graduating seniors with "alumni parents" at a breakfast on the morning of Commencement. He is famous for developing a marvelous travel program that was the delight of many alumni. John ... '28, former president of the Alumni Association and outstanding alumni volunteer leader, told me, "When I think of Zach, I think of those wonderful trips. We went to Brazil, England, Scotland, Ireland, Greece, Russia. The were always well organized and well executed." (By the way, Dr. Akers was the first chairman of the traditional gathering at Homecoming—the Avant Garde—alumni whose names have celebrated their fiftieth reunions—another of Zach's innovations.)

Julius Melton, executive director of institutional advancement, described the Davidson tours as follows: "The total group travel—on the plane and staying in the best hotels would far outnumber our modest sized contingent, the Davidson tour group was the envy of the other people to the party approach, the special arrangements, and the special arrangements Zach had worked into their

It was not just the innovations Zach is known for; it was his nature. Cary Eaton '65, '65's freshman and sophomore roommate told me that "Zach was friendly and always on hand. And was faithful in his relationships." Cary now is an environmental researcher in Raleigh, and has a wife and three children. Zach would send cards to children on their birthdays, and would send interesting items that came across to Cary, as a collector.

This thoughtfulness was felt by all of Zach's friends, and he had many. "Zach was a fabulous correspondent. He sent letters to hundreds of people," Nick Burnett, [retired] Professor of Chemistry, told me. "I have his address book and there are over six hundred people in it."

Louise Martin, wife of former president D. Grier Martin '32, said that Zach "loved beautiful, nice things. He went to flea markets everywhere—even on the travel tours. When he was in the army in Korea, he had a painting sent to Grier as president of Davidson from a college over there."

But Zach is also known for his faults, which became endearing to his friends. For example, he had trouble with time. As Louise Martin put it, "Zach was never, ever on time!" He was forever late to meetings. Bob Stephenson, [retired] director of administrative services, once told me, "Zach could make you so mad because he would call at the last minute to ask you to do something, but he had a way about him that made you glad to have helped because of his unquestionable dedication and contagious excitement."

As Nancy Blackwell, associate alumni director, says, "Zach did things at the last minute, but he

got things accomplished."

He also was known for his penny pinching. As Julius Melton noted, "I think of frugality as a hallmark of his time here and of his approach to managing his time here and of his approach to managing his own life. Cutting corners and making items purchased for the alumni programs do double, triple, and quadruple duty was just expected." Yet, he was an incredibly generous person. His many friends received exquisite gifts from him and he was quick to help friends. Apparently, he was the same with his friends in San Francisco, his new home after leaving Davidson, and there he is also known for community volunteer work. He spent a great deal of time raising money for the AIDS Emergency Fund, the San Francisco Symphony, and the San Francisco Opera. (Music was a constant part of his life.) He was also active at the Larkin Street Youth Center, a haven for runaway children. For all of this, he was named Man of the Year in San Francisco in 1991.

Here is some of what was said about Zach at his memorial service, preached Aug. 10 at Old First Church in San Francisco: "Zach understood the theology of funerals

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Things that are cool:

- Argyle socks
- Libras
- Bowling
- Zac Morris
- Velour
- Big ears
- Guys named Juanito
- Red Dog
- Earthworms
- The Jackson Five
- Bluegrass
- Synchronized swimming
- Davidsonian Advertising Managers

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On the Scene AT DAVIDSON COLLEGE

MONDAY

Jumpin' Java will jump-start your week in the Outpost 8 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Composition Recital will showcase the compositions of students—Travis Barton, Jeff Hwang, Diane Krause, and Chris Martin—in Hodson Hall 8 p.m.

Coffeehouse will get your morning started well in the 900 Room 8:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Ecuadorian Christmas Presents will be on sale on the Union Patio from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Jumpin' Java provides you with the caffeine you will need to stay awake to study for exams in the Outpost 8 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Twenty-one Year Old Night proves to be a good study break in the 900 Room 10:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Chamber Strings will combine with organist Jane Cain and oboist Mary Baxter to provide an enjoyable and enlightening performance in DCPC Sanctuary 8 p.m.

"Come to Commons and relax" with the staff and get gourmet coffee, snacks, tips on nutritious snacks, and exciting spinal massage in Commons 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

DCPC Cookie Study Break will take place in the Union Lobby 10 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Ice Cream Study Break is a chance to let the faculty and staff serve you in the Union Lobby 10 p.m. - 11 p.m.

STUDY!! (and eat, sleep, breathe, cry, etc ...)

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

STUDY some more ...

Write for Arts and Living. Call Susan. -2148