Lance R. and Patricia K. Odden
Headmaster 1972-2001

Patsy and Lance Odden, together you have lived the principles on which this school was founded. Always you have put character first. Beginning with an unwavering and unconditional belief in building on the inherent honor and goodness of young people, you made the classroom, the arenas and fields of play, and the quiet moments with advisees all part of training the whole person. More permanently than any endowment or building could, you have secured the all-encompassing idea of this school to its historic foundation: *Non Ut Sibi Ministretur Sed Ut Ministret*. From this cherished ideal, lives have been molded kindly and firmly, lives of meaning and purpose, lives adding to the good and making the world a little better place. Here as elsewhere you have worked for others, gone into things, and made them work—all the while as models of unselfishness—always with conviction, always with honor, always with generosity and good cheer. Patsy and Lance, keepers of the promise, in your own quiet moments, reflect on the journey completed. Find joy in the thought of having led and drawn forth the best in others. Take joy in knowing that the spirit and loyalty of those who have passed through these halls in your time here will carry Taft on to yet greater contributions to this land. Hold dear to your hearts the joy of knowing that you have worked hard, have done it well, and have done it for others. Cherish the joy of knowing how proud Horace Taft must be of the mission you have accomplished here together. Know the admiration, gratitude, and affection of your friends in bestowing upon you Taft’s highest honor, the Alumni Citation of Merit.