

Danny Cramer

October 19, 1989—September 27, 2014

After Danny died many of his friends and teachers sent messages to his parents to tell us how gentle, kind, compassionate, funny, smart, and witty he was. How he went out of his way to help a young, intimidated high school freshman feel comfortable on the basketball team. How he listened to a friend talking about her tough weekend and fear of flying, not mentioning he'd been hospitalized for depression over the weekend, until they finished talking about her issues and she finally asked, "So, how was *your* weekend?" How he was always the person to step up in volunteer groups. How he invented and started new traditions on the Swarthmore cross-country team, like No Stretch Tuesday and Smiling Wednesday. How he read Tolstoy's *War and Peace* and Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* for fun. Twice. How his friends fought that getting together was never as much fun when he wasn't there.



In 2011 Danny had a crisis of depression, took a semester off from college, and hiked the entire Appalachian Trail - Georgia to Maine - in five months. It was an experience of peace, joy and accomplishment that added a few precious years to his life.

Danny loved reading and writing, studied to be a teacher, and became one just before his depression got the better of him and we lost him to suicide.

He would have been one of those high school teachers you stay in touch with.

