ROBERT F. PRYCE: Taught at Western Reserve Academy for 38 years.

Dr. Robert F. Pryce, who taught at Western Reserve Academy for 38 years and served as Chair of the Foreign Language Department, died Friday, November 16, 2012, following a long illness.

Born in England, Dr. Pryce attended Wolverhampton Grammar School, then entered Pembroke College at Cambridge University where he earned a degree in 1953, followed by an M.A. He completed his Ph.D. in medieval literature at Case Western Reserve University in 1970.

Dr. Pryce taught for a year at a school in Blois, France, where he met his future wife, Velia Fiori, an American student studying on a Fulbright grant. He came to the United States in 1955 to teach for a year at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, before returning to England to teach at the King Edward VI Grammar School in Stafford. In 1957, he was recruited for the faculty at Western Reserve Academy and came to Hudson with his Velia. The first of their four daughters was born later that year.

For the next 38 years, Dr. Pryce taught French, coached soccer and tennis, served as department chair, and played a significant role in the life of the school. Dr. Pryce first introduced serious dramatic productions to campus life in the early 1960s, directing such classics as *The Petrified Forest*, *Mr. Roberts* and *Endgame*. After the school became co-ed in the 1970s, he directed *Macbeth* and *Antigone*, among others.

He was also active in the Hudson Players for many years, and appeared in memorable productions of *My Fair Lady* as Professor Henry Higgins, and in the title role of Neil Simon’s *The Good Doctor*. Bob and Velia Pryce, along with three other couples, established the Hudson Montessori School in 1962, and were deeply committed to Montessori education for their daughters and for others in the Hudson community.
Known as an animated and forceful teacher, Dr. Pryce was also highly regarded as a polished and humorous, yet dignified, speaker at many public occasions on the WRA campus. His influence was also felt as a key member of the school’s Guidance Committee for many years. He was the author of *The Hallowell Years* (pub. 1980), a book about the 21 years of service of former WRA Headmaster John W. Hallowell. The words Dr. Pryce used to describe Mr. Hallowell might also be applied to Pryce himself, as someone who stood for “old fashioned dignity, integrity, and total commitment to advancing Reserve’s academic standards.” Bob and Velia both retired from the faculty of Western Reserve Academy in 1995.

Dr. Pryce is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Velia Fiori Pryce; his four daughters, Maria F. Pryce of Arizona, Alison Pryce of Chagrin Falls, Cecily Pryce Maguire of New York City, and Jessica L. Burns of Annapolis; as well as five grandchildren.