

# PROFILE

## JOHN SEUFERT

### PEER PROFILE

The town was still Byfield, but the school was called Governor Dummer Academy, and there were no such things as selfies, Snapchat, YouTube, iPods, or laptops. Into that seemingly barren milieu, John Seufert arrived on this campus in 1985. The landscape of our world has changed remarkably since then, but one thing has remained the same. John Seufert is still the kind, dedicated, innovative, humorous, and professional teacher and coach who came here thirty years ago. His steady and unwavering loyalty to The Governor's Academy is one of the many reasons that our school has been able to navigate the sea of change that has washed upon our shore. John has been the sole German teacher on this campus since his arrival in Byfield. He oversees a comprehensive five year program that takes students from first year German to AP level German. His animated teaching and love for the German language is infectious. Many of his charges remark that they come away from his classes learning the intricacies of the German language, as well as the history and culture that have produced that language. His students appreciate that John sees beyond the classroom to teach them what The Governor's Academy is about, and how they can use this opportunity to help them go out into the world with confidence. One student said it succinctly, "Seufie embodies the school's motto, *"Non Sibi, Sed Allis."* In addition to his work in the classroom, for over two decades, Seufie has coached the Boys Thirds Soccer team. Any alumnus of those autumn afternoons on the lower fields has fond memories of "Ironman" contests, and thrilling game day moments when the team has had to employ a "Code Red" or a "Code Blue." From 1993 to 2003 John chaired the Foreign Language Department with the same caring and dexterity that he personifies in his classroom. His leadership of the department was always tailored to afford both students and faculty the most seamless and enjoyable path to learning a foreign language. Today, John is still the same. He meets fellow teachers with a friendly hello often in French, Spanish, German, or even Chinese. He sometimes pops into a colleague's classroom for some quick banter that always raises smiles and everyone's spirits. Seufie is a Navy man having been an officer on destroyers throughout the world from Norfolk, Virginia to the Philippines. One of his final duties as a naval officer was an assignment with the U.S.S. Constitution, a ship once captained by Commodore Preble, an early student of Master Moody. His navy stories are mixed with wisdom and ribald humor, captivating listeners on many a night in the dining hall. John is a certified BMW motorcycle mechanic as well as a gifted watercolorist whose paintings of landscapes and still-lives adorn his home. John spends most of his summer hours restoring old houses. A family man, John is the proud father of two sons who have both excelled in the world of medicine. He is a devoted brother and uncle to his extended family, as well as a voracious reader. To the students and faculty of The Governor's Academy John is a mentor, friend, and touchstone to all that this Academy values. For 30 years, he has plied a steady course, and he is something we can hold onto.

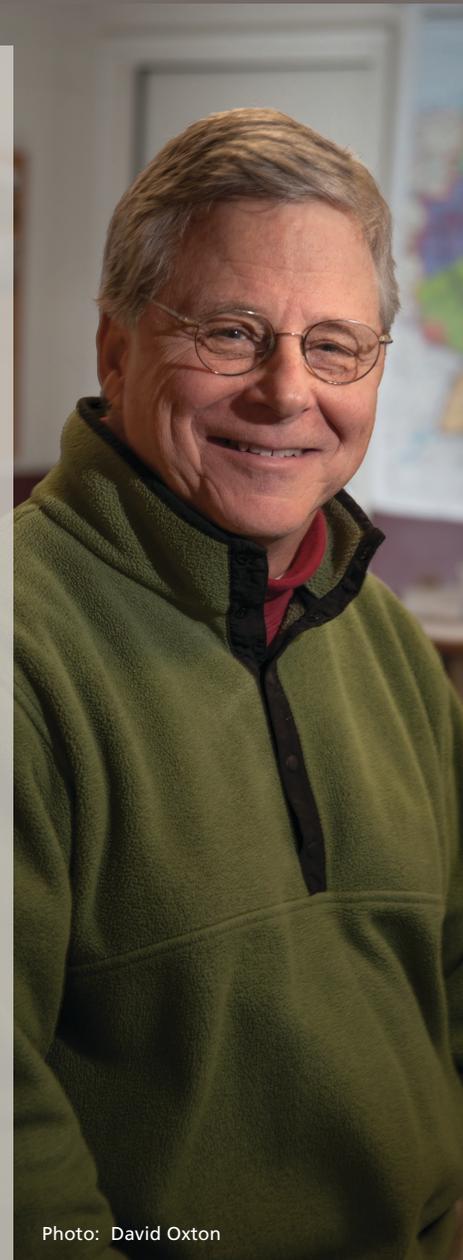


Photo: David Oxtan

### YEARS AT THE ACADEMY:

30

### EDUCATION:

Boston College, BA, Germanic Studies, 1973

Tufts University, MA, German, 1981

U.S. Naval War College, National Strategic Decision Making Program Graduate, 1997

### RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES:

German Instructor, 1985–Present; German Exchange Program Coordinator 1985–Present; Spanish Instructor: 1987–92; Foreign Language Department Chair: 1992–2002; Sub-varsity soccer Head coach 1985–Present; Faculty in charge Team Leader 1986–Present; Student Center Evening Duty; Member, Diversity Steering Committee.

### FAVORITE BOOKS:

Naval history, biographies, historical fiction, adventure, and home improvement.

### FAVORITE MUSIC:

Country & Western.

### ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Home improvement projects, water color painting, swimming, biking.

### PASSIONS:

Teaching, German language, history and culture, and visiting Berlin.

### GREATEST SATISFACTION:

Family.