

PROFILE

PERRY NELSON

PEER PROFILE

Our nest here in Byfield is woven largely by Perry Nelson's comings and goings for 29 years. He has represented and helped to stock the Academy as an admission officer, supervised a dormitory, served more than two decades on "the Deans Team" (many of those years as our Dean of Students), coached soccer and tennis, and all that while he has been teaching history.

Long before multiculturalism and "globalism" gained currency in schools like ours, Perry called for our history program to include non-Western subjects. His particular interest is Africa, where he served after college as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana. "By coming and going," per a Ghanaian proverb, "a bird builds its nest." More than a decade ago, Perry took a leave of absence to return to Africa, where he alone forged relationships with two schools in Kenya, weaving them alongside Mr. Seufert's exchange with a school in Germany to make a tapestry of the Academy's exchange program.

Ahead of his time, ageless (especially on any court: tennis or paddle), and endearingly "retro" (in his flannel shirt and blue blazer, his 1980s-vintage Westfalia camper, his weakness for frappes, or his dashiki-like Ghanaian kente cloth), "Nellie" is a respected, trusted, and admired friend to generations of students and colleagues who have come to call this place "home." To many of us, he embodies our mission to be "life-long learners who embrace [our] civic duty and global responsibility."

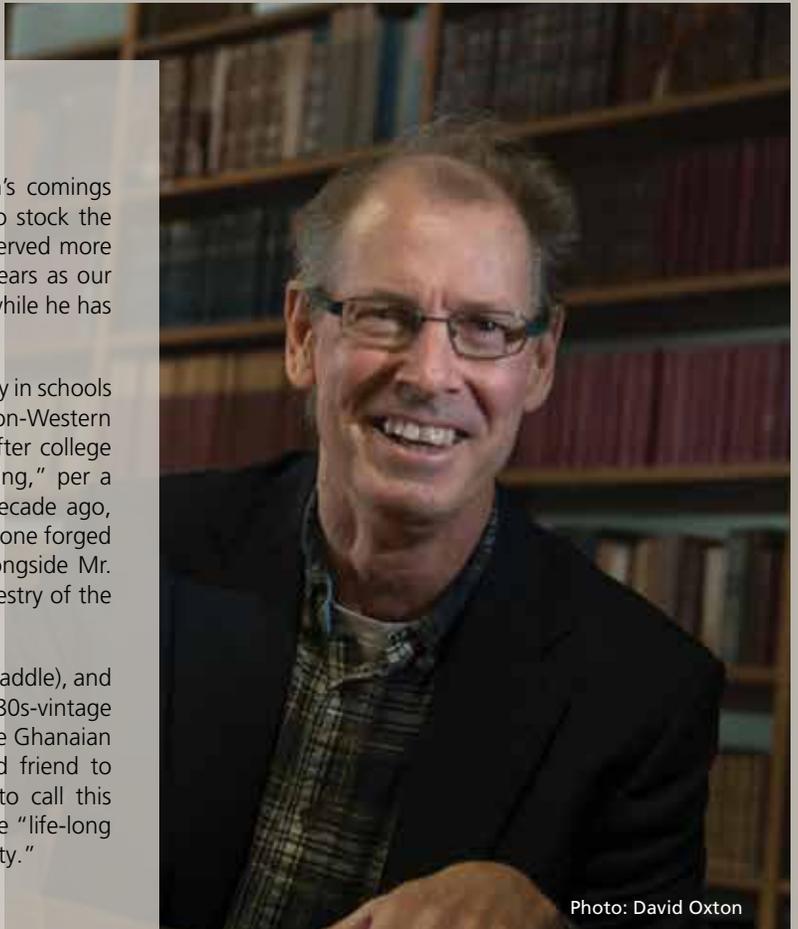


Photo: David Oxtan

YEARS AT THE ACADEMY:

Oh, what a day
Early July back in '87
What a special time for (me) Perry Nelson
When I joined GDA

EDUCATION:

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School
Williams College, B.A.
Harvard University M.Ed.

RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES:

History teacher, dorm associate, coach of thirds soccer and j.v. tennis

FAVORITE BOOKS:

West With the Night; Orr-My Story; The Day Before Yesterday; All the Freddy the Pig books; The Greater Journey; King Leopold's Ghost; China's Second Continent

FAVORITE MUSIC:

All the rock'n roll from the sixties and seventies, especially Jimi Hendrix, Crosby

Stills Nash and Young, Jefferson Airplane, Country Joe and the Fish, The Rolling Stones and Stevie Wonder. What gets me really mov'n and groov'n is music by The Supremes, The Commodores, Earth Wind and Fire, and Madonna! Keb Mo keeps me mellow, and with a nine and eleven year old, I can't help but appreciate Katy Perry and Imagine Dragons.

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Being a part of all of my family's activities—soccer, waterskiing, theatre, swimming, gymnastics, skating, drawing, going to the library, hiking, reading, tennis, bike riding, Pokemon Go, paddle tennis

PASSIONS:

Platform tennis, all things African, tennis, soccer, international affairs, sitting around getting to know and trying to understand people, interacting with students in the

classroom, on the field or courts, and in the dorm. Frappes, coffee, chocolate, and good conversation. Going out for breakfast, travel and trying to keep my VW '89 camper bus on the road. The Bruins, Celtics, and Red Sox, and dancing to disco!

GREATEST SATISFACTION:

Being part of a large and loving extended family. Living, working, and playing in a Govs community full of really nice, smart, engaging, supportive, fun, creative, and hard—working people of all ages, shapes, sizes, color, and backgrounds: all trying to help each other learn, grow, and find our way, as we work towards making the Govs world and the "greater" world a better place for everyone.