
Life Legacy Award

Don Short, Vice Principal and History Teacher, 1998-2014

The son of missionary and pastor parents, Don grew up in Kenya, as well as Tennessee and Indiana. Don graduated from Indiana Academy, then continued at Southern College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and religion. During his college years, Don spent a volunteer year in South Korea, where he found his love of teaching. Don completed his formal educational journey at Indiana University where he earned a master's degree in social studies.



Don's teaching career began in 1994 at Indiana Academy where he taught history and religion. In 1998 Don accepted a call to join the staff at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, where he had an impactful 16-year tenure. During his GCA years, Don continued teaching, but also established himself as an educational administrator in his role as vice principal. While at GCA, Don was Student Association sponsor, class sponsor, mission trip leader, Outdoor Club sponsor, and New England Trip director.

Don fondly recalls working with a great group of teachers and staff at GCA. He also loved teaching government and U.S. history classes, where he had the creative freedom to develop much of his own material. Working as an administrative teammate with Greg Gerard was a very positive experience, as well.

Perhaps his greatest achievement at GCA was finding his life partner, fellow staff member, Laura Lee. The two met in 2001 and married in 2004. Their three girls were all born while at GCA, so both Don and Laura have many happy memories of their years on Faculty Circle!

Don now serves as principal of Shenandoah Valley Academy and his legacy of service continues.

The class of 2000 selected Mr. Short for the Life Legacy Award because of their deep respect and high regard for him. Niki Moore Knowlton noted, "He was a good example of how a teacher can be both fun and friendly, while still being highly respected and God-fearing." Tim Knowlton said Mr. Short was his favorite teacher and inspired him to become a history teacher himself. It was also noted that Mr. Short found many ways to incorporate Christian history and thought into class discussions, often pushing students to think more deeply. The class is grateful for the eternal impact he had while at GCA!