
Life Legacy Award

*Doug Nesmith, Dean of Men,
1996 to present*



It all started at summer camp. While a high school student, Doug Nesmith worked at camp and began to feel God leading him into education. And it all made sense. He loved to learn, and he loved working with kids, so education was the logical choice.

While in college, Doug heard about an academy in Georgia that needed a task force dean. He applied for the job, Dean Tim Epperson hired him, and that is how Doug first ended up at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. Doug recalls being mentored by Dean Epperson and loving his work! When his task force year at GCA ended, Doug returned to Union College to finish his degree, knowing that he wanted to be a dean again sometime in the future.

After graduating from Union College in 1994 with a degree in elementary education, Doug took a teaching position at Mile High Academy. It was there that he met his future wife, Candace Myers. Soon they were married, and a year later they were both offered jobs at GCA, where Doug became dean of boys and Candace joined the music faculty.

Doug says the most rewarding part of his job as dean is watching the young men grow up. He loves seeing the changes that occur in self-control and maturity over the four years of academy and is happy to play a role in that development. The job has its challenges, to be sure, but Doug prays that when the students are looking at him, they will see Jesus. He also prays for God to keep the guys safe, to help them learn, and to have fun at GCA. But mostly, he prays that each one of them will fall in love with Jesus for the rest of their lives.

David Huey, '98, recalls of Dean Nesmith, "He was a part of the small group of staff who were there not for the money, but for the importance of helping students develop and shape their minds for the challenges in the world that lay ahead. As a dean, he played a significant role in teaching us how to become self-sufficient young men."

Doug and Candace have five grown children who graduated from GCA, the youngest of which is a freshman in college.