

## Don Nicholson appointed Athletic Director

Head of School Rodney LaBrecque announced this afternoon that Mr. Don Nicholson will step down as Director of Alumni & Development to accept the position of Athletic Director. He made the following announcement at School Meeting on Thursday, February 18.

Mr. Nicholson graduated from the Academy in 1979 after completing a postgraduate year. After four years at Keene State College, Mr. Nicholson graduated with a degree in history and returned to WMA to work as a teaching assistant to then Head of School Mike Casey. For the past 27 years Mr. Nicholson has been a jack-of-all-trades at the Academy.

During the 20 years he served the Academy by working in dormitories, he was the dorm head of both Rich Hall and Wallace Blake. He served as the History Department Chair for ten years. He has been a very successful teacher, with many students in his Advanced Placement European History course receiving college credit.

He has been our Director of Alumni & Development for the last seven years and has done a remarkable job in changing the trajectory of fundraising at this school. Under his leadership, the development office has averaged nearly \$1.5 million in total giving every year.

His coaching credentials of 27 years are deep and show a pattern of success. He was the JV Basketball coach for two years; the JV Soccer coach for two years; and the JV Lacrosse coach for 17 years. At the varsity level, he was the Boys' Varsity Soccer assistant coach for ten years. He was the Boys' Varsity Lacrosse head coach for two years. He was the Varsity Swimming & Diving head coach for 12 years, and as we all know, has been the most successful Girls' Varsity Soccer head coach in the history of the Academy with several undefeated seasons and New England Championships earned in his 15-year tenure. Even though Mr. Nicholson will take on the responsibilities of the Director of Athletics, he will continue as the head coach of the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team.

Personally, I want to thank Mr. Nicholson for his dynamic administrative work with me during the last seven years. I want to say directly to him, I think that while he surely had a record of outstanding success, I believe the best is yet to come. Congratulations Mr. Nicholson.