

Andrew (Andy) Welch, '79

1961 – 2018

Andrew, like so many, credits the establishment of his life trajectory to the formative years he spent as a student at St. George's. The rigorous academic discipline, combined with an engaged and encouraging faculty, provided Andrew with an ideal environment to explore different disciplines and discover his own passions for literature and the performing arts. Following graduation from St. George's, he attended Lindfield College in McMinnville, Oregon where he earned a bachelor's degree in communications. After college Andrew went to work for Seattle TV stations KIRO, KCPQ, and FOX for 22 years, rising to the position of floor director for KIRO TV's news programs.

In 2003, floor directors were replaced by automated processes. Andrew took advantage of a Washington State retraining program designed for workers displaced by automation. He decided to study "Something I have a real passion for... golf". More specifically, Golf Course Management and Design. At the completion of the program, Andrew left Seattle for sunny Phoenix, saying, "I just don't do 'grey' anymore", and "I may as well be where they play golf all year long". After working briefly at a golf club, he decided he'd much rather play the game than just work at the course. So that's what he did almost every day after his arrival in Phoenix until his untimely passing in January of this year.

When Andrew would reflect on his time at St. Georges, his recurring remembrances were of how the school community surrounded and supported him in so many ways. His favorite example of this was when then headmaster Walt Hoesel invited him to live with the Hoesel family in Davenport House for Andrew's Sr year. Andrew no longer had family living in the Spokane area. The Hoesel's hospitality allowed Andrew to finish his High School career at St. Georges. Although he used to joke about the possibility, there is no documented evidence that Andrew actually did walk down the hill in his bathrobe and slippers to his first period class.

Knowing how Andrew's St. Georges experience shaped his life, a gift to the school from Andrew's estate seems only natural. We believe he would like to challenge his fellow classmates and dragon alumni to support this learning community so that young lives will continue to be shaped well into the future.

Thank you,

Andrew's family:

Elizabeth Welch Carr,
Richard Enlow Welch III,
Anne Welch Ronzani,
William Michael Welch