

Spring-Summer 2016

Saint George's

Magazine



**Record-Setting
Class of 2016
Earns First SGS
International
Baccalaureate
Diplomas**

Board of Trustees 2015-16

Sarah Carlson,
Investment Committee Chair
Eric Cremers, President,
Executive Committee Member
Jim Gunn
Robert Hammett
Ramona Higashi
Pam Kohlmeier
Susan Legget,
Governance Committee Chair
Earl (Marty) Martin III
Linda Massman, Treasurer,
Financial Committee Chair
Genevieve Mann Morris, '90,
Advancement Committee Chair
LeRoy Nosbaum
Olivette Orme
Sally Poutiatine, '80
John Roll
Kris Schulte, Secretary,
Executive Committee Member
Michael Senske, Vice President,
Executive Committee Member

Joe Kennedy, Head of School (ex-officio)

Saint George's Magazine
is published periodically for the
Saint George's School community
by the Advancement Office.

John Carter
Publisher & Editor
Volume 20, Issue 2,
Spring-Summer 2016

Postmaster send
address changes to:

Office of School Advancement,
Saint George's School,
2929 W. Waikiki Rd.,
Spokane WA 99208.

Saint George's

Magazine

- 3** Head Lines
- 4** In a Class of their Own
> 2016 Graduates Earn First IB Diplomas
- 8** Joe Kennedy "Graduates"
> Head of School's Parting Thoughts
- 12** Girls' Track on Top
> State Champions Take the Podium
- 14** Campus News
- 15** Tell Me a Story
> Children's Author Shares Tall Tales
- 16** Bouncing Back
> Dragon Basketball Returns to State
- 18** Spring Sports Report
> Golf, Tennis, Track & Baseball News
- 20** Caribbean Adventure
> Brothers Live the Sailor's Life
- 22** Alumni News
> Class Notes
- 23** Remembering Walt
> Longest Serving SGS Head Passes
- 24** Coming Events



Cover Photo:



Walking off
Graduation Bridge
at the start of
the ceremony are
Manisha Sinha and
Collin Cremers,
flanked by senior
advisors Judi Morgan
and Jeff Darnall.
Photo by Tyson Bostrom '11.

On the Web

View a digital copy of the
Saint George's Magazine; just
look under "Publications" at
[www.sgs.org/
news-and-photos](http://www.sgs.org/news-and-photos)

Saint George's School Mission Statement

Inspiring scholars,
athletes, and artists to
serve and lead others.

The Best Number of All

Many people have asked me as the days wind down to my retirement from schools, “How many days, left?” The truth is I didn’t start counting until about a month before I knew which day would be my last at Saint George’s. People that know me well, know I have a weird memory for numbers, but the number of days until retirement wasn’t something I dwelled upon.

It has crossed my mind that I had been at eight schools in my thirty-one years in education. One was Catholic, two were public, four were independent schools and one was international. At seven of those I had the privilege to teach. I have been an administrator at five of those schools; a vice principal at one and a head of school at four. I was a college counselor at four schools, and I coached eight teams at four of the schools. It has been a pretty fulfilling career.

A couple of other numbers that stuck in my mind were that during those thirty-one years, I have only had one wife, Tina. She’s been with me for thirty-five years, thirty-three as a married couple. We have had many great adventures over the years, and she has been the best at making it easy for me. She worked at certified public accounting firms from the time she graduated from college to the day I asked her to be the Chief Financial Officer at Riverstone in Boise. From there she became the CFO at the school we ran in Antigua, Island Academy, and then finished her career in education as the CFO at Yellow Wood Academy, a school on Mercer Island. She telecommuted for the past four years, driving over for board meetings once a month.

She was doing all of that, raising our daughter, Nikki, taking care of the Davenport House or wherever we lived, and entertaining guests at school functions. Tina always worked full-time and did all the rest. She’s never complained or shied away from the question I have often asked, “Hey, what do

you think about moving to Sun Valley... Antigua... Bainbridge Island... or Spokane?” The answer was always, “Sounds fun!”

The next adventure we embark on will be centered on Tina’s dream of opening a wine bar. Moving this time to Mercer Island, we will reinvent ourselves and focus on one of our favorite hobbies. We leave Saint George’s with a great fondness for the school (officially Alumni Parents) and a little sadness at leaving such a wonderful and supportive community.

Tina, thanks for making the adventures we have had chasing my dreams fun, exciting, and purposeful. I am looking forward to our next adventure that will offer different challenges and intoxicating experiences.

With much love,
— Joe Kennedy, Head of School

“We have had many great adventures over the years, and she has been the best at making it easy for me.”



**Joe & Tina Kennedy
in the Davenport
House sunroom**



“This class has seen high acceptance rates to competitive schools thanks to their high standards.”

On the Web

See more photos of the Class of 2016 and Graduation at www.sgs.org/magazine



**Stepping Up to
the IB Challenge**

In a Class by Themselves

The Class of 2016 is unlike any class in Saint George's history. They are the largest graduating class the school has seen, as well as the most diverse class with 20% being international students. They also are the first class in recent memory to elect female students for both ASB president and vice president.

But what really sets them apart are their high academic standards. These students are the first at SGS to receive an International Baccalaureate Diploma, which has strengthened their learning skills and challenged them in new ways.

This class has seen high acceptance rates to competitive schools thanks to their high standards. "We had three [students] into Cornell, two into Brown, two into Duke, one into Columbia, one into Pomona, one into Claremont McKenna, one into University of Chicago, two into Dartmouth, one into Washington University in Saint Louis, two into Oberlin, one into Stanford, one into Rice, one into Vanderbilt, one into Emory; the numbers go on," says SGS Head of School Joe Kennedy. "We have never had numbers like this before, and the only thing that is really different this year is the IB program."

I Think, Therefore IB

Students didn't know exactly what to expect when they began the IB program. Many of them expected it to be much harder than regular or Advanced Placement classes. Though they did find this to be true, they quickly learned that as long as they held themselves accountable, the IB program was manageable. The IB curriculum challenges students in a different way than their previous classes. "The IB assessments make you think in a different way and helps you communicate your ideas better," says senior Michael Thew.

Though the IB program was very

rigorous and a lot of work to complete, it is recognized and well respected by universities, giving students an incentive to work through it. Senior Collin Cremers remembers telling a Duke University representative about his candidacy for the IB diploma, and the representative acknowledging what a difficult program IB was. "That's when I knew that colleges respected the [IB] program a lot," says Cremers.

Students also have a love hate relationship with Theory of Knowledge, also known as TOK. It is a required course for the IB program that helps students look at the world from a philosophical viewpoint.

Students found TOK to be a difficult course, but it helped them look at every day issues in new ways. Senior Caroline Hammett says, "TOK makes you reevaluate the world and helps you see different perspectives that exist for the same thing."

The interdisciplinary unit was one that stood out to senior Malinda Wagstaff. She found it really interesting to see how people from different professions would look at the issue in different ways. "Someone who has a background in music will see things completely different than someone with a background in science."

Saint George's largest class of graduates faced new challenges and opportunities



Continued on Page 6





Above: Jennifer Wang and Jerry Chu march in to the music of bagpipes, Jenn Ravasia stands for "Kind Words," and the guys look sharp in their blue blazers

Students also had the opportunity to write a research paper as part of the IB requirements. The Extended Essay helped prepare them for work they will do in college. Though they received help from teachers on their Extended Essay, students were not given class time to work on them. Senior Kevin Wang says, "Time management is really difficult because students have to budget their own time."

Several seniors found this research paper to be the hardest thing they had to do for the IB program. "I think [the Extended Essay] will continue to get easier for future classes," says science teacher Ian Townley, "because now we have a better idea of the structure to give students and they will be able to talk to their friends who have already done it." Townley worked with four of the seniors who wrote their papers on biology.

This project has given seniors a taste of what's to come in their college careers. "Half of the class wrote an Extended Essay this year, and it gave them some great experience. They've now been through the process of doing a 4,000-word essay; they know how to do it," says Russell Werkman, Assistant Head for Secondary Education. The students also feel like they are well equipped for what's to come. Cremers says, "It was a really cool experience to do a big research paper in high school, because it's something I'm sure I'll have to do in college."

Big Numbers and High Notes

As a strong academic class, this year's seniors excelled in math. The Math is Cool team included students from this class who won the state championship their junior year

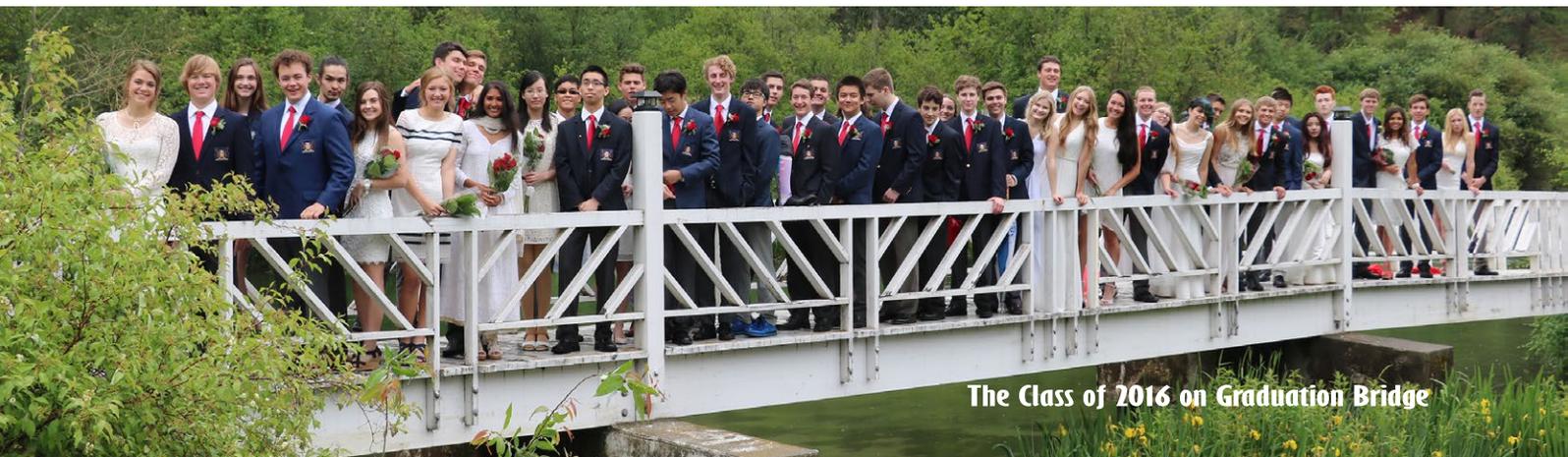
and tied with Hanford High School their senior year for the state title, beating out every other high school team in the state of Washington.

The same four students, now as a Washington Mathematics League team, finished 1st in Eastern Washington and 2nd in the State for all sizes of high schools. Jerry Chu tied with two students from Lakeside High School in Seattle for the top individual score in the State, Michael Thew was 4th overall and Jennifer Wang was 21st overall. Jerry also qualified for the USA Mathematical Olympiad, one of the most prestigious awards for high school students in the nation.

Along with academics, the 2016 class has also done very well in the arts. Seniors helped Saint George's win an unprecedented eight divisions at the EWMEA Solo & Ensemble competition this spring. They followed that up with 2nd and 3rd place finishes for Sopranos and Mixed Vocal groups at State helping SGS to the highest finish of any school in Eastern Washington.

Not only do these students hit high notes on stage, they also earn high marks in the classroom. Saint George's Upper School Choir and Upper School Drama students were the 2B Academic State Champions for winter 2015. Both programs earned the highest grade point averages of any choir or drama cast in the state ~ 3.593 for the SGS concert choir and 3.526 for the cast of *Once on This Island*.

It's not only in arts that the class of 2016 has seen academic accomplishments. In the 2015 fall season, the boys' cross country team won the 2B Academic State Championship with a grade point average of 3.767. Members



The Class of 2016 on Graduation Bridge

Class of 2016: Where They Are Headed Next



Matthew Arlt	University of Portland	Isabelle Nachtsheim	Eastern Washington University
Erin Armitage	Wittenberg University	John Ogden	Western Washington University
Christopher Caporicci	University of Washington	Peter Ogden	John Cabot University (Italy)
Sierra Castoldi	Embry Riddle University	Blaise Osborne	University of Mary
Xiaoman (Jerry) Chu	Brown University	Jimmy Psomas	Pomona College
Collin Cremers	Stanford University	Raena Rankin	Eastern Washington University
Natalie Farias	Utah Valley University	Jenn Ravasia	Tufts University
Shunze Gu	School of Visual Arts	Benjamin Rieger	University of Washington
Michael Hamilton	Chapman University	Olivia Schaefer	California State Univ. San Marcos
Caroline Hammett	Pepperdine University, Honors	Kirsten Schuele-VanAken	Pacific Lutheran University
Patrick Hasdorff	Arizona State University	Botao Shan	University of Washington
Allison Hayes	Gonzaga University	Liam Sienko	College of Idaho
Jun (Sunflower) He	Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Manisha Sinha	Whitworth University
Craig Higashi, Jr.	California State Univ. San Marcos	Max Spalding	California Poly. Univ., San Luis Obispo
Ruowen Li	Indiana University, Bloomington	Emily Tender	Loyola Marymount University
Haomin (Delfino) Liu	University of California, Irvine	Michael Thew	University of Chicago
Max Mallinen	Quinnipiac University	Nathan Vanos	Gonzaga University
John Thomas McCarthy IV	University of Notre Dame	Malinda Wagstaff	University of Rochester,
Ethan Mermel	University of Arizona		Eastman School of Music
Michael Metro	Washington State University	Anya Walker	Drake University
Josias Michalko	The George Washington University	Jingfei (Jennifer) Wang	Cornell University
Allison Milbrath	Santa Clara University	Zifan (Kevin) Wang	Brandeis University
Stow Miller	Colorado College	Isaac Werkman	Columbia University
Camden Miller-Snyder	Florida Polytechnic University	Yicun (Oscar) Wu	University of California, San Diego
Marika Morelan	Claremont McKenna College	Aoxi (James) Yao	University of California, San Diego

of this class were also on the baseball and boys' tennis teams, both winning the Academic State Championship title in the 2015 spring season, their junior year.

Aside from academics, senior athletes have had very successful teams during their time at SGS. After members of the class finished their freshman year season, former Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach, Pete O'Brien, told the team, "You guys have the talent to win it all if you stay together and work hard." This turned out to be true when the team won the State Championship in 2015. Members of the class also saw state championships in 2013 boys' basketball, 2014 girls' and boys' golf, and 2014 boys' and girls' tennis.

A Community Experience

Saint George's School offers a very tight knit community for students. This is something that the class of 2016 has loved and will miss when they head out into the world. "I love Saint George's because of the community, the teachers and the friends I've made," says Wang. "It's a very accepting school."

Students say they have felt very supported by staff and faculty at SGS. They have been encouraged to participate in a diverse

range of extracurricular activities. Senior Allison Milbrath says, "I love that I am able to participate in IB, musicals, choir, basketball and all of the teachers are willing to make it work so I don't have to choose." This support from teachers has allowed students the opportunity to try out new things they otherwise wouldn't have. "If I hadn't come to SGS, I probably wouldn't have gotten into music and theater as much," says Hammett.

Many students in this graduating class have been at SGS since elementary school and have been able to experience this community for most of their education. Wagstaff, who started at SGS in the third grade says, "I've known the [high school] teachers since before I was in high school, so I've built great relationships with them." Students from the class of 2016 commonly feel like they are friends with their teachers, and the support they have received in these relationships will be hard to walk away from. "I don't know if I'm prepared for college," says Milbrath, "I won't know until I get there. But I think Saint George's has done all it can to prepare me for what's to come."

— Laura Bauthues, Whitworth '16,
SGS Communications Intern



Above: Michael Hamilton and Stow Miller wearing leis, while Allison Milbrath and Isaac Werkman lead the recessional after they receive their diplomas

Joe Kennedy "Graduates"

New adventures await retiring Head of School

"His combination of skills, big ideas and a can-do attitude proved to be just what SGS needed. We are in a better place as a school because of Joe's leadership over the past five years."

- Mark Ostersmith, SGS Board President 2010-2012

For the first time in 50 years, Joe Kennedy will not be at school this fall. Any school.

After a half century as first a student, then a teacher, coach, counselor and head of school, Joe is calling it quits – or as he might say graduating – from Saint George's School and preparing for the next chapter for he and his wife Tina. But first he spent an hour talking about what first attracted him to SGS, some of the changes he's spearheaded over the past five years, and what it's like to live in the Davenport House on campus.

"An incredible place to learn"

Six years ago, when Saint George's began the search for a new head of school, Joe Kennedy was head of West Sound Academy in Poulsbo, Washington. "I was not looking for a new school," says Joe, "and I didn't know a lot about SGS. But [former SGS head] George Edwards contacted me about it, and I turned in an application."

"Driving into this school, the beauty was amazing! I'd never seen a place like this, and I don't think there is a campus in the Northwest Association of Independent Schools that can compare. When I got back home, Tina asked what I thought of it, and I said, 'What an incredible place to learn.'"

"Giving the school an international feel"

Joe brought a world of experience to Saint George's when he became Head of School in 2011. He had lived in Europe and China while growing up and had helped three other schools transition into International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools. "When you walk into a place like SGS that is already doing so much of the IB curriculum, it was a natural fit for the school." The IB's brand has already proven its worth for Saint George's. "Most of this year's seniors had

only taken one IB exam by the time they applied to colleges, but the IB's reputation had a lot to do with their acceptances to top tier colleges."

"Head of School Walt Hoesel looked at the IB for SGS back in the 1970s. He wrote, 'Our program is moving towards the type of standards implied by the IB.' In a sense, everything has come full circle, and the IB will help define Saint George's in future years."

Along with international standards, SGS expanded its international student population, particularly from China, during Joe's tenure. From just 13 students his first year to 38 this year in grades 8 through 12. "It's giving the school an international feel," he says.

"Help them achieve their dreams"

As he had at previous schools, Joe invested his time in college counseling at Saint George's. "Good heads of schools stay connected to kids to help them achieve their dreams. I always enjoyed listening to students and hearing about their hopes for college, whether at a top tier national university or a local college. Of course, to my mind there is nothing better than kids heading off to Shanghai, France, Canada or the U.K. as several have recently."

"The college counseling process has expanded to giving the PSAT test in eighth grade at SGS. It gives us great data on math and critical reading skills, and we've tweaked the curriculum as a result of what we've learned. Our kids do extremely well against national averages, and that will continue to get better."

"A small idea that has gotten pretty big"

Of the varied initiatives Joe has overseen the past few years – establishing endowments

Continued on Page 10

**Goodbye to the
Davenport House**



“This house should always be occupied by the Head of School. It’s an ideal place for dinners, auction events and student presentations.”

“I greatly appreciated Joe’s willingness and ability to lead the institution through incredibly important changes. Two examples that come immediately to mind are the adoption of the International Baccalaureate Program and the increase in the number of international students enrolled in the Upper School. Both of these outcomes have improved the school academically and enriched the institution’s culture.”

**– Earl “Marty” Martin III,
SGS Board President
2012–2015**



Clockwise from upper left: Joe Kennedy presenting the Hannah Joss Award, being introduced by friend & auctioneer Larry Flynn at Celebrate 60 Gala, the Big Chief at the Kindergarten Thanksgiving lunch, and addressing the first IB graduates.

for teachers and scholarships, fielding new athletic teams, sending robotics teams around the world, and keeping tuition increases to a minimum – one he’s particularly proud of is the annual TEDxSpokane conference the school hosts each fall. “I was a TED Talk junkie from way back, so I was pleased when Jamie Tender proposed it as a way to promote our “private school with a public purpose.” I credit Jamie, who attended TED Global in Scotland, for getting it started here, and he will keep it growing as the next Head of School. It’s been an amazing metamorphosis of a small idea that has gotten pretty big.”

“It’s an ideal place”

After the Davenport House had been vacant for a dozen years, one challenge for Joe and Tina was to make the 1920s era mansion a home and still keep it available for campus events. “At first, people would just walk in the front door, not realizing anyone

lived here!”

“This house should always be occupied by the Head of School, which the Tenders will do this summer after we leave. It’s an ideal place for dinners and auction events and student presentations like the fifth grade’s ‘Living Artists’ exhibit. Our daughter Nikki also loved living on campus, and Tina has been in her element entertaining parents and faculty at events here.”

“They care so much about kids”

Five years at a school gives you enough time to get to know the people that make it special. “The biggest thing is the staff here cares so much about kids. They bring warmth and personality to all they do, making sure students really ‘get it’ in every class and activity.”

“Then there is the facilities crew who do such a great job. I can’t imagine having to mow my own lawn! I love interacting with

the seniors and celebrating when they find out where they are headed for college, and I also get big hugs from the Kindergartners. Parents have been extremely supportive, and an even more supportive board has asked good questions and allowed us to accomplish a great deal for the school.”

“After we do our research”

Retirement opens up new horizons for Joe and Tina, beginning with travel plans after they move into their home on Mercer Island. “We will visit the wineries of California’s Napa and Sonoma valleys, then travel to the wine regions of Europe. Tina has followed me from school to school, but now we get to follow her dream to open a wine bar in Seattle – after we do our research.”

Joe also will have time to devote to writing. He might take up screen writing

again – “I have four scripts completed” – and movies were the focus of his first published book. That was a volume on teachable films that he co-wrote with his sisters in 1994.

“When I got my last royalty check, it was a minus \$9. Somebody returned the book they bought! But if anyone wants to check it out, used copies are now on sale for only 1 cent on Amazon.”

And while a world of wine and movies wait to be explored, after 50 years in and out of the classroom, Joe won’t be able to leave school completely behind. “I have been writing a couple of things that I’d like to finish,” he says. “One is an idea for a book, almost a memoir really, that I’d call Five Decades in High School. I can ‘purge my soul’ and share my real thoughts on education. And whatever I do, I’ll stay busy.”

– John Carter, *SGS Communications*

“In virtually every measure, Saint George’s is materially better than before Joe’s arrival.”

– Eric Cremers,
*SGS Board
President 2015–*

SGS Board Report: A World of Opportunities

The Class of 2016 is a special group, and I’m not saying that because my oldest son, Collin, is part of it. This class includes the most students to graduate at one time in Saint George’s history, as well as the first recipients of International Baccalaureate Diplomas. Both the size of this class and their opportunity to earn an IB Diploma are due in large measure to the efforts of out-going Head of School Joe Kennedy.

Joe came to SGS in 2011 and immediately focused on enrollment, which grew by 23 students in just one year. A big part of that increase was students from around the world. They now account for 20% of the Upper School and bring perspectives and skills that have enriched the campus community in many ways. In addition, they bring significant revenue to the school which allows us to offer more programs, enhance financial aid and keep tuition increases to a minimum.

Two projects involving international students that Joe spearheaded will continue to be priorities for the board after his departure this summer. One is the search for a boarding school facility that

could serve this international student population. As an alternative to host families, an international dorm or apartment building could provide a safe, supervised “group home” while providing additional revenue to the school. A second project looks to set up a dual diploma program. This involves SGS sharing its curriculum with a leading Chinese high school, where students would earn Saint George’s credits, and SGS would gain significant income.

Of course, Joe’s signature accomplishment at Saint George’s was guiding the school to become an IB World School. This was no simple process, but his expertise and passion made it possible. The results we have already seen in outstanding college admissions for our students this year confirms the wisdom of this decision to move towards IB. I’m convinced that without Joe as Head, we would not have the IB today as a significant enhancement to our curriculum and our school’s brand.

As Joe and Tina Kennedy contemplate their past five years at SGS, I hope they realize how much they have helped this school grow in diversity and open a world of opportunities for our students.

– Eric J. Cremers, *President, SGS Board of Trustees*

Saint George's girls' track team of (from left) Kate Tender, Jora Gleason, Allison Hayes, Marika Morelan, Ashley Sande and Madison Ward lifts high the 2B State Championship trophy at Eastern Washington University on May 28, 2016.



“These girls simply believed that they could win it all and would not accept anything less.”

— Rick Riley, SGS Head Track Coach



On the Web

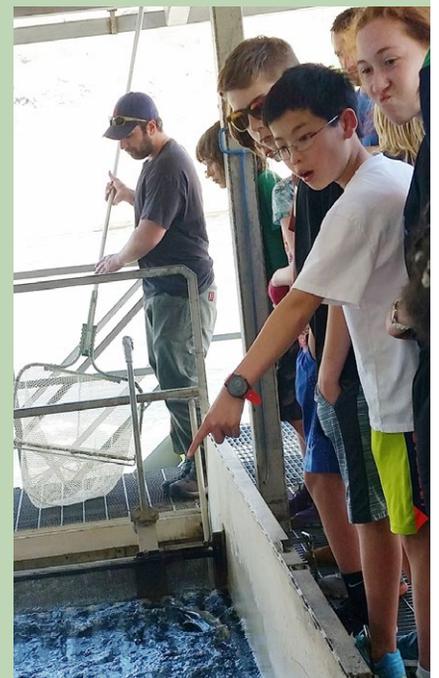
See more 2B State Track & Field Championship photos at www.sgs.org/magazine





Clockwise from upper left:

- ▲ Grandparents' Day brought families into Lower and Middle School classrooms in April.
- ▲ The cast of *The Drowsy Chaperone* fills the stage of Founders Theater for a big number in the spring musical.
- ▶ 6th graders spot different species of fish on their June trip to Idaho hatcheries and dams.
- ▼ Thomas Jefferson speaks again as the 2nd graders stage their Wax Museum of figures from American history.
- ▼ Olympic Peninsula tide pools became science classes during the 8th grade Coast Trip in May.
 - ▼ 4th graders performed on Orff instruments before an April Spokane Symphony concert downtown.
 - ◀ Cheers filled the Schmidt Center gym after the Dragons reclaimed the Holy Grail from rivals Northwest Christian in January.



On the Web

See more photos of SGS activities at www.sgs.org/news-and-photos/photo-galleries



Tell Me a Story!

Children’s author and NPR host Carmen Agra Deedy visited Saint George’s on May 2-3. She visited with teachers, told stories to students in K-6 classrooms, entertained an audience of students and adults in Founders Theater, and signed books for her many new fans!

“This is an incredible school,” she enthused. “I visit 180 schools a year. Here you see it in the classrooms, the art on the walls, the parents at the school. It is a marketplace, an Agora of learning.”

Carmen was a blur of activity during her two days on campus. But whether she was explaining to kindergarten listeners how to speak “Chicken” (“It’s a Roseta Stone program, but you have to get the pronunciation just right”) or regaling adult listeners with how her father learned to read at the age of 14 (“A chance encounter with Prince Valiant changed the trajectory of my father’s life”), the message was the same. Stories, written or spoken, help us connect to other people in ways nothing else can.



In her public talk, Carmen vividly described how she discovered the power of the written word. At the age of seven, her older sister dragged her into the public library in Decatur, Georgia to meet “Miss Mary Mack, a woman who was built for comfort, not for speed.” The librarian warned her that, “There was one book written for you alone, and it’s waiting for you. If you get close enough, it will leap into your arms.” Directed to the children’s room, Carmen found a magical space where 1930’s WPA artists had covered the walls with characters from books.

Running her fingers along the books, “One book flew off the shelf at my feet. I flipped it over with my toe to see what it was.” Cautiously opening it up, Carmen read one paragraph, and said out loud to no one there, “They gonna kill him?! This is great!”

“For the first time in my young and rotten life, I didn’t want to let go of a book.” But when she saw it, the librarian put her foot down. “You’re not old enough for this book.” “But it jumped out! It was looking for me!” cried Carmen. Miss Mary Mack relented, and the girl checked out her first book, “becoming a member of an ancient tradition of library users.”

Two weeks later, having just finished reading that first book on her front porch, Carmen ran sobbing back to the library. “Charlotte is dead!” she wailed. “I know,” replied the understanding librarian, “it should have been the rat.”

“Give me another one!” And the librarian, smiling, put *Charlotte’s Web* back on the shelf and pulled out another book. “I think you are ready for this now,” she said, and handed the girl a volume titled *Anne of Green Gables*.

– John Carter, SGS Communications

Storyteller Carmen Agra Deedy proves everyone loves a good story



Above: Carmen speaking in Founders Theater, instructing 4th & 5th graders, and telling the 1st graders a scary story

On the Web

See photos of Carmen’s visit and hear a brief story of her family at www.sgs.org/magazine



Bouncing Back

Basketball teams return to State B Tournament excitement

After falling just short of reaching last year's State B Tournament, both the boys' and the girls' basketball teams looked for deeper runs in the playoffs this year.

Boys' Basketball

We finished the year with an 18-11 record and ranked 7th in state; not a bad accomplishment for a team that our league coaches picked to finish 4th in the South Division of our league. We opened our season with three games in three days, starting with Tenison Woods College from Australia. After a very good win over our soon to be friends from Down Under, we posted two more wins over Newport and Chewelah.

While starting out 3-0 was great, we were in search of consistent play for the next several weeks. The turning point in our season was a big loss to Lind-Ritzville-Sprague. They beat us for the first time ever in the Schmidt Center and beat us handily. We turned around the following weekend and beat #5 Colfax, then played the then #2 team in the state Liberty to a 1 point overtime loss in a game where we had a big lead in the 2nd half. We came away with a lot of confidence going into winter break.

After Christmas, we opened up with Pullman, the #2 ranked 2A team in the state. With 1:30 left to play we were down 3. Like the top level team they are, they pulled away and beat us by 14. We had to bounce back quickly against Freeman. They took 2nd in the 1A state tourney. We beat them in an excellent back and forth battle, 68-65. This proved to be a spring board into the North portion of our schedule, losing only to eventual state champion Northwest Christian in the Battle of the Holy Grail. This positioned our team for the stretch run and locking up the #3 seed into the District 7 Tournament.

We battled the injury bug in January and early February, but really hit our stride when



Erik Farias drives to the basket



Above: Collin Cremers goes for a rebound, the bench cheers a 3-pointer, and Isaac Werkman concentrates on a free throw at State.

we beat Davenport and Liberty to put us into the District Championship and giving us a top seed into Sub-regionals. We placed 2nd in Districts which matched us up to play Asotin, the District 9 champion. We came out strong and defended their 3-point shooters on the way to a 62-46 point victory, sending us to the Sub-Regional Championship and qualifying us to Regionals. We again took the 2nd seed and opened State play with Mabton at Mt. Spokane. They were a small, but very quick team that gave us a great run down the stretch. We relied again on our defense to carry the day, holding them to 20 points under their season average.

Qualifying for the final eight at State is always such a great feeling. But when the draw came out on Sunday, we were on the same side of the bracket as the #1, #2, and #3 teams in the state. The toughest possible draw you can have. We had a tough go in the first game against Brewster. They got it going and there was little we could do to stop their offense. On Day 2, we played Morton-White Pass to get to the medal round. It was an absolute battle throughout and we had chances down the stretch, but could not finish.

Getting to State was a great reward for our senior captains — Isaac Werkman, Liam Sienko and 1st-Team All-League Collin Cremers — and an excellent motivator for our underclassmen, including All-League freshman Erik Farias. It was the program's fourth trip to State in the last six years. The bar is still set high for the upcoming players. We hope they work to take on the challenge.

— Ryan Peplinski,
Boys' Basketball Head Coach

Girls' Basketball

For the Lady Dragons that took the floor this year, I had the tremendous honor of knowing they met their goals and exceeded expectations.

Without one of our 2-time All-State point guards, it seemed that a return trip to the Spokane Arena would be an uphill battle. However, we rebounded quickly winning 10 of our first 13 games, including two key wins against rival Northwest Christian – one in overtime at the Freeman Christmas tournament and the other at our annual Battle for the Holy Grail.

After a bit of a mid-season slump, we started clicking on all cylinders heading into the post season, defeating Colfax on the road in overtime to clinch the top seed into Districts and advancing to the District Championship after beating the Lind-Ritzville-Sprague Broncos for the third time in the District semi-finals. After losing to Colfax in the District championship, we were faced with the grueling task of playing the Dayton Bulldogs on their home court in the first round of the Sub-regional tournament. Once again our tough and resilient squad answered the call, defeating Dayton 38-30 to advance to the Sub-Regional championship. It seemed that every game where there was a trophy on the line this season involved facing off against Colfax, and this game was no different. However, Abby Jones lead all scorers with 17, and Hailey Higashi hit the game winning free throw with no time left on the clock to give the Dragons the Sub-

Regional title and the #1 seed into Regionals.

We were now one step away from our goal of making it back to the bright lights of the Spokane Arena. The last hurdle to get over was round 4 against what has become somewhat of a rival as well, the LRS Broncos. LRS controlled much of the grind-it-out game and things were looking a bit bleak until senior Natalie Farias put our team on her back and played perhaps the game of her life. Scoring 13 of our 32 points, including 9 in the fourth quarter, she guided us to a tough 32-29 victory against the Broncos and punched our ticket back to the Arena!

For many high school basketball players, getting to play on the Arena floor is a dream that is never fulfilled. Now we had an even bigger opportunity in front of us, being just 1 of 8 teams remaining that could take home the gold ball. It was not meant to be this year, however, as our first round match-up against Napavine proved to be a task too big to overcome, losing 36-32. Napavine went on to finish 2nd to Okanogan. The next day, in a loser-out game, we were once again faced with the difficult task of beating Colfax for what would have been the fourth time of the season. After a dominating first half up 22-9 at the break, the well-coached and senior-laded Bulldogs turned it around on us, winning 40-38 after one last three-point attempt from Natalie just missed at the buzzer.

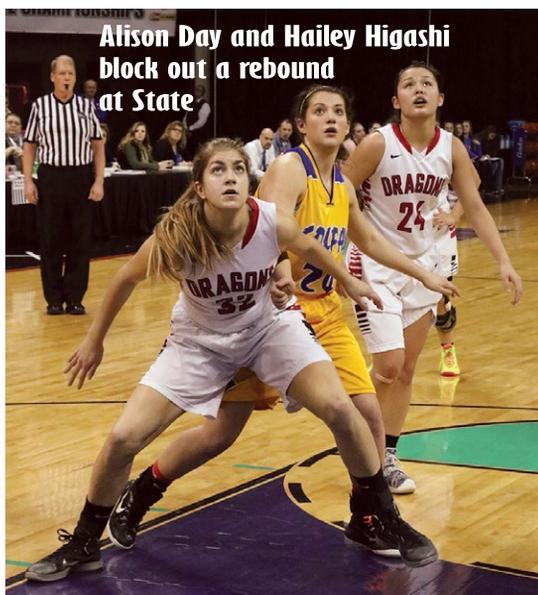
The Lady Dragons finished the season 21-8 and as League Champions, Sub-Regional Champions and earning a hard fought trip to State. The league recognized Hailey Higashi as a first-team all-opponent member, and the coaches also voted me as Coach of the Year in our league. Special thanks to our seniors, Erin Armitage, Natalie Farias, Allison Hayes, Allison Milbrath, and Emily Tender. Our girls discovered that no matter what the expectations are, if you commit to doing things as a team and dedicate every effort to achieving your goals, anything is possible.

#ladydragonfamily

– Mark Rickard,

Girls' Basketball Head Coach

Below: Natalie Farias plays point guard, the bench tracks the action, and Allison Hayes, Abby Jones and Natalie line up



Alison Day and Hailey Higashi block out a rebound at State

On the Web
See photos of Saint George's basketball teams in action at www.sgs.org/magazine

Spring Sports Report

Spring 2016 Results

- ▶ **WIAA Scholastic Cup 2015-16**
2nd in the State
- ▶ **Boys Golf: 3rd in District,**
GPA ranked 1st in State
- ▶ **Girls Golf: 1st in District,**
3rd in State
- ▶ **Boys Tennis: 1st in District,**
2nd in Region,
7th in State,
GPA ranked 1st in State
- ▶ **Girls Tennis: 1st in District,**
1st in Region
- ▶ **Boys Track and Field:**
4th in Region,
8th in State
- ▶ **Girls Track and Field:**
2nd in Region,
1st in State
- ▶ **Boys Baseball:**
Round of 16 in State



Above: Jimmy Psomas lines up a put; Taylor Mitchell and Maddie Christiansen hold the 3rd place State Trophy

Once again Saint George's spring sports programs earned District and State team trophies to make SGS the runner-up for the State Scholastic Cup (recognizing the top 2B school for athletic and academic achievement) for the third year in a row.

Golf

With a steady wind, Meadowwood Golf Course in Liberty Lake played extremely tough for the State 2B Golf Tournament on May 24-25. Taylor Mitchell battled the elements on Tuesday the first day, shooting an 86, which placed her 5th going into the second day. Maddy Christiansen shot 97 and had to wait until the last group came in to learn that she had just made the cut to play on the second day. It was a stressful but totally awesome experience when we found out she had made it in, especially for a freshman.

The girls needed an even bigger Day 2 to challenge for a title, as Pomeroy and Northwest Christian also qualified two girls after the first day. Both Taylor and Maddy played really well on Wednesday; Taylor finished the tournament 4th overall, shooting 86 again, and Maddy finished 13th, shooting 96 on the second day. They didn't quite improve enough to win a championship, but they did finish 3rd in State. That's a great accomplishment and something we can build on for next year, as both girls are back!

Jimmy Psomas, our lone boy who qualified for State, struggled a bit on the first day, shooting 86 and sneaking inside the cut line of the top 20 boys. On Wednesday, he shot the second best front nine of the day, making the turn in 37. He finished 12th overall, passing eight boys over the course of the day. He has placed three times at the state tournament ~ 4th in 2014, 13th in 2015, and 12th in 2016. All three student-athletes represented SGS well!

— Brad Kirsch, SGS Golf Coach

Tennis

Arguably the biggest accomplishment in tennis this year was that we actually had a complete girls' squad — something that has not been the case in many years. With only four returning varsity girls, it's impressive that we fielded a full varsity squad, a couple of substitutes, and even a JV squad. Overall we had 15 girls and 15 boys playing tennis this year, the largest squad I'm aware of at SGS.

Even more impressive is that these girls won the League Championship for the first time in the school's history. The girls also won the District and Regional championships for the first time in 15 years. The doubles team of Manisha Sinha and Isabelle Nachtsheim represented SGS at the State Championships, doing better there than the Lakeside and Freeman girls' doubles teams that finished on top of them at Regionals.

We went into the boys' season knowing it would be a rebuilding year, since we graduated or otherwise lost all three singles players that we took to State last year, along with three of the four doubles players. A real tribute to the talent in this year's boys' team, they still won the League and District championships for the 4th year in a row, and came in 2nd in the Regional tournament.

We had two doubles teams qualify for state, sending Alex Poppel and Case Martin along with Collin and Connor Cremers, who placed 4th in the State Boys' Doubles Championship. The SGS boys' team finished 7th out of 23 teams at State. And in spite of graduating six very smart seniors last year, this year's team was crowned Academic State Champions for tennis for the second year running!

— Laura Cremers, SGS Tennis Coach



Track & Field

Last year was a season of record breaking performances: school, meet and state marks were shattered by SGS track and field athletes. The 2016 team ran in another direction: their stated goal from the outset of the season was to win a State title. On May 28, the girls' team did just that, capturing the 2B State Championship by the slimmest of margins – a mere half point over Okanogan!

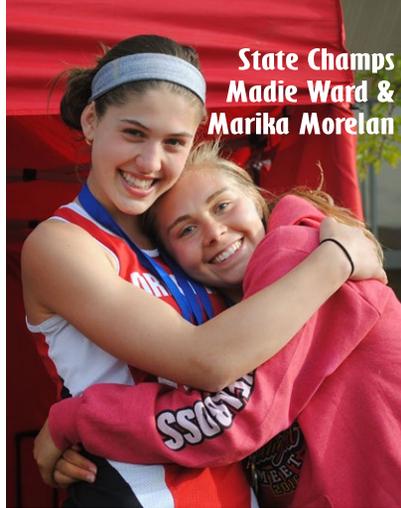
Madison Ward won individual State titles in the 800 and 1600 meters, and Marika Morelan in the 3200 meters. Ashley Sande placed 2nd in the 400 meters and scored with key places in the 100 and 200 meters. Marika added a 2nd place in the 1600 meters, and freshman find Jora Gleason picked up medals in the 800 (6th) and the 1600 (5th). Marika, fighting a viral infection, scored a 7th place in the 800, crucial points in a super tight race. The six-girl team was rounded out by Kate Tender running in the 400 meters.

It all came down to the 4x400 relay team that fielded Jora, Allison Hayes, Madison and was anchored by Ashley's stirring stretch run. Their come from behind win and school record time of 4:05.51 was the margin of victory at State. These girls simply believed that they could win it all and would not accept anything less.

The boys' team finished a respectable 8th at State, with a Gold Medal victory in the 4x400 relay. Comprised of Nathan Vanos, Sam Niven, Noah Bade and anchorman Matt Arlt, these fine runners led from start to finish with a school record time of 3:28.18.

Sam also placed in the 100 and 200 meter races, Noah in the 200, and Matt in the 400. Nathan, running in his fourth State Track Championships, placed in both the 1600 (6th) and 800 (4th). Botao Shan ran the 4x100 relay with Jadon Melendez, Sam and Noah in a good but non-qualifying effort in the preliminaries. Jadon also competed in the 300 hurdles, and Cade Peplinski participated in the high jump at State.

– Rick Riley, SGS Track & Field Coach



Above: 4x400 winners Nathan Vanos, Matt Arlt, Sam Niven & Noah Bade

Baseball

Dragon Baseball advanced to the State Tournament this year, which capped a great turnaround for a program just a few years removed from a 1-19 record. After opening the season with a 7-2 win pitched by Alex Watkins over Northwest Christian, the Dragons held a 14-7 record going into a pair of 2B District loser-out games on May 9.

In the first game, Zach Steele pitched a 6-0 shutout against Prescott. The second game was a rematch from the start of the season – Alex pitching against Northwest Christian – but this time for a ticket to the State Playoffs. Isaac Werkman hit a three-run double in the third inning for the Dragons. With the score tied at 4 in the sixth inning, SGS scored three runs including a 2-run single by Zach Steele. That produced a 7-4 win and a trip across the Cascades for the first round of the State Playoffs.

The SGS baseball team travelled 300 miles to Chehalis for their Round of 16 game on Saturday, May 21. Unfortunately, the result was a 6-2 loss to Pe Ell/Willapa Valley and the end of the road for this year's much improved team. The Dragons finished with a 16-8 record, with big assists from seniors Chris Caporicci, Blaise Osborne, Michael Thew and Isaac Werkman. Michael and Isaac were named 1st Team All-League, Zach and Alex earned 2nd Team All-League recognition, and I shared Coach of the Season honors for the league. Congratulations on a strong season!

– Mike Wootton, SGS Baseball Coach

Below: Charlie Darnall bats, Zach Steele pitches, and Isaac Werkman & Michael Thew smile



On the Web

See photos of Dragon golf, tennis, track and baseball at www.sgs.org/magazine

Caribbean Adventure

Brothers explore island life as “Gap Year” sailors



Above: Daniel & Nik get the Neurath ready to sail, on top of the world, taking her out to sea

Sailing over 850 nautical miles and covering 6 degrees of latitude, SGS alumni Nik ‘13 and Daniel Ostersmith ‘15 visited 19 islands and 13 countries in their 29 weeks of living on a sailboat. They journeyed from St. Maartin to Grenada along the islands that form the eastern edge of the Caribbean Sea. Nik offered a little background on how this adventure began:

“The initial seed for this trip was planted when I found out that living on a sailboat is something people actually do. This happened while browsing the internet one night in upper school, trying to put off a homework assignment I am sure I had due the next morning. Over time the idea grew in my mind, and eventually I shared it with Daniel. I built two wooden sailboats for May Term my senior year as a somewhat related test run. Our interest started to really take shape in 2014, when we realized it could happen after Daniel’s graduation and my second year at college.

“What eventually made it happen was that our parents agreed it sounded like a good idea, and we both filled out the paperwork for our schools. Once Daniel had deferred his enrollment for a year and I had taken a leave for the 2015-2016 academic year, we were committed.”

November 13th, 2015: St. Maartin – Things run on their own schedule here. Whereas the boat was supposed to have all the hull work done and painted and launched by the time we got here, the reality is that they just started yesterday.

November 17th: While working on the boat one of the mechanics asked Nik what his dad does and Nik said he works in the investment industry. The guy asked Nik if he was a Bernie Madoff-type guy and Nik replied, “Do you think my brother and I would have bought THIS boat if my dad was running a Ponzi scheme?”

November 24th: The lift showed up about 2:00 and slings were installed under the boat and up she went. Like the space shuttle making the long, slow trip to the launch pad, our boat made the way to the pier as we all walked behind. Soon, she was in the water for the first time in three years...she floats!

December 5th: Daniel woke me up pretty early because he was excited to go to the market. We jumped in our little dinghy and went to Marigot, the main town on the French side... We walked the mile or so back to Maho Beach. You can watch jumbo jets land just feet above your head as you stand on this beach. YouTube it!

December 16th: The two of us sailed over to Anguilla. First time sailing this boat as just the two of us. Daniel caught his first fish!

December 31st: Back on St. Maartin, spent the day snorkeling through reefs. Midnight came as we welcomed in 2016 to the sights and sounds of fireworks, flare guns and emergency horns. You don’t want to be a sailor in trouble at midnight on 12/31 because no one will take you seriously!

January 6th, 2016: Today we left St. Maarten, for real this time. It was a 30 mile sail to Statia... For the first time on this trip, we were boarded by the Coast Guard. It was nice that we had all equipment that is required of us, and that we have nothing to hide.

January 8th: Today we motored to St. Kitts... We agreed to set up the satellite tracking device dad bought before the trip. Took a local bus to Brimstone Hill fort which was fantastic.

January 14th: This morning we attempted to get a better anchor location. After several failed efforts, we both said, “The heck with this, let’s go to Antigua!” So that’s what we did. Happy to be in Jolly Harbor, Antigua after our biggest sailing day yet.

January 25th: Raising the dinghy and securing everything last night for our sail to Guadeloupe this morning. It was about a 45

mile sail, our longest yet.

January 30th: We dinghied over to a small island neighboring Dominica, the island the “Pirates of the Carriibbean: Dead Man’s Chest” was mostly shot on. Explored some old forts. Snorkeling and spearfishing.

February 2nd: On a tour of the island, we saw many villages tucked into what seemed like completely inaccessible areas. Roads on ridges with 100 foot drops on either side, and beautiful jungle valleys where you couldn’t see the forest floor because of the miles of dense canopy.

February 4th: Early in the sail off the coast of Dominica, Daniel saw what he thought were driftwood logs about 200 yard from the boat. He quickly realized, however, it was two whales when he saw the spray from their spouts. He grabbed his binoculars (not a fishing line!) to get a closer look. We soon spotted three other whales on the other side.

February 5th: Daniel quickly snagged a barracuda. While using his pliers for leverage to remove the hook, a razor sharp tooth found its way into his ring finger. As we approached the coast of Martinique, the winds really picked up. They were about 20mph and coming from the exact direction we were heading. We felt like we were on the set of one of those cheap movies where they throw buckets of water on the actors in front of a green screen. We were soaked and cold for one of the first times on this trip.

February 9th: We took a ferry across the bay to Fort de France. Today was Carnival. It is tradition to wear red, which we didn’t know. Oh well, it’s not like we didn’t stand out anyways. There were loud drums, dancing, whistles, elaborate dresses and ghoulish costumes. We feel like we truly experienced Carnival in the Caribbean. What a gift!

February 14th: Arrived on St. Vincent. We were now loaded with fig bananas, limes, nutmeg, coconuts, passion fruit, oranges, papaya, christophine and tomatoes. What a haul. Any worry about scurvy was put to rest. Daniel expressed an interest in learning about the local fishing. He took a flashlight

and shone it on the water, causing hundreds of ballyhoo to jump out of the water.

February 29th: We named the boat for the philosopher Otto Neurath’s famous “Neurath’s Boat” which says:

“We are like sailors who on the open sea must reconstruct their ship but are never able to start afresh from the bottom. Where a beam is taken away a new one must at once be put there, and for this the rest of the ship is used as support. In this way, by using the old beams and driftwood the ship can be shaped entirely anew, but only by gradual reconstruction.”

We made it to Saint George’s, Grenada by early afternoon.

March 5th: When we arrived at Dragon Bay, we realized we were right next to the underwater sculpture garden. We took this opportunity to snorkel, and weren’t disappointed by what we saw.

March 17th: Our first overnight sail to St. Lucia. It was the first time on this trip we haven’t been able to see land in any direction, or even another boat. The water here is 9,800 feet deep, adding to the sense of vastness. So dark we couldn’t see anything except for a million stars from horizon to horizon. We were aware of the luminescent creatures all around us as our boat churned through the waves.

April 14th: We asked our waitress about life on the Grenadines. She talked about how the Coast Guard often seizes drugs, then reports a lesser amount and sells the “missing” loot. Clearly a pirate culture persists here...

May 14th: Someone asked our parents if we have picked up any language skills since we’ve been on these islands. Unfortunately, the only languages we’ve become proficient at are “Sailor” and “Mechanic” \$#@!@&!

June 2nd: Woke at 4:00am and said goodbye to the Neurath. Sad, but we both agreed this adventure was so much better than we ever could have imagined. Headed to the airport for our flight to Miami.

[This fall, Nik returns for his junior year at Stanford University, while Daniel will be a freshman at Lewis and Clark College.]

Below: Man vs Mahi Mahi, St. George’s harbor, sailing away



On the Web

See more photos of the Ostersmiths’ adventure and read additional journal entries at www.sgs.org/magazine

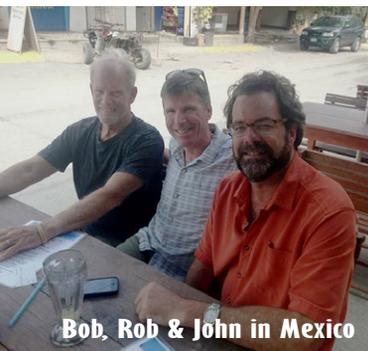


Class Notes

1975

John Morrow asks “Does anyone remember Bob Brock, our English teacher from the glorious seventies? **Rob Lindsay '78** and I had breakfast with him in Sayulita, Nayarit, Mexico. Bob and his wife spend 5 months each year in Rincon Guayabitos (about a half hour north of Sayulita)

and 7 months in Sun Valley. I've visited with Bob over the past three years of our Sayulita trips. Rob and Meg just happened to be here at the same time celebrating their 30th anniversary.”



Bob, Rob & John in Mexico

1978

Eben Atwater shared this remembrance of former SGS Head of School Walt Hoesel in the family's online guest book: “I spent some very formative years with Walt. I know I made him laugh, or shake his head, and occasionally pissed him off. When I played him in the finals of the First Annual St. George's Racquetball Tournament, he made me beat him 3 out of 5, “Just so I know it wasn't a fluke.” That said, I'll state without reservation that I gained more insight, perspective, and guiding light from Walt's Problems in Modern Society - Ethics class than I did from any other formal education I received. Gentle yet tough, demanding yet tolerant, funny, erudite, incredibly gifted, endlessly caring and sharing. I've met very few humans in my life that had such a profound impact on who I am and why I arrived here. Thank you, Sir. God bless, catch ya on the flip side, I hope.”

1994

Amber Lincoln signed on as Curator of the Americas at the British Museum in London this past January. “I am deeply committed to helping people with diverse skill sets and knowledge document, visit and use the BM's collections.” Learn more about her new employer and its exhibits at www.britishmuseum.org/



Recent alumni gather for pizza after cheering at the Redlands vs Chapman mens' basketball game on February 13. Cody Peplinski '15 is a manager for Chapman, while Will Tender '14 plays for Redlands.

2012

Celebrating twin commencements in May, **Kellen Mohr** received his Entrepreneurship degree from the Loyola Marymount University School of Business. His summer internship with outdoor clothing company Coldsmoke began with a weekend in the Sierra Nevada mountains shooting film of their new clothing line for an upcoming ad campaign. Two weeks later, **Kylie Mohr** graduated from Georgetown University magna cum laude with a major in government and a minor in journalism. She has accepted a reporting job with the Jackson Hole News and Guide in Wyoming, covering the education beat and writing feature stories.



Kylie and Kellen at Georgetown's Graduation

On the Web

See more photos from alumni events in Seattle & SoCal at www.sgs.org/magazine

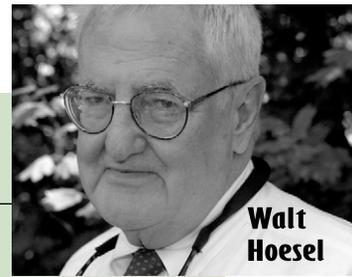
2014

Hunter Olsen has received a \$15,000 Michael Larson Asset Management Fellowship from Bill and Melinda Gates Investments. The award goes to high-GPA students who display an interest in investment management. The sophomore at Claremont McKenna College also has the option to do an additional \$10,000 in research over the next two years with a CMC professor.

“My investment idea would help students become physicians who would not be able to otherwise afford a medical education,” says Hunter. “Those who would like to spend some time as a physician for an organization like Doctors Without Borders would have the first financially-conscious way of making that possible as well. This service would add tremendous value and leave plenty of room to provide both a healthy investment return and exceptional opportunity for medical students. My plan would go a long way towards solving the shortage of an estimated 124,000 physicians, which will pose a threat to the efficacy of the U.S. health sector by 2025.”

Hunter expressed his gratitude to SGS economics teacher Josh Hayes for making this award possible. “His guidance as my teacher, advisor, and coach made for a seamless transition from the Upper School to college. His prodigious economics lectures provided far more than the requisite theory and skills. Collectively, these factors established the foundation on which I have been able to thrive at Claremont McKenna.”

Walt Hoesel: Soul of the School



Walt Hoesel

Few individuals had more of an impact on the development of Saint Georges School than Walt Hoesel. Walt served for 13 years as Headmaster of Saint George's School, from 1972 to 1985, and helped to transform the school into the institution it is today. Walt's visionary, intuitive and compassionate leadership molded much of the modern school's culture, organization and curriculum. As one of his former Board Chair's observed, "Walt was an old and gentle soul, who dearly loved the school and gave it everything he had."

After graduating from Princeton, Walt spent nine years teaching science, physics, coaching swimming and serving as Assistant Headmaster at Germantown Academy. Walt also served briefly as the Headmaster of Lake Forest School near Chicago. He vividly remembered his first encounter with Saint George's campus, set in that "magic" valley of the Little Spokane and the tremendous appeal it had on his own love of nature and the outdoors. On his first drive into campus, when three deer ran in front of the car, Walt turned to his driver, long serving college admissions director Gini Elias, and said, "If you have a contract in your pocket, I will sign it right now." Within a week, Bob Ogden, Chair of the Board, offered Walt a contract to head Saint George's.

Walt inherited a troubled school after the previous Headmaster had been forced to resign following a lengthy and debilitating illness. Enrollment and debt issues were constant concerns. There was a recently completed "new" Upper School

Building, but still no money to fully furnish it or even install lockers. The Middle School was in an increasingly dilapidated former dairy barn and the Lower School, which started at grade 3, was housed in an all metal, prefabricated, surplus Post Office structure.

The school's transformation during his tenure was remarkable. With few financial resources, Walt led the school community through a series of historic transitions. Walt lured the noted Spokane educator, Jackie Bacham, to Saint George's to create the "Learning House," grades K-2, on campus which finally achieved the full K-12 grade configuration for the school. In a masterful series of political and financial moves, Walt, working with Bob Ogden and County Park's Superintendent, Sam Angove, sold half of the school's property to the Nature Conservancy that surrounds the campus and in so doing, insured that its grandeur would be preserved. Under Walt's leadership, the school reached record enrollments and had its first successful encounter with State B Basketball. The school created its first endowment, established the Outdoor Program, and in 1975, founded the first computer program with a terminal linked to Whitworth College.

According to Walt he could achieve all of this "because I had the support of a remarkable faculty." Walt could recite with pleasure the "mainstays" of the school when he arrived: Betty Jergensen, Gini Elias, Bob Farley, Errol Schmidt, Marsha Weitz and Gert Douglas. In addition Walt hired a series of "masterful teachers," among them Ross Thomas, Ed Tyllia, and the legendary John Nord. He hired faculty that brought new programs and excitement to campus,

like Laura Pierce and her "Dragon Slayer" program for Middle School.

Walt and wife Katie were the first couple with young children to make Davenport House their home. Katie was an indispensable part of the school, serving as part time nurse, secretary, teacher, volunteer and stand in parent. Walt loved the campus, remembering that, "I must have gone down the Little Spokane 100 times." The Hoesels also loved animals and had a menagerie of dogs, cats, birds and even goats. "Our family loved hiking the campus, up over the sand hill, with our dogs and cats and traipsing behind our two children, Lisa and Christopher." They opened Davenport House to a variety of school pot luck suppers, music lessons, performances and meetings.

At Walt's last Saint George's graduation in 1985, in his own indomitable spirit, he turned to the Senior Class and sang a solo of "Happy Trails to You." After Saint George's most of Walt's trails were truly happy. He spent 14 years as a beloved physics teacher at the Overlake School in Redmond and became a founder of their outdoor education program. After he retired from teaching, he served more than a decade as board member and "elder" of the Wilderness School.

Great schools are built on sacrifice and commitment. Walt, who passed away April 20, 2016, gave full measures of both to Saint George's. Always a modest and gentle spirit, Walt Hoesel claimed "that my success was built on the shoulders of giants." May we always remember him as one of those "giants" on whose shoulders our school stands today.

— George Edwards,
SGS Head of School 1985-90

On the Web

Read an extended version of this article on Walt Hoesel at www.sgs.org/magazine





SAINT
GEORGE'S
SCHOOL

2929 W Waikiki Rd.
Spokane WA 99208

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
POST FALLS, ID
PERMIT NO. 32

Coming Events

SUMMER FUN at SAINT GEORGE'S!

**Harry Potter,
Study Skills &
Video Games
Programming!**

Saint George's award-winning teachers have created an incredible variety of one-week day camps to make learning fun all summer long!



Lower School
Adventure Camp
features kayak games
on the Little Spokane River

On the Web

See all about SGS Summer Camps and sign up to join the fun at www.sgs.org/summer



TEDxSpokane features inspirational speakers sharing big ideas and unique stories that will challenge you to see the world around you in new ways.

TED^xSpokane

x = independently organized TED event

The 5th annual TEDx event of "ideas worth spreading" returns to SGS on Saturday, October 22, 2016!

See videos from past TEDxSpokane speakers and learn about the 2016 event at www.TEDxSpokane.com