

Faculty Farewells

Teachers Head into Retirement or New Career Opportunities



Eight Saint George's educators bid farewell to the campus community this spring, some to enjoy retirement and others to pursue other work opportunities. We hope these Dragons return to visit their former students and colleagues often!

Dianne Douthitt Lower School Librarian

Nineteen years ago, I ran into Dianne at a cold, blustery track meet in Clarkston, WA to watch our children from opposing high schools participate. This fortuitous encounter was the beginning of Dianne's career in the Lower School as librarian. Having recently completed a School Library Media endorsement with prior years as a classroom teacher, Dianne was ideal to join our SGS community. Through the years, the library has transformed under Dianne's guidance and expertise. A new circulation desk and

shelving, computer lab, and a selection of books any school would envy are the results of Dianne's masterminded efforts in the library. Dianne's knowledge of books and her desire to learn the interests of her students made the library a welcoming place for children to develop their love of books. Teachers, too, were the recipients of Dianne's generosity of spirit and collaboration of resources.

Thank you, Dianne, for sharing life lessons, adventures, and the joy of a good story with the Lower School children. Now it's time to do the same with your grandchildren. Enjoy your retirement with family and friends!

—Kathy Johnson,
Asst. Head for Primary Education

Judson Ford Upper School Math Teacher

Judson Ford taught at SGS for 2×10^1 years. His classroom was a favorite hangout



for... almost everyone. Even the most jaded math students came to appreciate his stream of math jokes and puns. At any given class period, one could expect to find students from multiple levels in his room. He roamed his classroom, teaching on the board, coaching from the next seat, encouraging and cajoling. Even during "free periods", the desks in his room were full of students working on problem sets, looking for help on 'resubs', or talking about a recent climb.

He did much more than teach. An avid outdoorsman, he helped redefine the outdoor program in the past nine years, adding his expertise to climbing trips, paddling trips, and anything outdoors. He not only taught it, he lived it, taking a sabbatical to ascend Mt. Denali. A regular bike commuter, his May announcements about Ride to Work Week were the most certain sign that spring had arrived. That notwithstanding, he was often found pedaling hard down Waikiki Road in March and October.

It was said in his earlier years, that Judson was the yin to his colleague's yang. He was the nurturing math spirit who saw the best in each student. He reminded faculty so often of the importance of focusing on the positive that it became known as "the Judson Rule". We may wonder why Judson is going to India. Did he see a SIN? Did he want a TAN? Or was it "just COS"? Whatever the reason, we wish him ∞ luck!

— Russell Werkman,
Asst. Head for Secondary Education

Steve Gavin **Middle School** **Social Studies Teacher**

Steve joined Saint George's in 1998, making his mark in his two decades as a Dragon. During his tenure he has led 7th and 8th grade students on a fascinating trip through history and around the world as the US History and Geography teacher. After winning the Hannah Joss Fellowship in 2003-04, Steve retraced the route of Lewis and Clark on the 200th anniversary of their expedition, and then brought his experience back to his classroom. Every year, his US History students study the Civil War and

then enthusiastically re-enact the Battle of Gettysburg, squirt gun style.

Outside of the classroom, Steve has been an integral part of our community. He has led many groups from our school to see the sights in Washington DC. Steve's musical talent has been evident at the back-to-school Dragon Dances. He has lent his backstage expertise behind the scenes in many school productions. Steve has also been involved in SGS athletics as a coach for girls' softball and basketball. He was an assistant coach on the US girls' team that won the championship in 2001-02! Most recently, Steve has served as the coach for the state qualifying Knowledge Bowl team.

We wish him well as he enjoys his retirement with family and friends and we will be thinking of him come September when he surely will still be at his lake place.

— Joelle Neiwert,
Middle School Principal

Richard Lauridsen **Lower School Spanish Teacher**

After teaching in Alaska and California, Richard joined our SGS community in 2011 to introduce the K-5 students to, for most of them, their first world language—Spanish. Richard is passionate about sharing his love and connection to the Spanish language and culture with his students. Utilizing his Fine Arts background, Richard created and self-published beginning Spanish picture books and intermediate chapter books to supplement his Spanish curriculum. Practicing their new language, the children joyfully greeted Richard in Spanish each morning as they walked into the building. Leadership opportunities abounded for students participating in Student Council and weekly Friday Assemblies with Richard as their advisor.

As one chapter closes at SGS, Richard will be pursuing other opportunities to further his educational career. Meanwhile, I'm sure Richard will enjoy sailing and hiking this summer. Best wishes, Richard, on your new adventures.

— Kathy Johnson

Judson Ford



Steve Gavin



Richard Lauridsen



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Meg Maglio



Meg Maglio **Middle & Upper School** **Math Teacher**

In her three years at SGS, Meg Maglio created a classroom where students enjoyed solving problems in geometry and talking about ice hockey, especially her beloved Chiefs. During her tenure, she taught Geometry, Advanced Geometry, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, and IB Math Studies. Meg's adventurous spirit and mom-like relationships with students were hallmarks of her time at SGS. She was always up to go on any trip, coach a sport, or chaperone a dance. She made an extra effort to include all students, finding ways to bring them into the group, and was generous with her time, connecting with students on a personal level.

Meg's positive outlook and good spirits were a welcome addition to the school and we will miss her intrepidity and kindness. We wish her the best of luck and hope that all of life is a power play!

— Russell Werkman

Cindy Mahan



Cindy Mahan **2nd Grade Teacher**

The “Queen” has presided over her second-grade kingdom since 2001 after teaching many years in both public and private schools. Her reign has been notable as Cindy expertly crafted a curriculum that fostered the growth of independent, self-assured students who eagerly participated in the many hands-on experiential learning activities. Community service was a vital component in Cindy’s curriculum as her students read and donated books to pre-school children in the area and built relationships with the Upper School students as they paired together to work on math activities.

With grown children living in London, Thailand, and Idaho, Cindy will now have the time to travel abroad during the “off season” to be with family. But, we know where to find Cindy during Gonzaga’s basketball season—in the Kennel cheering on her favorite team! Enjoy your “golden years” of retirement hiking, walking, reading, quilting and much more.

— Kathy Johnson

Sherry Shoemaker



Dave Ticker



Sherry Shoemaker **5th Grade Teacher**

The epitome of a master teacher, Sherry came to the SGS community in 2009 after teaching in the Spokane School District for decades. Guiding students in becoming independent, confident, life-long learners has been Sherry's passion and commitment. Eastern Washington University students have also benefited from Sherry's expertise as an adjunct professor in the Education Department. Although Sherry taught in other intermediate positions, fifth grade was her home in the basement. Experiential learning activities throughout the year highlight the unique and exceptional program that was offered in her fifth-grade classroom. Sherry's love of the outdoors, passion for books, fascination with travel, and mastery of curriculum molded her students' experience in fifth grade.

Thank you, Sherry, for sharing your proficiency of teaching and excitement of learning with your students. We all wish you the very best in your next chapter in life-retirement. Knowing your energy level, you will be busier than ever with family and friends!

— Kathy Johnson

Dave Ticker **School Counselor**

Dave Ticker joined the Saint George's Community in 2013. He has served as our K12 Counselor in a part-time role during his tenure. In his short 5 years at SGS, Dave has built relationships with our SGS Dragon families and students. He introduced the “True Colors” program in the Secondary School to provide new perspectives between faculty and students with personality traits, the “Nice Matters” movement in the MS and has been a welcoming presence in the mornings at the Lower School. The students will miss his waffle iron prowess, as he was one of the primary adults behind our Waffle days in the Secondary School.

Dave is retiring from SGS, but will continue to work with the WIAA Executive Board and to spend time with family, play with grandkids, and to improve his golf game.

— Jamie Tender, Head of School