

# Faculty & Staff Farewells



Kerry Clark

## **Kerry Clark** Director of College Counseling & Upper School English Teacher

Kerry Clark joined the SGS community in 2013 and has worn many hats. As a counselor, Kerry has helped hundreds of students find their best fit college choice. He has written more than 300 letters of recommendation to support applications and scholarships! He has taught Theory of Knowledge, as well as pre-IB English, English Language and Culture, and IB English B to our international students – even teaching them in the evening to accommodate students distance learning from China during COVID. Kerry guided student writers as faculty supervisor for “The Round Table” newspaper. He was also coach and cheerleader for SGS athletes on MS and US baseball, volleyball, and MS and US soccer teams. Kerry’s positive spirit, dry sense of humor, and can-do attitude will serve him well as college counselor at a new IB school in Redmond, WA.

– Francesca Mulazzi, Head of Upper School



Rachel (Hildie) Davidson

## **Rachel Davidson** Upper School Math Teacher

Rachel (Hildie) Davidson has been developing supportive relationships with SGS students and helping them build confidence in their math skills since 2015. She is famous for correcting and returning tests in an average of 2 hours and 12 minutes and for the cult-like following she has for her May Term Car Repair class. She might hold the record for the most different classes ever taught: Advanced Geometry, Algebra 2, Algebra 2 with Trigonometry, and six different IB Math courses! Rachel recently finished a M.A. in Administrative and Nonprofit Leadership from Whitworth University and will develop youth programs at the Spokane YMCA. We will miss her hard-working energy and commitment. Best of luck in all you do, Rachel!

– Francesca Mulazzi, Head of Upper School



Rick DeFord

## **Rick DeFord** Upper School Physics Teacher & Robotics Advisor

Rick DeFord is completing an amazing career at SGS. He joined the Upper School



Judy Hafso

faculty in 2004 and taught through 2011. After a short time away, he returned as the SGS physics teacher and US advisor. In 2005, Rick became the founding advisor of the SGS Robotics team, better known in FIRST as Team 1595. The rookie robotics season was impressive as the robot outperformed expectations as well as most of their competitors. Rick has continued to advise TEAM 1595 to success at Regionals, Worlds and China over the years. Rick has also been a stalwart in the SGS Outdoor Program, assisting Melanie Mildrew on countless trips across the Western U.S. We wish Rick well in his retirement and new adventures.

– Jamie Tender, Head of School

## **Judy Hafso** Lower School Music Teacher

For the past 16 years, Judy Hafso has artfully created a musical environment for students to explore the world of music. Her gifts are extraordinary as she shared her passion of music with students and made “joyful sounds” together. We all relished celebrating together during our weekly Friday Assemblies led by Judy’s sing-a-longs and special performances. As program director extraordinaire, Judy established the Grades 3-5 Choir, orchestrated the 5th Grade Musical, and produced the most memorable Holiday Concerts. With grace, calm, and a “can-do” attitude, Judy made what most people thought impossible—possible. No matter the age, students found success discovering their voice or playing an instrument. Even adults had fun drumming with Judy! With a song in her heart, Judy and her husband, Marc, plan to enjoy their retirement spending precious time with family and rediscovering Canada.

– Kathy Johnson, Head of Lower School



Jean Hardie

## **Jean Hardie** Middle & Upper School Drama

Jean Hardie came to Saint George’s in 1997, but I knew her from seven years earlier. That’s when I accompanied the Civic Theatre’s production of “Nunsense” with Jean as Mother Superior. She brought her acting experience to the Middle and Upper School drama classes as well as directing or assisting in every school production. She did all of the lighting and choreography, assisted with costuming and makeup

for every show, and directed most of them. Her unending energy in moving a show forward and her wealth of knowledge were amazing. She also helped direct the dance classes during May Term. We will miss her talent! Thank you, Jean!

— David Demand, MS/US Music Director

## **Josh Hayes** **Upper School History Teacher**

Josh Hayes joined the Upper School Faculty in 2004 and is finishing his 17th year at Saint George's. He has taught the spectrum of classes including History, Economics, Theory of Knowledge, Game Theory, and a Zombie May Term class, as well as serving as History Department Chair. Josh taught both the AP and IB curriculum over the years and served as a grader/examiner for both programs. Josh also coached teams to strong finishes in History and Economics contests. For 14 years, Josh was head coach of the boys and girls Cross Country teams, where his teams won multiple regional and district titles as well as state titles for the boys in 2006 and 2007. We wish him well on his new adventures and will miss his brown bag lunches where he provided financial tips to his colleagues.

— Jamie Tender, Head of School

## **Paulina McGougan** **Middle School Spanish Teacher**

Paulina McGougan has been a tireless educator and advocate for her students' learning. I have never seen a teacher so willing to give of their time to do extra tutoring and offering unlimited extra attempts on assessments. Senora McGougan cares deeply about supporting and challenging her students so that they can successfully learn Spanish. When she joined the Middle School in 2013, as part of the 6th grade team, Mr. Kirsch and I both worked hard to try to keep up with her. I have never seen anyone do a better job of continually keeping track of grades, assignments, touching base with students and communicating with parents. Her positive attitude and work ethic are contagious, and her tenure in the Middle School made every teacher better. We will all miss her vivacious personality next year.

— Joelle Neiwert, Middle School Head

## **Ashley Miller** **Director of Development**

Ashley Miller joined the SGS Administrative team as the Director of Development in July

2019. She jumped into the community, quickly learning the software, managing the Annual Fund, representing SGS at Rotary and preparing for the 2020 Auction. Like everything else, the role of Development Director had to shift during the pandemic to an online and virtual approach. Our Annual Fund campaign has had strong participation and is close to meeting our projected goals, and the first ever Virtual Gala was presented with much success. Her willingness to cover classes and collect golden tickets this year was an invaluable contribution to our school community. We wish Ashley well as she leaves Spokane to move home to Columbia, South Carolina.

— Jamie Tender, Head of School

## **Rachel Musser** **Lower School Spanish Teacher**

Rachel Musser joined our LS community three years ago and instantly impacted the lives of her students and colleagues. A gifted teacher, Rachel skillfully guided her students in learning the Spanish language and culture. Rachel made learning fun through her project-based activities, cultural celebrations, and integrated curriculum. Learning a new language can be daunting, but Rachel masterfully crafted her lessons, so each student felt success and a willingness to take risks in speaking Spanish. Thank you, Rachel, for sharing your proficiency of teaching and excitement in learning with your students. We all wish you the very best in your new adventures in Texas.

Kathy Johnson, Head of Lower School

## **Alison Ramsey** **Registrar & Executive Assistant to Head of School**

Alison Ramsey joined the SGS staff in 2018 as Registrar and Executive Assistant to the Head of School. In her three years at SGS, she used her organizational skills to improve multiple databases, including better connections with our alumni, and made our interactions with NWAIS, OSPI, DOH and the Washington State Board of Education more efficient. Alison helped organize successful hospitality events prior to the pandemic. During the past year, her insight and guidance were invaluable in organizing and navigating special events such as Graduation. Alison brought an excellent work ethic and great experience to SGS, and we wish her luck in her new position.

— Jamie Tender, Head of School



Josh Hayes



Paulina McGougan



Ashley Miller



Rachel Musser



Alison Ramsey