

Class Notes

1985

Heidi (Caspersen) McKenna is working for a therapeutic horseback riding program called Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA). “I started out as a volunteer but am now an assistant horse manager. I help condition and train our horses to work in the various HETRA programs. I’m also training to become a certified adaptive riding instructor. I’ve been involved with therapeutic riding programs for about 10 years now, and it’s definitely a rewarding experience!”

“I’ve been doing triathlons for a long time. One of the hardest ones I’ve ever done is in the Black Hills of South Dakota because it is so hilly on the bike portion. Running was always my favorite, but in my old age I’m starting to enjoy the swim leg a lot more.”

1992

Jennifer Dyreson opened Forté Therapy clinic on the north side of Spokane in August 2019. “Prior to that, I worked in outpatient clinics, Providence Holy Family Hospital and an Extended Care Facility. I have a BS in Human Biology from EWU, a Master’s in Physical Therapy from EWU. I graduated from PT school in 2001.

“The pandemic has definitely changed the path of my business growth. I was on target to add another provider after ten months of business, but COVID-19 hit around six months and delayed that progress. I have been able to continue working with my Biller/receptionist throughout this unique time, minus three weeks, with changes in schedule allowing for needed cleaning between patients and new policies to keep patients and staff healthy. Getting to know and market to providers and staff in doctor’s offices has been a challenge as well. It has been an evolving learning experience!”

1993

Arrington de Dionyso (formerly Arrington Hughes-Tremper) wanted to thank “Madame” Marsha Weitz for his love of languages. “Not only do I now speak French and Spanish with capable fluency, I also taught myself Italian and Indonesian and have worked in over thirty countries! So I really owe some gratitude to the Foreign Language Department at Saint George’s School for lighting that fire!”

“Even though I “only” attended SG for three years (1988-91), those were years of inestimable impact in fostering what for me is a lifelong passion for learning. I moved to Olympia in 1992 and graduated from the Evergreen State College in 1996. I’ve resided in Olympia the whole time, but as an artist and professional musician I have performed on every continent except Antarctica. In the pre-COVID era, I was travelling roughly 4-6 months out of the year on my own tours and sometimes organizing tours for international

Arrington de Dionyso with his bass clarinet. The 3D-printed mouthpiece he designed allows it to play with the fullness and projection of a tenor saxophone.



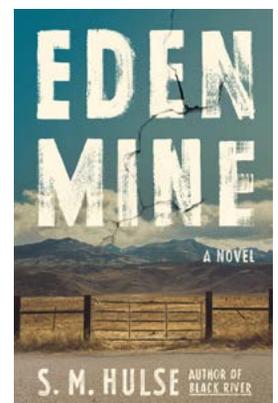
Jen Dyreson ‘92 and family

artists from places such as Indonesia or Russian Siberia (Republic of Tuva). At this point, it’s been one year since my last public concert but I’ve been catching up on a variety of different recording projects to pass the year and painting as often as I can.”

2002

Eden Mine, a novel by **S.M. (Sarah) Hulse**, received Christianity Today’s 2021 Book Award for best work of fiction. In a review of Sarah’s second novel, Lanta Davis, associate professor of humanities and literature at Indiana Wesleyan University, wrote:

“This is a surprising and timely book, written with a compassion and tenderness rarely given to difficult topics like political tension within families and communities. In our polarized world, where reductionist thinking is largely the norm, S. M. Hulse’s novel offers us nuanced characters who are trying to sort out their complicated bonds to other people. It reminds us that no individual should ever be reduced to one moment, one action, or one belief.”





Anna Marie and husband in Paris

2008

Anna Marie Schaefer Sire has been living in Paris since 2008, “and it has been a wonderful experience. I received my French citizenship two years ago, was married in November of 2019, and just had a baby girl in December. Unfortunately due to the consequences of COVID-19, daily life has changed drastically in the past year. In the spring of 2020 we spent two months in total lock down. Only people with the capabilities to work from home remained employed full time. Since then, many companies have moved towards telecommuting. Public places such as large shopping centers, theaters and movie theaters, museums and restaurants remain closed. We are grateful for the vigilance and sacrifices of the healthcare workers, and hope that the liberties of normal life that we take so much for granted are restored quickly.

“I have worked for Louis Vuitton since 2014 as a pattern drafter / draper. After my studies in fashion design and draping at l’Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne, with a lot of hard work I was able to turn an internship into a full paid job. I work in the Atelier Rare et Exceptionnel where we collaborate with the design studio to make made-to-measure orders for private clients, celebrity red carpet events, company muses, and often the First Lady of France. We make dresses for events including the Golden Globes, the Academy Awards, and the Cannes Film Festival. This past year we also participated in a volunteer movement during the lock down to make hospital gowns to supply the hospitals in Paris. I am privileged to have a wonderful and creative job that I love, as well as work with an extraordinary team of people.”

2017

Alyson Galow and fellow Anthrozoology major Ashley Wilt have started Collar Scholars at Carroll College. The club is comprised of students who assist in raising puppies who will eventually become assistance dogs through Canine Companions for Independence, a nationally affiliated, non-profit organization that provides service dogs for people with disabilities, free of charge. Ashley and Alyson have been participating in Canine Companions for the past five to six years having raised seven puppies between them, with another one on the way.

“The Carroll campus has been an excellent place to begin this club since it is already so receptive to dogs from multiple different groups and programs. A huge part of this welcoming is due to the Anthrozoology program fostering a sense of curiosity for the human and animal relationship among campus members. Additionally, it has been wonderful to be offered access to the PCCC Training Room as well as spaces like the Cube when needing a space for practicing skills and commands with the dogs,” said Alyson.

Read the full article about Collar Scholars and link to a Q&A session with the two students about their club at www.sgs.org/magazine.

Iris Dai under the UW's cherry trees in bloom



Alyson (top center) and some of the Collar Scholars she has been training



2017

Xinxiao (Iris) Dai is a senior majoring in Psychology and Education at the University of Washington. “I found my passion in marketing during a Social Psychology class and also during the service of my student organization, Index of Seattle Life, where I serve as the current president. The organization aims to help Chinese international students better accommodate college life in Seattle through posting informative articles on our social media and holding networking events. We currently have 45 student officers and have more than ten thousand followers. Last fall, I decided to apply for graduate programs in marketing, and I was luckily admitted by Integrated Marketing Communications at Northwestern University.”

In Memoriam

1961

Christopher Canwell passed away at home in University Place, WA on May 1, 2020. Chris was raised on a farm north of Spokane along with younger siblings Kevin Canwell '62 and Sandy (Canwell) Moulton. His brother Kevin wrote, "Chris was in a special class as he was the quintessential SGS student. He became Junior Class President, and then in his senior year he was elected Student Body President. Also, as a special envoy for Headmaster Metters in his senior year, he spent a lot of time working with Metters in the big house."



Chris '61 & Joleen Canwell

they raised two children - David Canwell and Sarah (Canwell) Katsandres.

During college Chris began working at The Bon Marche and completed their Executive Development Program. He left there to join Kirsch in 1971 where he worked until he retired in 1999 as a Senior Sales Representative. Chris and Joleen have been active members of St. Charles Borromeo Parish for nearly 50 years. Chris served on the Parish Council, made meals for Nativity House, and along with Joleen helped prepare couples for married life in the Evenings for the Engaged program. Chris had many hobbies that filled him with joy: photography, cooking, tennis, gardening and target shooting were among his favorites. "Chris was the kind of brother everybody wishes they had," writes Kevin.



James Dean '62

1962

James Dean

passed away at home in West Seattle on December 16, 2020, of cancer. After graduating from Saint George's, Jim

attended Willamette University, where he was a member of the Sigma Kai fraternity and earned a B.A. in History. In 1969, he earned an MBA at the University of Washington with a thesis on urban development. Jim and Virginia (Deedee) Whitaker married in Yakima in 1975 and raised their two sons, Greg and Michael, on Mercer Island before moving to West Seattle in 1998.

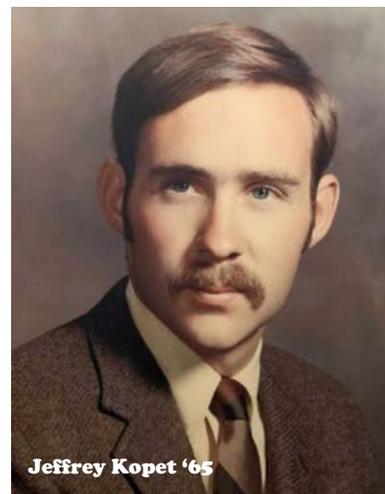
For more than 40 years, Jim was a respected builder and land developer in the Seattle area. He built several homes on Mercer Island and developed sites in Ballard and West Seattle.

A committed member of his community, Jim volunteered with numerous organizations including his sons' schools and activities, the Boys & Girls Club, and Habitat for Humanity. Jim volunteered at the West Seattle Food Bank during his last 10 years and served there as a board member. He loved the people he worked with and enjoyed delivering food to homebound clients. Jim was an avid hiker, backpacker, and skier, spending time in Sun Peaks, BC, and exploring the wider world.

1965

Jeffrey Kopet passed away in Spokane on December 13, 2020, due to complications from cancer and COVID-19 pneumonia. Jeff served in various Associated Student Body positions throughout his time at SGS. He also earned his Eagle Scout rank with the Boy Scouts of America and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow. Jeff went on to attend Dartmouth College and graduated with his degree in Mathematics in 1969. He returned to Washington State, working in the Washington State Legislature and earning a degree in Business Administration at the University of Washington in the early 1970s.

Eventually, Jeff moved back to Spokane and began working as a systems analyst/programmer and met his wife Janice in 1983. They were married in 1985 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Jeff enjoyed spending time with his family (daughters Jennifer and Jeri), his dogs, outside at Loon Lake, traveling, reading, and listening to music. Jeff was a true animal lover and was a spectacular history buff as well. In his limited spare time, he also took classes at Eastern Washington University and other local colleges to keep updated on the newest computer programming languages.



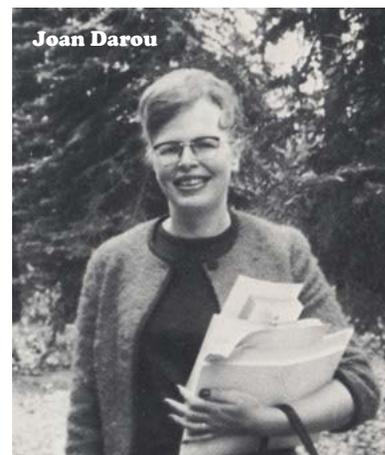
Jeffrey Kopet '65

Faculty/Staff/Friends

Shirlee Hansen Christensen,

7th-8th grade English teacher from 1969-78, passed away in February 2021. Along with teaching at SGS and serving as Middle School Principal from 1973-76, Shirlee was advisor for the Creative Writing magazine and student newspapers. She also established the tradition that 8th grade students would perform Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Shirlee was the mother of six SGS alumni—Christa Hansen Dennehy '69 (deceased), Eric Hansen '71, Sara Hansen '72, Jeff Hansen '74, Julie Hansen-South '75, and Millie Westley '80—and seventh child Russell also attended classes at SGS.

Joan Darou, Principal of the Lower School (7th-8th grades) in 1964-65 and 1972-73, passed away in January 2021. Joan also taught English, Reading, and Speech and Debate from 1964-73, serving as the school's Debate coach during those years.



Joan Darou