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2021 Lifelong Learner Council

The Lifelong Learner Council seeks to sustain and strengthen the bond between Lifelong Learner alumni and ISE/SAS. The members of the Lifelong Learner Council, working closely with the Director of Lifelong Learning at ISE/SAS, will be strong advocates of the Semester at Sea experience. This includes spreading the word about SAS, promoting voyage enrollment of Lifelong Learners and student voyagers and working on projects that enhance the Lifelong Learner experience at sea. Each Lifelong Learner Council member commits to continuing the financial support of ISE/SAS and participation in regional alumni events.

Meet the 2021 council members below.



Patty Aaronson

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I was introduced to Semester at Sea by my partner, Bob Fried, whose three children all sailed on the MV *Explorer*. They sailed Spring 09, Spring 11, and Spring 13. After hearing about the amazing places, people and opportunities, we knew that it would be our first priority when we were able to make fun a greater priority than work. I was fortunate enough to have met the Spring 11 voyage in Hong Kong. Traveling around China with a group of curious, kind, adventurous 20-year olds was so much more fun than going alone or going with a more mature group. We made plans to sail Fall19, and at least once a week we smile and are grateful that we made the voyage a priority. Taking college classes and learning about the world while sailing to these places was such a great way to experience travel. The learning and the travel were great but wait there was more.... The students, staff, faculty and other lifelong learners really made the adventure special.

I recently retired from a 33-year career in radiology. I enjoy spending time with our children and grandchildren, golfing, exercising, and learning anything new. I look forward to working with everyone associated with Semester at Sea and can't wait to see the ship sail again!



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Nancy Blair

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My love of travel and cultural exploration began with a high school opportunity to study for a summer at Oxford University followed by three weeks in Europe. That experience ignited a love of history and cultural diversity that I have pursued since then. After high school, I spent eight years in the U.S. Air Force as an air traffic controller and had the opportunity to attend language school prior to being stationed in Spain for three years. Every vacation was spent exploring Europe. Following the Air Force, I attended college and became a teacher then a school administrator, where I was fortunate enough to participate in a cultural exchange program in China to compare methods of education. Throughout my career in education, I served as an English and reading teacher, various administrative positions (including principal of an exemplary middle school), and as a school improvement consultant with the Southern Regional Education Board. Additionally, I co-moderated #edchat on Twitter and co-hosted Edchat Radio on the BAM! Radio Network for several years, stopping only when I retired and took off for parts unknown in strange time zones.

My husband was a pilot for Delta Airlines, so we continued our world explorations with our children, igniting their love of travel. My two youngest children both embarked on international journeys to explore the world after college. (My son now lives in New Zealand.) After losing my husband to cancer and retiring from a career in secondary education, I rewarded myself with a year of international travel (unfortunately cut a couple months short by the pandemic). One segment of that journey included the SAS Fall 19 voyage as a Lifelong Learner. What an amazing experience! I share the insights gained through that opportunity with anyone willing to listen. I look forward to serving in whatever capacity my skills are most useful.



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Marillee Carroll

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As a student, I hoped to be on a SAS 1968 voyage. Unfortunately, I transferred universities instead. Always regretting that decision, SAS came up on my radar again when I was retiring and searching for a reward, after a history of 38 years as a teacher and Reading Specialist. I decided to join the Fall 2010 voyage, the inauguration of my SAS love story.

Now having participated in 4 semester and 2 Enrichment Voyages, each voyage has been a superbly unique experience, and my SAS enchantment grows! I've gained knowledge, an exuberant amount of friends, and have thoroughly enjoyed interactions with the faculty, staff, students, and the phenomenally dedicated crew, and most enjoyably special were my interactions with my Extended Family! I happily continue to remain active in each one of their lives. I remain dedicated to ISE/SAS, strengthening the bond between LLL alumni and ISE/SAS, spreading the SAS word, and promoting enrollment.



Elaine K. Church

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While drinking with some colleagues in Shanghai's Peace Hotel in 1996, I was joined by a Canadian partner and his wife who were traveling with SAS. Inspired by their experience, I took notes and began planning my post-retirement voyages - which began 16 years later with



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Maymester 2012 on the MV Explorer - Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador/Galapagos, Panama, Belize, and Fort Lauderdale; EV 13 - Baltic Cruise/ MV Explorer - Dover, Oslo, Bergen, Riga, St Petersburg, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Hamburg, and Southampton; Spring 2014/MV Explorer - San Diego to Southampton through Asia, India and Africa and Fall 2016 visiting Europe, Africa and South America.

I am hoping to sail again - with my grandson and nephew as soon as their parents conclude they are old enough to accompany me! After 40 years of predominantly left brain activity as an attorney, first in government and then with PricewaterhouseCooper's National Office, I am enjoying a retirement filled with right brain activities, especially art and travel. SAS provides such a unique opportunity to explore the world with others – it has enabled me to forge strong friendships with many in the shipboard community – other LLLs, faculty, students and members of various extended families I worked and played with on each voyage. I remain committed to the program – and the Council, making SAS an important component of my life as a globe-trotting retiree committed to lifelong learning.



Shelley Galloway

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I have lived all of my life in the Chicago suburbs, attending Middlebury College, Oklahoma State University and receiving a Masters in Art History from Northwestern University. Travel and intercultural studies have been a part of my life since early travels with my family and a study abroad in Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia during high school. I am a visual artist with practice in both photography and floral design. I am a second level teacher in the Sogetsu School of ikebana, Japanese floral design. My three children sailed on Semester at Sea, S04, S05 and S08. After participating in each voyage send off, welcome home and Parent Trip, we decided to make this a commitment for our whole family.

I joined the Parents Council in 2006 and served on that council until joining the Alumni Association Leadership as Secretary, VP and President. I have sailed as a Lifelong Learner on S 10, F11, S 15, multiple Enrichment voyages and Spotlight voyages on F 18 and F 19. My husband sailed as a LLL on F11 and F13 and a Spotlight on F19. I count Semester at Sea as one of my



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most memorable life experiences. Participating in the Extended Family program while sailing, helped me to connect with students in a deeper way. Taking classes on the ship has provided me with knowledge I use daily in my art practices and spiritual work. The aspects I love most about the program are the travel and the educational resources of cross cultural-study and perhaps, even more, the participation in the shipboard community as we share our experiences traveling around the world. Not a day goes by that I don't reflect on the incredible impact this program has had on my life and that of my extended family. The program's influences cross-pollinate creatively and reflectively in all of my serious life pursuits.



Conrad Herrmann

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As a student, I first sailed on the S.S. Universe in the Spring, 1983. This fateful voyage started out with an unscheduled stop in the Azores in order to med-evac a student with acute appendicitis. At the fourth port of Alexandria, Egypt, the ship ran aground on a sand-bar as it was navigating into the harbor. Many students, including myself, were on a side-trip to Israel at the time, not knowing the circumstances of the ship until meeting up with the other students in Cairo. The hull was sufficiently damaged that the entire SAS shipboard community was forced to settle into the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem, Israel, for about 6 weeks in order to finish up our classes. Consequently, I returned on Semester at Sea, along with a couple hundred other students from S83, to sail in the Spring, 1984, on a voyage with a unique itinerary at the time. Starting off in Florida, the ship set sail to South America, and then rounded the Cape of Good Hope before making its way to the various Asian ports that we missed on the S83 voyage.

Having made an indelible mark on me and others, lifelong friendships were established, many with bonds stronger than through other circles of my life. I kept in touch with SAS over the



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decades, supporting the program financially with charitable gifts each year. Then, after a multi-decade career in finance with Franklin Templeton, where I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel to various other countries around the globe, I decided to sail as a Lifelong Learner in the Fall, 2016. I hope to sometime sail again, either on a full semester voyage or at least a multi-port segment.



Julie Kiefer

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Semester at Sea has been an important part of my life since my first voyage in Fall '99 as an undergraduate. After returning home, I founded the Indiana Alumni Chapter and served as its head for twenty years. I sailed on additional voyages in Summer '04 as a graduate student on Teachers at Sea, again in Summer '05 as a staff member (Dependent Children Coordinator), and on numerous reunion voyages. While working as a university study abroad advisor for several years, I was able to help a number of students go on voyages. Semester at Sea gave me a lifelong desire to travel and learn internationally, which so far has taken me to over 50 countries and all seven continents, including a delayed honeymoon to Antarctica in 2013.

My husband and I hoped to be able to share a voyage when we retire. However, circumstances allowed us each to take a sabbatical from our jobs and sail on the Spring '19 Asian Exploration Spotlight Voyage as Lifelong Learner participants, which was a dream come true. When we do retire someday, we plan to go on a full voyage, as life on the ship never gets old!



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Jay Orris

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I have sailed as a Lifelong Learner with my family in F09, F12, S16 and S19. I was introduced to Semester at Sea by my wife Christy, who sailed as a student in 1990.

As soon as we felt our boys were old enough (5 and 6 years old) in 2009, we embarked on our first voyage as a family, including my father. Having both done extensive travel as young adults, Christy and I had decided that our children needed to get outside the friendly Boulder bubble in which we resided and better understand the world around us. Semester at Sea was an ideal way to expose them (and us) to various cultures and living standards around the world.

Four voyages later, the time we have spent together exploring and growing as a family has been beyond value. It has shaped our entire family's outlook on the world and has prepared us all more thoroughly for an increasingly connected world.

When not on the ship, Christy and I are involved in various business enterprises. Our current focus is on providing values-based leadership seminars to students ranging from middle schoolers to undergraduates through our Peak to Peak Leadership organization. We have conducted sessions for faculty and students during our voyages and are looking forward to continuing to bring this opportunity to SAS.



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Kimberly Pavel

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Voyages: SP 1981; Reunion Voyages 2014, 2016; SU 2014; SP 2016

While celebrating New Year's on a reunion voyage on the MV *Explorer*, passengers joyously reminisced and shared Semester at Sea tales, reigniting my desire to sail again. I met families that felt compelled to raise global citizens and took it upon themselves to educate their children beyond the classroom. SAS was offering an upcoming summer voyage open to LLLs, so I convinced my husband that I should take my then 9-year old son along. Rex and I enjoyed summer 2014 in the Baltics, Russia, Portugal, and Spain. After seeing the impact of the summer program on my son, we chose to travel again on a full semester and at age 11, he enjoyed the more challenging Sp 16 itinerary through Japan, China, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Mauritius, India, South Africa, Ghana, and Morocco. I can attest to the voyage's profound effects on my son's overall motivation - - after being exposed to global issues, gaining an understanding of other cultures, and seeing how the world is interdependent on resources that go across boundaries and cultures, his interest in learning has grown. He never needs me to nag at him to do his homework even though he is currently attending a highly competitive school, which in eighth grade often requires three hours of homework a night. I attribute this deep interest in learning and self-development to his personal experiences on Semester at Sea, including, especially, a home visit in Senase, Ghana where he attended school with a child of his own age.

Semester at Sea has enriched our lives, surrounding us with people that love to learn and challenge themselves, continually question beliefs and boundaries, and keep exploring. I am a strong believer in the Semester at Sea transformation.

Professionally, over a fifteen year period, I aided two entrepreneurial founders to develop a national 501©3 non-profit - Kids Korps, USA - into the largest hands-on service organization for youth in San Diego, before expanding operations to North Carolina, Florida, Arizona, and Chicago. I served as their first Executive Director and served as the National Board President until we merged Kids Korps USA into programs with the Boys and Girls Club.



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Heather Schueppert

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My family and I traveled as Lifelong Learners on the Fall 2018 voyage, which was a life-changing and perspective-altering experience for us all. My husband, Stenning, and I took a full load of classes and had the opportunity to be guest lecturers in a few of the classes including Entrepreneurialism and Services Marketing. Our choice to become voyagers on Semester at Sea stemmed from our need to reconnect as a family, expose our children to the world and give time for us to evaluate where we wanted to go professionally as we both put our careers on hold to go on this adventure.

I am now the Chief Marketing Officer at Unified Women's Healthcare and Stenning is the head partner of his own consulting company, Evolution Strategy. Devin, who traveled when he was 10 years old, is now in 7th grade and active in the Boy Scouts program, piano and is a busy tutor and babysitter. Alex, who traveled when he was 8 years old, is now in 4th grade and active in Cub Scouts, piano, inventions, and managing his bakery business, Alex's Mad Bakery. We live in Austin, Texas, but still consider the world as our home as we eagerly look to venture out to new and familiar places as global citizens.



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Connie Rae Sween

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I became a true believer in SAS on my Fall '10 Around the World Voyage. It literally changed my view of the world. There were 65 Lifelong Learners on the voyage and they will be friends for life. Subsequently I went on two Enrichment Voyages ('11 and '13), and a partial Summer '14

Voyage. I am thrilled to be on the LLL Council and am committed to the SAS program. SAS has become a vital part of my life and I recently enjoyed the Spring 19 voyage together with Nancy Tietge. I love sharing my SAS stories and encouraging anyone who will listen, young and young at heart, to join the SAS family!

I grew up in San Marino, California (Southern). Went to college at University of Denver through my junior year and graduated from the University of Minnesota. Married and lived in Minnesota for 30 years, where I was in residential real estate for 25 years. Divorced and moved back to California (Newport Beach) in 2007. I am enjoying retirement and beach living on Balboa Island.



Nancy Tietge

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While sharing travel stories with a friend in November 2009, I learned about Lifelong Learners on Semester at Sea. I went home, googled SAS, and learned that there would be an "Open Ship" in San Diego which is near my home in Vista, California. I attended and immediately signed up! I



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traveled around the world in Fall 2010. I loved the experience and then went on an Enrichment Voyage in 2013 and sailed on a partial voyage in Summer 2014. I was Lifelong Learner Council co-chair until January 2019 when I happily passed the gavel on, in order to go on the Spring '19 voyage. As a result of traveling on the Fall 2010 voyage with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, I created a scholarship in his name for students from the continent of Africa. The first "Tutu Ubuntu" scholar also sailed on the Spring 19 voyage!

In addition to an enthusiastic involvement with Semester at Sea, I am a trustee of the Donald A. Strauss Scholarship Foundation. I also volunteer every year for about three months at an orphanage in Mexico teaching English to teens and I love to do independent travel as well. I hope to one day become truly fluent in Spanish and to ride waves as a StandUp Paddler.



Karen Wosiski

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I attained my MSN degree and NP certification from the University of Pennsylvania, a BSN from Thomas Jefferson University and a post-masters degree in family therapy from The Family Institute of Philadelphia.

I have been employed as a renal transplant coordinator at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. My specialties in primary care have been behavioral issues, depression/anxiety and ADHD. I am Board certified and with over 30 years of experience in pediatric and adolescent medicine.

I sailed on the Fall 2019 voyage as a Lifelong Learner and three additional times as medical staff for Semester at Sea. I am an avid traveler, gardener, reader and scuba diver. I have 3 grown children and 7 grandchildren.