Semester at Sea  
2016 Lifelong Learners Council

Marillee Carroll  
Email: marilleecarroll@gmail.com

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 F2010 voyage, the inauguration of my SAS love story. Now having participated in 3 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 dream of my next SAS voyage! In the meantime, I’m dedicated to ISE/SAS, strengthening the bond between LLL alumni and ISE/SAS, spreading the SAS word, and promoting enrollment!

Elaine K. Church  
Email: elaineorders@gmail.com

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 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; and Spring 2014/MV Explorer - San Diego to Southampton through Asia, India and Africa. My LLL Council membership runs from January, 2014, to January, 2017.
With a BA in English from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a JD from Georgetown Law, I spent my professional career focused on tax and benefits law - working with the IRS, the Joint Committee on Taxation, US Congress and then as a partner in PricewaterhouseCooper’s National Tax Office, retiring in June 2013.

Barbara Garvey
Email: bgarvey4835@gmail.com

I am a Semester at Sea alum of S'84, S'88, S'96, S'11, Su'14, and reside in Prescott, AZ and South Berwick, ME. I traveled with my husband Dan and two children Kate and Connor on my first three voyages (Connor was 6 weeks old on his first voyage, Kate was 4 years!) and sailed as the LLL Coordinator on my last two voyages. Semester at Sea has been an important part of our family life for over 30 years. I have seen how it has impacted our lives and the lives of hundreds of students and Life Long Learners during and after the voyage. I have enjoyed sharing the last two voyages more closely with learners of all ages and know how important all members of the community are in creating the voyage experience. I look forward to being a part of the LLL Council and sharing in the energy, ideas, and support that continues to be part of the Semester at Sea experience!

Primarily my work life has been as a Social Worker and an English Language teacher (ELL), but I spent a few years as a fine art framer!?! I enjoy traveling (of course!), oil painting, hiking, tennis, golf and now... enjoying my 2 year old Grandson!

Jackie Gorman
Email: jacquelingorman@gmail.com

I have two children, Ben, 22, who graduates this year, and Kelsey, 29, who is finishing Business School at UCLA, and they are the best things that ever happened to me and also give me the best advice about life. Professionally, I have had a few different lives. I call myself a recovering lawyer, because I do not practice, but I graduated from UCLA Law School in 1982, and specialized in health care law. Then, I decided to write while raising my children. I received an MFA in Writing, and have published two books, a memoir, The Seeing Glass, and a short story collection, The Viewing Room, more recently. I plan to write about my SAS trip to give this wonderful program as much exposure as possible. The short stories were based on
another late life career of mine - interfaith hospital chaplaincy. I was a Chaplain at UCLA Medical Center for many years.

In terms of Non-profit experience, I was on the Board of The Wellness Community, a cancer support group in Los Angeles for many years and Co-founder of Hopewell, in Baltimore, Maryland, also a Cancer Support group. I lost both parents to cancer too soon. I am very involved in NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, a grass roots advocacy program, by serving at different times as a Board Member, Program Director, Support Group Facilitator and Teacher of Family to Family Classes for caregivers of people with mental illness. I am an altruistic living kidney donor, and I am very active with the organ donation community, both in Los Angeles and Maryland, speaking to hospitals, schools and DMV's about the importance of becoming an organ donor. I live primarily in Baltimore but visit Southern California, where I spent 40 years, as much as possible.

My son, Ben Gorman, sailed in the summer of 2014, and as a UVA student had several college friends who had recommended it to him. As soon as he arrived in Dulles, he told me, "Mom, you have to go on this ship as a Lifelong Learner! You will love it!" So I sailed in Spring, 2015, and he was right. I loved every single minute of it and can hardly wait to sail again! Until then, I am thrilled to be part of the LifeLong Learners Council!

Martin Kabat
Email: mkabat@yahoo.com

From the day I met my wife I started hearing about SAS and the many friends she had made on her voyage in 1988. At that time she was at the University of Pittsburgh and sailed as a member of the staff with Fred Koloc and Dan Garvey. Over the years, SAS has been a theme in our lives, always promising ourselves that we would join my wife's many friends and voyage again. This year we finally did as I joined her on a voyage in Northern Europe. Since that time, we have continued to remain in constant contact with SAS alumni and former staff and now we are planning to sail on the full round-the-world trip in Spring 2017.

I was appointed CEO of the Canadian Cancer Society in Ontario on May 25, 2010. The Ontario Group is the largest in Canada, raising approximately $100 million each year to fund research and programs in the fight against cancer. Before this I worked as a senior executive, in both the profit and not-for-profit sectors, served as President and CEO of the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation, MedicAlert Foundation International, the CFO of iFire Technology Inc., and the CFO of a development company, The Travelstead Group, responsible for an international portfolio of companies based in the USA, Spain, Holland, and Australia. Our main project was the construction of the Hotel Arts in Barcelona, where I lived for 8 years. Earlier, I also held positions as a college professor and Chair of the Humanities Program, teaching courses in European Literature and Film, a consultant to the US Peace Corps in Poland, and a caseworker for the New York City Department of Welfare. I received my
undergraduate degree in Philosophy from Washington College in Maryland, an M.A. in English Literature and a Ph. D. in Comparative Literature from New York University, and an M.B.A. from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Martha (Marty) Kurica
Email: kurica@aol.com

I became interested in SAS when my daughter chose to travel on the ship for her semester abroad. She had such a fabulous, life-changing experience that my husband and I chose to travel around the world aboard the MV Explorer as Life Long Learners in Fall 2010. Since that first trip, I have been on three additional voyages in which all were beyond my expectations.

I was born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I graduated from the University of Colorado with a BS degree in nursing. My specialty was pediatric ICU. I am now retired. I am married and have three children.

Kathy Sprau
Email: kathysprau.com@gmail.com, ksprau@aol.com

So glad to once more be a part of the Life Long Learners Council! It continues to be an energizing joy to share the good news about Semester at Sea … with whomever may have an interest or a possibility of sailing with SAS. My enduring and enthusiastic interest in SAS began with our Spring, 2010 voyage with Dan, my husband, as faculty, and I, as the Lifelong Learner Coordinator. The voyage only served to exacerbate my long-standing thirst for travel, discovering new parts of God’s glorious creation, and meeting fascinating travel-minded lifelong learners and students. Semester as Sea has forever impacted our lives, as well as the lives of our children. Zach, our son, was a part of our Spring, 2010, voyage as a student, and our daughter, Abby, met us in Cape Town while on spring break as a fifth grade teacher. So, our entire family has had some wonderful memories engendered by SAS. We are absolutely delighted with all the SAS changes and the partnership with Colorado State. Here’s to a fabulous future for SAS!

Professionally, I am a professional speaker designing and presenting keynotes and seminars focusing on building relationships and leadership with a favorite topic of helping people reframe what they say to the positive. I have authored a book based on my most popular keynote speech, and also play the harp professionally.
Connie Rae Sween
Email: ConnieSween@aol.com

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 LLL's 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. 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.

Mary Thielemeir
Email: thielemeir@msn.com

I sailed as a student in 1970 and 1972 and also as an adult passenger and staff in 1997. I believe that this program transforms lives and creates global citizens at a time when our world and our country need them the most. My SAS experiences and insights influenced my life choices. Providing this opportunity to as many people as possible is critical. I have been an Alumni Chapter Representative for Arizona since the 1990’s, served as part of the recruitment team for Arizona universities and community colleges for many years and served as a member of the Alumni Advisory Committee for 6 years. This committee provided alumni input to ISE before the development of our current council structure. I sailed on 4 of the 6 ships the program has used and through major gifts supported improvements to Library, Computer Lab and Media Resources for several of our past ships. I also provided a number of direct scholarships to students as well. My life passions and interests had their beginning when I sailed the world. I appreciate having the opportunity to guide Semester at Sea to an even stronger future.

I hold degrees from Chapman University in Sociology/Anthropology, University of Southern California in Library Science and an Executive MBA Certificate from Arizona State University. I worked in higher education in both community college and university settings for over a decade and have served as a community leader in the nonprofit area for about 30
years. I currently volunteer in organizations that work with the elderly, fight hunger, and provide medical support to those in need globally. I enjoy the arts, travel and good food.

Nancy Tietge (Co-Chair)
Email: nstietge@gmail.com

While sharing travel stories with a friend in November 2009, I learned about Life Long 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 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 am currently serving as co-chair of the Life Long Learner Council.

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 sit on a volunteer board helping provide schools and facilities to a fishing village in Baja California Sur. I hope to one day become truly fluent in Spanish and to ride waves as a StandUp Paddler.

Louise Wright (Co-Chair)
Email: wezeworks@gmail.com

We are passionate about travel and the places and friends we have made along the way. We first sailed on SAS during the Fall 2010 voyage (going around the world with Desmond Tutu was magical) and met wonderful friends that we continue to sail with. We have sailed on two Enrichment Voyages, four reunion voyages and were the Life Long Learner Coordinators for the maiden voyage of the World Odyssey during Fall 2015. You might say we are “hooked” on SAS!

We are also passionate about the mission of SAS, serving on the LLL Council for three years. I have been the co-chair for the LLLs on the AABOD for two years.

Frank and I are blessed with three children and five grandchildren who keep us young.
Frank Wright
Email: freedomf_2000@yahoo.com

Most excited to be a part of the SAS Team for Fall 2015!!! Considering myself among the top tier of Fortunate Ones on the Planet, I walk filled with and radiating gratitude for this wonderful life. Diverse work experience from door-to-door Zip Code Directory Sales to building out dreams in the field of construction. Raised in the Chicago area, traveled stayed and worked in New England. Schooled in the Mid West, learned and taught in a rural fishing village in Japan.

Great children now adults, I am extremely proud of as "part of the solution." Five grandchildren! Exchanged teaching in Perth, Australia where sailing is practiced. Cherish my great health and good fortune while love sharing laughter and tears with friends and family all the while learning about this world and its people. Louise, my great partner, and I are sharing our good energy and SAS is one of our great focuses.