

# *Ship* **MATES**

SPRING 2022

COMMUNICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF SEMESTER AT SEA



**SEMESTER AT SEA®**

*Magical moonbeams  
Sparkling like silver  
On an inky sea  
I watch them dancing  
Captivatingly*

The first stanza of *Night*, by Jan Allison, captures my love of the ocean perfectly. More so, the words speak to me about love writ large. Love — no matter for whom or what or why — is magical. It sparkles and dances. Love captivates.

This issue of *Shipmates* is all about love. You will read stories of love sparked on the ‘inky sea’ between friends and partners. You will learn how some found love for the ‘magical moonbeams’ of the ocean. Other voyagers were forever captivated by a sense of lifelong learning and adventure. And yes, across all of the stories is a common love for this amazing program we call Semester at Sea.

Since March 2020, our donors, alumni, Board members, and staff

bestowed extraordinary love and care to our program. So many gave generously of their time, energy, and financial resources. Your generosity, which came in a variety of forms, has seen us through the cancellation of three voyages and onward to the launch of Spring 2022. We are humbled by, and grateful for, this outpouring of support.

Beyond Spring 2022, our student and Lifelong Learner enrollments are very strong. Our home office staff has a renewed sense of energy and excitement for what the future holds, and we remain committed to fulfilling our critical mission in this ever-changing world.

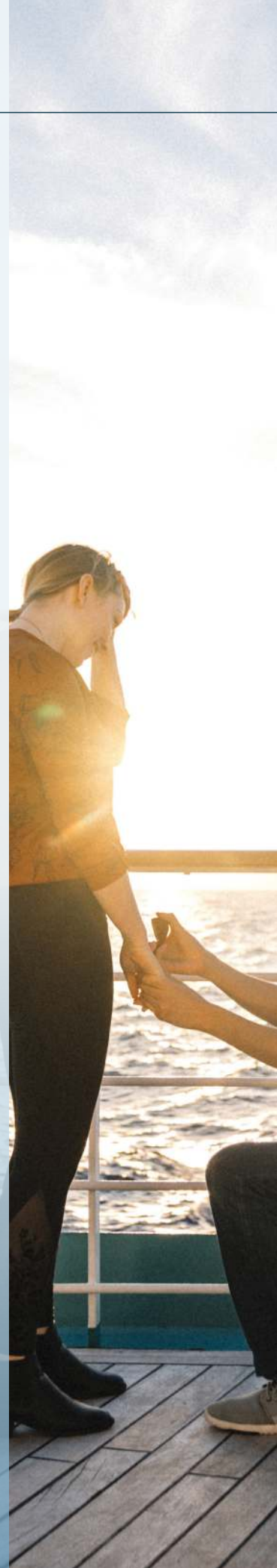
The sentiment all of us feel for this program just may inspire some of you to poetry. As your mind and heart wander back to your time aboard the ship, what rhymes and rhythms are conjured up? I hope, like me, that your thoughts include a confident belief in Semester at Sea and its very bright future.

*Sincerely,*



*Scott Marshall*

SCOTT MARSHALL, PH.D.  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*







semesteratsea.org



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SEMESTER AT SEA®

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### SHIPBOARD EDUCATION

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### MISSION

Journeys of discovery that spark  
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### THE INSTITUTE FOR SHIPBOARD EDUCATION (ISE)

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in  
Fort Collins, Colo., that administers  
the Semester at Sea study  
abroad program in conjunction  
with Colorado State University.  
Since 1963, more than 73,000  
individuals from 1,700 institutions  
have traveled to more than 60  
countries on Semester at Sea and  
its predecessor programs.

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# A Career Built on Understanding

Christian Lowe (SP16) never saw himself becoming a tech entrepreneur. As an undergraduate student at Texas A&M University, Christian always had a passion for human rights and social justice and thought he'd graduate and become an English teacher abroad or join the Foreign Service.

But like so many Semester at Sea alumni, Christian's time abroad opened his eyes to new opportunities that aligned with his passion. During the Spring 2016 Voyage, Christian sailed as a member of the Impact Cohort, a group of students who travel together in-country to support partner NGOs (non-governmental organizations). As part of that group, Christian visited Kranti, a women's rights NGO that empowers girls from Mumbai's red-light areas to become agents of social change.

"That trip in Mumbai was incredibly life-changing. We met all of these amazing young women who were hurt and healing from traumatic experiences. But there was so much more to it than that," Christian said. "These were also young women who had really high hopes and optimism and dreams. I saw firsthand how, because of their identities both as women of color and the caste system, they were the victims of discrimination.

It really resonated with me because I have personally had scary experiences with racism and discrimination."

"Visiting Kranti was revolutionary for me. You can't fully understand a problem until you see it."

Christian's experience in Mumbai may have been the catalyzing event, but the skills and confidence he needed to start his own company also came from his voyage, specifically what he learned in a Social Entrepreneurship course taught by Professor Scott McCoy.

"Funny enough, I didn't want to take the class. I think it was my third choice," Christian said. "But while it was really challenging in terms of the academic rigor, Professor McCoy imparted so much knowledge to me about the process of entrepreneurship, about how one applies business concepts to solve social problems."

Now, a few years after graduating with a degree in International Relations, Christian is the Founder and CEO of The Green Book Project, a mobile app that focuses on helping marginalized groups find inclusive businesses



ON A FERRY FROM MUMBAI TO ELEPHANTA ISLAND. PICTURED IN THE PHOTO ARE ASHWINI MANE, ONE OF THE YOUNG WOMEN FROM THE KRANTI HOUSE, AND LINDSEY PARISE, WHO WAS THE COORDINATOR FOR THE IMPACT SCHOLARS PROGRAM ON THE SP16 VOYAGE.

and avoid discrimination.

"One of my favorite things about Semester at Sea — you could start talking to someone and two or three hours later, you're talking about religion and the universe. It's really amazing. You will absolutely learn so much more about yourself than you could ever imagine."

"My hope is that our app will help actively bring people together in the same way," says Christian about The Green Book Project. "My Semester at Sea experience feels like it truly pushed me to become a software engineer so I could build this app to make a difference in the lives of so many people."



The Green Book Project is available for download in the Apple Store and on Google Play.



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*“One of my favorite things about Semester at Sea — you could start talking to someone and two or three hours later, you’re talking about religion and the universe. It’s really amazing. You will absolutely learn so much more about yourself than you could ever imagine.”*

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CHRISTIAN IN THE SAHARA DESERT DURING THE NOMAD CAMP FIELD PROGRAM. THE CAMP ITSELF WAS FLANKED BY A MASSIVE SAND DUNE UPON WHICH ALL VOYAGERS ON THE FIELD PROGRAM WATCHED THE SUNSET AND STARGAZED WELL INTO THE NIGHT. PHOTO BY SNEHA MAHAPATRA.

CHRISTIAN IN THE VIBRANT HOUSTON, TX EADO NEIGHBORHOOD, AN AREA KNOWN FOR TRENDY RESTAURANTS, RICH HISTORY, AND GREAT STREET ART.





## Forging a Forever Friendship

Students who have yet to experience Semester at Sea might expect alumni of the program to name certain countries they visited or shipboard traditions like Sea Olympics as their favorite part of their voyage. But surprising or not, it is the relationships among shipmates, and the shipboard community at large, that alumni cite as the thing they loved most about sailing with Semester at Sea.

That sentiment certainly rings true for Semester at Sea alumnae Janet Louie Dowty, better known as Lou to her friends, Wendy McMahon Kettering, and Nancy Lippman Visenberg — three best friends who sailed together on the Fall 1974 Voyage. Despite all hailing from the Pacific Northwest, it took their time aboard the high seas to cement their friendship.

“One of the first things I decided to do was go to Machu Picchu. I knew nothing about Machu Picchu, but I signed up because I was afraid that I would show up in-country and I would be all by myself. I asked myself, ‘What am I going to do? Where am I going to go?’ Everybody’s going to be off doing something,” Janet said. “It took us a long time to sail to Peru. Within the first day or two, I’m in my cabin, and Wendy and Nancy knock on the door and say, ‘Hey, you want to go have dinner?’”

“I was so concerned about being by myself. But by the end of that voyage, I knew that I’d never be by myself again. The three of us did everything together for the remainder of the semester!”

While the trio was acquainted with one another through sorority life at the University of Oregon, it was their time aboard the SS Universe that allowed their relationship to blossom into something deeper. For years following their voyage, the best friends have remained actively involved with Semester at Sea, hosting and attending

chapter events and serving on the Voyagers Council and as Global Ambassadors — a volunteer-led group of alumni who act as Semester at Sea representatives and meet with students on college campuses.

“My husband and I live near Lewis and Clark College and I’m always their community outreach person. Because of my Semester at Sea ties, I know a lot of the Davis scholars [student members of the United World College program] and to be able to serve as a Global Ambassador for Semester at Sea is an honor. I’ve really enjoyed that aspect of Semester at Sea,” Nancy stated.

According to Wendy, her relationship with Janet and Nancy is just a natural extension of the feeling of shipboard community.

“I think that the common theme that runs through the ship during the voyage is this incredible sense of community. It’s very inclusive. People find their pod, like we did, but it’s very inclusive,” Wendy said.

The three friends continue to pass on their love of Semester at Sea to future students through the financial support of scholarships. In particular, these alumnae have gone above and beyond to support Semester at Sea’s Ubuntu Scholars — deserving students born in Africa

who represent the value of forgiveness, empowerment, and peace promoted by the late Semester at Sea Trustee Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

“I’ve had the honor of meeting and getting to know all the Ubuntu scholars. Wendy and I flew to Kenya in October 2019 to meet Tracey, the Spring 2020 scholarship recipient. I also had the pleasure of greeting Tracey in San Diego in January 2020 and helping her get adjusted to the ship. It’s incredibly rewarding to be able to pay it forward for a program we’re so passionate about,” Nancy said.

“When everybody’s on the same page, the same wavelength, it’s easy to love the program. You definitely get out of it what you put into it,” Wendy added. “We’re just dedicated alumnae who love supporting Semester at Sea and are happy to do so for as long as we can!”



THE ATLANTIC CROSSING DURING THE FINAL DAYS OF THE FA74 VOYAGE. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: GUERIN BUTTERWORTH, NANCY, WENDY, DOROTHY (DOTTIE) WEARNE, DEIDRE HUMMEL, AND SHARON MASON.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP! FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JANET, ROB CARLTON, NANCY, AND WENDY IN 2005.



A FA74 VOYAGE REUNION IN FLORENCE, OR IN SPRING 1975. FRONT ROW: JANET, WENDY, NANCY, DOROTHY (DOTTIE) WEARNE. BACK ROW: ROB CARLTON & BRUCE CAMPBELL.



MELISSA IN ANTARCTICA FOR HER 30TH BIRTHDAY IN 2015 WITH A GENTOO PENGUIN, HER NEW FAVORITE ANIMAL.

## Becoming the Ultimate Explorer

Semester at Sea alumni of all ages might have heard of voyager Melissa Roy (FA07) from various podcasts celebrating her adventurous achievements. Even among a group as well traveled as SAS alumni, Melissa stands out from the crowd.

Starting long before her voyage and finishing up just before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down international travel, Melissa became the first South Asian woman to visit all 193 countries in the world.

"I finished visiting my final country, Bangladesh, on December 26, 2019. I then wanted to take a break from traveling, at least a year or so, to catch my breath and process how I was feeling," Melissa said. "But everyone stopped traveling with me — the whole world was forced to take a pause."

Having been stuck at home like the rest of the world over the past year and a half, Melissa has used that time to take stock and reflect on her record-setting experiences, and think about how her normal methods of travel might change moving forward.

Her style of travel — visiting many different places in a short amount of time, but making sure to have an experience driven by local interaction and appreciation — is reflective of Semester at Sea's comparative approach to study abroad.

Melissa credits her Semester at Sea experience with helping her truly fall head over heels in love with hopping from country to country.

"While I was in college, I did traditional study abroad, and then my senior year, I sailed on Semester at Sea because I wanted to see what the difference was between the two programs. I liked Semester at Sea's approach because for me, it's a taste of everything," Melissa said. "Semester at Sea is like a buffet where you don't want to fill your entire plate up with just one thing and miss out on everything else. I always like to do a first run-through, try a little of everything, and then go back for seconds and thirds of whatever tasted really good."

During her Semester at Sea voyage,

Melissa combined her deep passion for comparative travel with her penchant for spending wisely.

Semester at Sea is where I learned about Couchsurfing.com, and it has been instrumental in making my self-funded



THE EVENING OF THE AMBASSADOR'S BALL WITH FRIENDS AND FELLOW FA07 SHIPMATES. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MELISSA ROY, MARIA OROZCO, TIARA YOUNG, AND JOANNA JIMENEZ.

travel a reality for the past 15 years. I've fallen in love with Couchsurfing, which is a service that connects travelers with locals who provide homestays in countries around the world, and I've stayed with more than 200 hosts. Even in Afghanistan, where I celebrated my 34th birthday, I used the website to connect with my host.

However, finding a couch to stretch out on might prove more difficult moving forward. Having been to every country and continent, Melissa has her heart set on a different kind of ship.

"I definitely am interested in space travel and that's where I'm currently focusing all my energy. I have a little space fund set aside, and I'm putting money away. I could potentially be the first person in history to visit every country plus outer space!"

Follow Melissa and her love of travel when she resumes exploring at [@mappedbymelissa](#) on Instagram.



MELISSA AND NEWFOUND FRIEND KAREN NGOOI OUTSIDE BATU CAVES IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA. THEY MET IN 2015 ON A BUS RIDE FROM THE AIRPORT. KAREN KINDLY TOOK MELISSA IN AND LET HER STAY AT HER HOME WHEN SHE COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH HER HOST.



# Sparkling her Life's Passion

Dr. Bonnie Morris has spent the majority of her life traveling, as she puts it, as a “professional feminist.” The three-time Semester at Sea voyager (FA93, SP04, and SP19) and historian has seen Fidel Castro speak, soaked in the sunrise over Angkor Wat, and — of particular interest to a women’s studies professor like Bonnie — brought students to traditional women’s bathhouses in Turkey and Korea.

Those in-country trips, on her very first Semester at Sea voyage as a young professor, illustrated the global nature of her work and how much the women’s rights movement has to accomplish. Those experiences helped spark Morris’ passion for her subject, and coupled with her love for her time as a professor with the program, have been important in shaping her illustrious career.

“It really awakened me. I had been so hard-hit by the unequal status of women the first time I went around the world. As a younger person, I understood that



it wasn’t going to change in my lifetime, and I think I might’ve had at that point delusional concepts that somehow if we all just tried, everything would be rectified within 80 years. Now I don’t think that will happen.”

At the same time, however, Morris and her students noticed a particular trend on those field classes: the comfortability and familiarity women had around and with each other. That contrast — the struggle for equal rights for women and the sense of close-knit community showcased in those bathhouses — helped drive her and her students forward.

“My class was overwhelmed with the impression of how comfortable women were with going to a local place and singing and exchanging gossip, whereas the American girls were very self-conscious,” Morris said. “And they were like, ‘How come we have more rights, if you will, more freedom, more liberties, in the U.S., but we’re unhappy?’ Some of the best papers that I graded were about this contrast.”

The conversations and work that came out of those in-country programs highlight the best of Semester of Sea; in-country work and connections with locals that broaden students’ — and professors’ — perspective.

And how did that Semester at Sea



BONNIE AND FELLOW PROFESSOR, OCEANOGRAPHER DR. LAURIE MCCONNICO, EXPLORING TEMPLES IN YANGON, MYANMAR DURING THE SP19 VOYAGE.

experience change the way Morris approaches her work and teaching?

“One of the most important things for me to do while teaching global women’s history is to emphasize each country we’re going into, what is the gender etiquette, and making sure students understand. Practicing the basics of being a good traveler was something I developed because of my time on Semester at Sea, and I think I’ve been able to pass those lessons I learned on the voyage to help a whole lot of students.

“I changed some of how I teach my classes on land based on bringing in materials from Semester at Sea. Everything I collected globally I have been able to use in my classes now, and that has been important.”

Alumni can read more about Morris’ love for her subject — and Semester at Sea — in two of her many published books, “What’s the Score?,” releasing in June, and “Revenge of a Women’s Studies Professor,” both available at select online retailers.



BONNIE AND A GROUP OF FELLOW SP19 VOYAGERS TRAVEL BY BUS AND CAMEL TO THE SAHARA DUNES OF MOROCCO.



# A Decades-Long Love Affair with SAS

At 89 years old and after 16 Semester at Sea voyages, Nikey Key is still going strong, and more than eager to get back on the ocean with students — even if ship life has changed since she first sailed almost 40 years ago.

“When we first sailed, there wasn’t email or anything like that. In fact, the only time we’d hear from home is when we would get letters,” Nikey said. “We arrived at our first port, which was in Japan, and we’d rush down to where mail was distributed. But there were never any letters, because to get a letter to Japan, they would have had to have been mailed 2 weeks before we left on the voyage.”

Nikey has sailed 10 times as a Lifelong Learner (in addition to three Reunion Voyages, two Forum on Global Engagement Voyages, and one Enrichment Voyage), and counting, and long ago fell in love not only with the Semester at Sea shipboard community, but the Lifelong Learner program in particular.

When asked what makes sailing as a Lifelong Learner different from what she’s experienced during other cruises, Nikey focuses on the relationships with the students — specifically the Extended Family program.

“We loved adopting kids and grandchildren, and my husband,

Eugene, absolutely loved the kids. We’d have them over to our cabin and would tell them what to do in port because we’d been there on previous voyages. The interaction with everybody was special.”

According to Nikey, as an adopted grandmother on the ship, two Semester at Sea traditions stand out as wonderful opportunities to interact with and entertain the students she was sailing with, along with the ship kids (the children of faculty and staff members who are sailing as a family).

“We loved Neptune Day, with everybody in different outfits, and all the different seas. My son says he changed from a Pollywog to a Shellback right alongside the other students,” Nikey shared.

“One of the fun things that we loved doing was to decorate our cabin for Halloween. We would transform the room into a haunted house and then we’d have the ship kids come visit. The last time we decorated for Halloween, however, we scared the kids so badly we were told we couldn’t do it anymore!”

Ever eager to continue sailing, Nikey is eyeing the next chance to broaden her global horizons — and continue passing down her love of the Lifelong Learning program by including the one son who didn’t join her and her late husband, Eugene, on a voyage.

“When Eugene passed away, I stopped going on Semester

at Sea. I had actually signed up to sail in January 2022, but when the itinerary changed to mostly Mediterranean countries, I canceled because we’d just been there. My older son, Peter, never got to sail on Semester at Sea, as he was raising four kids when we were doing most of our traveling,” Nikey said. “I’m eager for Peter to join us on a future voyage so he can see firsthand what I love so much about Semester at Sea and the Lifelong Learning program. I’m excited to see some of the upcoming itineraries and find a voyage that we can all go on!”

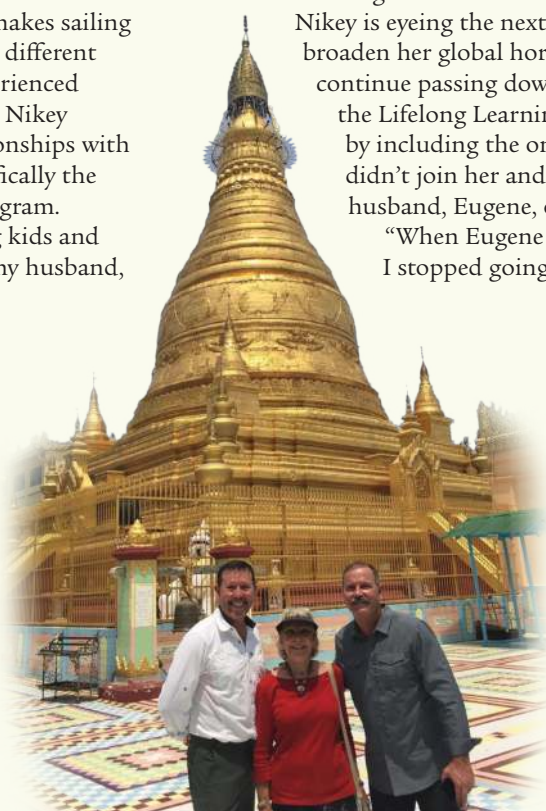


BRETT, NIKEY, AND TOM TAKING IN THE VIEWS DURING THEIR TIME IN MYANMAR.



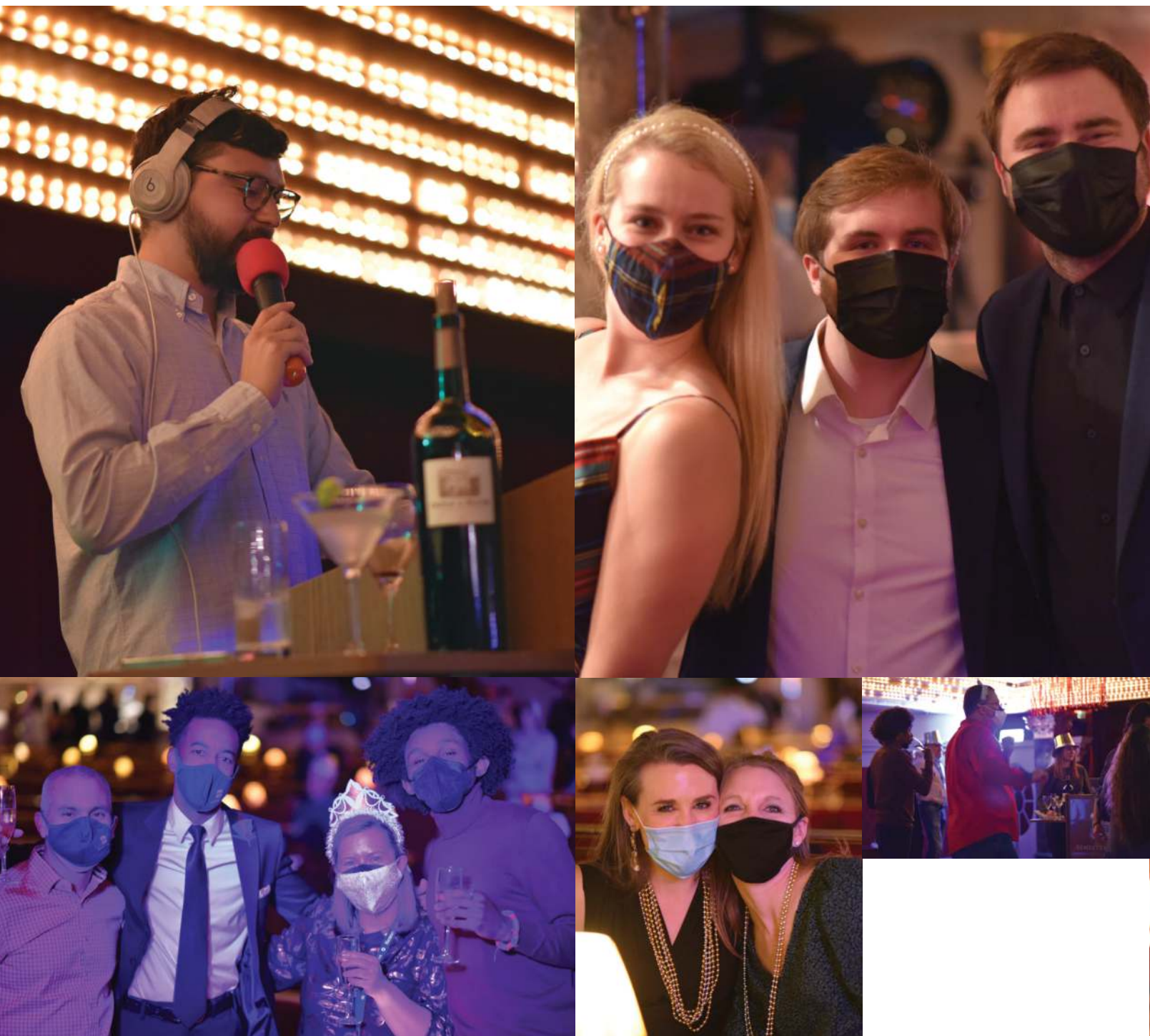
NIKEY, TOM, AND THEIR TWO TOUR GUIDES EXPLORING THE THAILAND WATERWAYS.

BRETT CHATELAIN, NIKEY, AND HER SON, TOM POWELL, AT ONE OF THE MANY BEAUTIFUL PAGODAS IN MYANMAR.



The MV *World Odyssey* is sailing again, and the 2021-2022 Homecoming Voyage was the first chance to welcome voyagers back on board. The five-day, six-night voyage from Italy to France and back was everything alumni expect from Semester at Sea — lectures and seminars, in-country exploration, and a NYE party to remember.

© Follow @semesteratseaalumni on Instagram to see more from Homecoming.







THE HOMECOMING VOYAGE WAS LIKE COMING HOME TO ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES IN THE WORLD — OUR SHIP! RECONNECTING WITH SAS FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WATCHING THE SUNRISE AND THE SUNSET AT SEA, SEEING OUR BELOVED CREW, AND CELEBRATING A NEW YEAR ARE JUST A FEW OF THE MANY MOMENTS I AM GRATEFUL FOR. A BIG THANKS TO THE SAS HOME TEAM FOR DOING ALL IT TOOK TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

DEBBIE CLIFFORD  
ALUMNA AND FORMER ISE STAFF







# FIRST IMPRESSIONS FROM THE SHIP

*We asked Spring 2022 Voyagers what it was like to see the ship for the first time*

ADAM CINTRON

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO:

"Stepping onto the ship for the first time felt like stepping into a dream. I've been hoping to sail with Semester at Sea for years, so it was great finally getting to see the ship I've waited all this time for."

KELLY KEMP

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY:

"When I first saw the ship I almost cried. I'm a pretty emotional person, so that's not unusual to me, but I was just so excited. It felt surreal to see it in person after looking at pictures and videos for the past two years. I've been planning to go on Semester at Sea since fall of my sophomore year of college and now I'm in my spring semester of senior year. COVID took a lot away from everyone, and for me personally that meant I lost a big chunk of my normal college experience and had lots of uncertainty regarding any chance at studying abroad. I never fully let myself believe it was

happening until I stepped onto the ship. I had a lot of obstacles trying to make this happen and being flexible is a huge part of this journey but now that I'm here I could not be happier."

HEATHER MEADOWS

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY:

"Goosebumps. Goosebumps and butterflies in my stomach. It may sound cliché, but it's true. The first moment stepping onto the ship was the first moment where this whole thing felt absolutely real. No matter how many videos or pictures you see of the ship, nothing properly prepares you for the initial feelings you get stepping into your new home. I was just thrilled to get to know what felt like a really fancy maze."

ELOISE RILEY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,  
SANTA BARBARA:

"Getting onto the MV *World Odyssey* was one of the most surreal moments of my life,

as I have been waiting for this dream to become a reality for years, and it was finally time. As soon as you get on board, you can feel yourself welcomed into a community that will not only be your home for the next four months, but a lifetime. The hospitality and excitement goes beyond everything I've ever experienced, and I truly couldn't be more proud to call this ship home."

NATHALI ROSENKILDE

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY:

"When I first saw the ship everything felt real. It was finally happening. The hard work, planning, and six years of dedication were paying off. I'm actually here!"

ASHLEY STEVENSON

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY:

"I love it. It's definitely more German than I was expecting. I've been Google Translating everything."







GIFT HIGHLIGHT



**AMY SCHMIDT** (SP99) is an alumna whose passion for travel is matched equally by her passion for philanthropy. After many years of supporting Semester at Sea financially and through volunteer roles as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and a Chapter Representative, the Minnesota native recently made a five-year pledge to the *All Hands on Deck* Campaign.

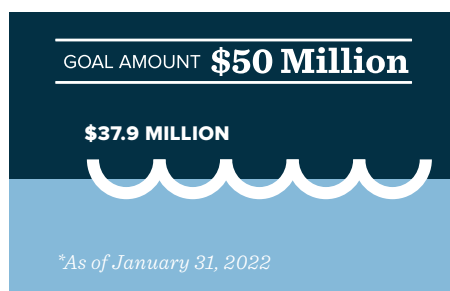
“Making this gift was a simple decision for me,” Amy said. “I was fortunate to grow up with parents who instilled in me the significance of giving back. Semester at Sea had such a profound impact on my life and I want to ensure that students who come after me — students from all backgrounds — can have similar opportunities.”

This past summer, Amy found herself reflecting on her voyage, particularly her experiences in South Africa. “We are at a time in society where we are faced with the need to examine our own acceptance of diversity and inclusion. Though I didn’t understand the impact at the time, I’ve come to realize that those days in South Africa provided me with the exposure I needed to thoughtfully support diversity and inclusion efforts in both my personal and professional life.”

“While I was a voyager, I had the courage to push myself outside of my comfort zone and experience cultures different from my own with an open mind,” Amy

stated. “Semester at Sea gave me the knowledge to continue learning and growing. My hope is that this gift — this seed of possibility — will allow future voyagers to explore the world and discover their best, most accepting selves in the process.”

Learn how you can contribute to our *All Hands on Deck* Campaign by visiting [semesteratsea.org/giving/allhandsondeck](http://semesteratsea.org/giving/allhandsondeck).



*Dear Shipmates,*

I told many of you at the end of every voyage I sailed on that the best is yet to come. Well, that time is here. We are sailing once again, and the Spring 2022 Voyage is providing current students and Lifelong Learners an incredible journey like the one you experienced. I hope you will join us in making a gift to a program that I know was life-changing for you and all of our alumni by supporting our *All Hands on Deck* Campaign. Together, we can ensure that Semester at Sea’s future remains bright.

*With gratitude,*



*John P. Tymitz*  
**JOHN P. TYMITZ**  
*Former Dean and All Hands on Deck Campaign Committee Member*



## Connect with your SAS Family!

Semester at Sea has 31 regional alumni chapters so you can get involved!

Phoenix/Tempe, AZ  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 Orange County, CA  
 San Francisco, CA  
 Santa Cruz County, CA  
 Boulder, CO  
 Denver/Colorado Springs, CO  
 Washington, D.C.  
 Miami, FL (South Florida)  
 Tampa, FL (West-Central Florida)  
 Atlanta, GA  
 Chicago, IL  
 Indianapolis, IN  
 Lower Midwest Region (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)  
 Boston, MA  
 Baltimore, MD  
 Minneapolis, MN  
 Charlotte, NC  
 Reno, NV  
 New York, NY  
 Portland, OR  
 Philadelphia, PA  
 Pittsburgh, PA  
 Charleston, SC  
 Nashville, TN  
 Austin, TX  
 Charlottesville, VA (Central Virginia)  
 Seattle, WA

### INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS

Vancouver, BC, Canada  
 Mumbai, India  
 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Interested in starting a chapter in your area?

Email [alumniassociation@semesteratsea.org](mailto:alumniassociation@semesteratsea.org) for more information.

Visit [semesteratsea.org/](http://semesteratsea.org/) community for a full list of upcoming alumni events!

# SAS SWEETHEARTS



## AMY JEWELL MCDOWELL & BRIAN MCDOWELL

**CURRENT HOMETOWN:**  
Highlands Ranch, CO

**SAS VOYAGE ON WHICH YOU MET:**  
Fall 1998

### TELL US HOW YOU MET:

After a rough two-week crossing of the Pacific Ocean (which included a typhoon!), everyone was really excited to get off the ship at our first port of call, Kobe, Japan. That first night in port, by happenstance, we both ended up at the same small bar. In hindsight, this is particularly ironic, as each small friend group we were with was trying to avoid running into other shipmates! As the only SASers in the bar, we introduced ourselves and enjoyed an evening with the Japanese businessmen in the bar. As the voyage went on, our relationship continued to grow and evolve. Despite going to different colleges (Brian to University of Colorado and Amy to Colorado State), the close distance between the two schools meant we could continue our relationship after departing the ship.

### FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION (DURING OR SINCE YOUR VOYAGE):

A hard question — it's like picking your favorite child! During our voyage, I think we can both agree that Italy was a very special place for us. Our relationship had reached couple status, thus it was the first port where we really experienced the

exhilaration of shared travel experiences. Brian also still raves about his time in Vietnam and the country's amazing scenery and kind people. Since our SAS voyage, raising steins of Hefeweizen at Oktoberfest in Munich has to be at the top of our list, as does sleeping in an over-the-water bungalow in Bora Bora for our 15th wedding anniversary.

### UP NEXT ON YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY:

Over the years, we have been lucky to have had the opportunity to travel on the ocean several times, with kids and without them. In 2022, we are looking forward to cruising to Alaska with our kids, parents, and extended family — a trip that has been postponed since 2020. The ocean still has our hearts, as it has for more than 20 years now!



## GINA DELUCIA SETHRE & ERIK SETHRE

**CURRENT HOMETOWN:**  
Berthoud, CO

**SAS VOYAGE ON WHICH YOU MET:**  
Fall 1990

### TELL US HOW YOU MET:

We met on the first full day of the voyage, September 15, which was Erik's 22nd birthday. Erik met Gina's roommate, Abby, who also went to school in Colorado, that afternoon. As a group was

getting ready to head to the dining room, Abby went to get Gina, and the couple ended up sitting across from each other during dinner.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SAS MEMORY TOGETHER?

We spent a lot of time together in Hong Kong while other students were off on field trips. Our first date was in Penang, Malaysia. We took a rickshaw to a revolving restaurant on top of a building!

### FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION (DURING OR SINCE YOUR VOYAGE):

We have taken a lot of nice trips, including to Turks and Caicos, Mexico, and a cruise to Alaska. Several vacations to Walt Disney World have also been among our favorite spots.



## JENNY & BEN OTTENHOFF


**CURRENT HOMETOWN:**  
Washington, D.C.

**SAS VOYAGE ON WHICH YOU MET:**  
Jenny sailed in Fall 2004 and Ben sailed in Fall 2005. We actually met on a Semester at Sea Reunion Voyage in January 2007.

### TELL US HOW YOU MET:

We were introduced by a mutual friend on the last night of the Reunion Voyage. After dancing together for a while, Jenny ran off to catch up with other friends and never returned. Luckily, we bumped





“WE LOVED TRAVELING  
TOGETHER DURING OUR  
VOYAGE, ESPECIALLY SOUTH  
AFRICA AND MOROCCO,  
BUT WE HAVE A SOFT  
SPOT IN OUR HEARTS FOR  
COLOMBIA.” MARK PROPOSED  
TO STEPHANIE THERE WHILE  
SNORKELING – HE DROPPED  
A RING (ATTACHED TO CLEAR  
FISHING LINE) TO THE CORAL  
REEF TEN FEET DOWN WHERE  
STEPHANIE FOUND IT!

STEPHANIE GREEN & MARK FERNE

# SAS SWEETHEARTS

into each other the next morning when we were disembarking and exchanged phone numbers. After four years, thousands of phone calls, and a move to the same city, we got married!

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SAS MEMORY TOGETHER?

There are too many to mention! We are still close with a group of SASers that we see a few times a year at makeshift reunions all over the country. This past summer we met a bunch of them in LA to go sailing, and we spent the 4th of July in Boston with some others. Time spent with this adventurous crew always makes for great memories!

## UP NEXT ON YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY:

Somewhere out West (perhaps Colorado?). We hope to get our 2-year-old on skis with us this year!



## STEPHANIE GREEN & MARK FERNE

### CURRENT HOMETOWN:

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

### SAS VOYAGE ON WHICH YOU MET:

Spring 2016. Mark was the Dean of Students and Stephanie was a faculty

member teaching Marine Biology. Mark also sailed in Fall 2000 as a Resident Director and as the Assistant Dean of Students in Summer 2003.

## TELL US HOW YOU MET:

As luck would have it, SAS assigned our cabins next to each other. Before our voyage departed, SAS hosted the Rock The Dock alumni event in San Diego. As Mark had sailed on previous voyages, he had some friends over to his cabin, making a bit too much noise. Steph was not happy, and as she started her day she looked at the name badge on his door. She was worried that Mark Ferne would be her nemesis on that voyage, until he brought her chocolate pudding from the buffet line at lunch that day, and the rest is history.

## FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION (DURING OR SINCE YOUR VOYAGE):

We loved traveling together during our voyage, especially South Africa and Morocco, but we have a soft spot in our hearts for Colombia. Mark proposed to Stephanie there while snorkeling – he dropped a ring (attached to clear fishing line) to the coral reef ten feet down where Stephanie found it!

## UP NEXT ON YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY:

Like many, we haven't traveled nearly as much as we would've liked in the past couple of years, so we have some making up to do. Next though is to travel to the exciting country to our south, the USA, so that our 6-month-old son, Finn, can spend some quality time with his American relatives. He's already got two passports, Canadian and American, so now we just need to fill them with stamps. Look for all of us, hopefully, on a future SAS voyage!



## SARAH & VANCE WALTER

### CURRENT HOMETOWN:

Alexandria, VA

### SAS VOYAGE ON WHICH YOU MET:

Spring 2015

## TELL US HOW YOU MET:

We met on the MV *Explorer* as we sat at the dock in our first port, Hilo, Hawaii. Sarah spoke with her friends from home who told her to be on the lookout for their friend, Vance. Five minutes later Vance bumped his chair into Sarah on the back of the 5th deck as the ship embarked for Japan. The rest is history – we traveled the world, fell in love, and on November 30, 2019, we got married!

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SAS MEMORY TOGETHER?

Traveling through Myanmar on mopeds and watching the sunrise!

## FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION (DURING OR SINCE YOUR VOYAGE):

After exploring the amazing countries together on SAS, we realized we hadn't seen our own backyard. So, we took 30 days and drove cross country and back! Lake Tahoe, California, is one place we always go back to!





## IN MEMORIAM

### *Shipmates We Will Miss*

It is with great sadness that we share the loss of the following beloved voyagers.\* We extend our deepest condolences to their families and offer heartfelt wishes for peace and comfort. We will cherish the memories of our friends and think of each fondly, recalling our time spent sailing the seas and exploring the world together. Each voyager is referenced with their first voyage year.

Kathleen Armstrong	FA73
Michelle Baltz	FA86
George J. Barkin	FA96
Heather M. Benfield	SU04
Jacob M. Bouman	FA17
Aaron M. Burns	FA81
Anna M. Carey	SP87
Gary R. DeGennaro**	
Pasquale DeSimone**	
Elizabeth H. Dugas	EV04
Robert L. Dugas	EV04
David H. Edington	FA80
Diane K. Gaither	SU01
Steffi M. Gradek	SP90
Marcia S. Gruver	FA88
Mitchell E. Hale	SP14
Erma J. Higgins	FA93
William M. Holmes	FA66
George H. Hutzler	EV13
William E. Jacox	FA02
Kit H. Johnson	SP98
Sandra S. Kalas	FA66
Theodore Kissel**	
Paul Lagomarcino	FA10
Richard D. Lamm	SP91
James Marcus	FA67
Janet McConnochie	FA65
Phillip R. McDonald	SP12
John F. Miller	FA69
Robert E. Murtagh	FA97
Kelly Pietrs**	
Polly E. Pool	FA79
Robert M. Quat**	
Sergio Rodriguez	FA10
Andrew J. Santiago	FA16
Allan A. Schoenherr	SP95
Joan Schwartzappel**	
Robert T. Scully	FA11
Richard H. Seeburger	SP91
Bruce E. Singer	FA69
Robert W. Smith	SP09
Joseph B. Stawasz	SP79
Lois Taylor	FA11
Melanie A. Thwing-Eastman	SP09
Victoria A. Torrez	FA17
Archbishop Desmond Tutu	SP92
Karen Veronica	FA64
Abby Crumpacker Vieira	FA84
Robert C. Weigl	SP85
Robert L. Wolke	FA82

\*This list includes voyagers who passed away between January 1, 2020-January 31, 2021. If you know of a passing of a fellow voyager, please email [semestertatsea@isevoyages.org](mailto:semestertatsea@isevoyages.org) so we can remember them in our next issue and update our records.

\*\* Parents of voyagers or friends of the program who we will miss.



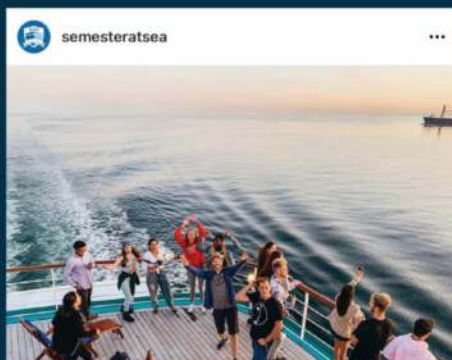
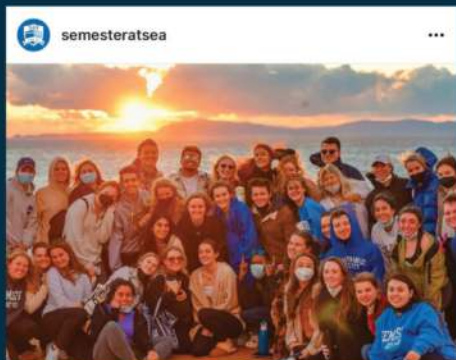
## Leave a Legacy

When it comes to making a long-term impact on Semester at Sea, there are many giving options to choose from besides simply writing a check. To find a charitable gift that best meets your family's goals and supports SAS, you need a plan — and we're here to help!

For more information about how you can make a difference, visit [semestertatsea.org/planned-giving](http://semestertatsea.org/planned-giving) or email Susan Sigman, Director of Philanthropy, at [ssigman@isevoyages.org](mailto:ssigman@isevoyages.org).



# SOCIAL MEDIA SHOWCASE







## wavelengths

ALUMNI SERIES

The Wavelengths Alumni Series highlights the talents of our Semester at Sea Alumni Community. Each month, typically every other Wednesday, we feature a SAS alumnus/a with a transformative and inspirational story to share. Videos are broadcast live on the SAS Facebook Page, and archived on the Alumni Association YouTube Channel. If you haven't already, subscribe to our YouTube Channel for the latest Wavelengths Alumni Series

video! If you, or someone you know, is interested in sharing their story, email [wavelengths@semesteratsea.org](mailto:wavelengths@semesteratsea.org) to be considered for a future segment.

**NEW SAS PODCAST!** The Young Alumni Council, part of the Alumni Association, has launched the **Semester at Sea Wavelengths Podcast** and can be found wherever you get your podcasts.



### WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU IS IMPORTANT TO US!

Have you recently celebrated a wedding or a new addition to your family? Perhaps you started a new job or earned a promotion? We want to know! SASers know what's happening in your life. Submit your exciting news to [community@semesteratsea.org](mailto:community@semesteratsea.org) for publication in our next issue of *Shipmates*!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: [SEMESTERATSEA.ORG/COMMUNITY](https://semesteratsea.org/community)



## Tung Legacy Scholarships

Do you have a child or grandchild who would like to sail on a future voyage? We are pleased to announce that 10 \$10,000 scholarships are available to children and grandchildren of Semester at Sea alumni, including student voyagers, Lifelong Learners, former faculty, and former staff.

The Tung Family Foundation has generously provided \$100,000 per year to encourage participation in our program. Tung Legacy Scholarships are awarded for Fall voyages. Future voyagers can explore itineraries or apply via our website. For questions, please contact our Financial Aid team at [financialaid@isevoyages.org](mailto:financialaid@isevoyages.org).



Semester at Sea recently partnered with PerkSpot to bring exclusive discounts and deals to our alumni community! More than 2,500 SAS alumni have already utilized PerkSpot to save a total of \$10,000. PerkSpot is a one-stop online shop with exclusive discounts that help you save money on many of your favorite national and local merchants! It's completely free and optimized for use on any device: desktops, tablets, and phones.

Start saving by signing up or logging in at [semesteratsea.perkspot.com](https://semesteratsea.perkspot.com). Access thousands of discounts in more than 25 different categories, updated daily. Keep an eye out for new featured discounts in PerkSpot's weekly email.





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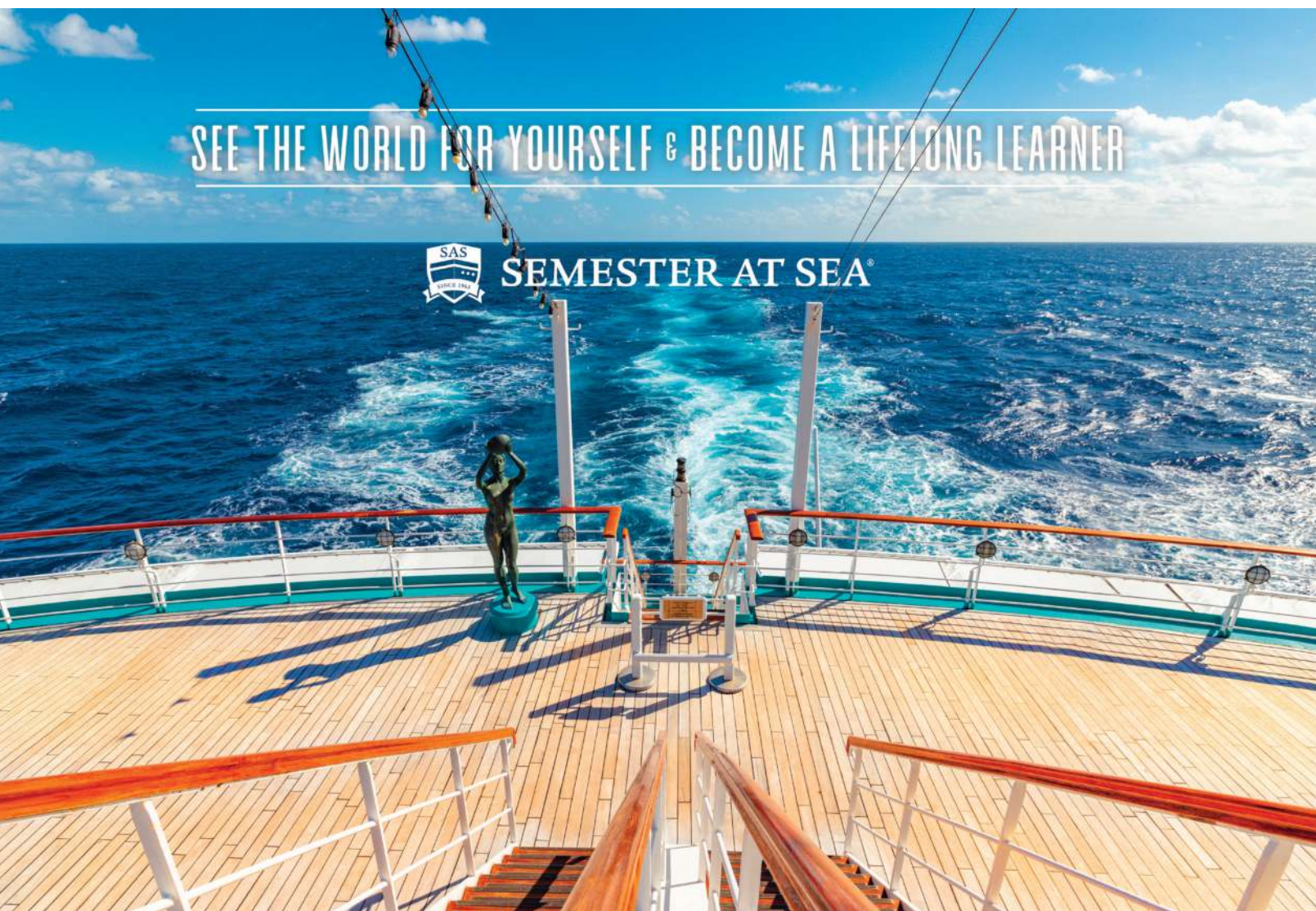
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[semesteratsea.org/lifelong-learner](https://semesteratsea.org/lifelong-learner)