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ROAD SCHOLAR FRIENDSHIP STORIES FINALISTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE FIND LOVE ON THE HIGH SEAS

BOSTON (May 31, 2015) – As Road Scholar celebrates 40 years as the leader in lifelong learning, the not-for-profit organization invited participants to share stories that highlight friendships and relationships that were made or strengthened on its iconic learning adventures. Sonia Ascher of Hollis, New Hampshire, has an incredible story to share.

For several years, Sonia wanted to take a long, exciting adventure. She'd traveled solo with Road Scholar for several years but, in 2011, embarked on the trip of a lifetime: a 78-day adventure aboard ship around South America. On the second day of the trip, an English gentleman asked if the seat next to her was taken.

“Little did I know that the next two months would be spent sitting next to the man who would become the most important person in my life,” Sonia said. “Sixty days into the adventure, we looked at each other and realized there was something more than friendship brewing. And, as they say, the rest is history.”

The couple was married in 2012 in New Hampshire, sharing their special day with several of the participants on their South American trip.

“When we thought about how to commemorate our 40th Anniversary, we knew that friendship and learning would be at the core of our celebration,” said James Moses, President and CEO of Road Scholar. “Stories of friendship, love and personal growth from the 12 Road Scholar participants are uplifting and wonderfully illustrative of the deep relationships that form when people come together to learn — friendship and learning are integral parts of the Road Scholar experience.”

Sonia is one of 12 finalists from around the country who, if selected, will win a \$5,000 Road Scholar gift certificate. Voting is already underway and remains open until July 31, 2015. If you'd like to vote for Sonia, please visit our online voting page at www.roadscholar.org/friendscontest. Everyone is allowed to vote once each day. The winner will be announced in our September North America catalog.

About Road Scholar

Not-for-profit Road Scholar's mission is to inspire adults to learn, discover and travel. Our learning adventures engage expert instructors, provide extraordinary access, and stimulate discourse and friendship among people for whom learning is the journey of a lifetime. Since inception, more than 5 million people have enrolled in our 5,500 iconic educational adventures offered annually in 50 states and 150 countries around the world.

Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel, the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975. To learn more, please visit our website at www.road scholar.org/press.

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