



Renaissance Society Annual Report 2021-2022

Prepared By: Deborah Seiler and Amber Korb



Learn. Connect. Share.

Renaissance Society of Sacramento
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(2021-2022)

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RS President Deborah Seiler 2022-2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Under the leadership of President Ken Cross, the Renaissance Society's 2021-22 academic year was one of transitions and traditions.

Supported by the fine leadership at Sacramento State University, hundreds of volunteers, and a dedicated board of directors, our organization weathered the pandemic and began a slow, careful return to campus.

This 2021-2022 Annual Report seeks to highlight our major accomplishments:

- Celebrated 1,693 members, including 292 new and 1407 returning members, plus 66 honorary members over age 90.
- Welcomed members in 21 states and 63 CA cities.
- Awarded seven student scholarships, totaling \$21,000 for a cumulative total of \$248,000 since 1993.
- Mentored 120 Gerontology students.
- Worked with 31 Physical Therapy students.
- Conducted 214 diverse programs with over 21,000 enrollments.
- Resumed ushering services for the first campus performance in over two years, a production of Shakespeare's Hamlet.
- Conducted Seminar Leaders workshops, the semiannual Orientation & Rendezvous, the Friday Forum Speaker Series, and our Spring Annual General Meeting on Zoom.
- Used upgraded classroom technology to offer several Spring classes both in-person and on Zoom.
- Produced two semiannual program catalogs in three electronic formats: a flipbook, PDF, and abbreviated, printable Program-at-a-Glance.
- Achieved a full return to campus during an eight-week Summer Program, including live presentations, group lunches, and tours of "Hidden Gems" on campus.
- Enjoyed a bus trip to the CA Youth Symphony in San Mateo, our first in more than two years.
- Won the ASI Food Pantry's "Golden Plate Award" for the most food baskets donated during the Thanksgiving holiday drive.
- Ended the fiscal year with a \$29,435 budget surplus despite reduced membership registration.

These achievements were possible due to the outstanding support of our 36-year host and partner Sacramento State University with Dr. Robert S. Nelsen as President, our liaison Dean Dianne Hyson of the College of SSIS, and the fine staff of various university departments. Working with our devoted volunteers, we anticipate exciting transitions and the deepening of our many traditions with the Hornet Family.

Deborah Seiler, President
The Renaissance Society of Sacramento

INTRODUCTION

Renaissance Society of Sacramento

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Renaissance Celebrates University Leadership: Past and Present

On Dec. 6, 2021, the Renaissance Society (RS) mourned the loss of former President Donald R. Gerth, the longest-serving president in the history of Sacramento State from 1984 to 2003. In 1986, Dr. Margaret McKoane and Dr. Robert Heilman approached then President Gerth who, along with Dean Robert Arellanes, agreed to give \$2,500 in seed money to launch our lifelong learning program. With this support, the Renaissance Society of Sacramento was born. Dr. Gerth and his wife Beverly continued their involvement after he retired and contributed generously to the RS Scholarship fund. We are grateful for Beverly's ongoing commitment. RS contributed \$1,000 to the Donald Gerth Scholarship Fund at Sac State

Even as we honored Dr. Gerth's memory, we rejoiced in the organizational embrace of current President Robert S. Nelsen. Long-time member Allan Keown recalls RS members' first encounter with President Nelsen:

When several of us went to meet the newly arrived President Nelsen, we told him we were grateful for being on campus and we endeavored to be good, respectful guests. President Nelsen responded, saying "You are not guests. You are members of the Hornet Family."

Throughout our 36-year history, support from President Gerth and President Nelsen has nurtured our organization and blown wind into our sails. Our gratitude to them is both deep and immeasurable.



Donald R. Gerth (1928-2021)

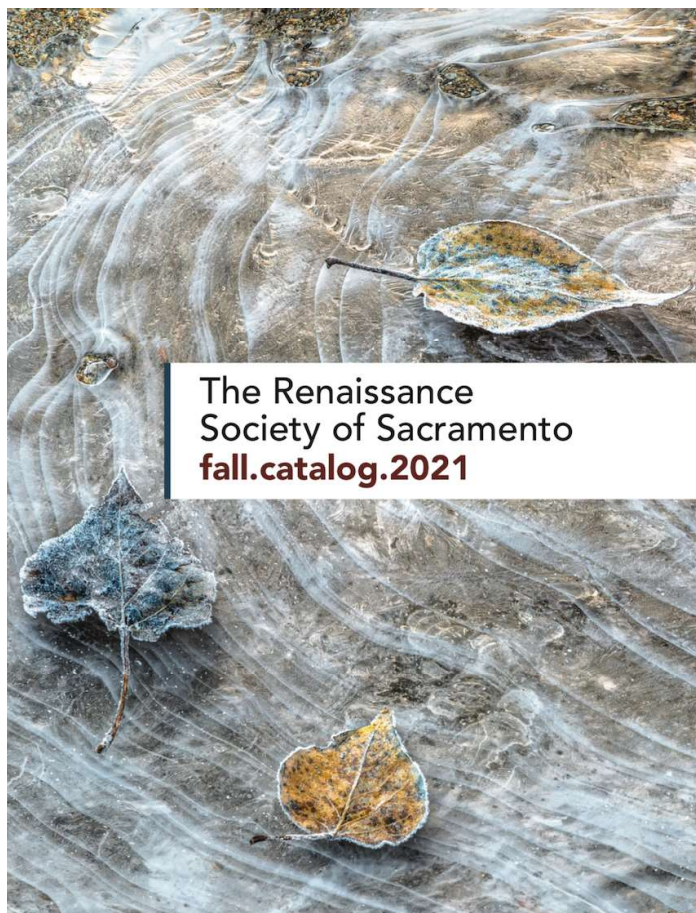


*California State University, Sacramento
President Robert S. Nelsen*

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SEMINARS, LECTURES, AND SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



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The original purpose of RS was to enable older adults to continue to enjoy the mental stimulation and fellowship of a college environment. Today, 36 years later, our motto is Learn. Connect. Share. The quantity and diversity of learning opportunities RS offers is unparalleled in the lifelong learning community. Thanks to our peer-to-peer teaching method, it is exceptional in its breadth and affordable for all.

Fall Semester remained on Zoom

On August 8, 2021, the RS Board of Directors voted against returning to campus for the Fall Semester and all programs continued virtually.

For the Fall semester, RS offered 101 programs, all as Zoom or webinars:

- 41 seminars, ranging from three to 12 weeks each
- 13 Tuesday Series presentations
- 13 Forums
- 17 Community Presentations
- 17 Shared Interest Groups

Spring Semester Saw a Slow Return to Campus

By Spring, RS offered:

- 46 seminars ranging from three to 12 weeks each
- 13 Tuesday Series presentations
- 13 Forums
- 18 Community presentations
- 18 Shared Interest Groups.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, nearly 1,700 members registered 21,000 enrollments in 214 programs. This compares with 247 programs and 27,389 enrollments in 2020-2021. Although the enrollments did not necessarily mean that all students attended all their classes (yes, playing hooky is still common), they reflect members' enthusiasm for additional programs and expanded participation time slots.



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Summer Series Brings Members Back to Campus

The theme of our 2022 Summer Program was Learn. Connect. Explore! To re-engage existing and prospective members with the beautiful Sac State campus, RS held Friday morning presentations in Del Norte Hall. This “Learn” segment consisted of eight outstanding presentations, including one by Dr. Manuel Barajas on “Race, Borders, and Immigration,” the “10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s,” “Cleopatra,” and a discussion about what symphony conductors really do.



RS members enjoy Qi Gong before their morning presentation
Photo by Jeff Hendy



RS members gather for a brown bag lunch in the River Front courtyard. Featured L to R: Elly Thomas, Beth Mann, Chris Budwine, Ivy Hendy

Photo by Jeff Hendy

During the “Connect” portion, Qi Gong sessions and brown bag lunches occurred in the shady River Front area. There was a group lunch at Engrained restaurant in the University Union, and free pizza at the Round Table in the Union on the last Friday.

The “Explore” section included trips to “Hidden Gems” on campus such as the Tree of Peace and the Pony Express marker. The program also focused on not-so-hidden gems, as summer program attendees were treated to two tours of the new Planetarium, a special Book Bin adventure, and a walk and talk in the Arboretum.

The Summer Program was free and open to the public.



RS members having fun on an Arboretum Tour

Photo by Roberta Gleeson

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH SACRAMENTO STATE



RS member Sue McGinty with Jody Nelsen, wife of President Nelsen, and VP for University Advancement Lisa Cardoza celebrate the successful On the Rise campaign.

Photo by Deborah Seiler

Students, Faculty, and Renaissance Society Members Connect

Each year, RS members devote thousands of hours volunteering in a variety of Sac State programs. Although the pandemic prevented most volunteer opportunities in the Music and Dance departments, others continued both in person and on Zoom. And some new opportunities arose.



RS JOINS SAC STATE FOR LOBBY DAY

RS members were honored to support Sac State's efforts to secure funding for faculty and staff raises as well as student programs by appearing virtually before the California State Legislature. On May 11 and 12, five RS members joined Nathan Dietrich, Associate Vice President, Public Affairs & Advocacy, for Zoom meetings with several state legislators and members of their staff.

Participating members were:

- Ken Cross, Board President
- Barbara Davis-Lyman, Past Board Vice President
- Nancy Findeisen, Resource Development Committee chairperson
- Sue McGinty, Sac State Professor Emerita and RS member
- Deborah Seiler, Board Vice President, and President elect

Members were divided into smaller groups and paired with Sac State administrators and students who told their stories about financial challenges they continue to face in their quest for a college degree. Legislative members were cordial and receptive, and both days were deemed a success.

GERONTOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Mentor Hours Reached a New Record



One of the most fulfilling ways for RS members to interact with Sac State students is through the mentoring program with the Department of Gerontology. Begun by Dr. Cheryl Osborne in 1996, the Gerontology Mentor Program has paired RS volunteers with Gerontology 121/122 students who have enjoyed productive and mutually beneficial interaction both in person and virtually.

In the Fall 2021, Gerontology 121 was virtual once again and 83 mentors provided 498 volunteer hours which was double the typical size because a second section of the course was offered. In the Spring, 40 RS volunteers provided 240 hours of mentoring. RS volunteers gave another 12 hours by participating in Assessments for the Gerontology 122, “Chronic Disease and Disorders” course. The total 750 hours was a record high.

In the Spring of 2022, the Renaissance Society sponsored five students to attend the Aging Society of America’s National Summit. Students gained information and contacts for their future careers in gerontology. Their registration entitled them to membership in the Aging Society of America. RS budgets \$2500 per year for students to participate in this opportunity.

The Gerontology Department, currently led by Department Chair Dr. Donna Jensen, is instrumental in supporting Sac State’s efforts to become an “Age Friendly University,” holding itself to higher standards in dealing with older students. A bachelor’s degree in Sac State’s Gerontology program is ranked fifth best in the nation.

Dear Members of the Renaissance Society, I would like to tell you how grateful I am for your decision to offer your generous financial support to reimburse the Gerontology students for their attendance of the GSA/AGHE Conference. As a first-generation college student, at the age of 48, your gift was the catalyst to introduce me to a group of scholars that I endeavor to work for or with upon graduation. My scope of career focus has been broadened as a direct result of participating in key presentations during the conference. Without your support, I would not have been able to consider investing in the conferences at this time. My career aspirations are to work as a Hospice RN, and possibly a Gerontology advocate in the future. Thank you again for your benevolent foresight and generous contribution.

-Wendy Pangilinan, student

“The affiliation between the Gerontology Department and the Renaissance Society allows students to gain an enhanced view of aging, not only from a physical health perspective, but also from a larger holistic perspective wherein students see the gifts, talents, and abilities of older adults who are living life to its fullest and continuing to create change in the world. In short – the RS volunteers help change perceptions and attitudes about what it means to age.”

-Dr. Donna Jensen, Department of Gerontology

During the Summer Program, RS also assisted the Sacramento Department of Aging to gather information for their Age Friendly Community survey about Sacramento living conditions for older adults. Results of the RS session with Department of Aging staff were summarized in a report to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

The Physical Therapy Department once again invited RS members to return for fitness testing with doctoral students. There were two, 90-minute sessions on June 27 and 29, and 31 RS volunteers were paired with 31 students who weighed, measured, and took their blood pressure readings. The volunteers walked up and down stairs, sat, stood, and sat in a chair as many times as they could in thirty seconds, walked as fast as they could for six minutes and performed other tests for agility, strength, and balance.



Renaissance members enjoyed their interaction with students and benefited from their findings and recommendations. Students were excited to have “real” clients to work with.

“I enjoyed working with the PT students so much. The pair I worked with were a bit tentative, reminding me of my early days working with patients as an RN. I was glad to provide them with some practice working with real people in addition to their didactic learning. The program was informative and reminded me how important it is to maintain our physical strength as we age. We’ve got to ‘use it or lose it.’”

-Joyce B., RS Member



“It was great to be reminded of why I want to be a PT with all of the amazing people today.”

-Lauren, SPT

“Students were well prepared and confident to be able to test clients and develop prescriptions for the clients to reach their goals.”

-Dr. Ralph Escamilla

PSYCHOLOGY

RS activities with the Psychology Department were suspended due to the pandemic, and members look forward to reconnecting when conditions permit.

“I hope to stay connected with the Renaissance Society in some way. I’ve really enjoyed the group and know how much my students have appreciated connecting with your members.”

-Rachel A. August, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychology



Dr. Rachel A. August

BUSINESS SCHOOL

RS once again partnered with Dr. Kevin Lovelace in the College of Business to offer students the opportunity to share their business skills with our organization. Communications and Marketing Committee co-chair Lorraine Murphy worked with five Business School students to enhance our presence on Twitter. The goal was to introduce students to real life marketing needs and counsel clients to achieve their targets. Working under the direction of Dr. Lovelace, the five students were instrumental in describing the benefits of using Twitter and recommending ways RS can build its presence on this social media platform. Thanks to the students' expertise and Lorraine's efforts, the account is now in continuous operation. Lorraine has implemented the use of hashtags, both trending and RS-specific, and she has also implemented the students' suggestion of "tagging" Forum speakers' names to reach the presenters' followers.

"I can speak for the team in that we all enjoyed learning about the Renaissance Society. We are glad to have been given the opportunity to provide insight on how to grow your organization's social media awareness."

-Alex Marquez Arrambide, student

THEATER DEPARTMENT

Spring Production of Hamlet

After a long hiatus, RS members were delighted once again to rejoin the Sac State Theater Department as ushers. During the Spring production of "Hamlet" 19 RS volunteers filled 25 usher slots for eight shows. Although pandemic fears dampened participation slightly, the goal of four ushers per show was very nearly met. Six of the eight shows had three to four ushers and only two shows had just two. RS looks forward to Fall 2022 performances with great anticipation.



Hamlet photos Courtesy of Sac State Theater Department

RENAISSANCE CONTINUES ITS TRADITION OF PHILANTHROPY

In Fiscal Year 2021-22, RS members contributed \$60,656 to support Sac State students and RS programs: Categories of giving were:

- ♦ \$19,600 General Operations Fund to support RS programs (“give something extra”)
- ♦ \$3,722 Special Programs Fund, a joint fund of RS and Sac State
- ♦ \$37,334 Scholarship Fund, including \$6,630 on Give Sac State Day (53 donors)
- ♦ \$500 Contribution from the University Foundation in recognition of RS’ donations

The 53 Give Sac State Day donors represented a 140% increase from 2021, and Nancy Findeisen, who founded the Resource Development Committee in 2019, was recognized by the university as top Ambassador in this event.

RS members also attended estate planning seminars presented by attorney Mark Drobný. There were 80 attendees in the Fall 2021 seminar and 129 in the Spring seminar. In these seminars, Mr. Drobný invites members to include Sac State and RS in their legacy giving and offers advice on the mechanism for doing this.

Since the formation of the Resource Development Committee, both the amount of donations to RS and Sac State programs as well as the number of donors has increased:

FY 2018-19: 60 donors
FY 2019-20: 250 donors Increase: 317%
FY 2020-21: 420 donors Increase: 68%
FY 2021-22: 482 donors Increase: 17%



RS Board Members at the Thank You Card Signing Party (from left): Deborah Seiler, Ken Cross, Nancy Findeisen, Allan Keown, Michele Finerty, and Laurye Brownfield

Photo by Jim Hodges

CLASSICAL MUSIC CLASS FUND FOR MUSIC STUDENTS

Each Spring semester, RS member Robert Seyfried and retired Sac State Professor of Music Leo Eylar attract members to their classical music seminar in a filled-to-capacity room in Capistrano Hall. As a part of their course, they invite attendees to contribute to music students who are selected for awards with the help of Dr.

Stephen Blumberg, Director of the School of Music. To date, these classes have resulted in contributions totaling \$84,250 to deserving music students over the past 16 years.



RS leaders Bob Seyfried and Maestro Leo Eylar with music students

In the Spring of 2022, class attendees contributed \$2,750 to five students who received \$500 each, and \$250 to the composer whose winning composition was featured at the April 23 “On the Rise” celebration at Hornet Stadium.

Recipients were:

Yan Yan, student/composer
Elena Bohla, student
John Kiunke, student
Alla Christakova, student
Aaron David, student
Yang Tong, student

The music class celebrated the student recipients with the help of the Hornet Horn Players who performed at the April 23 event.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Established in 1993, the RS Scholarship Fund has provided a tangible expression of our devotion to students and our gratitude to Sac State. This year, RS once again gave seven \$3,000 scholarships, totaling \$21,000, to deserving students after screening 79 qualified applicants. These awards bring the total number of scholarships awarded by RS to 114, for a cumulative amount of \$248,000 to support academic excellence. All scholarship funding is provided by voluntary contributions from individual members.

This year's winners and their majors are:

Alyssa Lee — Health Science
Jasmine Vargas — Health Science
Quenton Pham — Nursing
Mohammad Omari — Finance
Kyle Nguyen — Computer Science
Liliana Serrano — Psychology
Christina Zumalt — Doctorate Physical Therapy

"During the past two years I've completed the prerequisites for a degree in Registered Nursing, while also working as a caregiver at the Commons at Elk Grove Senior Living. There I've specialized in memory care for patients with Alzheimer's and advanced dementia. The RS Scholarship will enable me to complete my degree while continuing to serve as a caregiver at the same time."

-Quenton Pham



Scholarship Recipients. Top (from left): Alyssa Lee, Kyle Nguyen. Middle: Mohammad Omari, Quenton Pham, Liliana Serrano. Bottom: Jasmine Vargas, Christina Zumalt

SETH NELSEN STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

RS makes a \$25 donation to the Seth Nelsen Student Emergency Fund in honor of each speaker at our Friday Forum series. Last year \$400 was contributed to this fund supporting students in need.

ASI FOOD PANTRY RS Takes the Golden Plate Award

Beginning in 2017, the RS Board of Directors adopted the ASI Food Pantry as a designated charity, and members responded enthusiastically. They contributed \$15,430 the first year, \$21,500 in 2018, and \$31,000 in 2019 for a total of \$67,930 to support food insecure students.

Prior to the pandemic, donations were made by passing an envelope in each class on the First Friday of each academic month. Donations were tallied and deposited with the university and amounts were readily known.

Due to the pandemic, in Fiscal Year 2020-21 and most of FY 2021-22 RS did not hold classes or events on campus where solicitation of Food Pantry donations had occurred in past years. However, RS promoted giving to the Food Pantry at the beginning of each of our weekly Forums, in all of our Zoom seminar sessions, and in our Weekly Update emails. Because donations were made directly to the Food Pantry either in-person or online, an exact accounting was not possible. However, ASI and RS together determined that RS members donated at least \$25,000 to the Food Pantry in 2020-21. In 2021-2022, 96 RS members donated \$13,323.

In 2021-22, RS was the proud recipient of the ASI Food Pantry's "Golden Plate Award" for winning the competition among all Sac State departments to give the most food baskets during the Thanksgiving Holiday Food Drive. RS donated 139 baskets, including 120 monetary baskets and 19 physical baskets for a monetary total of \$4,800.



RS Board Members Ken Cross, Allan Keown, and Deborah Seiler receiving the award from Wil Chen

"Hello donors of my Thanksgiving Food Basket, I just wanted to take this time to let you know how much my family and I appreciate your generous gift. This year has been one of the hardest for us financially. Therefore, I find myself worrying a lot more about how we are going to get money for our bills and necessities. This donation has eased some of my worries and greatly helped us make this year's Thanksgiving dinner possible. Thank you." -Sac State student

OUR GRATITUDE

RS Cherishes the Support it Receives from Sac State

RS members have missed their time on the lovely Sac State campus, and they were delighted to return during the Summer Program. During the entire course of the pandemic, they continued to feel connected, thanks to the leadership of President Robert S. Nelsen. Members were inspired as President Nelsen mourned the loss of life due to covid and fires yet reveled in Sac State's record enrollment, soaring graduation rates, and calm beauty of the campus. On May 9, 2022, President Nelsen rearranged his schedule to speak to RS members, inviting them back to campus and remaining for the entire one-hour General Meeting to listen and take questions.

Despite her hectic schedule, our Sac State liaison and Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSIS), Dianne Hyson, attends meetings of the RS Board of Directors and helps RS navigate the University Enterprises, Inc. (UEI) process by which RS transacts its organizational business. Assistant deans, Dr. Boatamo "Ati" Mosupyoe and Dr. Marya Endriga also attend meetings and lend their support. RS was especially delighted to welcome Dr. Endriga to our lunch at Engrained restaurant during the RS Summer Program.

Sac State provides a wide range of technical assistance to RS as well. Specific thanks go to:

Lisa Cardoza of the University Foundation for facilitating our deposits of member donations for student scholarships, student emergency funds, and the Special Programs fund

Suzie Castaneda of University Print and Mail

Steve Grondin of the College of Continuing Education (CCE) for our membership enrollment and registration site

Ehsan Halterman of the Division of Information Resources & Technology (IRT) for our Zoom accounts and expert instruction on using classroom technology

Mark Hendricks of IRT for overall support

Deborah Hunt of CCE for administrative support

Peggy Kay of Classroom Technology Upgrade for overall support

Ted Koubiar and Joseph Romero for office internet support

Tony Lucas and Jeff Dierking of University Transportation and Parking System (UTAPS) for arranging parking for members

Camellia Sahm of Space Management for classroom assignments

Cheryl Stone and Michael Calvillo of UEI for their help with multiple fiscal operations

Robert van Winkle of Learning Space Services

Ian Watts-Willis for Sac State account setup and support



Dean Dianne Hyson

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES RESUME

Members Enjoy a Bus Trip to the Symphony



California Youth Symphony conducted by Maestro Leo Eylar

Photo courtesy of Cynthia Hearden

After a two-year wait, on March 13, 2022, 36 RS members traveled by bus to attend the California Youth Symphony Spring Concert in San Mateo. This was the 70th season of the symphony which is primarily volunteer based, and it was conducted by retired Sac State Maestro/Conductor Leo Eylar. The performance included a stunning violin concerto by Alexander Glazunov with Menlo High School senior Andromeda Kepecs on the violin. It also included Leonard Bernstein's Age of Anxiety, Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra featuring Stanford University and SF Conservatory of Music student Parker Van Ostrand on the piano.



Carl Sweet and Susan Blacksher enjoy the trip to San Mateo

Photo by Deborah Seiler

The trip was organized by RS member Cynthia Hearden who arranged for bus transportation, lunch, symphony tickets, and snacks on the trip home. Members were treated to special remarks by Maestro Eylar prior to their departure from San Mateo.



Photo by Deborah Seiler

Cinco de Mayo Party

After more than two years, RS members relished the opportunity to connect with one another in person on Sunday, May 1 in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

Approximately 70 RS members gathered at Arden Park where RS provided Mexican main dishes, beverages, and dessert. Members contributed delicious salads, creative side dishes, and plenty of good conversation.



Mariachi Band

Photo by Roberta Gleeson

The group was entertained by the acoustic background music of George Shelton and Sandra Carter who were rewarded with a gift of RS membership. Member Debbie Martinez and guest Delores Delgado-Campbell summarized the history and culture of Cinco De Mayo in an excellent presentation.



Delores Delgado-Campbell

Photo by Roberta Gleeson

Organizer Allan Keown even arranged for a mariachi band to conclude the afternoon.

Free Music Circus Tickets

During the Summer of 2022, Renaissance members were the fortunate recipients of 150 free tickets to the final dress rehearsal production of “Kiss Me, Kate,” courtesy of the Broadway At Music Circus.

And I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated being able to see such a marvelous performance. It was the most exciting night out for me since the pandemic and I needed it badly. The play was truly magical and thank you so much for making it possible!

-Karen Shahbandi, RS member



The company of Kiss Me, Kate produced by Broadway At Music Circus at the UC Davis Health Pavilion

Photo by Kevin Graft

**KISS ME,
KATE**



Yolanda & Lorenzo Cuesta enjoy intermission at Kiss Me, Kate with Joy Skalbeck looking on

Photo by Deborah Seiler



On Wednesday, October 28, 2021, Renaissance Society Ambassadors, Marian Kile and Loretta Burdeaux, attended the Bruceville Point Health Fair in Elk Grove

Photo by Roberta Gleeson

MEMBERSHIP, DIVERSITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (MDCE)

The closure of the Sac State campus due to Covid resulted in an immediate decline in membership. From a pre-pandemic high of 2,300, membership peaked at 1,693 in 2021-2022. And for nearly two years, lack of in-person contact restricted the ability of MDCE “Ambassadors” to attend outreach events and distribute informational materials. Limited outreach engagements returned in the spring, and RS looks forward to more events in the future.



Members Kevin Bray and Debbie Martinez provide information about Renaissance during the Mission Oaks senior health fair event

Photo by Deborah Seiler

RS Awards the Center for Race, Immigration and Social Justice its Diversity and Inclusion Award for 2022

Each year, the MDCE Committee nominates, and the RS Board approves a Diversity and Inclusion Award for a group or individual that has created, promoted, and enhanced diversity and inclusion at Sac State or in the community.

Since December 2016, the Center for Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ) Center, under the leadership of Dr. Manual Barajas, has engaged with members of RS, Sac State, and the greater Sacramento community to present forums, keynote speakers, panel discussions and film screenings that raise awareness about diversity and inclusion across multiple racial and ethnic groups in our society.

Among its many activities and contributions, CRISJ created the “Un/Equal Freedoms; Expressions for Social Justice” virtual art exhibition in May 2021, launched a “Building Justice” podcast to explore critical issues affecting California communities in April 2022, and awarded \$1,000 “Empowerment” scholarships to first generation and historically underrepresented students.



Dr. Manual Barajas

MDCE Committee co-chairs, Darryl Omar Freeman and Debbie Martinez presented the award to Dr. Barajas at the May 9 Annual General Meeting. Dr. Barajas was also a featured speaker during the 2022 Summer Program.

“The earliest data we have about the ethnicity of our students is from 1977, when just 3.4% of our students identified as Hispanic/Latino. By 1997, that number had grown to 12.5%. It wasn’t until 2013 that our undergraduate enrollment of Hispanic students reached 25%, earning us the designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). This year, 36.6% of our students report that they are Hispanic/Latinx, making this the largest population of students on our campus.”

-Dr. Robert S. Nelsen

FINANCES

A Successful Transition

Careful financial operations ensure RS remains successful

In Fiscal Year 2021-22, the loss of RS membership continued as it had in the prior year. Over 95% of RS revenues are generated solely from membership dues, so this decline had a financial impact.

RS expected to retain 75% of its membership, and actual membership was stable. Fortunately, because many members contributed additional funds through the “give something extra” campaign, revenues were greater than anticipated. Due to this generosity of our members, revenues for the year were \$175,665, which was 117% of the budgeted amount.

Renaissance adopts a conservative plan for expenditures

Expenses were reduced to the minimum necessary to carry on the program. An operational deficit of about \$15,000 was anticipated; however, a healthy reserve was available to absorb it. Several significant factors reduced expenditures:

- ♦ Salary savings due to the retirement of our long-time office manager
- ♦ Less expensive office space
- ♦ Costs of returning to campus were avoided as the transition was slower than expected

These factors as well as careful spending meant that total expenditures were only 79% of what was budgeted.

Because revenues were higher than anticipated and costs were less than planned, RS ended the year with a small surplus of \$29,425.

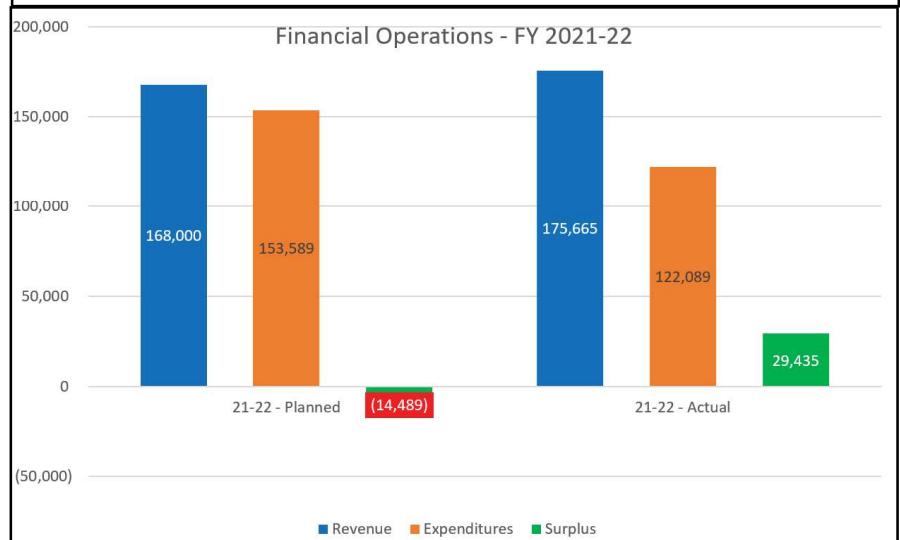
RS has always retained a conservative surplus to insure against financial crises. As a result of the unexpected surplus from this year, the reserve has grown slightly: the Cash Balance increased from \$208,652 at the start of the year to \$238,077 at the end.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

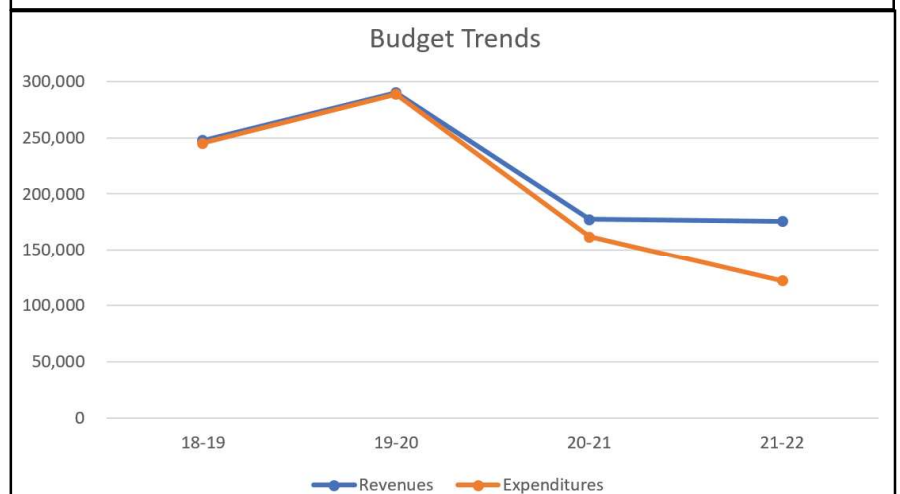
RS enters the next fiscal year with a solid financial position and finances will be closely monitored to retain this position.

A strong reserve and a solid cash position will help cushion any financial pressures that may occur. RS has the flexibility and adaptability needed to face these uncertain times.

The chart below presents the planned and actual financial results of RS in Fiscal Year 2021-22. It demonstrates that revenues were higher than expected and expenditures were less than expected. This changed the outcome for the year from a planned deficit to a surplus.



The chart below presents revenues for the past four years. Revenues have decreased significantly in the past two years due to program changes necessitated by Covid; however, they have started to stabilize and recover.





RENAISSANCE
SOCIETY
SACRAMENTO STATE

Learn. Connect. Share.

“The Renaissance Society, in partnership with California State University, Sacramento, provides innovative learning and community engagement for the older adult community.” (Mission Statement)

The Renaissance Society
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