

President's Message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – June 2026

REFLECTIONS



Deanna Hanson
President

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

deannahanson@gmail.com

Renaissance Website:
<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

Key Dates

May 29th

Submission Deadline for
Application-to-Teach Forms

June 1st

RS Annual Membership
Portal Opens

June 19th

Submission Deadline for
Catalog Photos

June 24th

Renaissance Society
River Cats Game

What a wonderful year! Thank you all for trusting me with the leadership of this incredible organization. I've made so many new friends and learned so much from all of you. We enjoyed numerous lunches, dinners, events, meetings, and phone calls. I thrive on being around friendly people who have experienced life and want to continue learning, like all of you. I enjoy meeting new people and helping solve problems – maybe not all of them perfect solutions.

We have made progress in many areas. I've met so many terrific people – within Renaissance, at Sac State, attending classes, and within our partnerships. I've learned so much - along with all of you.

Although we did not reach our membership goals, we did increase membership, and we do have more younger members and more diverse members, although there is much more work to be done.

We have both new and long-term members involved in committees, on the Board of Directors, and as Program Leaders. We are becoming more well known on campus amongst faculty: Deans, Department Chairs, leadership, staff and – even students.

We've tried some new things – Blues on the Green, working with the Basic Needs Center as well as the ASI Food Pantry and the Community Engagement Center. We've enjoyed more involvement with various health disciplines at Folsom Hall, including our wonderful Gerontology mentor program. I'm very excited by our continuing partnership with the activities organized by Cook's Tour and our growing list of community partners.

We will have even more volunteer options for our members in the coming year. Our partnership with Sacramento State is continuing and there will be many exciting new opportunities for Renaissance Society within the next few years. Dean Lang and President Wood, along with many other senior executives on campus are very strong supporters of Renaissance Society. Lifelong Learning is becoming an even stronger component of Sac State's education continuum. Dr. Marya Endriga, Dean Dianne Hyson and Dean David Lang have been so helpful and are always willing to advocate for Renaissance Society.

Most of all, my sincere thanks to our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs who have been so supportive in making this all happen. If you think this was a successful year, it's because of them. Board members: Jackie Lamb, Susan Brackenhoff, David Ferguson, Thom Gilbert, Deborah Seiler, Rick Atkinson, Kevin Collins, Marian Sheppard, Janet Heath, Mahnaz Khazari, and Bob Silva. Committee Chairs: Mike Pidd, Sue McGinty, Norv Wellsfry, Tom Nelson, Susan Wheeler, Mike Blixt, Carol Barake, Anne Rewell, Barbara Ray, and Sigrid Bathen, & Lynda Cassady – thank you so much!

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President's Message - Continued from Page 1)

A big thank you to our volunteer "communications team" of Rick Atkinson, Teri Stone, Loretta Burdeaux, Kathy Hart, Hollis Kulwin, Jennifer Kerr, Carolyn Monson and many others who make sure we look good – both inside and outside Renaissance Society. And then, there are those who really make Renaissance Society and all of us successful – our fabulous staff! Thank you, from the bottom of my heart - Amber Korb, Lorene Sarne and Sandy Ward – you are why Renaissance Society is THE BEST LIFELONG LEARNING organization anywhere!!!!

I will be here and I will remain involved for many years to come – because of all of you!!!! **See you in class.**

Deanna Hanson

The 2026–27 Renaissance Scholarship Awards

by Susan McGinty, Co-Chair

The Renaissance Scholarship Committee was established in 1993 by two late members, Doug Fulton and Lou Weintraub. This year continues a tradition of supporting Sacramento State University Students. Since 1993, the Renaissance Society has awarded \$332,000 in scholarships, benefiting 142 students. This year, after reviewing more than 120 applications, the committee awarded seven scholarships of \$3,000 each to an outstanding group of students. We are able to formally recognize six of the seven recipients, all of whom signed a waiver permitting the university to share their information with us. One student chose to remain anonymous for personal safety reasons. In light of the current federal climate, which places some members of our campus community at risk, we are committed to honoring that request for privacy. The Scholarship Committee honored the recipients at a special luncheon and also recognized them at the Annual Meeting on May 8. The six students we are able to celebrate are:

From the College of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies:

Harmony Dougherty: Harmony is a junior pursuing a degree in Psychology and hopes to become a clinical psychologist. She is a single mother who left a separatist cult and is now rebuilding a life for herself and her daughter. She has excelled academically and expressed deep gratitude for the financial support provided by the Renaissance Society. She described the award as both an honor and a source of motivation to continue striving for excellence.



Corrie Foutz: Corrie is another single mother who recently transferred from Sacramento City College, where she initially pursued a degree in Sociology. She has since changed her major to Social Work and will now continue her studies in the College of Health and Human Services. Although she was unable to attend the luncheon because she was celebrating her child's eighth-grade graduation, she was able to join us at the Annual Meeting and the reception that followed. She is deeply grateful for the scholarship's support, and she shared that the Renaissance Society's vote of confidence has uplifted her and renewed her hope for her academic journey.

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From the College of Engineering and Computer Science:



Douglas Ryan Huston: Ryan is a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan who will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and begin a master's program in Computer Engineering in the fall. Married with three children, he has balanced supporting his young family with the demands of rigorous academic coursework. He has demonstrated exceptional time management and a strong work ethic, and we are confident he will continue to do great things as he masters the complex skills required to excel in his field.



Ian Wright: Ian is a recent veteran pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. We had the opportunity to meet Ian and his wife at the luncheon, and it was clear that this scholarship is both well-deserved and deeply appreciated.

From the College of Health and Human Services:



Mayumi Ablang: Mayumi is originally from the Philippines and is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She currently works as a nurse and is expanding her skills through the baccalaureate program at Sac State. She is committed to providing compassionate, respectful care, especially for older adults, and she has been a gracious and appreciative recipient of this award.



Jacqueline Villalobos: Jackie is a second-year student in Sacramento State University's three-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program. She is a first-generation college student whose immigrant parents helped inspire her strong belief in the transformative power of education. She is especially dedicated to working with older adults, promoting independence, dignity, and quality of life throughout the aging process. Jacqueline hopes to serve diverse and underserved communities, empowering her patients to move safely and with confidence. She expressed heartfelt gratitude for the recognition from the Renaissance Society and for the membership's generous support.

I would like to thank the members of the Scholarship Committee—Susan Backenhoff, Laurye Brownfield, Barbara Davis-Lyman, Marilyn Cantrell, Gordon Garcia, Janet Heath, Jackie Lamb, Clare Payne, Bob Schlag, and Virginia Sturdevant—for their hard work in reviewing the applications. A special thank-you also goes to Carol Barake, who stepped in to assist the committee with the review process. As a past committee member, she generously filled in when a couple of members were unable to participate this year. I also want to thank all members of the Renaissance Society for their generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund. Five of our seven scholarships are now fully endowed, meaning they will continue in perpetuity even if we do not raise another dollar. Our goal is to fully endow all seven scholarships and then add more. As everyone on the committee can attest, there were many deserving applicants, and we wish we could have awarded even more scholarships. With the continued support of our members, I believe we will be able to expand these opportunities in the future.

Fall 20256- Spring 2026 Academic Year

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

This special **Membership Edition of the *Recorder*** explains the process for signing up for the upcoming Fall 2025—Spring 2026 Academic Year.

Renaissance Society will send a Constant Contact email message on **Monday, June 1**, with a link to our Registration site inviting you to either renew your membership or to join us for the first time for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year. ALL Renaissance members will receive a printed June *Recorder* newsletter in the mail.

**Membership for the 2025-2026 Academic Year is
\$120.00 per person.**

There are two ways to **Renew or Sign-up** for a Membership:

- 1) **Online** with a credit card payment (preferred method) or
- 2) **By Check** using the form on the next page of this Membership Edition of the *Recorder* and mailing it in with a check.

Registering online is the fastest, most efficient method and saves administrative costs. The paper version is available if your online access is limited. The paper form can also be found on the Renaissance Society website, under “Membership” which can be printed, filled in, and mailed in with your check starting on June 2, 2025.

Note: If you will be 90 years old before July 1, 2026, you are eligible to become an Honorary Member and you will no longer be required to pay membership dues. If you register online, just select the “Complimentary Membership” option. If you are already an Honorary Members, please continue to renew each year either online, by mail, or by contacting the office: (916) 758-5133 or email renaissa@csus.edu

ONLINE CREDIT CARD PROCESS:

To renew your membership online you will need to know your Renaissance Society membership number which you can look up online with your Last Name and Zip Code at

apps.cce.csus.edu/sites/renaissanceSociety/index.cfm?lookup

The online internet process is simple and safe.

- Go to the Renaissance Society website at csus.edu/rensoc
- Click on the “Online Registration” box, then
- **Returning Members** click on “Sign Me In” or “Help me Login”
- **New Members** click on “Sign Me Up”
- The system will ask for credit card information to make your payment but it does not retain credit card information once the transaction is completed
-

It’s simple and in a flash you are up-to-date with your Renaissance Society membership. **Do not submit the online registration information more than one time because your credit card will be charged each time.** If you think that your payment did not go through, phone the Renaissance Office at (916) 758-5133 or email renaissa@csus.edu.

Note: Instructions for purchasing parking permits are available at <https://tinyurl.com/RSparking>.
Parking Permits cost \$41 and will be good from July 1, 2026 — June 30, 2027.

You can purchase your parking permit for the new fiscal year starting on June 1, 2026. Go to the UTAPS online parking portal at https://sacstate.t2hosted.com/cmn/auth_ext.aspx



**RENAISSANCE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FALL 2025/SPRING 2026**
PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH MEMBER

Please Print

Have you been a member prior to this year? YES NO

First Name	Last	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Address: Street	City	Zip
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Phone	Email
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Emergency Contact: Name	Emergency Contact: Phone
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Membership Fee	\$120.00
Library Card Fee (\$10)	\$ <input type="text"/>
Donation for Renaissance Society General Programs**	\$ <input type="text"/>
TOTAL:	\$ <input type="text"/>
** Do you want your donation to be anonymous? ___ Yes ___ No	
Note: There will be no refunds	

Make check payable to:

**The Renaissance Society
California State University, Sacramento
6000 J Street – Mail Stop 6074
Sacramento, CA 95819-6074**

QUESTIONS

1. What is your ethnicity?

- African American
- Asian American
- Hispanic/Chicanx/Latinx
- Native American
- Other/Multi-racial
- Pacific Islander
- Caucasian
- Decline to state

2. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Decline to state

3. Year of birth: _____

4. Do you want your name, email, and phone number listed in the Membership Directory?

- Yes No

5. Do you need a new name badge for on-campus activities?

- Yes No

6. Preferred name for badge: _____

Signature and Date: _____

2026 Summer Program

by Richard Atkinson

The RS Program Committee is pleased to announce the 2026 Summer Program. Please note the following special procedures we are following this year:

- Registration will open 2 weeks prior to each event (Weekly Update will provide specific information about each program with links at that time)
- Events are initially open to current RS members only. If there is space after the first week, members may invite adult guests to register as part of our recruitment efforts for new members. If space is still available, events may become open to public a few days before the event.
- We will be tracking “no shows” (registered on Eventbrite but did not attend event and did not cancel)

NOTE: Two of our Summer Programs have entrance fees that will be collected when a person registers.

Docent-led Tour of CA Auto Museum

Docent-led Tour of Sacramento Zoo

The entrance fees are nonrefundable if cancellation is less than 7 days before the event. Eventbrite charges a small administrative fee that is nonrefundable.



PRIORITY
ACCESS
FOR
MEMBERS

Summer Programs 2026

Learn Connect Share

Friday, June 12: 10:30, State Capital Tour

Friday, June 12; CSUS Aquatic Center Tour & Optional Rentals

Wednesday, June 17; Tour of California Auto Museum - 10am, 12pm or 2pm, **FEE**

Thursday, June 25; Sacramento Ballet: Beyond the Barre

Friday, June 26; Capital Public Radio Tour

July 4 week; Holiday

Friday, July 10; Sacramento Zoo Tour - **FEE**

Friday July 17; Sac State Planetarium Show, 10am & 1:30pm, (1 show per member)

Friday, July 24; The Magic of Motown with Mike Agron

Friday July 31; Backstage Tour of Harris Center with EDMT

August 14; Fall 2026 Orientation & Open House

August 31; Fall Semester Programs begin

Presented by The Program Committee

Details here: <https://csus.edu/rensoc>



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

To All Members of the Campus Community:

Sacramento State is proud to once again serve as a voting site for our campus and surrounding community for the upcoming California primary election on Tuesday, June 2. The ballot includes races for governor, U.S. House of Representatives, statewide constitutional offices, and the state legislature, as well as several local races and measures.

Vote Center at Modoc Hall

The Vote Center will be located on campus in Modoc Hall. At the Vote Center—open to all Sacramento County voters—you can cast your ballot in person, drop off your vote-by-mail ballot, pick up a replacement ballot, or register and vote on the same day. You can also check your current voter registration status at registertovote.ca.gov.

Vote Center Hours:

- Saturday, May 30: 6:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 31: 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 1: 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 2 (Election Day): 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Free parking is available in designated spaces at Modoc Hall.

Ballot Drop Box at the Welcome Center

Sacramento State's Welcome Center is also home to an official Ballot Drop Box, available now through June 2. The Drop Box is located inside the Welcome Center and is accessible during the following hours:

- Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 1: 7:30 a.m. – 4:40 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 2 (Election Day): 7:40 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Voting by Mail

Mail-in ballots must be postmarked no later than June 2 AND received by Sacramento County election officials by June 9. There are several ways to return your ballot on time:

- Drop it in the mail: must be postmarked *on or before* June 2 and received within seven (7) days after Election Day.
- Drop it off at any official Ballot Drop Box, including the Welcome Center and Modoc Hall, between May 30 and June 2.
- Drop it off at any Vote Center, including Modoc Hall, between May 30 and June 2.

For all drop box and vote center locations, visit the [Sacramento County Elections website](https://www.sacramento.gov/elections).

Civic participation is at the heart of who we are as a public university. I hope every eligible Hornet will make their voice heard this election season. For more information on voting resources and important dates, visit the California Secretary of State's website at sos.ca.gov.



Dr. Luke Wood
President, Sacramento State



California State University, Sacramento
6600 J Street, University Union #1246
Sacramento, CA 95819

May 6th, 2026

Renaissance Society Executive Board, Committee
Chairs, Members-at-Large, Communications Team,
and Office Staff

6000 J St, Sacramento, CA 95819
renaissa@csus.edu

Dining Together will meet at **Masullo**, 2711 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, (<https://www.masullopizza.com/>) at 5:30 PM on June 10, 2026. Dining Together members who wish to attend should **RSVP** to Susan Wheeler (swheeler_1@yahoo.com) no later than June 4th. There is street parking so please allow extra time to park. Please remember to bring cash. This dinner is limited to 20 people.



Dear Deanna, Jackie, and esteemed Renaissance Society members,

My name is Ryan Choi, and I have the pleasure of working with you in my role at the ASI Food Pantry, a student-centered, mission-driven program housed within Associated Students, Inc. of the California State University, Sacramento. We work to provide food and basic necessities to Sac State students experiencing financial hardships and low food security, at no cost.

We are so proud to be partners with Renaissance Society since 2015 (10-years together this Fall!) to alleviate hunger in our student community and rely heavily on your support in collecting non-perishable food items, other high-in-demand basic necessities, and monetary donations to keep the ASI Food Pantry open for thousands of students each year. In 2025-2026 alone, we have seen over 3,374 students shop and utilize our services (17,102 total visits), with a 23.92% increase in visits from 2024-2025.

- **Renaissance Society raised \$50,820 for the ASI Food Pantry this year!**
- Over 106 unique members/RS groups/instructors donated.
- The average donation size was \$128 and the median was \$100.
- A few large donations (\$1000, \$1200, \$1500, \$2000, \$3000) came in throughout the year but notably after Food Pantry guest appearances at the **Forums** and during the annual Oct-Nov ASI Friendsgiving Feast campaign.
- \$24,820 was raised through **First Fridays/brown paper envelopes**, and we tracked \$26,000 raised through the ASI Food Pantry and Renaissance Society **donation websites**.

We also want to recognize Renaissance Society members' volunteer service efforts, which show our students that our community cares for them beyond just food and basic necessities. Your compassion and encouragement are so meaningful. It's been an exciting but challenging year, tackling the November government shutdown and CalFresh cuts, serving hundreds of international students at Friendsgiving Feast, navigating the loss of our state basic needs funding next year but reimagining our future with hope and dignity, and celebrating Renaissance Society through the first-ever Blues on the Green Spring Concert! We look forward to inviting you and all of the members to the ASI Food Pantry's 10-Year Anniversary Celebration on September 14th, 2026 when we send out save-the-date cards. Thank you for partnering in this work and making an impact at Sac State.

Hunger doesn't stop. So we won't either.

Kind Regards,


ASI Student Services Manager
E: ryan.choi@csus.edu
W: (916) 539-6445

Good News Projects Improving Human Life

By Darryl Freeman

It is somewhat challenging researching and creating a monthly article for the RS Recorder that can be interesting to the broad spectrum of Renaissance members. After reading several of the daily and monthly journals that I subscribe to, it occurred to me that there are projects and activities by human beings that are positive, productive and dedicated to the betterment of human life to report on. News of these efforts are often marginalized in media outlets that are more focused on the economics of reporting on the ills of our political, economic and social activities. Subsequently this article will identify some good news movements which are quietly working to improve the daily lives of humanity.

Historically, New York Harbor (Manhattan) once contained enormous oyster reefs. Estimates suggest as many as 220,000 acres of reef and possibly trillions of oysters existed in the harbor area before industrialization, over harvesting, dredging, and sewage pollution devastated the ecosystem. **The Billion Oyster Project** is now considered one of the largest urban marine restoration projects in the United States. An adult oyster can filter between 30-50 gallons of water daily. (something to think about when eating oysters – smile). Community organizations including dozens of New York city restaurants have saved over 2 million pounds of discarded oyster shells instead of throwing them away. Over fifteen thousand students and other volunteers have cured and seeded the shells with baby oysters and created restoration reefs. At full scale, one billion oysters could theoretically filter the harbor's standing water volume every few days. Researchers caution this will not magically "clean" the harbor by itself because modern pollution sources are complex, but it significantly improves water clarity, nitrogen cycling, and local ecosystem health for fish, crabs, shrimps and other marine life.

The Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing in Los Angeles is being described as the largest wildlife crossing of its kind in the nation. It spans the busy 10-lane U.S. 101 Freeway near Agoura Hills northwest of Los Angeles, reconnecting wildlife habitat that has been fragmented for decades by urban development and freeway construction. GPS collar studies showed that many mountain lions approached the freeway but turned back because crossing it was so dangerous. Since 2002, numerous mountain lions and other animals have been killed attempting crossings. The crossing about the size of a large city block creates a natural ecosystem. It consists of thousands of native plants, specially engineered soil, vegetated sound barriers, light-reducing walls, and wildlife fencing guiding animals toward the bridge. This \$90 Million project was built with the support of over 5000 individuals and community organizations and it will be fully operating by the end of this year. Canada is considered the world leader in large-scale wildlife crossing systems, and the most famous examples are in and around Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies. There are over 50 overpasses and underpasses crossing the Trans-Canada highway in the Banff system. In many ways, the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing in California was inspired by decades of Canadian success with wildlife overpasses and underpasses crossings.

The Green Belt Movement of urban tree planting has resulted in many American cities operating urban tree canopy projects. Cities including Sacramento, Phoenix and Detroit are planting thousands of trees in lower-income neighborhoods to reduce heat exposure and improve air quality in the city. The Sacramento Tree Foundation is probably the single most important organization leading the charge of large-scale urban tree planting and canopy restoration efforts in the Sacramento region today. It has become one of the best-known urban forestry nonprofits in California. In 2025, the City of Sacramento adopted an ambitious 20-year Urban Forest Plan aiming to increase canopy coverage from roughly 19% to 35% by 2045, and plant approximately 25,000 trees annually. When Wangari Maathai started the movement in the country of Kenya in 1977, the original concept was deceptively simple, rural women would plant trees to solve practical local problems. Those problems included firewood shortages, soil erosion, food insecurity, and poverty. She connected environmental destruction to political corruption, land privatization, and the marginalization of women. That linkage became revolutionary. Current estimates indicate that the movement has planted more than 51 million trees, trained tens of thousands of women, and supported thousands of community nurseries throughout Kenya. Ms. Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her leadership in inspiring dozens of

Continued on page 10)

(Continued from Page 9.) Green Belt projects throughout Africa.

Finally, at least for this article, is the identification of a movement in the field of medicine that is slowly but surely enhancing the lives of individuals throughout the world now and for future generations. **The “Digital Twin”** concept in medicine is rapidly becoming one of the most ambitious frontiers integrating healthcare, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence. The basic idea is to create a dynamic virtual model of an individual patient — a constantly updated computerized replica that can simulate how a person’s body may react to disease, drugs, surgery, lifestyle changes, or aging. The long-term vision is that doctors may eventually test treatments on our digital twin before treating the actual body. A company in Cleveland Ohio uses AI-driven “metabolic digital twins” aimed at reversing Type 2 diabetes and obesity. Cleveland Clinic-related studies reported improved blood sugar level control with reduced reliance on medications. Many research teams across the country are investing heavily in hospital digital twins, and artificial intelligence predictive care systems. Eventually, this work will be integrated with physical robots to revolutionize surgery on humans and animals. While public debate often focuses on political conflict and technological anxiety, researchers around the world are quietly building ‘digital twins’ of the human body — virtual medical models that may someday allow physicians to predict disease before symptoms appear, test treatments before they are administered, and personalize medicine for every individual patient.

These are just four examples of major undertakings by groups of people in this country and around the world that are focused on enhancing and saving our civilizations while it seems as though humankind is bent according to media reports on destroying it through wars and political turmoil. The good news is that there are balancing movements by humans to make the world a better place for human existence despite the forces that are focused on power and ideological influence.

A Banff National Park System Wildlife Overpass



Let Grief Join In The Learning

By Jennifer Plumlee

Loss is all around us: the cataclysmic death of a loved one, the end of a career, the path not followed. Some losses are loud, others are quiet. But they all carry the same potentiality of grief for what once was or what never got to be.

Grief is the mirror reflection of love; we don't miss the things we don't care for in some way. Francis Weller, a psychotherapist and author of *The Wild Edge of Sorrow*, offered that grief reveals our deep attachment to the world and those around us. If love is an animating force that connects and inspires us, then grief may hold a similar invitation into aliveness and fullness. Both love and grief remind us what matters most to us and call us into the deepest wells of our capacity to feel, the beating heart of what it means to be human. So how do we access the invitation into aliveness grief offers?

Modern Western culture frames loss as something to manage or get through. Cultural discomfort with public grief can sometimes manifest as subtle and not-so-subtle messages to keep one's grief private or locked away. What happens when grief is relegated to the corner? It solidifies, stagnates, or becomes stuck or rigid, the opposite of aliveness. If it's cut off from life, it loses access to the animating force that would allow it to transform and shift, the result of which can feel heavy, overwhelming, and isolating. But there are other ways.

Grief needs a place to go where it can be felt, moved, and expressed for it to be alchemized. Historically, grief was a communal experience, shared and held with others. Art, dance, and song are all forms of expressing and active processing that humans have long reached for to carry grief. What unites these traditional processes is grief being invited into the collective and integrated into the same expressions that have also been used to express love, curiosity, and creativity: the seeds of life and liveliness.

Nature shows us the importance of this connection. A plant is home to both death and life; leaves die and new ones grow. These twin processes cycle naturally when connected and held together by the same living root system. We can take from this teaching that a home for grief is one that is nourished through a living root system, one that is also home to creative, dynamic, and communal expressions like gardening, dancing, cooking, writing, and learning.

Learning is a natural home for the grief process. It is a communal experience, bringing us into connection with others in the classroom and those we contact through the learned material. Learning also lives at the edge of what is known, expanding one's mind into new territory, making it inherently alive and dynamic. When you learn, you grow your world. And in a bigger world, grief finds more ways of being understood and reflected, helping it breathe and transform.

So if you're in a season of grief or loss, invite your grief to join you in learning. Here are some questions and practices that might spark ideas on how:

- Does what you're learning help you understand your grief in a new way?
- Let learning be the action you take when you're feeling the acute impact of loss. What happens to that feeling as you're also engaged in learning? Does the feeling soften, deepen, tighten, relax?
- If your grief was an animal or person, what would it look and sound like? Visualize it sitting next to you during a lecture or seminar. What happens?

What happens when grief is invited out, into the world of aliveness and learning? Perhaps it has both something to learn and something to teach.

Jennifer Plumlee is a local registered associate marriage and family therapist and practices holistic psychotherapy for adults navigating life transitions. You can learn more about her and her work at jenniferplumlee.com

RENAISSANCE
SOCIETY

Live Well. Learn Often.
Create Together.

Call for Photos for the Fall Catalog!

RS members — it's time to
submit your best art and photos.



Please send up to six photos.



No photos of children please.



Deadline: **June 19**



Attach your photos as .jpg or .jpeg files.



Show us your skills, your love of life,
or the Renaissance experience.



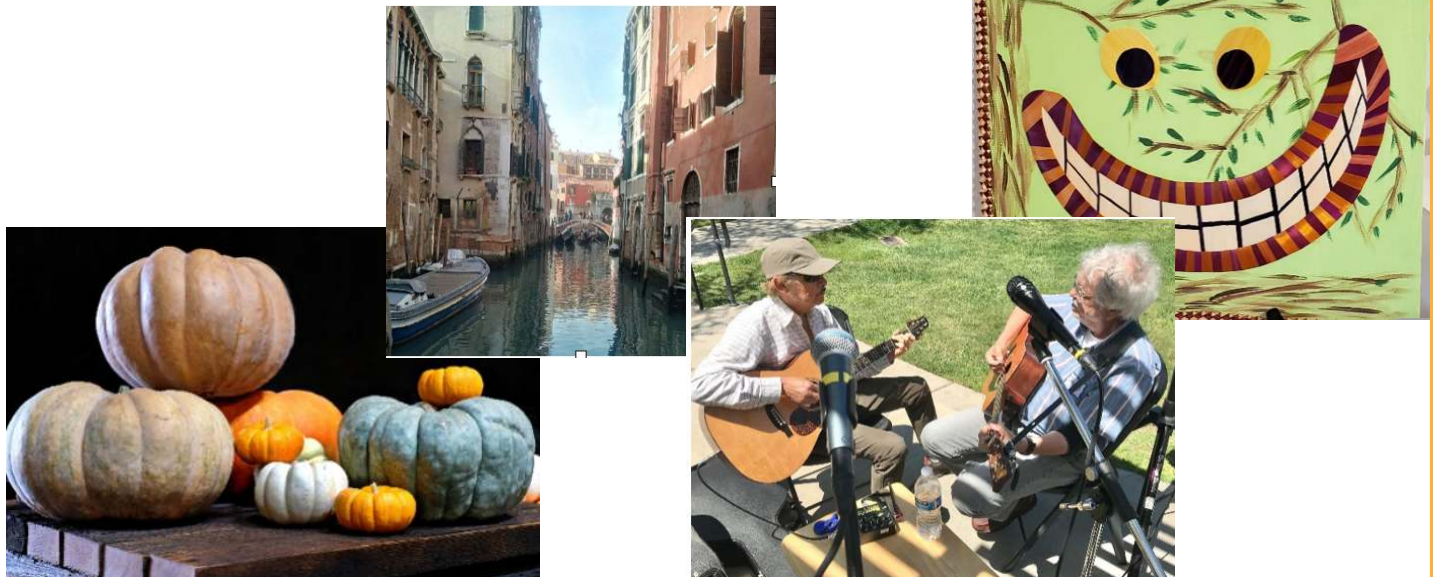
Email your photos to Lorene at
lorene.sarne@csus.edu



The wonderful photos in the catalog are submitted by our members. They not only show our members' considerable creativity, but also allow us to share and enjoy what they have done. Consider sending in no more than 6 of the photos you like the best so that it makes our selection process easier. Our Photo Selection Committee consists of members who are photographers and artists and they love choosing your photos. Our designer then selects photos from those chosen by the committee to include in the catalog. I also use your photos in the At a Glance Program Schedule (AAG) and in my emails to highlight your art work. There are only two stipulations: (1) Please do not send photos of children, we will not use them. And (2) we presume that all photos containing people have the consent of those folks to have their likeness included in a public document. The submission deadline is 5 pm June 19th. [Here are the details on how to submit your photos.](#)

Here are some examples of photos that members have submitted over the last few semesters.

Left to right: Bob Jensen, Dolores Eitel, Laurene Fitzpatrick, Trish Fontana.



David Warren - Renaissance Man . . .

by Mary Ellen Burns



There are teachers students remember because they mastered a subject. And then there are those rare teachers remembered because they transformed a classroom into an experience. For generations of Sacramento City College students and later members of the Renaissance Society at Sacramento State, David Warren belonged firmly in the latter category.

Warren, who died in 2023 at the age of 92, spent more than six decades teaching humanities, cultural history, philosophy, art, literature, and architecture. But to simply describe him as a professor misses what made him extraordinary. He believed history should not merely be studied — it should be brought vividly to life.

For thousands of students, that meant walking into class to find Julius Caesar, King Tut, Michelangelo, Zeus, Leonardo da Vinci, or Louis XIV standing before them. Warren and his beloved wife Lois created elaborate historical reenactments long before experiential learning became fashionable in education. Lois painstakingly designed authentic costumes while David immersed himself in the personalities, voices, humor, and passions of historical figures. Together, they turned lectures into theater.

Students remembered him as “the professor who dressed up,” but the costumes were never gimmicks.

Warren understood something essential about education: people remember stories, emotion, and human connection long after they forget dates and examinations. His performances gave ancient civilizations immediacy and humanity. The Renaissance was no longer distant and abstract when Lorenzo de Medici himself appeared to explain Florence. Ancient Egypt became startlingly alive when King Tut and Queen Ankhnesenamun entered the room.

Born in 1930, Warren’s own life was as layered and fascinating as many of the historical figures he portrayed. Before coming to California, he trained for the priesthood and served for several years as a Catholic priest in Kentucky, where he oversaw schools and ministered to isolated rural communities. According to friends, he sometimes traveled by horse or motorcycle to reach parishioners in remote areas. During that time, he was named a Kentucky Colonel, an honor he always treasured.

(Continued on Page 14)



(David Warren - Continued from page 13)

In 1967, Warren made the difficult decision to leave the priesthood, believing he could remain deeply spiritual while pursuing a fuller personal life. He moved to Sacramento, briefly taught junior high school, and in 1969 joined the faculty at Sacramento City College, where he would remain for nearly a quarter century. Eventually he became chair of the Humanities Department and one of the college's most beloved instructors.

By his own estimate, Warren taught nearly 80,000 students over the course of his career.

Yet retirement never truly suited him. In 2003, he began teaching for the Renaissance Society, becoming one of the organization's early and most devoted instructors and advocates. At a time when lifelong learning programs were still proving themselves, Warren embodied exactly what the Renaissance Society hoped to become: intellectually curious, community-centered, joyful, and deeply human.

Members often described his classes as less like lectures and more like conversations among friends wandering through centuries of art, literature, philosophy, and history together. Warren approached older adult learners with enormous respect. He understood that curiosity does not diminish with age; if anything, it deepens.

Even into his nineties, he continued teaching seminars and leading museum tours. In the fall of 2022, at age 92, he taught his final Renaissance Society course and led his last museum excursion to San Francisco's de Young Museum.

But perhaps Warren's greatest legacy was not simply what he taught, but how generously he lived. Friends and colleagues recalled his quiet support of struggling students, his encouragement of scholarships at Sacramento City College, his warmth toward neighbors and friends, and the deep partnership he shared with Lois. Together, they led educational tours around the world through their company, DavLo Tours, introducing countless travelers to art, architecture, and history with the same enthusiasm they brought into the classroom.

David Warren believed education should enlarge life, not simply prepare people for work. For thousands across Sacramento — from City College students to Renaissance Society members — he did exactly that. He made the past feel alive, made learning feel joyful, and reminded generations that curiosity is one of the great sustaining forces of a meaningful life.

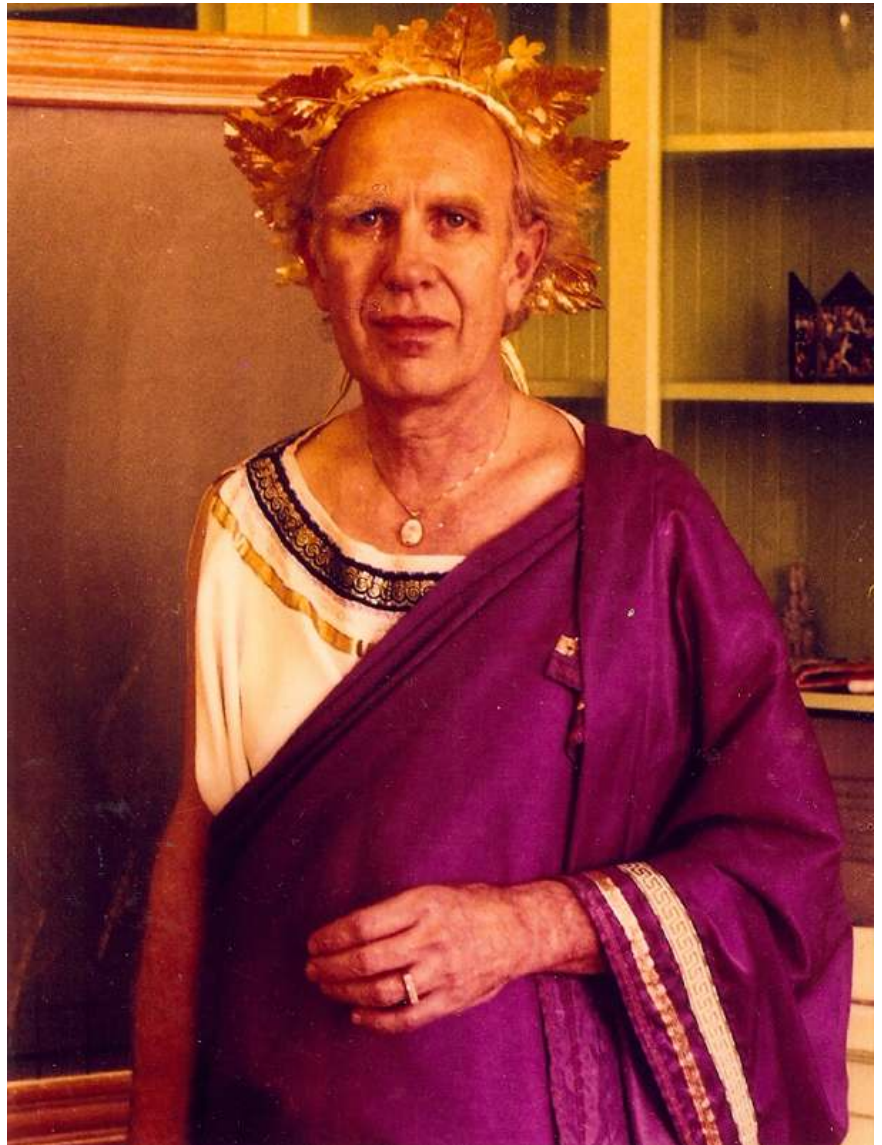


Photo Gallery

The top is a picture of the 3 Zelda's from an Art Deco Society fundraiser at Zelda's Pizza on May 12th. Mari Shine portrayed Zelda Breslin, original owner of Zelda's pizza (on the left), Delta Mello portrayed Zelda Fitzgerald, and Christie Brazil portrayed Zelda Popkin. Maryellen Burns wrote the scripts read by the three Zelda's. It was a wonderful event.



Below are photos of Mike Argon's class.



Dates to Remember

MAY 29, 2026 - Submission Deadline for Application-to-Teach Forms

JUNE 1, 2026 - Renaissance Society Annual Membership Portal Opens

JUNE 19, 2026 - Submission Deadline for Catalog Photos

AUGUST 3, 2026 - Board Meeting

AUGUST 10, 2026 - Fall 2026 Catalog Posted to Website

AUGUST 14, 2026 - Orientation and Open House

AUGUST 17, 2026 - Program Sign-up Begins at 8 am

AUGUST 31, 2026 - Fall 2026 Programs Start

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 - Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 7, 2026 (LABOR DAY) - Campus Closed

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 - First Friday Pizza

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 - Renaissance 40th Anniversary Dinner

OCTOBER 2, 2026 - First Friday Pizza

OCTOBER 5, 2026 - Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 2, 2026 - Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 6, 2026 - First Friday Pizza

NOVEMBER 26 and 27, 2026 - Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER 4, 2026 - First Friday Pizza

DECEMBER 7, 2026 - Board Meeting

