



The Breeze
University Section Club, Inc., Berkeley, CA
Winter 2022
Website: <https://www.sectionclub.org>



Rita Purcell, President

Beehive alert! In-person Beehive cancelled!

Our most important fundraiser and social event of the year was cancelled by the Board on Monday, January 10th, due to concerns about COVID and the difficulty of planning such a complex event during a pandemic. The Beehive committee will try to figure out how to offer some of the silent auction items via email or some other low-tech format. Keep an eye out for more information!!

Regarding collectibles and bric-a-brac, Dorothy Kaplan cannot take anymore donations at this time but will in the future.



Book Discussion
Section members with Helen Zia, author of Last Boat Out of Shanghai, at our Author Luncheon on September 30th. They met at the home of Terry De Luca Schooler.

In October, Rita Purcell introduced our **I-House Scholarship** recipient to the Board by this short sentence in an email:

“Good News! Letters in attachments from I-House re: the recipient of our scholarship. What a fine candidate was chosen! I feel good just reading his words. Our legacy continues!”



Cesar Leonardo Rojas Angel, University Section Club I-House Scholarship Recipient

“I am a Columbian journalist and political science professional. I received both minors at the University of Rosario in Bogota, where I was born and raised.

After three years as a reporter in **Semana** magazine, in 2016 I joined the Foundation for Press Freedom. In 2018 I started to publish as a freelance journalist, mainly with French public network France 24 in Spanish. I’ve covered the Venezuelan migration, some environmental conflicts and the peace process in Colombia. Besides, I’ve made two investigations about polemic projects in the Amazon rainforest and the struggles of indigenous communities to project their lands, both published as written and video pieces.

At UC Berkeley I plan to go deep in my skills as an investigation reporter and gather the tools to become a documentalist. After this unique experience, I plan to work as a correspondent for international media and work on independent projects as a non-fiction filmmaker. I also speak French and I’ve been practicing it with my French and some African neighbors at I-House.”

Thank you letter from Cesar:

“In Columbia we thank with hugs, coffee and meals. And I may not have enough in my life to thank you all for this scholarship.

When I was admitted at UC Berkeley, one of my first worries was where I was going to live, how I would manage to buy groceries, cook, clean an apartment, and on top of that, manage to be on time with my academic duties.

My main goal here is to have the possibility to concentrate in this unique experience, and the International House, with its committed team, has given me the precious gift of time. Besides, as a journalist it is incredible to find new stories every single day in each of my pals living here.

But this place wasn’t affordable for me, even with the support of my parents. I had to acquire a loan that covers part of my tuition and monthly expenses. The aid from the **University Section Club** has been the final push that has made me believe that dreams do come true. And for that I’ll always be grateful.

¡Gracias! Cesar L. Rojas Angel”

Student Philanthropies

Student Grants – Merit Awards

~ *Sonja Marken Vélez, Director at Large* svelezmarken@gmail.com

A Grant request was sent by the Director of Disabled Students, then I sent it to the Voting Committee....

“Omg! This is exciting news! Thank you so much for recommending me to this grant. I feel like a weight has been lifted from my shoulders. I cried when I read this. Thank you again so much! I can’t believe it!”

It’s so rewarding to help students who have an unanticipated medical and financial emergency and are close to graduation.

Thank you very much for your donations.

Services Offered Students (SOS)/Elberg Emergency Fund

~ *Trish Hare & Dorothy Kaplan, Co-Directors at Large*

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The **SOS** Committee and Section Club members held their Fall meeting on October 26th, by Zoom. We had the pleasure of hearing from Tobirus M. Newby, LCSW Social Services Director at the University Health Services. He gave a very clear picture of his work in the field of violence prevention and intervention by supporting the healing journeys of survivors and by educating and fostering change with those who have caused harm in their relationships and communities. Tobirus has been with UCB for 10 years.

Tobirus especially supports students with substance abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault, and other traumatic issues. Due to the nature of these multi-level issues UHS utilizes a 9-Step Model, that coordinates and addresses physical and mental health needs.

The **Elberg Emergency Grant Fund** awarded \$12,000 in grants from July 1st through December 31st. A large number of student requests are for our maximum of \$1,000 or more, showing that students’ emergency needs continue to rise. Here’s an example: a 4th year student lost her job when Alameda County sheltered in place. She was forced to move home with her parents, little sister and other family members. She had been experiencing technical difficulties with the old laptop she owns and is sharing the laptop with her first-grade sister who is learning from a virtual environment. The student and her parents were not in a financial position to buy a new laptop.

Donations to our student philanthropies (Student Grants - Merit Awards; SOS - Services Offered Students Projects Fund or Sylvia Elberg Memorial Fund Emergency Grants; I-House Scholarship Endowment; or the General Fund) are always gratefully accepted. You may make checks payable to University Section Club, Inc. and mail to:

Claire Phillips, Treasurer,
University Section Club,
1021 A Timothy Lane,
Lafayette, CA 94549,

or pay electronically through Cheddar Up
<https://section-club-annual-dues-and-donations.cheddarup.com>

If you have questions, please contact Treasurer Claire Phillips at claire@phillipstrustees.com or call 510.543.7831.

Often our grants are the lifeline between keeping the student enrolled or dropping out. Here are highlights from two thank-you notes:

- (from an undocumented senior), *“This allows me to better focus on my academic endeavors without having to worry about financially needing to cover my basic needs”,* and
- (from an Economic Opportunity Program student) *“I was able to pay off my outstanding student charges. This allows me to apply for readmission to the University without the financial burden over my head.”*

The **Berkeley Underground Scholars (BUS) Program** is now a part of the student aid groups which may apply for SOS grants. BUS creates a pathway for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals into higher education. They are building a prison-to-school pipeline through recruitment, retention, and advocacy. BUS is an academic support program housed within the Division of Equity and Inclusion at UC Berkeley.

SOS Spring Business Meeting, Wednesday, April 20, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

At this meeting we will vote on proposals from our campus programs. Once a year these programs seek grants to fund special equipment or to start a new project. This meeting is open to all Section Club members. We invite you to attend in order to become better acquainted with the philanthropy side of our club!

Club-wide Events 2021-2022

Intercampus Open House, Wed, Mar. 30.

Theme: 150 Years of Women at Cal, more information on page 6.

SOS Spring Meeting, Wed., April 20, 10 -12 pm.

We review project requests from campus student aid groups and decide on funding. All members welcome.

Annual Meeting, Mon., May 9, 9:30 – 12 pm.

Representatives from all the sections share highlights from the year. Join us to learn about the financial status of the club and its philanthropy. We honor outgoing board members and welcome the new.

Would you like to help work on The Breeze? The editor is looking for people with word processing skills who can format the newsletter. Also, someone who can collect information on members who have died for our In Memoriam section. Please contact Mary-Ellis Adams at amaryellis@gmail.com



Jean Thomas, being celebrated on her birthday, on a **Birding Section** field trip in October.

Intercampus Day on Wednesday, March 30, 2022

"Breaking Barriers"

Please join us for the Intercampus Day Program on Wednesday, March 30 at 10:00 a.m.

Our traditional Intercampus Day was originally scheduled for April 2020, and had to be postponed due to the Covid pandemic. Rather than wait yet another year, we will be presenting our program via Zoom.

Our theme will continue the Celebration of 150 Years of Women at Cal with the theme "Breaking Barriers." The presentation will include a montage of photos and key events surrounding women students and faculty at Cal and some interviews with alumnae about their experiences during the major eras of great change on the campus

There is no pre-registration required for this event. Members will be sent a Zoom link prior to the program. We will be including our sister clubs at the other UC campuses so that they may experience and learn about the changes and transformation at the flagship campus.

Committee members are Andrea Campos (chair), Betsy Dixon, Betsy Hansen, Holly Hartley, Janet Martinelli, Audrey Richards, Sherry Rufini and Elly Skarakis.



Photos from the UC Berkeley Library History Room



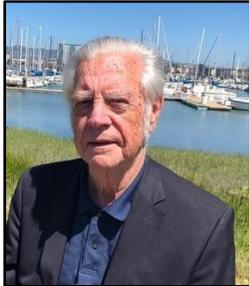
In Memoriam



Margaret “Peggy” Fuerstenau, longtime Section Club member, died at the age of 88 in May of 2020, in Santa Rosa.



Didier de Fontaine died November 2021 at the age of 90. He was a professor of Materials Science & Engineering, participated in French Section, and was the widower of beloved Section Club member Danielle de Fontaine.



Natalie Hahn

“My name is Natalie Woodford Thompson Hodgson Hahn” as she would say this with a twinkle in her eye. Her friends at Section Club, and there were many, will easily be able to picture this. Natalie had a most engaging, outgoing personality and loved interacting with people. She died in Berkeley on Oct. 11, 2021.



Natalie moved to Berkeley from Marin in 1980 to marry Erwin Hahn, a Professor of Physics. They both had been widowed and it proved to be a very happy marriage. Natalie soon became involved with the Foreign Student Committee, which later became the International Student & Scholar Committee. She loved taking the international families on BART to

the city for the annual Dec. trip to see the window displays. And she took on the important job of supervising the making of little stuffed bears to give to children at the holiday party at I-House for families of visiting scholars. Over the years she made hundreds of bears and was very proud of her vanity license plate that read “UC Bear Lady”! ~ Thanks to Sara Knight for writing this memoriam.

Our sympathy to Holly Hartley on the death of her partner, **Oscar Anderson**, who died in November 2021.