



Alumni Association Board of Directors Director Biography

James Benanti, College of Arts and Sciences, 1999, 2005

Career

James is currently an Assistant Principal at Redlands High School. This is his first year in this position, but for the previous 19 years he was the Director of Instrumental Music at RHS. He is an active adjudicator with the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association, and a member of the San Bernardino County Music Educators' Association, serving as President from 2008-2010. Prior to moving into administration, James was very involved in the Redlands Teachers Association, where he served three terms as Vice-President, and the California Teachers Association. During his time with CTA James was elected as Chair of the CTA Communications Committee, and to the CTA/ABC Committee, the political action committee of CTA.

University of Redlands

During his time at the University, James was a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Mortarboard Honor Society, was an employee and intern at the original KUOR, the Inter-Fraternity Council, Sigma Kappa Alpha, serving a term as President, and spent the fall of 1998 in Salzburg, Austria. Following his graduation, James remained involved with the University. He was a Patron for Sigma Kappa Alpha for over 15 years, and was very involved in Alumni for Greeks, where he served one term as President.

Community and Civic

Like so many others, James decided to stay in Redlands following his graduation from the University, and has become involved in the community. He is the founding Music Director of the Redlands Community Orchestra, an all-volunteer symphony orchestra of approximately 55 members. The RCO will begin rehearsals for a seventh season as soon as COVID restrictions allow (hopefully soon!). James is also beginning a second three-year term on the Board of Directors for Town and Gown. He has been Vice-President for Membership, and is currently Vice-President for Events.

Education

James earned a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in Education. He studied bass trombone with Michael Hoffman, Klaus Schellander, and Andrew Glendening. His conducting instructors include Jeffrey H. Rickard, and Eddie R. Smith. James completed his single-subject credential work through the School of Education, and is currently completing a Preliminary Administrative Services Credential from California State University, San Bernardino.

Personal

In his free time, James enjoying cooking, wine tasting, gardening, working on his house, travel, spending time with his three dogs, and a good gin and tonic. He lives in Redlands, and his partner Chris is also an alumnus of the University.