

The Japanese Language School Archival Project

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, correspondence, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS graduates to the War effort in the Pacific, the successful occupation of Japan, the creation of Japanese language programs across the country, and the development of cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

The Underwoods of Yonsei University

[Dear Mr. Hays: Here's an item for your files, in case you hadn't spotted it already. The third generation Horace Underwood interviewed here was at Boulder in 1943. I am not sure which section. I met him on the undō field, not in classes, and did not know him well. I assume he was born in Korea and had already learned some Japanese under the colonial masters]
Robert S. Schwantes
JLS 1944]

Horace G. Underwood, JLS 1943, emeritus professor at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, pauses for a moment to view the bronze statue of his grandfather, the founder of Korea's oldest university. Professor Underwood is the third, and probably the last in his line to serve their working lives at Yonsei.

Assisted by funds provided by John T. Underwood of the Underwood Typewriting Co., the Underwood family helped bring Christianity to Korea in 1885. Horace Underwood founded Choson Christian College in

1915. The second Horace Underwood served as University president from 1933-1940, after which leadership passed from the Underwood family to Korean administrators. The University was renamed Yonsei University in 1946 and remains under the stewardship of the Presbyterian Church.

The third Horace Underwood received his education at New York University. During World War II, he graduated from the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado and served as a Navy Japanese Language Officer. After the War he was assigned to the US Army Military Government's Department of Education following Korea's liberation from Japanese occupation. He saw active duty again in the Korean War, with his fluency in Korean landing him a job as interpreter at the Panmunjom Armistice talks. He has also acted as an interpreter for Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Gerald Ford.

Professor Underwood is highly regarded for his work in education by students and faculty alike, having fostered the American practice of free, frank exchange of ideas in his classroom. Admiring faculty admit that but for his ethnicity, he would most certainly have become University president. Students regard him warmly, saying he is considered a hero in Korea.

Adapted from David Cohen
The Chronicle of Higher Education
July 27, 2001

[Ed. Note: Professor Underwood turned back the copy of the Coloradan sent out a year ago, stating he had no connection to CU other than the Navy Japanese Language School, a view shared by most of his comrades, I suspect. Well, since all JLS instructors were paid by CU and all JLS grades were recorded on CU transcripts and JLS credit was accepted as CU credit, it looks like he, as well as all the rest of the JLS grads are CU alumni. I trust this is a comforting realization after all this time.]

A Useful Marine JLO

[Dear Editor: A letter from Glenn Nelson (JLO 1943, USMCR) carried in the February 1, 2002 issue of The Interpreter mentions that Bob Moore "wanted to know if any Marine JLOs served a useful function", as he inquired in the December 1 issue. Glenn Nelson's response was too modest. I was a Boulder-trained Marine JLO, and can verify that many Marine JLOs not only served useful functions in WWII, but also made some noteworthy contributions. If of interest, I could write brief descriptions of outstanding service by various Marine JLOs and Navy JLOs, as well. (Failing that,) as an example to document the useful function served by a Marine JLO, enclosed is a copy of a citation I received for service in the Saipan and Tinian campaigns. I hope this may help as a partial, interim response to Bob Moore's question.

Robert B. Sheeks
JLS, 1943
MAJ, USMCR (ret.)]

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (V)**CITATION:**

"For heroic achievement as an Interpreter of the Intelligence Section of the Second Marine Division, during operations against enemy Japanese forces on Saipan and Tinian, Marianas Islands, from 15 June to 1 August 1944. Pioneering in devising methods of directing combat propaganda at the Japanese prior to the Marianas Campaign, First Lieutenant Sheeks prepared several means of propaganda used during the campaign. When large numbers of civilians were driven into hiding by our advance during the latter stages of the operations, he moved with front line units despite considerable danger and utilized public address systems to call civilians and soldiers out of hiding, thereby effecting the surrender of large numbers of the enemy. By his ability, perseverance and devotion to duty, he materially reduced hostile resistance and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

First Lieutenant Sheeks is authorized to wear the combat "V".

[Ed. Note: I love a letter that keeps inspiring letters, I hope Dr. Moore was informed by these letters before he passed away. I also want thank Mr. Sheeks for allowing me to print his Bronze Star(v) Citation.]

Royal Navy JLOs Remembered II

I noted with interest in your February 1, 2002 issue the article, "Royal Navy JLOs Remembered." Members of this group attended Boulder during much of the same time I was there. My dates were November 1944 to February 1946.

I remember Ivan Morris at the time and then knew him as a respected colleague for many years until his untimely death about 20 years ago. He spent a number of years as a professor of Japanese Literature at Columbia University. I also just barely remember Beasley but nothing more than that. The few British trainees were integrated with us in all our academic work. The only way in which they were handled differently was that in the close order drill sessions on Saturday morning they drilled together, presumably to British commands. Another slight variation from the normal compliment of navy officers during our period in Boulder was a small group of marine officers, and they were known to their fellows as "marinated ensigns".

Among the members of my group, Sidney D. Brown has in the past reminisced about Beasley at Boulder and may remember some of the other British officers.

John F. Howes
JLS 1946

[Ed. Note: Thank you for the good wishes and praise we did not include. Professor Sidney D. Brown is on our mailing list and is currently a visiting professor at the University of Michigan.]

Sensei Message

I want to thank you for sending us *The Interpreter*. It is so interesting to read about the activities of the JLS graduates. I have always felt privileged to be one of the Sensei that started with the original group at the University of California and was with the school in Boulder until it closed in 1946.

It has been my privilege and joy to be able to meet and work with so many students who even now continue to use their knowledge of the Japanese

language in so many positive ways.

My wife, Ida, and I recently celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary and it was our hope that we could be at the reunion, however, I no longer am able to go on extended trips. The enclosed token amount is in gratitude for having been part of the Navy Japanese Language School experience.

Our very best wishes for a most successful 60th Reunion.

[Changed his mind] Ari Inouye
JLS Instructor,
1942-1945

\$Donations Accepted

There are those of you who may not have papers to donate to the Archives, but who may wish to support the Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project in other ways. We are setting up a cash account to fund Archives activities regarding the JLS/OLS Project. To date, the Archives has spent in excess of \$10,000 of its own funds on the project. If you wish to donate, make your check out to The University of Colorado and mail it to our contact address.

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Caldwell, Elsie F.
- Inouye, Ari & Ida
- Kschinka, Priscilla
reunion gift
- McCloy, Edward,
COL USAF [ret.]
(for Emma McCloy
Layman)
- McCubbin, James
- Shorrock, Hallam