

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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Our Mission

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, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

Knecht Recollects

...The school is starting to crack down on all of us in an effort to pull up our grades. Anything below 80 is now unsatisfactory and they have inaugurated a probation list for those whose average isn't as good as they think it should be. The students on probation have a month to improve their grades and if they don't, they are out.

...Annete (Duhamel), instead of going to her home on leave, stayed here in Boulder and took flying lessons. She had never been in a plane until she flew with us over the Divide to Grand Lake in a small five-seat plane. Dorothy and I stayed at Grand Lake but Annette flew back and started flying lessons. Before leaving for Northampton she had about four or five hours of solo flying.

Betty Knecht to her Mother,
Fall-Winter, 1943
JLS 1944

WAVE 50th Reunion Entry, 1993

JLS/OLS Website:

<http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/archives/collections/jlsp/index.htm>

Professor, First Amendment Law Activist Dies

Professor Emeritus Burton Wechsler, OLS 1946, veteran professor at AU's Washington College of Law and champion for progressive activism and First Amendment Law since 1948, died Jan. 18, 2004.

Throughout his career, Wechsler has represented many interests: NAACP; Welfare Rights Organization; citizens charged with contempt of Congress by the House Un-American Activities Committee; anti-Vietnam War protesters seeking to demonstrate in public parks; peace activists challenging anti-leafleting ordinances; anti-nuclear demonstrators; *Playboy* magazine.

He held degrees from the University of Michigan, Harvard Law School and began his teaching career at Valparaiso Law School in 1957. He also participated in many progressive causes in Lake County, Ind., which included the Wallace for President campaign in 1948. Wechsler was a catalyst in the movement to dismantle segregation in Gary, Ind., and helped to plan the first African-American mayor of a major United States city as well as the Civil Rights struggle in Mississippi.

He moved to Washington in 1973 and began teaching at Antioch Law School where he started and ran the school's Women's Law Clinic.

In the fall of 1979, Wechsler became a full-time faculty member at WCL until his retirement in May 1998, teaching Constitutional Law, Federal Courts and First Amendment Law.

A recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Teacher Award, Wechsler was also given the Outstanding Teacher Award of American University

Washington College of Law in 1979, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1989 and 1992. He was the Third-year Class Outstanding Teacher Award in 1994 and 1996, and in 1995 he won the Outstanding Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching. He also founded the Burton Wechsler Moot Court Competition in 1993.

"Accordingly, substantial portions of my courses include the ongoing struggles - in and out of the law - of working people, ethnic and religious minorities, women, creative artists, political dissidents, the poor, and other groups who do not occupy the seats of power, private or public, and whom much of our law throughout our history has slighted or disfavored," said Wechsler.

Robert Dinerstein, associate Burton dean for faculty and academic affairs, remembers Wechsler as a progressive teacher who supported clinical and experimental education.

"'Beloved professor' gets overused a lot but it really did apply to him," Dinerstein said. "He was a passionate believer in legal justice and fairness."

He also recalls that Wechsler always had candy and nuts in his filing cabinet and good conversation. If a student was walking in the hall, he would say something like "How are you doing, sister?"

"Countless generations of alumni of our institution were inspired by his passion for freedom and justice," WCL Dean Claudio Grossman said in an announcement. "All of us in this community knew of his generosity without limits and his affection and love for his students, his colleagues, and all those in the WCL community."

Wechsler leaves behind his wife, Fredi; and two daughters, Shonna and Maia; and grandchildren.

Stokely Baksh,
American University The Eagle
January 26, 2004

Archives Phone (303) 492-7242

The 4th Regiment, USMC & the "China Marines"

In past issues of CU Archives JLS/OLS *The Interpreter*, mention has been made by a few JLS participants in the 1945 Okinawa battle, of being with the 4th Regiment USMC during that invasion. That historic unit, for more than a decade from early 1927 to late 1941, was located in Shanghai and was the most illustrious regiment in the US Marine Corps. Orders to serve with it were reputed to be the most requested and coveted, a choice possibly influenced by the uniquely pleasurable lifestyle and amenities available at astonishingly low costs in the "Paris of the Orient", during those years. During their significant stay in Shanghai, for four years confronting Japanese forces there, the Regiment always exhibited the highest degree of professional military conduct and diplomacy, performed a timely "showing of the flag", and elicited the admiration of all Americans in Shanghai, including those who went on to the JLS/OLS during the War [all those Shanghai American School graduates].

Shanghai, possibly always the world's most unusual city, for several decades prior to World War II, was China's most populous city. The world's third largest seaport, most of its international business activity and expatriate residency was contained in two foreign enclaves, each several square miles in size. The French Concession was converted as a colony of France and was usually garrisoned by two reinforced regiments of the French Army. The International Settlement was governed by a Municipal Council which included an English plurality, as well as American and other nationalities in its membership. Military protection was provided by two British Army Regiments, occasional US Navy landing

parties, temporary forces of other nations and a Shanghai Volunteer Corps of WWI veterans of various foreign nationalities. In 1927, there was another mini-war in Shanghai, as Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists moved through the area in their conquest of China. Again, Americans, and other foreigners living in that area of China, sought refuge in the two protected foreign enclaves. Although destroyers and gunboats of the US Navy Asiatic Fleet had provided welcomed protection when needed, Americans were most pleased

when it was announced that a Regiment of US Marines would arrive in early 1927 for permanent assignment to Shanghai. (to be cont'd)

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: I remember a fine film, I do not know how accurate, The Sand Pebbles with Steve McQueen, that related events along the China coast in the late 1920s. Another graduate, Earl Swisher, was in Canton in the 1920s. We have his correspondence from that time period. I wish we had more of his collection. I think the bulk of his papers disappeared.]

Alphonse I. John, OLS 1945 (R)

Zenji Abe

Pilot

Imperial Japanese Navy

My acquaintance, Zenji Abe of Tokyo, the famous dive bomber pilot of Pearl Harbor, reports that his memoir is being written here in English. It will be something. He originally flew off the CV *Akagi* at Pearl Harbor, was later transferred to the CV *Junyo*. Made the Dutch Harbor, Alaska attack instead of the Midway attack, where the *Akagi*

recently for being at the Pearl Harbor ceremony, but this year his old cohort, Richard Fisk, the USMC bugler on the *U.S.S. Arizona* at Pearl Harbor, had died. On December 7, Abe came to Hawaii to visit his grave. Abe is now 88 and damned lucky to be anywhere. My vignette on the *Surrender of Rota* shows him in the photograph as the IJN Commander for Rota. I will advise you when I hear more about the book. His daughter in Tokyo had emailed me about it.

Cal Dunbar
USMCCEL 1944

Recent Recruits

Jeanne M. Smith, kin
Thomas S. Deering, OLS 1945 (R)
Francis S. Ronalds, OLS 1945 (R)
Lennox Tierney, OLS 1945
John W. Spiegel, kin
William Clark, OLS 1946 (C)
Charles Brink, OLS 1945 (R)
Nancy Pierce Helmbold, JLS 1944
Robert E. Graalman, OLS OklaA&M
Bart Sherman, JLS 1943
Wayne Gruner, OLS 1945, (J)
John P. Wamser, OLS 1945, (J)
Ms. Donald K. Robertson, kin
Veikko Jokela, OLS 1945 (J)
Ms. Milvirde Franks, kin
John Moore, kin
John R. Behrman, OLS 1945 (R)
Ms. M. H. Landrum, kin

Bernard J. Flatow, OLS 1946 (C)
Francis X. Prior, OLS 1945 (R)
Casey Brandson, kin
Ms. V. R. Atherton, kin
Ms. K. J. Athas, kin
Vernal W. Bartlett, OLS 1946 (R)
John R. Ahlgren, OLS 1945 (R)
George B. Brain, JLS 1944
George E. Brankey, OLS (J)
Brady O. Bryson, OLS 1945 (R)
William H. Baxter III, kin
Thompson Buchanan, OLS 1946 (R)
Mr. Lawrence Creshkoff, OLS (J)
Mr. Albert E. Marre, OLS (J)
Mrs. Palmer Smith, kin
Donald A. Corlett, Jr., kin
John Congleton, kin
Fred Dalbey, kin
Bernard C. Welch, OLS (J)
John S. Potter, OLS 1946 (C)
H.H. Cloutier, OLS 1945 (R)

was sunk [*My Grandfather, then COL S.D. Hays, USAR, was at Dutch Harbor. Maybe he dodged those bombs*]. He landed at Rota, in the Marianas, during the “Marianas Turkey Shoot” and later surrendered the Rota Imperial Japanese Navy troops to us in September 1945. I was a Japanese Linguist at the shipboard surrender conference. He became a good friend of Pineau’s, participated in one of Pineau’s symposiums at the Texas Nimitz Museum. Abe retired a colonel in the postwar JADF. He was in the press

Fr. Robert M. Deiters, OLS (J)
Richard A Gard, JLS 1944
Robert J. Fitzwilliam, OLS 1946 (J)
Wallace Erwin, JLS 1943
Ms. Yoshiko Dykstra, kin
Noel L. Leathers, OLS (J)
Alfred T. Maund, OLS (J)
Edward J. Michon, OLS (J)
John Meskill, OLS (J)
Ms. Penny Pietré, kin
Charles D. Svitavsky, OLS (J)
William H. Kahmann, JLS 1943
Miles R. Ellison, kin
Kevin M. Kennedy, kin
Nicholas Teele, kin
Ruth Adelman, kin
Stephen E. Yoas, JLS 1944
Mrs. Winebrenner, kin
Lawrence Coshnear, OLS 1945 (J)
Arthur Shenefelt, OLS (J): (cont’d)
