

The Interpreter

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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.

Classics Professor Remembered For Love Of Language

Stanley Vandersall, JLS 1944, former chairman of the classics department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, died Saturday at age 87, closing the book on a lifetime dedicated to his love of language.

"I heard him teaching Latin in his home after he retired, and I could tell he loved the words themselves," said his daughter Diana Rippel.

Vandersall began studying Latin in high school, at the Roxbury Latin School in West Roxbury, Mass. He continued into his undergraduate studies at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, and attended graduate school at Ohio State.

His graduate studies were cut short when he enrolled in the U.S. Navy Japanese Language School. He interpreted Japanese intelligence in Hawaii and Japan from 1943-46. "As I understand it, the military looked at his record with languages and said he should learn Japanese," said

Tom Winter, associate professor of classics and religious studies at UNL.

Vandersall finished his doctorate at Ohio State after the war, and in 1948 took a position at UNL, where Winter said he was sometimes called "Commander Vandersall." Rippel said in addition to Latin and Japanese, her father spoke French, German and Greek. Valdis Leinieks, professor of classics and religious studies at UNL, said Vandersall taught nearly everything in the department during his 37 years at UNL. At one point, the department only had two professors, so Vandersall taught classics and his older colleague covered religion. "I would have trouble even deciding what his favorite subjects were," Leinieks said. "He was teaching everything all along."

John Turner, professor of classics and Cotner Professor of Religious Studies at UNL, said Vandersall was particularly fond of his first language, Latin, and was proud to have learned it at Roxbury. Leinieks said that when Vandersall was teaching, he was unlikely to let the class leave until everything had been covered to his satisfaction, often keeping classes 20 minutes late. "We referred to anyone else who would do that as pulling a Stanley Vandersall."

True to the archetypal idea of a classics professor, Vandersall rarely was without his tobacco pipe. "I think his main hobby was smoking his pipe, cleaning his pipe and knocking caked tobacco out of his pipe," Winter said. Leinieks said Vandersall also had a love of railroads. He said he would watch trains roll underneath him from the 9th Street overpass, and once rode a passenger train to eastern Canada because the line was about to be discontinued.

After receiving the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award in 1984, Vandersall retired from UNL in 1985. He continued to

independently teach a class – "Latin for Retirees" – into the last years of his life. "After he retired, he had some old-timer friends and they would read Horace together," Leinieks said. "He never quit teaching."

Vandersall was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years – Florence Amy Wright – who died in February. Winter said the Vandersalls always were among the last to leave faculty gatherings, and Amy would play piano for those who stayed behind. "We figured he wouldn't leave Amy far behind," Winter said.

By Aaron Bals
Daily Nebraskan
November 11, 2004

Too Many Obits (Last Part)

Marylou Siegfried Williams, WAVE JLS 1944 grad, and wife of my good friend Daniel Norton Williams, JLS 1944 grad, passed on March 4, 2005. During our few overlapping months at Boulder, until my July 1943 JLS completion, there was no name confusion with that new Williams, as he was 'Nort' and I was 'Dan'. Later, during one of my temporary duty assignments to JICPOA at Pearl Harbor, he mentioned that he was engaged to Marylou and gave me her mailing address. In a letter, I assured her that anyone with the name of 'Dan Williams' had to be a stellar character, and enclosed were two snapshots of Nort, permitted by the Navy censor, to prove it. Our two families visited, we saw Nort and Marylou at Boulder reunions, exchanged midyear (Marylou's sensible, less mail, choice) Christmas greetings cards, and remained in contact, as friends, enthusiastic JLS alumni, and as supporters of the USN JLS/OLS Archives project. We join with all of her other JLS colleagues and friends in remembering, and missing, Marylou Siegfried Williams.

JLS 1944 graduate and WWII Navy Japanese Language Officer, Hugh Francis Harnsberger passed away on April 6, 2005. For me, he had been a Shanghai friend, a former fellow student at the Shanghai American School, another who lived in China, a fellow student at Boulder, and a longtime friend with whom I occasionally crossed paths in the Pacific during WWII and, with our wives and families, as residents of Marin County, CA. Personal prominence during elementary and junior high school years was established by soccer or other sports skills and, occasionally, by some personal attainment equaled by no one else. In Hutch's case, as I recall, he and family members had actually, personally, seen world famous Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, and their seaplane, during the North to the Orient fliers' 1931 viewing of the devastating Yangtze River floods, near Wuhu, China. No other playground participant had so closely approached fame. Uniquely, Hugh seemed to believe that the pinnacle of his WWII Navy experience was his volunteering for, and assignment to, the 5th Marine Division for the battle of Iwo Jima. It was the practice at the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area, at Pearl Harbor, to permit Navy Language officers serving there to volunteer for temporary assignment to USMC units for particular invasion battles. In each of our 4th MarDiv's four battles, including Iwo Jima, we welcomed the help from our JLS Navy JICPOA colleagues for our jobs of finding Japanese code books and other key documents, obtaining and interrogating POWs, intercepting enemy messages, and possible battlefield emergencies. As with his volunteering JICPOA associates, Hutch was issued USMC combat clothes and gear, served with USMC intelligence people, helped to capture and interrogate a

Japanese communications officer, and justifiably felt he had contributed much by being there. Later, he much enjoyed attending USMC reunions and recalling his days of serving with the Marines on Iwo Jima. Hugh's professional, academic, corporate, community, neighborly, and family accomplishments were uncommonly valuable and successful, marking an unusually outstanding career. He and his wife Doris are both remembered and missed.

Dave, it was not my intention to be so wordy. but to present some personal data, my

Association, Phi Beta Kappa, and was co-author of *Problems*

observations, not included in their obituaries but perhaps useful details for anyone wanting to know these late JLS alumni better. Very best wishes to you and your staff.

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: One of the few benefits of a truncated obituary is the opportunity it provides for elaboration by friends. I join family, friends and colleagues in thanking Dan for his memories. His title was his remark on his own story, not a critique of the newsletter. We welcome any added information of those obits we have placed.]

whom I knew only slightly. Obit to follow in a later issue.

Bill Hudson, JLS 1943

Hubert S. Gibbs OLS 1945 (Malay) Educator

Hubert Smith Gibbs was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin on October 7, 1917 of Elmer Eugene and Lark Estelle (Smith) Gibbs. He was a student at Wisconsin State College from 1935-1937 and received his BA at the University of Iowa in 1939 and his MA at the University of Minnesota in 1940. He married Lorna June Staley in 1938 and they had three children: Margaret, Christopher, and

political science at Johns Hopkins University for two years. While there, he began his doctoral training, receiving his Ph.D. in 1952. In 1950, Hubert Gibbs accepted a position at Boston University in political science. He attained his professorship in government in 1958, was chair of the department from 1956 to 1969, became dean of the Met. College in 1969, and was director of overseas programs from 1967-1974. He was a member of the American Political Science

in *International Relations* and *The British General Election of 1955*. He and his wife were long time residents of Framingham, Massachusetts. We have no contact with him presently.

Who's Who in America, 1975
& David M. Hays
Archivist & Editor

Dean McKay (1921 -2005)

Sorry to have to report the passing of Boulderite (15/3/44) (my class) of Dean R. McKay, a very bright man

John Kultgen OLS 1946 (Chinese) Philosophy Professor

Dear Mr. Hays:
I received your telephone call as well as e-mail.

I did complete the Navy Chinese Language program in Boulder. I do not have the exact dates at hand, but it had to be from early January, 1945 until spring, 1946, from the time I graduated midshipman school at Cornell just before Christmas, 1944 until I was assigned to Navy Communications Center in Washington, DC for a couple of

Cynthia. He was a faculty member at Emmetsburg Junior College from 1941 to 1943 and held an instructorship in history at Allegheny College from 1943-1944.

In April 1944, Hubert Gibbs entered the four month US Navy Malay Language Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder and served as an officer in the US Navy Reserve until 1946, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. Following the War, Gibbs was hired as an assistant professor of history at Hastings College. In 1948, he took an assistant instructor position in

months before discharge in July, 1946. I was in Boulder when the atom bomb was dropped and the war ended.

I had other academic interests after the war that did not include Chinese studies, so I did not make use of what I had learned. I did meet my future wife at Boulder and remember my experiences there with pleasure. I would be happy to be on your mailing list.

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